Travel Plan

Glasgow Family & Friends New Year's Eve Scotland



Trip Overview

Welcome to the festive season in Scotland!

This is a great time of year to cozy in with friends and family and to enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Welcome to your celebration of the New Year in Scotland! This is an important holiday on the Scottish calendar, and the Scots refer to it as *Hogmanay*. In fact, the well-known New Year's Eve song "Auld Lang Syne" was a poem written by the famous Scotsman Robert Burns.

This tour of Scotland will include castles, whisky tastings, outdoor pursuits, and most importantly, the opportunity to gather, laugh, toast, and celebrate together.

We will explore the winding alleyways of Edinburgh, full of charming pubs and holiday cheer. We will be in the heart of the city, within walking distance to the Royal Mile, Edinburgh Castle, distillery tours, shopping, and great tourist sites.

As we prepare for the celebration of Hogmanay, we will be transported by private coach to a country escape in the highlands to ring in the New Year. Taking time to “stop-and-smell the-roses” and “sip a dram” along the way, we will find our stunning accommodation among the rivers and mountains in the heart of Scotland.

We will enjoy 3 days of relaxation in a beautiful setting, with great food and Scottish hospitality. New Year's eve festivities are included, with dinner, dancing, and merriment. Nature abounds in this region of Scotland.

After the holiday, our coach and driver will take us to the lively city of Glasgow. We will explore the historical sites, and of course make sure we enjoy some pub life.

Travel Plan

Dec 26 – Depart from USA to Edinburgh
Dec 27 – Edinburgh City, pubs, historical sites
Dec 28 – Edinburgh Castle and touring
Dec 29 – Edinburgh
Dec 30 – Travel and Tour to Pitlochry (Highlands)
Dec 31 – New Year's Eve celebrations
Jan 1 – Relax, or join town New Year’s Day celebrations (street festival)
Jan 2 – Transfer from Pitlochry through Stirling and to Glasgow
Jan 3 – Glasgow, then overnight in Edinburgh
Jan 4 – Return flights from Edinburgh to USA



Trip Inclusions

See below for the items that are included in your trip price. More details are on the itinerary pages that follow.

Land Transportation/Transfers

- Private Coach transport from airport to center city hotel in Edinburgh
- Private coach transfer & tour from Edinburgh to Pitlochry
- Private coach transfer & tour from Pitlochry to Glasgow
- Private coach transfer to airport in Edinburgh

Tours/Entries/Sightseeing

- Edinburgh Castle Tour
- Food Tour of Edinburgh
- Palace of Hollyrood House
- The Real Mary King's Close
- 3 Nights of entertainment & music
- New Year's Eve Festivities and dancing
- New Year's day festival
- Whiskey tasting
- Falconry
- The Scottish Highlands

Meals Included

- Breakfast daily
- 5 Dinners
- Dec 27, 30, 31, Jan 1, Jan 3
- New Year's Eve entertainment & gala
- 1 Food tour/lunch & drinks
- 2 lunches, Dec 31 and Jan 1

Trip Inclusions Continued

Hotels/Accommodation

Check In Date	Check Out Date	Hotel Name & Confirmation Number	Location/Town
December 27	December 30	Hilton Carlton	Edinburgh
December 30	January 2	Fonab Castle Hotel	Pitlochry
January 2	January 3	Dakota Hotel	Glasgow
January 3	January 4	Dakoka Hotel	Edinburgh



Trip Participants

Room	Name of Traveler
1	Katie Clark Glasgow and Glenn Glasgow
2	Joan and Chip Glasgow
3	Jan and George Glasgow
4	Donna and Ross Glasgow
5	Pat and Tammy Hoffman
6	Rose and Fred Shaheen

Flight Information

Departing Flight Information						
Departure Date	**Departure Time**	**Airline**	**Flight Number(s)**	**Arrival Date**	**Arrival Time**	**Arrival Airport**
Dec 26, 2025	8:10 pm	United	UA37	Dec 27	**7:55 am**	**EDI**
Shaheen: Dec 26, 2025	4:55 pm	Aer Lingus	EI0116	Dec27	04:55 am	DUB
Dec 27	07:30 am	Aer Lingus	EI3550	Dec 27	**08:50 am**	**EDI**

Return Flight Information						
Departure Date	**Departure time**	**Airline**	**Flight Number(s)**	**Arrival Date**	**Arrival Time**	**Arrival Airport**
Sunday Jan 4, 2026	9:25 am	United	UA37	Jan 04	12:20 pm	EWR
Shaheen: Sunday Jan 4 2026	08:20 am	Aer Lingus	EI3251	Jan 04	09:40	DUB
	12:15	Aer Lingus	EI0117	Jan 04	15:35	Dulles

Travel Day	0
Day and Date	Friday December 26



Title Departures from the USA

Depart the USA today for your adventures in Scotland.

