

LOCH NESS 🌐 ISLE OF SKYE 🌐 OUTLANDER



# HIGHLAND EXPLORER TOURS



RESERVATIONS: +44 (0)131 558 3738 🌐 [HIGHLANDEXPLORERTOURS.COM](https://www.highlandexplorertours.com)



- 🌐 Award-Winning Tours
- 🌐 Passionate Local Guides
- 🌐 Jacobite Steam Train
- 🌐 Loch Lomond
- 🌐 Outlander Filming Locations
- 🌐 Edinburgh Tattoo
- 🌐 Highland Games



PASSIONATE  
TRUSTED  
UNIQUE

OVER 96% OF OUR TRAVELLERS  
RECOMMEND US ON TRIPADVISOR



Image: Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye



## PASSIONATE

### **ALL SCOTLAND**

Subtle flavours and magnificent mountains, friendly locals and frantic battles, beautiful lochs and boisterous traditions. We share all of Scotland's secrets, beauty and history with a passion.

### **LOCAL GUIDES**

Knowledgeable as Celtic Druids and as fiery as Viking Warriors, our local guides reveal all the stories and history with a passion that truly brings Scotland to life. *Should I tip my guide?* Tipping is not compulsory, but if you'd like to recognise great service then please feel free to do so. 100% of tips are retained by our team, not the company.

### **AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES**

Discover and explore places only the locals know. We're proud to show you the treasures that won't be found in a guidebook.

Multi-day tours include accommodation in the cost – see page 20 for more information about accommodation.

PASSIONATE  
TRUSTED  
UNIQUE



## TRUSTED

### **MULTI-AWARD WINNING**

With nineteen years' experience, and Tripadvisor's 'Traveller's Choice'; it's no secret that we deliver an exceptional standard of service.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

We protect the environment we're passionate about. This commitment is recognised by our Gold Green Tourism award and proven by our innovative Eco Scheme where we match every £1 you donate. See page 5 for more details.

### **OUR GUARANTEE**

Our fleet is built for your comfort with USB charging points. We promise a fantastic time, but don't just take our word for it – see our reviews on Tripadvisor.

## UNIQUE

### **EXPLORE MORE**

Our trips give you versatility and the choice to see Scotland your way. Saunter around a beautiful town, delve into a historic castle, or jump on the Jacobite Steam Train; it's your trip, and it's your choice.

### **SAVINGS**

**Mini Groups** | Save 10% when '4 or more' people book any day tour together.

**Multi Trip Deals** | Save 10% when two day tours are booked together.

### **AUDIO GUIDES**

We offer free foreign language audio guides, see page 4 for more information.

# HIGHLAND DAY TOURS

## TOUR ROUTE

LOCH NESS EXPLORER

## TOUR ROUTE

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS & THE JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN

## TOUR ROUTE

CASTLES, WEST HIGHLANDS & LOCH LOMOND

## TOUR ROUTE

OUTLANDER EXPLORER

## TOUR ROUTE

LOCH LOMOND, STIRLING CASTLE & THE KELPIES

## TOUR ROUTE

SCOTTISH GLENLS, HIGHLANDS & WHISKY

## TOUR ROUTE

ALNWICK CASTLE & THE BORDERS

Please note: white dots on all maps don't necessarily mean the tour stops there, we may just pass by. Please check with our reservations team to avoid disappointment.



Image: Eilean Donan Castle



## FREE AUDIO GUIDES

We offer FREE foreign language audio translations in German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French and Mandarin. We are the only tour company in Scotland to offer this service on most of our scheduled day tours allowing the best customer experience possible for all our travellers.

Audio guides are available for free download once you have purchased your tour.

### Entdecker mit Leidenschaft...

Wir sind bestrebt, Ihnen jeden Tag die allerbesten Reiseerlebnisse zu bieten. Unsere Reisetouren sind darauf ausgelegt, das Beste aus Ihrer Zeit in unserem atemberaubenden Land zu machen, damit Sie das authentische Schottland erfahren. Unsere Mission ist es, Ihre Erwartungen zu übertreffen, ein Engagement, das von VisitScotland mit 5 Sternen ausgezeichnet wurde und sich in den gleichbleibend ausgezeichneten Bewertungen unserer Kunden widerspiegelt. Auf all unseren Reisetouren stehen Audioführer zur Verfügung.

### Pasión por descubrir...

Trabajamos cada día para ofrecerle las mejores experiencias en viajes. Nuestras visitas guiadas están programadas de modo que pueda sacar el máximo partido de su visita en nuestro impresionante país y vivir una auténtica experiencia escocesa. Nuestra misión es sobrepasar sus expectativas, un compromiso constatado por nuestra acreditación de 5 estrellas por parte de VisitScotland, y las continuas opiniones favorables de nuestros clientes. Existen audio-guías a su disposición en todas nuestras visitas.

### Amanti della Scoperta...

Siamo dediti a garantire ogni giorno le migliori esperienze di viaggio. I nostri tour sono strutturati in modo che possiate godervi il tempo che passerete nel nostro stupendo paese e per farvi vivere la vera Scozia. La nostra missione è quella di andare oltre le vostre aspettative, un impegno riconosciuto dal nostro punteggio di 5 stelle nella classifica VisitScotland e dai costanti commenti positivi dei nostri clienti. Le Audio Guide sono disponibili in tutti i nostri tour.

### Passionnés de découvertes...

Notre objectif est de vous apporter ce qu'il y a de mieux pour vos voyages. Nous avons donc conçu des circuits qui, à chaque instant, vous feront découvrir notre extraordinaire pays et vous permettront de vous donner un véritable gout de l'Écosse. Nous avons pour mission d'aller au-delà de vos attentes, tel est le sens de l'engagement que nous avons souscrit conformément à notre accréditation 5 étoiles de VisitScotland et aussi en réponse aux commentaires élogieux reçus de notre clientèle. Des guides audio sont à votre disposition pour chacun de nos voyages.

### Paixão Pela Descoberta...

Dedicamo-nos a proporcionar as melhores experiências de viagem todos os dias. As nossas visitas guiadas foram concebidas para aproveitar o máximo da sua estadia no nosso maravilhoso país e para lhe proporcionar uma autêntica experiência da Escócia. A nossa missão é exceder as suas expectativas, um compromisso que é reconhecido pela nossa acreditação de 5 estrelas da VisitScotland e pela consistência do excelente retorno por parte dos nossos clientes. Encontram-se disponíveis Guias Audio em todas as nossas visitas guiadas.

