

# Scotland's Highlands, Islands and Cities



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-  Start Location
-  Visited Location
-  Plane
-  End Location
-  Cruise
-  Train
-  Ferry
-  Over night
-  Ferry

## Day 1 | Welcome to Edinburgh



Embrace the allure of Auld Reekie and explore its labyrinthine lanes, before joining your fellow travelers and Travel Director for dinner to kick-start your tour through an unimaginably beautiful part of the world.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Voco Hotel Haymarket Edinburgh/Novotel Centre/Delta Hotels by Marriott Edinburgh

## Day 2 | Discover Enchanting Edinburgh



Let your Local Specialist take you on an informative sightseeing tour of Edinburgh. See the regal Palace of Holyroodhouse, the new Scottish Parliament Building and the Royal Mile, delving into the heart of the city, before visiting Edinburgh Castle, perched atop Castle Rock. Stroll through the grand New Town with its Gothic façades enjoying the rest of the day at leisure. Tickets to The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo are included on departures that align with performance dates.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Voco Hotel Haymarket Edinburgh/Novotel Centre/Delta Hotels by Marriott Edinburgh

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Rosslyn Chapel** - We'll drive out of Edinburgh to the tiny village of Rosslyn, where we'll hear the inside story of the famous Rosslyn Chapel from a Local Warden. One of Scotland's most unusual 15th-century buildings, Rosslyn is famed for its associations with the Knights Templar, the Masonic movement, and now 'The Da Vinci Code'.  
Adult: 30.00 GBP

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

**Ceilidh Evening and Dinner at Ghillie Dhu** - Experience the best of Scottish tradition at Ghillie Dhu, where we'll be welcomed by a Scottish piper and enjoy a welcome drink before settling in for a delicious three-course meal and live Ceilidh music. And you can't miss the iconic Piping in the Haggis ceremony, a true highlight of the Scottish experience.\*  
Adult: 88.00 GBP

*\*This experience is subject to seasonal availability and will only be offered during the summer months April - October.*

**Dinner and Drive to Historic Torphichen** - Head to the historic village of Torphichen where you'll meet Kenny, the owner of the local pub and a true character. Kick off the evening with a toast and the skirl of bagpipes before sitting down to a three-course dinner with drinks, followed by haggis, poetry, singing and stories in good company.  
Adult: 73.00 GBP



### Day 3 | A Day of Abbeys, Landscapes and History



A scenic day's excursion brings you to the ruins of the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Augustinian Jedburgh Abbey, which you will have an opportunity to view. Continue to nearby Melrose Abbey, said to be the final resting place of the embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce. Take the scenic route back to Edinburgh this afternoon, following the lush green landscapes along the Tweed River.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Voco Hotel Haymarket Edinburgh/Novotel Centre/Delta Hotels by Marriott Edinburgh

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Ghost Walk and Drink*** - Tonight, we'll discover some of Edinburgh's most haunted places with our Local Specialist, who'll share ghoulish tales. After we've recovered, we'll enjoy a pint of beer or a glass of wine in a local pub.  
Adult: 29.00 GBP

***Historic Old Town Edinburgh Walk With Traditional Fish & Chips*** - Walk through Edinburgh's Historic Old Town with a Local Specialist. Stroll along Victoria Street, with its unusual shape and collection of quirky shops its said to be the inspiration behind Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books. Afterwards, tuck into some traditional Fish and Chips at Bertie's Restaurant.  
Adult: 48.00 GBP

### Day 4 | Explore Glamis Castle and on to Creative Dundee



This morning, cross the Firth of Forth to the celebrated home of golf - St. Andrews, to view its ancient university and famous golf course. Shakespeare's Macbeth takes center stage as you visit Glamis Castle, once the home of the beloved Queen Mother and birthplace of Princess Margaret. Enjoy a guided tour of the castle and explore its beautiful gardens, before traveling to the waterfront city of Dundee, distinguished for its status as the first UNESCO City of Design, and the legendary birthplace of marmalade.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa / Leonardo Hotel Aberdeen

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Dundee Walking Tour*** - Wander along Dundee's waterfront with our Local Specialist and hear about Dundee's maritime past. You will be regaled with stories of the Voyages of the Discovery, bringing the characters who sailed on her to life. See where the food was prepared, where they ate, worked and slept on their adventures to Antarctica in 1901.  
Adult: 42.00 GBP

## Day 5 | Venture to Culloden and Inverness



Today, wind your way to the tragic battlefield and Visitor Center at Culloden, past rugged landscapes and the imposing Cairngorms Mountains. Visit the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was defeated. Your final stop for the night is Inverness, the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Columba

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Highland Farm Experience** - Visit a real Highland sheep farm and meet Neil the Shepherd and his border collies. He'll show you how he uses different whistles to command each dog to carry out different tasks. You'll also have the opportunity to try your hand at feeding the lambs and discover his training techniques. Weather permitting.  
Adult: 25.00 GBP

**Cawdor Dinner Evening** - Join us for dinner at a traditional country pub in the charming village of Cawdor, home to Shakespeare's Macbeth.  
Adult: 54.00 GBP

## Day 6 | Journey to Loch Ness and Thurso



The mystical haunt of Nessie is your first stop today en route to Dunrobin Castle. This stately home and its magnificent gardens, inspired by the Palace of Versailles, comes straight from the pages of a fairy tale. Spend your afternoon exploring its château-like structure and surrounds, once home to the Clan Sutherland. Dive Into Culture and learn about the local whisky industry at a distillery, including a tasting of Scotland's much-loved golden nectar. Arriving in Thurso, your home for the next two nights, enjoy dinner at your hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Pentland