Note that overnight flights arrive early the next morning in Scotland, and hotel check in will take place between 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

☘ If you would like a room available for you upon arrival, we can book you a pre-night, and your room will be ready early in the morning.

Travel Day	1
Day and Date	Saturday December 27



Title Edinburgh Old Town & The Palace of Hollyroodhouse

Welcome to Scotland!

Once the group is gathered at Edinburgh airport, our driver will escort us to center-city Edinburgh where we will leave our bags with the bellman and go to explore! Edinburgh is a very walkable city (and not very driveable) so we will set out to explore on foot.

Take the opportunity to stretch your legs with a visit to the Palace of Hollyroodhouse. This is located at the end of the Royal Mile, and an easy ½ mile walk from the hotel. On our return, there will be plenty of opportunity to duck into some of the local pubs for a wee dram.
☘ It's not a "shot of whisky" in Scotland, it's "a wee dram".

Hollyroodhouse is best known as the home of Mary, Queen of Scots. Today, the palace is used regularly for State ceremonies and official entertaining.

After some touring and pub-hopping, we will head to the hotel for check in and get ready for a warm dinner welcome.

Overnight: Hilton Edinburgh Carlton
Dinner: The Scotsman, The Grande Cafe

The Grande Cafe In a former life, this space was the home of the Advertising & Notices Dept. of the famous Scotsman Newspaper- the bustling, beating heart of the publication. Over 50 years later, we have started a new story in this space, with the Grand Café.

Travel Day	2
Day and Date	Sunday December 28



Title Edinburgh Castle and the Foods of Scotland

10:00 am Wake refreshed this morning after a good night's sleep, wear your walking shoes, and you will set-out across the Royale Mile to the imposing Edinburgh Castle for a tour of this all-important fortress in Scottish history. Take your time visiting this site, and spend more or less time, depending you're your interest and energy.

After you work up an appetite from touring, we will join a local guide who will introduce us to Scottish cuisine, with a guided culinary tour. This tour will have you walking the streets of Edinburgh tasting and drinking your afternoon through town.

2:30 pm Tour meeting point: in front of St. Giles Cathedral, at the West Parliament Square side, opposite the French consulate.

Dinner can be scheduled as a group, or independently as you choose.

Overnight: Hilton Edinburgh Carlton

Travel Day	3
Day and Date	Monday December 29



Title Edinburgh Exploration

11:00 am Start the day with a captivating tour through Edinburgh's underground history with a visit to The Real Mary King's Close. Over 400 years of history featuring myths, legends, and entertaining tales.

After a bite to eat, take some time to wander the way you like. Perhaps shopping or whisky tasting, or a visit to one of Edinburgh's museums will be to your liking. We can help you plan your afternoon and will provide recommendations for authentic kilt shopping if needed.

Recommendations in Edinburgh:
Bars:
The Bow Bar - 80 West Bow, Victoria Street - great whisky and beer selections, not too touristy
https://www.thebowbar.co.uk/

The Scotch Malt Whisky Society - 28 Queen Street - The downstairs bar is open to the public. Great if you want to try a couple of single cask whiskies. You can also buy a non-Members flight with or without food.

Shops:
Royal Mile Whiskies - 379 High Street - You'll get a good selection of whisky here. If you see something you like on the website, you can may take advantage of their free click and collect service.
https://www.royalmilewhiskies.com

The Tartan Weaving Mill
Tartan Weaving Mill: The Perfect Shop For Everyone! Edinburgh
You can find souveniers, tartans, and see the weaving mills in use today at this 5-level extravaganza of Scottish goods.

Overnight: Hilton Edinburgh Carlton

Travel Day	4
Day and Date	Tuesday December 30



Title Highlands and Scottish Countryside

Today we depart the lovely city of Edinburgh and travel through the countryside to the bonnie (beautiful) Scottish Highlands.

We will stop for lunch and sightseeing along the route, including stops to enjoy the natural beauty of Scotland, so wear good footwear, even hiking boots today if you have them. Hats and gloves and warm gear are essential.