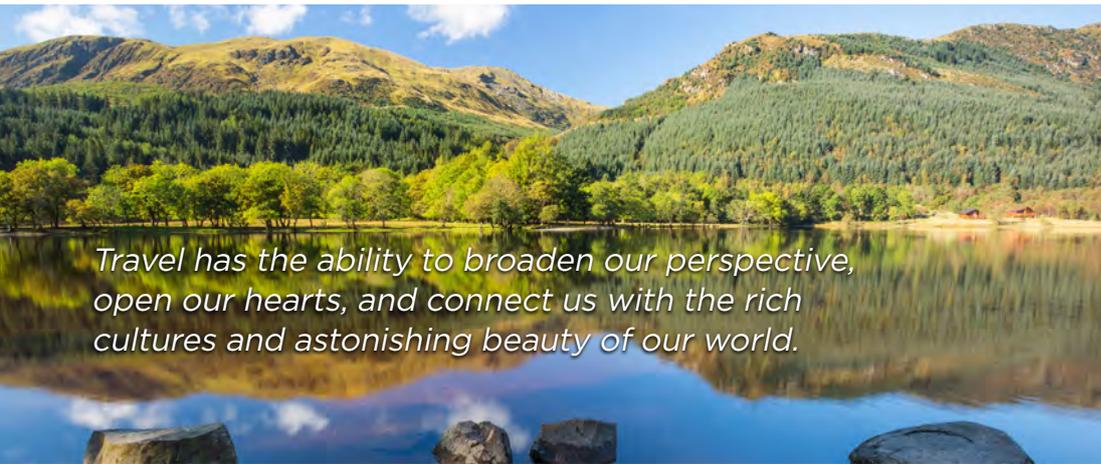
### 热衷于发现之旅...

我们专注于每天提供最优秀的旅游体验。我们的旅游路线地图帮助您最大限度地利用您在我们这美丽无比的国家所度过的旅游时光，并给您一个真正的苏格兰体验。我们的使命是超越您的期待，我们有游览苏格兰5星级认证，也一直得到积极的客户评价反馈。我们所有的旅游路线都提供导游音频设备。

To ensure that the environment and communities we visit remain welcoming and intact in the future, we created How We Tread Right (HWTR), our 5-year sustainability strategy in partnership with the TreadRight Foundation. This strategy focuses on protecting our planet, supporting people, and preserving wildlife. It includes a detailed Climate Action Plan with science-based targets to cut emissions and achieve net zero by 2050. Find out more: [highlandexplorertours.com/about-us/were-going-net-zero](https://highlandexplorertours.com/about-us/were-going-net-zero)



# OUR GREEN STORY



*Travel has the ability to broaden our perspective, open our hearts, and connect us with the rich cultures and astonishing beauty of our world.*



## MAKE TRAVEL MATTER

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experiences are conscious travel experiences offered on our tours. They are chosen with great care based on the positive environmental or social impact they have on Scotland's communities and those who experience them. Look out for the MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® logo throughout this brochure!



## RE-WILDING WITH TREES FOR LIFE

We have pioneered an Eco Scheme where you can make an optional £2 donation when booking any tour. We will match every £1 you donate, with proceeds going to a leading Scottish environmental charity; Trees for Life. Trees for Life are an award-winning charity working to restore the Caledonian Forest in the Highlands of Scotland. 

## 5 DAY TOUR



## ISLE OF SKYE VOLUNTEER ADVENTURE

### DEPARTS FROM INVERNESS

27 October 2025

We are constantly seeking new opportunities to involve conscious travel experiences in our itineraries that make a positive environmental and social impact on Scotland's unique landscapes and communities.

If you've always wanted to mingle with the locals in Scotland and love being active in the outdoors, then the 5-day Isle of Skye Volunteer Adventure ticks all the boxes.

**Check out our website for more information**



## A FAMILY OF BRANDS

We at The Travel Corporation (TTC), Highland Explorer Tours' parent company, have been creating an enriching travel experience for 100 years. We provide a rich tradition of expertise, delivering exceptional hospitality, outstanding quality and superb value no matter which of our companies you choose to travel with.



Down Under Tours



Evan Evans



AAT Kings



Haggis Adventures

# 1 DAY TOUR

## LOCH NESS EXPLORER

## HIGHLIGHTS ★

BOAT CRUISE ON MYSTERIOUS LOCH NESS  
FORT AUGUSTUS, HIGHLAND VILLAGE  
DRAMATIC GLEN COE  
CALEDONIAN CANAL AND THE GREAT GLEN

### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Loch Ness Cruise | Glen Coe (right)

### ALL YEAR

Every Day

Departs 7:30am  
Returns 7:45pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Loch Ness Cruise 

**A fantastic tour to Loch Ness visiting a diverse range of classic Highland scenery including many 'must see' sights and the chance to go monster hunting on Loch Ness! Other highlights include dramatic Glen Coe, mighty Ben Nevis, the Great Glen and Highland Perthshire.**

We cross the wilds of Rannoch Moor before stopping at dramatic Glen Coe, scene of the infamous massacre in 1692. Our journey takes us through Fort William, passing Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, before entering the Great Glen.

Arriving at Fort Augustus on the banks of Loch Ness, you have the chance to take a boat cruise on the loch, go for a walk or just relax by the Caledonian Canal in this charming Highland village.

Our return journey takes us past shimmering Loch Laggan before climbing over the wild and lonely Drumochter Pass in the Cairngorms National Park. Heading south, we enter Perthshire, a land of forests, rivers and mountains, where we stop in a wee village. We continue south over the Firth of Forth where we view the spectacular Forth Bridges before arriving back in Edinburgh in the evening.



### BOOK NOW



### LOCH NESS CRUISE

A cruise on the mysterious and beautiful Loch Ness is an unforgettable experience, offering you the chance to catch a glimpse of Nessie. The boat uses the very latest hi-tech colour sonar and underwater imaging systems to enhance the hunt. You can also relax with a coffee or beer in the on-board bar. Reserve your cruise at time of booking to guarantee your seat. Cruise duration is approximately 50 minutes.

 RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING



*Ryan was absolutely excellent as our host and driver. Very knowledgeable about Scottish history and told us some great stories as we took a scenic drive through the Highlands and into Fort Augustus to see Loch Ness. Just as important, this company is dedicated to the reforestation of Scotland, so you are helping a great cause while enjoying the beauty of Scotland!*

**LAMBERTO | DECEMBER 2024**



# 1 DAY TOUR

## SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS & THE JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN - AKA HOGWARTS EXPRESS  
GLENFINNAN VIADUCT  
GLEN COE  
FORTH BRIDGE

#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN  
RETURN COACH  
FROM EDINBURGH  
AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Jacobite Steam Train | Loch Shiel (right)  
Glen Coe (bottom)



#### APRIL - OCTOBER

Every Day\*

Departs	7:15am
Returns	8:30pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 48 hours in advance.  
\*There may be some days when this tour doesn't run.

Escape the city for the day and follow in the footsteps of the world's most famous wizard, Harry Potter. Scotland has played a huge part in the story of Harry Potter, from the scenic filming locations and inspiring architecture to the coffee shop where J.K. Rowling is said to have written the first novel.

Riding the Jacobite Steam Train is a bucket-list experience for any traveller, but even more so for Harry Potter fans who know that they are in fact boarding the Hogwarts' Express! Our passionate guides will immerse you in all the magic of Harry Potter, plus the real-life beauty and history of Scotland.

Learn all about Edinburgh's connections to Harry Potter as we depart the city and travel towards the Highlands, past the magnificent Forth Bridge.

Feast your eyes upon the Glenfinnan Viaduct on the stunning drive up the West Coast, before travelling across its iconic arches on the Jacobite Steam Train from Mallaig!

