

# 2025 SCOTLAND TRIP 4 ITINERARY

APRIL 15-27, 2025 (PRELIMINARY)

(Coach Gunn reserves the right to substitute even better hikes)

## APR 15, DAY 1 TUESDAY, Travel

We will leave the SMC Niles campus (NOT Dowagiac) at 11:45PM for Chicago on a *Royal Excursion* luxury coach to O'Hare International airport. Our British Airways flight **BA294** to London departs at 4:45PM. After a 1 ½ hour layover our **BA1434** flight to Edinburgh departs London at 7:55AM and will arrive at 9:20AM Wednesday morning.

## APR 16, DAY 2 WEDNESDAY, Edinburgh

After clearing customs we will be shuttled to our hotel in the heart of the city – the *Travelodge Edinburgh Central*. An enchanting, vibrant, and medieval city awaits us. We will spend the remainder of the day exploring this wonderful medieval city before retiring early to rest.

## APR 17, DAY 3 THURSDAY, Edinburgh

After our hotel breakfast we will do the fabulous Edinburgh city hike. It is about 8.5 miles and will take a good part of the day. Highlights include *Princess Gardens, Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, the Grassmarket, the Holyrood Castle, Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Park* and the breathtaking trail up to *Arthur's Seat, Calton Hill*, and back to the theatre district for dinner.



## APR 18, DAY 4 FRIDAY, Tyndrum

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we will check out then board our bus for the scenic ride to the hike up *Conic Hill (6.5)* for an unforgettable view of *Loch Lomand*. We will arrive to Tyndrum and our beautiful hotel *Muthu Ben Doran* and a wonderful dinner on me.

## APR 19, DAY 5 SATURDAY, Tyndrum

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast it's a 90 minute scenic ride to Pitlochry village for a great hike up to *Ben Vrackie (5.7)* and then enjoy a late lunch and shopping in this charming village. This is my daughter Emily's favorite hike. Dinner is again on me.



## APR 20, DAY 6 SUNDAY, Oban

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we'll check out and take the 60 minute ride to the beautiful west coastal village of Oban where we will hike along Oban Bay on the Atlantic Ocean (8.0). Our hotel is the Muthu Regent overlooking the bay. This would be a great time to visit the Oban Distillery (make reservations now).



## APR 21, DAY 7 MONDAY, Oban

8:00AM After our hotel breakfast we'll leave early for our doubleheader hike at *Steall Waterfall (3.0)* and then to our *Great Highland Way* point to point course (11.0) in beautiful Glencoe. Expect some Highland Cows on our way to the second highest falls in Scotland. Tonight dinner is again on me at our hotel.

## APR 22, DAY 8 TUESDAY, Portree

8:00AM After our hotel breakfast we will check out of our hotel and travel 4 hours to Portree on the magical *Isle of Skye*. We will do the fabulous *Quiraing Trail* hike (7.0) before arriving at our hotels in Portree; The Skye, Royal and Rosedale.

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## APR 23, DAY 9 WEDNESDAY, Portree

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we will do another doubleheader on Skye, the *Sea Eagle* (6.0) and the *Old Man of Storr* (3.4) before enjoying this ocean village and it's dining and shopping.



## APR 24, DAY 10 THURSDAY, Inverness

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we check out then travel 2.5 hours to an amazing hike at *Beine Eithe* (6.1) overlooking the most beautiful loch in Scotland - *Loch Maree*. This is my son Jake's favorite hike. Then it's on to Inverness, the beautiful capital of the Highlands and our next lodging the Travelodge Inverness City Centre. We are well located to dine at one of several neat places along the River Ness.

## APR 25, DAY 11 FRIDAY, Stirling

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we will checkout and travel 3 hours to Stirling. We will stop en route for a short hike (4.0) at *Urguhart Castle*. Then it's on to the historical city for another neat hike in Braveheart territory. Our final lodging is the *Travelodge City Centre*, conveniently located in the heart of Stirling. My favorite restaurant is *The Portcullis* (6 blocks).



## APR 26, DAY 12 SATURDAY, Stirling

9:00AM After our hotel breakfast we will depart for the 90 minute ride to the *Kingdom of Fife* and historic *St. Andrews*. You'll have a beautiful trek including the ruins of Scotland's biggest cathedral, the *Old Town Gate*, Scotland's oldest university, the *Old Course* (the birthplace of golf) and the *West Sands Beach* where the movie *Chariots of Fire* was filmed. There will be time for shopping and dining in this really cool city before we return to Stirling.



## APR 27, DAY 13 SUNDAY, Travel

8:00AM Relaxed travel day: After our hotel breakfast we'll checkout and head to the airport for our **BA1443** return flight. There's no extra charge for the many memories you will carry home with you. Our flight leaves Edinburgh at 11:25AM and stops in London for 2 ½ hours. We depart at 3:35PM on **BA297** arrives in Chicago at 6:15PM. Our shuttle back to Niles should arrive about 10:30PM.

View of Loch Maree from Conic Hill



**Google search: There are multiple tour and ticket options to book in advance (optional)**

**Castle Tours:** Urguhart (paid), Dunstaffnage (near Oban), Edinburgh Castle (Edinburgh)

**Distillery Tours:** The Scotch Whiskey Experience (historic) or Holyrood Distillery (Edinburgh), Oban Distillery (Oban, 1 block from our hotel)