An optional stop will be to visit The Hermitage, an area of natural beauty – this is a wooded walk of about 40 minutes in the Scottish forest, mainly a flat, easy-going walk (weather dependent).

We will stop for lunch in the town of Perth, along with some additional sightseeing before heading further north into the highlands.

This evening, we will arrive at out exquisite accommodation for the next three evenings. We will be greeted with warm Scottish hospitality, with our stay being inclusive of our dinners and activities.

- Relax in the lounge or explore the local area, before a three-course supper is served;
- After dinner, tea and coffee will be served in the lounge, giving you chance to meet the team and your fellow guests.

Fonab Castle was built in 1892 and is a Scots Baronial castle popularised during the 19th century Gothic Revival, it's known for its conical roofs, battlements and small turrets – known as tourelles.

Overnight: Pitlochry, Fonab Castle

Travel Day	5
Day and Date	Wednesday December 31



Title New Year's Eve

Wake in the breathtaking surroundings of the Scottish Highlands along the banks of the river Tummel. Today your day will be filled with a selection of dining, optional activities, and camaraderie.

- Enjoy a leisurely breakfast;
- A Falconry display on the lawn will delight, before a light picnic-style buffet lunch is served;
- Mid-afternoon tea, coffee and cake will be served in the lounge bar;
- The evening starts with a Champagne and canapé reception in the loch-side lounge bar, followed by a fabulous five-course dinner;
- Celebrate with music and dancing, then a Lone Piper will herald the arrival of 2026, the Bells, and Auld Lang Syne, followed by warm Stovies.

Overnight: Fonab Castle

Travel Day	6
Day and Date	January 1, 2026



Title Pitlochry Town Street Festival

Today Pitlochry comes alive with celebrations for Hogmanay.

- Breakfast is served with Mimosas then, for those brave enough, a New Year's Day dip is offered - robes and flasks of hot drinks are also provided;
- Afternoon tea will be available in the lounge with a glass of sparking Sloe Gin, then the time is yours to explore, take part in the fun and informative Treasure Quest, or simply enjoy the spa facilities;
- Port tasting in Sandemans, or a spa product demonstration complete the day. Pre-booking is essential for both;
- A light supper will be served in 1892 for those who still have room, and then the evening is yours to relax.

For those who may feel up to a little more excitement - the Pitlochry New Years Day Street Party is an annual event that has become a beloved tradition in the Scottish town, drawing visitors from far and wide to celebrate the start of a new year in true Scottish style. Taking place in the picturesque town, the New Years Street Party offers something for everyone. Whether you're looking to dance the hangover away, indulge in delicious food and drink, or simply soak up the festive atmosphere, you won't be disappointed. Over the years, the event has grown in popularity. Today, it is a large event, drawing thousands of people to the streets of Pitlochry. The party features live music, dancing, food and drinks and a lot of festive cheer.

We will be close enough to the action to walk (20 mins) or take a short taxi ride to the festivities, so everyone has access to and from the party at your leisure.

Travel Day	7
Day and Date	January 2, 2026



Title Depart the Highlands for Glasgow

We bid farewell to the highlands today and make our way south to Glasgow.

The meaning of the Glasgow name (as you may know) is from *glas*, meaning "grey-green, grey-blue" and **cöü*, "hollow", giving a meaning of "green-hollow". Also known as "dear green place" , which remains an affectionate way of referring to the city today.

We will make some stops on our way to Glasgow, taking in the city of Stirling & Stirling Castle. The site is another of Scotland's most historically significant fortresses, sitting high on volcanic rock and offering wonderful views of the surrounding landscape. You will have time to visit the castle and learn of the exploits of key historical figures including William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots.

When we arrive in Glasgow this afternoon, you will have time to explore the city, pop into pubs, and enjoy a great meal.
Suggestion: The Pot Still, walkable from hotel for your choice of hundreds of whiskies, a family-run whisky bar

Your comfortable center-city hotel will be in the midst of the action in Glasgow, and the city will be yours to discover.

Overnight Dakota Glasgow

Travel Day	8
Day and Date	January 3, 2026



Title	Glasgow walking tour

Our expert guide will take us on foot through Glasgow today, ensuring that we learn about this fascinating city as we go.

Once we complete our activities in Glasgow, a short drive will take us back to Edinburgh for our last meal before departures tomorrow.

Overnight Edinburgh Dakota Hotel

Travel Day	9
Day and Date	January 4, 2026



Title Return flights to the USA

Airport departure at 06:00 for fights at 08:20 and 09:25.