After your ride on the Hogwarts' Express your guide escorts you back to the coach, continuing your journey to Scotland's most dramatic landscape, Glen Coe, which was used as the backdrop for some much-loved scenes in the Harry Potter films.

We continue the scenic drive south, entertaining you with tales from Scotland's past, before arriving back into Edinburgh in the late evening.



BOOK NOW



SCOTTISH  
HIGHLANDS &  
THE JACOBITE  
STEAM TRAIN



*Great experience! It is a great tour to explore the Scottish Highlands and all the shooting spots from the Harry Potter movies. Our guide/bus driver, Torva, kept a light environment by cracking jokes, playing great music and telling us about the Scottish history in a more interesting way. He also recommended great places in all of the different spots we stopped by.*

**TERESA | OCTOBER 2024**



# 1 DAY TOUR

## CASTLES, WEST HIGHLANDS & LOCH LOMOND

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

DOUNE CASTLE  
 KILCHURN CASTLE & LOCH AWE  
 INVERARAY & LOCH FYNE  
 'REST AND BE THANKFUL' VIEWPOINT  
 LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK



#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Luss, Loch Lomond | Inveraray Castle (right)



#### APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday, Thursday, Friday,  
 Saturday & Sunday

Departs	8:00am
Returns	6:30pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Doone Castle\* R
- Inveraray Castle^ P
- Inveraray Jail P

\*Please note that there are dates throughout the years where Doone Castle is closed. Check availability at the time of booking.

^Inveraray Castle opens Thursday to Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday).

Head northwest from Edinburgh for a jam-packed day of extraordinary mountain ranges, lochs and Highland castles. This tour takes you through historic Stirlingshire to the famous Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and on to the West Highlands. Explore charming Highland villages Inveraray and Luss, travel through Campbell country to Kilchurn Castle on the shores of Loch Awe, and soak in some of the most stunning views of the Scottish Highlands along the way.

Heading through historic Stirlingshire our first stop is Doone Castle, one of Scotland's best-preserved medieval castles and filming location for *Outlander*, *Game of Thrones* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Travelling through Campbell country, feast your eyes on Kilchurn Castle on the shores of Loch Awe.

Journey south to Loch Fyne for a lunch stop at the charming town of Inveraray. Here, you have the option to visit Inveraray Castle (open Thursday - Monday) or, for an adventurous twist, head to Inveraray Jail, hailed as one of the world's most well-preserved courtrooms and prisons.

After lunch, we head back east and take in the iconic beauty spot Rest and Be Thankful, which has stunning views of the Arrochar Alps. The beautiful conservation village of Luss, on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, is our final stop before we head back to Edinburgh, arriving in the evening.



#### BOOK NOW



#### DOUNE CASTLE



Known to *Outlander* fans as Castle Leoch, the seat of Clan MacKenzie, Doone Castle is one of the best-preserved medieval strongholds in Scotland. Built in the 14th century, the castle has survived through the wars and rebellions of Scotland and has its own interesting history. It also starred in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and more recently featured as the setting for Winterfell in the pilot episode of *Game of Thrones*.



*Our tour guide Rich was really knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and kept energy up the entire time. We went to loads of great places, with a good variety of castles and natural landmarks. The tour bus was comfortable and we ran on time. And even the weather held up! All in all a great day.*

**JACOB | SEPTEMBER 2024**

# CASTLES, WEST HIGHLANDS & LOCH LOMOND



# 1 DAY TOUR

## OUTLANDER EXPLORER

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

DOUNE CASTLE, USED AS CASTLE LEOCH  
 CULROSS, THE FICTIONAL VILLAGE OF CRANESMUIR  
 BLACKNESS CASTLE, FEATURED AS FORT WILLIAM  
 MIDHOPE CASTLE, THE REAL-LIFE LALLYBROCH  
 ROYAL BURGH OF FALKLAND, SETTING FOR 1940'S INVERNESS

SMALL GROUP TOUR

#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Culross | Falkland (right)



@aprilroseadventure @codepodhostels

#### ALL YEAR

Every Day

Departs 8:45am  
 Returns 5:30pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Doone Castle\* R
- Blackness Castle R
- Midhope Castle\* R

\*Please note that there are dates throughout the year where Midhope Castle and Doone Castle are closed for estate activity and filming. Order of attractions may be subject to change.

Imagine walking in the footsteps of Jamie and Claire from *Outlander*, with a local guide regaling all the gruesome history and stories which inspired Diana Gabaldon. We take you on a journey to some of the most famous locations from the hit TV series, such as Midhope Castle, the real-life Lallybroch, Doone Castle, the seat of Clan MacKenzie, and the impressive Blackness Castle, the setting for Fort William. Your guide will give you an insight into the history and stories of each location, making this the perfect trip for those looking for a quick *Outlander* fix.

We leave the capital and head to Midhope Castle - the real-life Lallybroch and home of

Jamie Fraser. We then visit Doone Castle, one of Scotland's best preserved medieval castles and used as the setting for Castle Leoch in *Outlander*.

We then have lunch in Culross, the fictional village of 'Cranesmuir' where Claire was accused of witchcraft. This charming village is the most complete example of a 17th and 18th century burgh in Scotland today.

Next is the village of Falkland, used for filming 1940's Inverness. Our final stop is the impressive Blackness Castle, featured as Fort William in the series, arriving back in Edinburgh early evening.



#### BOOK NOW



#### MIDHOPE CASTLE

Dating back to the 15th century and nestled amidst the lush green landscapes of the Hopetoun Estate, Midhope Castle is bound to captivate *Outlander* fans' hearts. Used as the *Outlander* filming location for Lallybroch, Jamie Fraser's ancestral home, its enchanting setting lets you relive your favourite moments from the show.

For more information on Doone Castle (Castle Leoch in *Outlander*), please see page 10.



*The most amazing tour you could do for Outlander filming locations! A truly delightful tour with a lot of information and funny tour guide, big shout out to Torva (A.K.A Lord Farquard) he was the absolute best! Super interactive and wonderful! I would recommend this tour to every Outlander fan; great as a group or solo experience, couldn't have been better.*

**SHARON | AUGUST 2024**



# 1 DAY TOUR

## LOCH LOMOND, STIRLING CASTLE & THE KELPIES

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

STIRLING CASTLE  
BALMAHA VILLAGE WITH VIEWS TO BEN LOMOND  
LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK  
THE KELPIES, MAGNIFICENT 30M HIGH STEEL SCULPTURES



#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Loch Lomond | The Kelpies (right)

#### ALL YEAR

Every Day

Departs 8:45am  
Returns 5:00pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Stirling Castle



**A splendid introduction to Scotland. This tour fuses the remarkable beauty of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park with the majestic sight of the Kelpies and the savage history of Stirling Castle. On this trip there is plenty of time to examine amazing architecture and ponder over breathtaking natural and man-made wonders while immersing yourself in myths, legends and stories.**

We depart Edinburgh and head west towards Falkirk where you get the chance to visit and marvel at the stunning Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures. Dedicated to the horse-powered heritage of Central Scotland, the Kelpies also celebrate the mythological transforming beasts living in our lochs, rivers and streams.