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Loch Ness Cruise** - Today, we'll experience a scenic cruise on Scotland's most famous waterway, Loch Ness. On the lake, we'll also see beautiful Urquhart Castle, founded in the 13th-century. The management regrettably informs you that Nessie sightings are not guaranteed!  
Adult: 34.00 GBP



## Day 7 | A Day on the Orkney Islands



After stopping at John o' Groats, board a ferry to South Ronaldsay in the Orkney Islands. Visit the ornate Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners of war. See the prehistoric free-standing stones of the Ring of Brodgar before visiting Skara Brae and delving into the stories of the Neolithic village. Stop at beautiful Kirkwall Cathedral for a photo opportunity before returning to your hotel for dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Pentland

## Day 8 | Over the Sea to Skye



Dramatic landscapes accompany your scenic drive along the rugged north-west coastline of the Scottish Highlands to remote Ullapool on the shores of Loch Broom. Journey to Eilean Donan Castle, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, perched on a tiny island, where three sea lochs meet, then continue to the Isle of Skye where you'll stay overnight and enjoy a delicious dinner in your hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Kings Arms

## Day 9 | Onwards to Oban



Upon return to the mainland, follow a beautiful route that takes you past the Glenfinnan Viaduct which Harry Potter's Hogwarts Express once crossed to his beloved school of magic. Pass Fort William on the shores of Loch Linnhe, renowned as the gateway to Ben Nevis, before continuing to Oban, your Highland home for the next two nights.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Royal

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Isle of Skye Drive*** - An opportunity to travel around the Isle of Skye with your Local Specialist. You'll hear about the way of life on this remote inner Hebridean Island and discover its dramatic scenery and rock formations.

Adult: 24.00 GBP

***Dinner by a Scenic Scottish Loch*** - We'll enjoy dinner and drinks this evening at our favorite local restaurant, by one of Scotland's scenic lochs.

Adult: 58.00 GBP

## Day 10 | Sail to the Isles of Mull and Iona



Set sail from Oban to the Isle of Mull, disembarking at Craignure. Cross the pretty island countryside to catch a ferry from Fionnphort to the island of Iona, which was once the home of a Gaelic monastic community in Iona Abbey. Before your journey back to Oban, you'll have the chance to view Rèilig Odhrain, the final resting place of many Scottish kings.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Royal

## Day 11 | Off to Glasgow



The beauty of Glencoe, scarred by the story of the MacDonald clan massacre, sets a dramatic scene en route from Oban to Glasgow. Visit St Mungo's Cathedral, a holy sacred place with deep historical significance the city of Glasgow is built upon. After an orientation of the city with your Travel Director, find a bite to eat for lunch with some free time. You may wish to take part in an Optional Experience to visit the towering Kelpies and the remarkable Falkirk Wheel. Later, enjoy a specially selected Optional Experience with your Travel Director—whether it's an evening of Highland flair with dinner, bagpipes and a Highland dancer at The Corinthian, or a more relaxed night out featuring hearty food and a dram or two.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Leonardo Royal Glasgow/Hilton Garden Inn Glasgow City Centre

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***The Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel*** - Discover two of modern Scotland's great achievements as a contrast to its scenery and historic sights. Watch the Falkirk Wheel in action, an engineering marvel and the world's first revolving boat lift in a tranquil setting linking Scotland's two canals. Further down the Forth and Clyde canal are the Kelpies, towering metal horse sculptures, a tribute both to the Scottish legend of the water horse and the work horses of the canals by Scotland's foremost modern sculptor.

Adult: 20.00 GBP

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

***Glasgow City Evening*** - You'll enjoy a chance to experience a night out in the city of Glasgow. Your Travel Director will take you for an evening of good food, drinks, and undoubtedly interesting conversation.

Adult: 64.00 GBP

***Bagpipes at the Corinthian*** - Have you ever wondered what it's like to play the bagpipes? Now is your chance! Join us at one of Glasgow's magnificent and historical restaurants for dinner, entertained by our very own piper who will instruct you on playing. A Highland dancer will also be present to demonstrate the meanings behind Highland Dance.

Adult: 74.00 GBP



## Day 12 | Uncover Stirling Castle's Secrets



Venture to Bannockburn, where King Robert Bruce of Scotland defeated Edward II of England during the First War of Scottish Independence. Mary, Queen of Scots and several Scottish kings and queens have made Stirling Castle their home over the centuries. Enjoy a visit to its grounds and delve into the history of this royal residence and fortress, besieged by Bonnie Prince Charlie in the 18th century. Visit the Royal Palace of King James V and view the renowned Stirling Heads. Later, we Connect With Locals, joining the Wood family this afternoon for a memorable Be My Guest experience at their 15th-century farm, on the shores of Loch Ard, amidst tales of Rob Roy. In the afternoon, return to Glasgow. Join an expert guide to unlock Glasgow's stories through its vibrant murals on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience before the rest of the evening is yours to explore or relax in this vibrant city.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Leonardo Royal Glasgow/Hilton Garden Inn Glasgow City Centre

## Day 13 | Farewell Glasgow



Our epic journey across Scotland's highlands, islands and cities has come to an end. It's time to say a fond farewell to our travel companions and Travel Director as our memorable holiday comes to an end.

**Meals:** Breakfast