Our journey then takes us to the 'Bonnie

Banks of Loch Lomond' where we take time at Balmaha to admire views of Ben Lomond. Here, you will have the opportunity to go on a woodland walk that will afford you great views of the loch. Standing on its bank you will understand why Loch Lomond has been immortalised in a world-famous song.

The rest of the afternoon is spent exploring Stirling. You will have the option to discover the impressive Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most important structures both historically and architecturally. Many royals have been crowned at Stirling Castle, including Mary Queen of Scots, and it was central to William Wallace's fight in the Wars of Independence. Alternatively, explore Stirling, geographically one of the most significant towns in Scottish history. We return to Edinburgh in the early evening.



BOOK NOW



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#### STIRLING CASTLE

Stirling Castle is arguably the most impressive and historically important castle in Scotland. Seen for miles around, its imposing position has played a hugely strategic role throughout the centuries. Once home to the Scottish Royals, the building has been subject to many bloody sieges and much political intrigue.

RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING

LOCH LOMOND,  
STIRLING  
CASTLE &  
THE KELPIES



*Absolutely fantastic day tour to Loch Lomond and Stirling Castle! Our guide, Heidi was phenomenal, offering not just informative, but genuinely entertaining commentary throughout the day. Each story and historical tidbit added so much depth to the stunning scenery and impressive architecture.*

**EASHITA | JULY 2024**



# 1 DAY TOUR

## SCOTTISH GLENS, HIGHLANDS & WHISKY

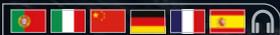
## HIGHLIGHTS ★

SAMPLE WHISKY AT A WORKING DISTILLERY  
 THE KELPIES  
 HERMITAGE FOREST WALK  
 DUNKELD CATHEDRAL  
 STUNNING SMA' GLEN



### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 HERMITAGE FOREST WALK  
 AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Sma' Glen | The Hermitage Forest (below)



### APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

### AUGUST

Every Day until 23 August

Departs 8:15am  
 Returns 5:30pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Glenturret Whisky Distillery\* 

\*Please note there may be days where Glenturret Distillery is closed, in which case it will be replaced with another distillery.

**Whisky, history and scenery: a truly Scottish combination and you experience all three in one day! First, visit the iconic Kelpies, a monument to horse-powered heritage across Scotland. Then, make a toast to the Highland scenery with a wee dram in a whisky distillery, journey through the breath-taking Sma' Glen and explore one of Perthshire's most beautiful woodland walks and waterfalls.**

We depart Edinburgh and make our way to the majestic Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures, dedicated to horse-powered heritage across Scotland.

We drive through Scotland's scenic landscapes, venturing further into the Highlands before stopping at one of Scotland's famous whisky distilleries. Alternatively, head out to explore the charming market town of Crieff with its delightful local shops and cosy cafés.

After passing through the stunning Sma' Glen, a valley of ancient myths in the Scottish Lowlands, we explore The Hermitage forest in the heart of Perthshire to take a leisurely woodland walk amid captivating rivers and waterfalls.

Our return journey visits the charming village of Dunkeld and its cathedral before returning to Edinburgh, passing the iconic Forth Bridges on the way.



### BOOK NOW



### GLENTURRET WHISKY DISTILLERY

The optional guided tour gives you an insight into how 'uisge beatha' (the 'water of life') is made and takes you on a journey to discover the history behind Scotland's most iconic export.

# HIGHLIGHTS ★

ALNWICK CASTLE ★ BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE DRIVE  
CROSS THE BORDER BETWEEN  
SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND  
PICTURESQUE SEASIDE VILLAGE  
OF BAMBURGH AND ITS CASTLE



1 DAY TOUR

## ALNWICK CASTLE & THE BORDERS



### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
AUDIO GUIDE



Image: Alnwick Castle

Combine movie magic and historic wonder on this trip through the Scottish Borders and Northumberland. You will visit the picturesque seaside village of Bamburgh and have the chance to visit 5th century Bamburgh Castle, sitting dramatically above the beautiful beach. Another highlight of the day is Alnwick Castle. This historic gem represents royal splendour and was a key filming location for *Harry Potter* and *Downton Abbey*. Lose yourself in tales of the past and the enchantment of it all, on this journey between the border of Scotland and England.

We leave Edinburgh in the morning and head south to the Borders. On the way to England you will see the gently rolling hills and dramatic coastlines of East Lothian. Our first stop is the beautiful coastal village

Bamburgh. Take a stroll to the stunning beach or enjoy an optional visit to the dramatic 5th century Bamburgh Castle sitting on a natural throne of volcanic rock.

In the afternoon, we will meet the star of the show, Alnwick Castle AKA *Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry* from the *Harry Potter* movies. There is lots to do here; admire large stately rooms and beautiful architecture, explore the spectacular gardens or learn a little about all the popular films and TV shows that have been filmed here.

After spending time in Alnwick we make our way back over the border and in to Scotland. On our drive home we'll entertain you with tales of the turbulent past before arriving into Edinburgh early evening.



### ALNWICK CASTLE

The magnificent Alnwick Castle was built over 900 years ago. Its purpose was to control the perilous borders between Scotland and England. But now it's renowned for more than bloody history. The expansive gardens are world famous, the art collection is unrivalled, and the rooms are some of the finest examples of 19th-century Italianate design.

### APRIL - OCTOBER

Every Day

Departs 8:15am  
Returns 5:30pm

Full refund if cancelled more than 24 hours in advance.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Alnwick Castle
- Bamburgh Castle



RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING

# 1 DAY TOUR

## HIGHLAND GAMES

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

PARTICIPATE IN THE TRADITION OF A CLAN GATHERING  
 PIPING COMPETITIONS & HIGHLAND DANCING  
 CABER TOSSING & HAMMER THROWING  
 TRADITIONAL HIGHLAND DRESS  
 STUNNING HIGHLAND SCENERY

#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 ENTRANCE TO THE GAMES

Images: Highland Games



#### MAY - SEPTEMBER

Selected dates, see below

Departs 8:30am\*  
 Returns 5:45pm\*

Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### GAMES PROGRAMME 2025

Sunday 25 May	Blair Atholl
Sunday 8 June	Glamis
Saturday 5 July	Luss
Sunday 3 August	Bridge of Allan
Sunday 17 August	Crieff
Saturday 6 September	Braemar*
Saturday 13 September	Pitlochry

\*Braemar Gathering departs 8:00am, returns 8:00pm.



#### BOOK NOW



Join us on a day tour to a real Highland Games where you can soak up the atmosphere and experience the excitement. The Games, or Gatherings, take place in towns and villages throughout the country and are a highlight of the Scottish calendar, making for a truly memorable day out amongst grand Highland scenery.

The Highland Games are renowned over the world as a test of strength between Clans. These athletic contests date back over 900 years, and the Games are a fantastic spectacle where you'll see Highland dancing, pipe band displays, hammer throwing, tug-o-war and caber tossing.

We have created a range of day tours based around these spectacular cultural events that include the best of our beautiful

landscape. Each has its own local charm and character. Our programme includes a visit to the world famous Braemar Gathering, attended by members of the Royal Family since Queen Victoria first attended in 1848.



#### BRAEMAR GATHERING

Known as 'The Games' and originating from those believed to have been held by Malcolm III in the 11th century, an annual Highland Games Gathering is held at Braemar in Royal Deeside on the first Saturday in September. This Gathering is one of the most famous. Her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth II, was a patron and frequently attended.

# HIGHLIGHTS ★

WORLD-FAMOUS EDINBURGH TATTOO SHOW  
SAMPLE WHISKY AT SCOTLAND'S OLDEST WORKING DISTILLERY  
BEAUTIFUL VALLEY SMA' GLEN  
HERMITAGE FOREST WALK  
THE KELPIES

## 1 DAY TOUR

# THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY  
TATTOO TICKET  
WHISKY DISTILLERY TOUR  
HERMITAGE FOREST WALK  
AUDIO GUIDE



Images: Edinburgh Skyline | Edinburgh Castle (below)

A stunning day tour of the Highlands, a land of forests, mountains, rivers, and glens. Visit a local whisky distillery and sample a warming dram of single malt whisky. The day concludes with our return to Edinburgh in time for an evening at the world-famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

We leave Edinburgh behind and make our first stop at the majestic equine sculptures, The Kelpies. Then it's into the scenic beauty of the Highlands. We visit a local whisky distillery where you will learn how the 'water of life' is made and sample a wee dram.

On our way to the quaint riverside village of Dunkeld, we travel through the breath-taking Sma' Glen, a mystical valley in the scenic Scottish Lowlands.

We then take a short woodland walk through The Hermitage forest to see the stunning Black Linn Falls, before returning south past the inspiring Forth Bridges.

Back in Edinburgh, you will have time to relax and explore the city before making your own way to the evening performance of the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle.



### AUGUST

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Departs	8:15am
Returns	5:30pm
Performance	9:30pm

Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

### AUGUST - AVAILABLE DATES

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



BOOK NOW



# HIGHLAND HOSPITALITY ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Accommodation is included on all our multi-day tours. Each lodging is carefully selected by our experienced operations team, ensuring you a comfortable room and a warm Highland welcome.



Image: Portree

## **BED & BREAKFAST (B&B) / GUEST HOUSE**

Most of our tours feature 3-star B&Bs or guest houses, known for their warm welcome and authentic Scottish experience. Typically located within a mile of the town centre, they offer en-suite rooms and a traditional Scottish breakfast.

## **HOTEL**

On selected tours, we offer stays in 3-star highland hotels. These smaller, family-run hotels are cosy, full of character, and conveniently located near the town centre. While facilities are simpler than city hotels, you'll enjoy a comfortable stay, a Scottish breakfast, and often an optional dinner.

## **HOSTEL DORMITORY**

For a budget-friendly option, select tours include hostel stays. Dorm-style rooms offer a sociable way to meet fellow travellers while being close to the action. Breakfast isn't included, but nearby cafés and shops have plenty of local options to fuel your adventures.

## **SOLO TRAVELLERS**

We have limited availability of single rooms, which can be selected at the time of booking, where available.

## **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

Highland hotels and B&Bs do not have lifts/elevators. See page 35 for more details.

## CONNECT WITH US

 @HIGHLANDEXPLORERTOURS

 @HIGHEXTOURS



Eilean Donan Castle @rach.carbone



Isle of Skye @cate.hanlon

The West Highland Line has been voted 'Top Rail Journey of the World' in Wanderlust Magazine for several years, and you'll understand why as soon as you hop on board.

# JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN



Image: Glenfinnan Viaduct

**Starting in Mallaig or Fort William, the train visits Arisaig, Britain's most westerly railway station, and from the coast you can see the 'Small Isles' of Rum, Eigg, Muck, and the stunning white beaches used in films such as Local Hero and Highlander.**

The Jacobite Steam Train then passes through Glenfinnan where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard to begin his ill-fated claim to the throne in 1745.

The Jacobite Steam Train was featured in a number of Harry Potter movies as the 'Hogwarts Express', and travels over the 21 arches of the impressive Glenfinnan Viaduct.

We cross over the viaduct with amazing views of Loch Shiel.

The Jacobite Steam Train is an outstanding way to take in the beautiful scenery of the Scottish west coast and we guarantee it is an experience you will never forget.



Loch Ness @thescottishkiwi



Isle of Skye @cate.hanlon

## CONNECT WITH US

Mention or tag us  
on social media –  
be part of our story!

# 3 DAY TOUR

## ISLE OF SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN\* ★ STUNNING ISLE OF SKYE  
 LOCH NESS ★ GLEN COE  
 VIEW EILEAN DONAN CASTLE  
 DUNVEGAN CASTLE\* ★ DUNKELD  
 'MAKE TRAVEL MATTER' VISIT AT  
 DUNDREGGAN REWILDING CENTRE

**MAKE TRAVEL MATTER**  
 SEE PAGE 5

#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 2 NIGHTS B&B ACCOMMODATION  
 FERRY CROSSING 'OVER THE SEA' TO THE ISLE OF SKYE\*  
 DUNDREGGAN REWILDING CENTRE

Images: Quiraing | Old Man of Storr (right)

#### APRIL - OCTOBER

Monday, Wednesday & Saturday

#### NOVEMBER - MARCH 2026

Wednesday & Saturday

Departs 7:45am  
 Returns 6:00pm°

Low season B&B price per person based on double/twin share accommodation. Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### ACCOMMODATION

B&B or hostel dormitory accommodation is include. See page 20 for details.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Jacobite Steam Train\* R

Dunvegan Castle Entrance\* R

\*Summer only: April - October. Please see website for winter itinerary.  
 °During April and October, the route goes in reverse, with the Jacobite Steam Train and the ferry ride to Isle of Skye taking place on day 3. From 5 May until 24 September 2025, the return time will be 6:00pm. From 2 April until 3 May 2025 and 27 September until 22 October 2025, the return time will be 8:00pm.

#### BOOK NOW



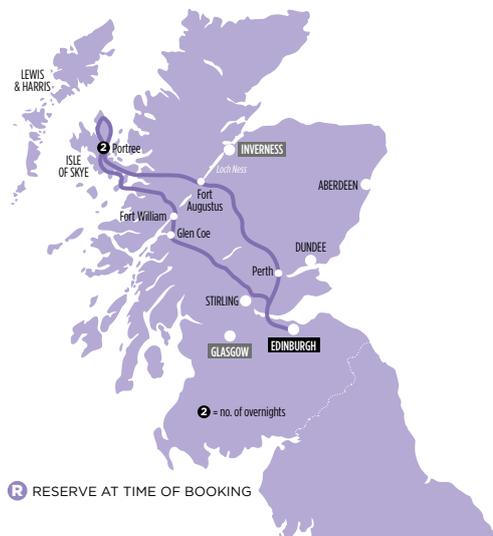
Discover the Highlands and the magical Isle of Skye with its outstanding natural beauty, Viking history, and ancient myths and legends. This is a journey packed with many of Scotland's most iconic sights and scenery, as well as the chance to travel one of the great train journeys of the world on the Jacobite Steam Train.

**DAY ONE |** Leaving Edinburgh, we travel past the stunning Stirling Castle, then through the wild landscapes of Rannoch Moor before stopping at one of Scotland's most iconic landmarks, Glen Coe. Continuing to Fort William, we get the chance to embark on a magical approximate 2-hour ride on the Jacobite Steam Train\*°. By the time you cross

the striking arches of the Glenfinnan Viaduct you will understand why the Jacobite Steam Train is often referred to as the world's greatest rail journey. Our afternoon continues with a scenic ferry ride° from Mallaig to the famous Isle of Skye, where we arrive at the capital town of Portree with its colourful harbour. (Overnight: Portree)

**DAY TWO |** We spend the day exploring the dramatic Isle of Skye as we hear tales of Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape from the mainland against the backdrop of the jagged Cuillin Mountains. Highlights include the mysterious rock formation of the Old Man of Storr, Kilt Rock with its cascading waterfall, and Dunvegan's impressive castle. (Overnight: Portree)

**DAY THREE |** We bid farewell to the Isle of Skye and head to Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most romantic photo spots. Our journey leads us to the Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, where we delve into the admirable work of Trees for Life, a charity committed to the revival of Scotland's ancient Caledonian Pine Forest. Our next destination is Loch Ness, where we take a break and attempt to catch a glimpse of the legendary Nessie while enjoying the shores of Fort Augustus. We then pass mighty Ben Nevis, before exploring the charming Highland village of Dunkeld. We arrive back into Edinburgh in the early evening.



R RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING



*This tour is one of the best ways to see the Isle of Skye! Absolutely incredible scenery, lovely accommodation and historic attractions. Big thanks to the best driver and tour guide on earth, Charlie! By entertaining us with her many fascinating facts and hilarious humour she almost single handedly made our tour a 5 star experience.*  
**BEN | APRIL 2024**

ISLE OF  
SKYE & THE  
HIGHLANDS



# 4 DAY TOUR

## MULL, IONA & STAFFA PUFFIN EXPERIENCE

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

INDULGE IN FRESH SEAFOOD IN OBAN  
 FERRY TO MULL & IONA  
 WILDLIFE CRUISE TO TRESHNISH ISLES\*\*  
 FINGAL'S CAVE ★ GLEN COE  
 WHISKY DISTILLERY



#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 3 NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION  
 ALL FERRY CROSSINGS  
 WILDLIFE BOAT TOUR TO STAFFA AND THE TRESHNISH ISLES\*\*  
 WHISKY DISTILLERY TOUR

Images: Puffins | Wildlife Cruise (below) | Iona (right)



#### JUNE - AUGUST

Monday

Departs 8:15am  
 Returns 6:00pm

Per person price based on double/family/twin share accommodation. Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation is included. See page 20 for details.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

Iona Abbey P



Meet the most amusing and inquisitive birds in Scotland, while exploring the stunning West Coast, and the idyllic isles of Mull and Iona.

**DAY ONE |** Leaving Edinburgh, we journey west past the ancient city of Stirling towards the scenic beauty of Loch Lomond. Take photos from the Rest and Be Thankful viewpoint and enjoy free time in pretty Inveraray for lunch. Visit the ancient Dunadd Fort before continuing towards the bustling port town of Oban for our ferry to Mull, where we spend two nights in Tobermory. **(Overnight: Tobermory)**

**DAY TWO |** After breakfast, we set off on a wildlife boat tour to the Treshnish Isles and Staffa. Enjoy breathtaking sea views while looking out for seabirds and, depending on the season, even seals, dolphins, eagles, and whales. As we sail to Staffa, hear stories of giants and geology and get up close to the striking Fingal's Cave. Once we land on Staffa, we have ample time to explore the island and observe the enchanting little puffins\* in their natural habitat. **(Overnight: Tobermory)**

**DAY THREE |** Today we travel across mountainous Mull to visit the spiritual Isle of Iona, often referred to as the sacred heart of Scotland. Enjoy plenty free time to have lunch, visit Iona Abbey and explore the white sand beaches. Afterwards, we catch the ferry back to Oban, where you can try fresh seafood and have a drink in a local pub on our last night. **(Overnight: Oban)**

**DAY FOUR |** We depart Oban and travel through the dramatic and breathtaking landscape that is Glen Coe and onto the wild expanse of Rannoch Moor and Rob Roy's old stomping ground. We stop at a whisky distillery to learn all about single malt production – and sample it straight from the source. Return to Edinburgh in the evening after four fantastic days.



\* The puffin breeding season usually takes place between late April to mid-August. Puffin encounters cannot be guaranteed.

\*\* Please note: the wildlife cruise and landing on Staffa and other islands is weather dependant.

P PAY LOCALLY



*First class. First time to the isles and it could not have been better. Guide Rich was fantastic, so knowledgeable, friendly and helpful. Could not believe the beautiful scenery. Beaches were stunning and water so clear. Wow!!*

**ROY | JUNE 2024**

MULL, IONA &  
STAFFA PUFFIN  
EXPERIENCE



# 5 DAY TOUR

## ISLE OF SKYE, LOCH NESS & INVERNESS

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN\* ★ LOCH NESS CRUISE\*\* ★ GLEN COE WHISKY DISTILLERY TOUR ★ CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD EILEAN DONAN CASTLE ★ FISHING PORT OF OBAN HIGHLAND CAPITAL, INVERNESS 'MAKE TRAVEL MATTER' VISIT AT DUNDREGGAN REWILDING CENTRE

**MAKE TRAVEL MATTER**  
SEE PAGE 5

#### INCLUSIONS

4 NIGHTS B&B  
PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
FERRY CROSSING 'OVER THE SEA' TO THE ISLE OF SKYE\*  
WHISKY DISTILLERY TOUR  
CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD  
CLAVA CAIRNS STONES  
DUNDREGGAN REWILDING CENTRE

Images: Jacobite Steam Train | Eilean Donan Castle (right) Culloden (below, right)



#### ALL YEAR

Monday

#### JUNE - SEPTEMBER

Monday & Thursday

Departs 8:30am  
Returns 5:30pm

Low season B&B price per person based on double/twin share accommodation. Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### ACCOMMODATION

B&B/hostel dormitory accommodation is included. See page 20 for details.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Jacobite Steam Train\* (R)
- Loch Ness Cruise\* (R)
- Culloden Visitor Centre (P)



#### BOOK NOW



4 = no. of overnights

Take a spectacular journey through the scenic Highlands and the magical Isle of Skye, experiencing endless stunning views, local gems and historic sites along the way. Our myths and legends will capture your imagination, and the scenery will take your breath away, from rugged Glen Coe to the idyllic West Coast. Sample whisky, explore castles, and take an optional ride on the Jacobite Steam Train. From start to finish, every part of this trip reveals a little more of Scotland's quintessential charm.

**DAY ONE |** We leave Edinburgh and head to the iconic Kelpies. We then head north past Stirling and take in views of the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle. We will make a stop for lunch before entering the Highlands, heading through wild Rannoch Moor and Glen Coe then on to the fishing town of Oban. (Overnight: Oban)

**DAY TWO |** Today, you have the option to embark the Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William, crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct featured in the Harry Potter movies, or travel the equally impressive 'Road to the Isles' by bus. We take the ferry\* to the Isle of Skye before driving to our overnight destination in Portree. (Overnight: Portree)

**DAY THREE |** We explore more of the mysterious Isle of Skye with its awe-inspiring mountains, stunning coastline, myths and legends before returning to the mainland. On the way to Loch Ness we stop at Eilean Donan Castle and wind our way along the Great Glen where we also visit Dundreggan Rewilding Centre to learn about Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest and then on to Inverness, home for the next two nights. (Overnight: Inverness)

**DAY FOUR |** Keep an eye out for the elusive monster, 'Nessie', while we take an optional cruise on Loch Ness before heading north towards the quaint town of Beaulieu. After lunch we visit the mysterious chambered cairns and standing stones of Clava Cairns; followed by Culloden Battlefield, site of the last battle fought on British soil; both locations inspired the hit TV series *Outlander*. (Overnight: Inverness)

**DAY FIVE |** Leaving Inverness, we visit the Highland Folk Museum\* to get a real taste of Highland life from the past centuries before heading to a visit at local whisky distillery for a tour and a taste of the 'water of life'. For our final stop we visit Dunkeld and take a walk through the quaint village on to the River Tay, and make a visit to the cathedral. We return to Edinburgh in the evening.

(R) RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING (P) PAY LOCALLY

\*Summer only: April - October. Please see website for winter itinerary. \*\*There are dates during winter when the boat cruise does not operate.



You get to see so much and do different things. The length is great to get your break and feel like it was well spent. Highly recommend for a unique and engaging trip! Alistair is a super accommodating guide and makes the whole trip pleasant. Ate lots, drank what I wanted, and made new friends from across the globe.

JESSIE | SEPTEMBER 2024

## ISLE OF SKYE, LOCH NESS & INVERNESS



### CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD & VISITOR CENTRE

Working in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland we are delighted to offer you a special discounted admission fee. On the 16th of April 1746, Culloden was the site of the last pitched battle fought on the British mainland. Through an interpretive exhibition and a visit to the battlefield itself, you can learn why this hour-long conflict changed Highland life and world history forever. With ongoing archaeological research and fresh historical interpretations, the story is far from over. More recently Culloden has been used as the backdrop to the popular TV series *Outlander*.



# 6 DAY TOUR

## UP HELLY AA VIKING FIRE FESTIVAL

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE ★ ROYAL DEESIDE
- OVERNIGHT FERRY TO LERWICK
- ISLANDS OF BURRA & TRONDRA
- ANCIENT SETTLEMENT OF JARLSHOF
- SITE OF TINGWALL PARLIAMENT

#### INCLUSIONS

- PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE
- 2 OVERNIGHT FERRIES (TWIN OR QUAD-SHARE CABIN\*)
- 3 NIGHTS 3-STAR HOTEL (TWIN SHARE/DOUBLE)
- 3 FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFASTS
- RSPB SUMBURGH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE
- JARLSHOF PREHISTORIC VILLAGE
- FREE TIME IN LERWICK
- GUIDED TOUR OF SHETLAND

Images: Up Helly Aa Viking Fire Festival  
Eashaness (below)

24 January 2026  
& 25 January 2026

Saturday & Sunday

Departs 8:00am  
Returns 5:30pm

Please refer to our website for tour prices

#### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation is included.  
See page 20 for details.

\*twin and quad-share cabins are subject to availability

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

The Shetland Museum, Lerwick



Join us on an unforgettable six day adventure to Shetland, a remote and rugged archipelago where Viking heritage and Scottish traditions collide in one of Europe's most spectacular winter festivals – Up Helly Aa. Held on the last Tuesday of January, this legendary fire festival marks the lengthening of the days with an awe-inspiring torchlight procession, traditional Scottish dancing, music, and the ceremonial burning of a full-size Viking longship.

But this tour is more than just the festival – it's an exploration of Scotland's breathtaking landscapes, fascinating history, and warm hospitality.

Departing from Edinburgh, we travel north, stopping at the historic university town of St Andrews before making our way to the dramatic Dunnottar Castle, perched high on the cliffs overlooking the North Sea. In Aberdeen, we board the overnight ferry for an adventure across the waves to Shetland.

Arriving in Lerwick, the island's vibrant capital, we spend our time discovering its rich Viking history, picturesque harbours, and lively pubs filled with traditional music. Explore prehistoric sites like Jarlshof, marvel at the stunning beaches of St Ninian's Isle, and take in the raw beauty of Eshaness, known as the 'wild west' of Shetland.

On the day of the festival, excitement fills the air as Vikings in full costume parade through the streets, culminating in the dramatic burning of a replica longship. With your guide on hand to ensure you don't miss a moment, you'll be fully immersed in the magic and energy of this world-famous event.

As our adventure winds down, we sail back to mainland Scotland, taking a scenic route through the spectacular Cairngorm National Park, stopping in charming Highland towns before returning to Edinburgh.



UP HELLY AA  
VIKING FIRE  
FESTIVAL



*This is not a tour it's an ADVENTURE! Before we had left Edinburgh we knew we were in Scotland, welcomed with a dram of Whisky and traditional Shetland music. From day 1 the tour was packed with interesting, exciting and beautiful places with knowledgeable engaging guides who could not do enough for us.*

PAUL | JANUARY 2024



# 6 DAY TOUR

## ISLE OF SKYE & THE OUTER HEBRIDES

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

GLEN COE ★ LOCH NESS  
HIGHLAND CAPITAL OF INVERNESS  
EILEAN DONAN CASTLE ★ JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN  
DUN CARLOWAY, IRON AGE BROCH

#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
5 NIGHTS B&B ACCOMMODATION  
GEARRANNAN BLACKHOUSE VILLAGE  
DISTILLERY VISIT  
ALL FERRY CROSSINGS



Images: Isle of Harris | Isle of Skye (right)

#### MAY - SEPTEMBER

Thursday

Departs 8:30am  
Returns 8:30pm

Per person B&B price based on double/family/twin share accommodation. Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### ACCOMMODATION

B&B/hostel dormitory accommodation is included. See page 20 for details.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Jacobite Steam Train R
- Eilean Donan Castle P



Prepare for an unforgettable journey across the Highlands and Islands, where we discover some of Scotland's most iconic destinations, as well as the hidden gems, from the world-famous Loch Ness to the remote corners of the Outer Hebrides.

**DAY ONE |** We travel north passing Stirling Castle, and catch a glimpse of Doune Castle, which appears in *Monty Python & the Holy Grail*, *Outlander* and *Game of Thrones*. Soak up the atmospheric scenery in Glen Coe and learn about the legend of 'Nessie' at Loch Ness. **(Overnight: Inverness)**

**DAY TWO |** Start the day at the stunning Corrieshalloch Gorge before catching the ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. Continuing our journey south to the Isle of Harris, you'll be blown away at white sandy beaches and a backdrop of rugged mountains. We have time to visit the famous Harris Distillery and indulge in some of the best local produce before we return to Stornoway for the night. **(Overnight: Stornoway)**

**DAY THREE |** Travel back in time to the Iron Age at the broch of Dun Carloway. Experience traditional island life at the Gearingannan Blackhouse Village before you visit the Butt of Lewis and its lighthouse, the most northerly point on the island. **(Overnight: Stornoway)**

**DAY FOUR |** Back on the Isle of Harris, we board the ferry and go over the sea to the Isle of Skye. Spend the afternoon learning about the island's myths and legends, while gazing at the enchanting scenery. In the evening we have free time to enjoy dinner in one of the local restaurants in Portree. **(Overnight: Portree)**

**DAY FIVE |** Visit the Isle of Skye's enchanted waters by Sligachan River with views of the old bridge and the breathtaking Cuillin mountains. Drive over the Skye Bridge to the iconic and beautiful Eilean Donan Castle before arriving back in Portree. **(Overnight: Portree)**

**DAY SIX |** We take the ferry back to the mainland, arriving at the fishing village of Mallaig on the West Coast. You have a chance to experience one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world and travel over the Glenfinnan Viaduct on the Jacobite Steam Train\*; made famous by Harry Potter. We take the scenic route back to Edinburgh through the Cairngorms National Park, arriving in the evening.



*Just wanted to say a big shout out to Louise a great host and a fantastic storyteller. My partner and I loved this tour, it was a great way to see the highlands and explore parts we'd never heard of before. From all of the stories and stops along the way we learnt so much about the rich Scottish lore and history.*

**KIERAN | SEPTEMBER 2024**

ISLE OF SKYE  
& THE OUTER  
HEBRIDES



# 8 DAY TOUR

## ISLE OF SKYE, ORKNEY & NORTH COAST 500

### HIGHLIGHTS ★

CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD ★ CLAVA CAIRNS STONES  
 DUNROBIN CASTLE ★ RING OF BRODGAR  
 EILEAN DONAN CASTLE ★ ISLE OF SKYE  
 JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN  
 YESNABY CLIFFS, HOME TO PUFFINS\* (from April - August)



#### INCLUSIONS

PASSIONATE LOCAL GUIDE  
 7 NIGHTS 3-STAR B&B  
 ACCOMMODATION  
 ALL FERRY CROSSINGS  
 WHISKY DISTILLERY VISIT  
 ITALIAN CHAPEL  
 SKARA BRAE

Images: Brodgar | Dunrobin Castle (right)  
 North Coast 500 (bottom right)



#### JUNE - SEPTEMBER

Sunday

Departs 8:30am  
 Returns 5:00pm

Per person price based on double/family/twin share accommodation. Please see T&Cs on website for cancellation policy.

#### ACCOMMODATION

B&B accommodation is included.  
 See page 20 for details.

#### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

- Jacobite Steam Train\* (R)
- Armadale Castle (P)



#### BOOK NOW



Let us take you on a journey to some of Scotland's most stunning and historically significant sights. Discover Orkney's wild coastline and Neolithic settlements, take in the spectacular views on the North Coast 500 drive and explore the mysterious Isle of Skye with its awe-inspiring mountains, myths and legends.

**DAY ONE |** Leaving Edinburgh, we head to Perthshire, a land of forests, rivers and mountains. We visit Dunkeld with its historic cathedral. Our journey north takes us through the mountainous Cairngorms National Park and on to Culloden Battlefield and the standing stones of Clava Cairns. **(Overnight: Inverness)**

**DAY TWO |** We depart Inverness and head further north to join the spectacular North Coast 500 trail. Our first stop will be the fairytale Dunrobin Castle and a visit at a local whisky distillery before boarding the ferry to the Orkney Isles with the chance to spot dolphins, whales, and orcas. **(Overnight: Orkney Isles)**

**DAY THREE |** We depart Kirkwall in the morning to explore some of Orkney's wondrous sites. First, we make a stop at the Italian Chapel, and will spend the rest of the day exploring Orkney's Neolithic history. Stops include Skara Brae, the towering Ring of Brodgar and The Stones of Stenness. **(Overnight: Orkney Isles)**

**DAY FOUR |** We catch the ferry back to the mainland to re-join the North Coast 500 trail. We make a stop at Smoo Cave, a spectacular sea cave set into the limestone cliffs of Sutherland. Driving west, we stop for a stroll at the jewel in the crown of the northwest Highland's Geopark - Knockan Crag. We arrive into Ullapool where you can spend the night exploring the beautiful harbour village. **(Overnight: Ullapool)**

**DAY FIVE |** On our way to the Isle of Skye, we pass the romantic Eilean Donan Castle, before crossing the Skye Bridge to our enchanting island destination. Your last stop of the day will be a visit to Kilt Rock with its impressive cascading waterfall. We spend the night in Portree, Isle of Skye's vibrant hub. **(Overnight: Portree)**

**DAY SIX |** We have the chance to explore a wee bit more of the beautiful Isle of Skye before taking the ferry to the west coast fishing village of Mallaig. Here you can board the Jacobite Steam Train to Fort William. We then head along the west coast of Scotland to the quaint fishing town of Oban, where we will spend the next two nights. **(Overnight: Oban)**

R RESERVE AT TIME OF BOOKING P PAY LOCALLY

\*Puffin encounters cannot be guaranteed.

“ My mother, nephew and I took the 8-day tour and would take it another 10 times with Highland Explorer Tours. Our guide, the highly-esteemed Steve, was phenomenal, hands down. Besides his effortless maneuvering of the van, while dropping knowledge, he also provided a fantastic playlist. He had everyone in the van laughing, telling jokes & singing; quickly bonding as a group.

BETHANY | JULY 2024

**DAY SEVEN |** After an action-packed 6 days of exploring, today is a free day to relax, explore or get active at your own pace. From our base in Oban you can set off by ferry for a day on one of the Western Isles (Mull, Iona, Staffa or Kerrera), visit the local whisky distillery for a taste of Scotland's 'water of life,' or climb up to Battery Hill to see McCaig's Tower and watch the sun set over Oban. All activities today are optional and need to be organised by yourself. ([Overnight: Oban](#))

**DAY EIGHT |** We leave Oban and travel through the Pass of Brander and Loch Awe before crossing back into the Lowlands of Scotland. We then head further south past Stirling and take in views of the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle. We make a stop for lunch before visiting the iconic Kelpies, arriving into Edinburgh in the early evening.



# PRIVATE GROUP TOURS

We have been offering the best tours throughout the Highlands of Scotland for many years and with our knowledge and expertise, we are well placed to offer private tours with itineraries tailor-made to suit your interests. Whether you want a day tour, a multi-day tour or an airport transfer, we can help.



**With a dedicated groups department, experienced local guides and a fleet of modern midi-coaches, you can relax and enjoy your time in Scotland as we'll take care of all the planning.**

If you are part of a group in search of your own personal tour of Scotland, we would love to hear from you.

We'll design an itinerary to suit your budget and requirements to help you get the most out of your tour. No matter where you would like to go, or what special interest you may have, we will put together a tour that will deliver an exceptional and unforgettable experience.

We would be delighted to discuss your requirements and create the perfect tour for your group, so please feel free to contact us at [groups@radicaltravel.com](mailto:groups@radicaltravel.com)

## POSSIBLE THEMES INCLUDE:

### **WHISKY TRAIL**

Take a trip through Scotland's whisky regions to find your perfect malt and discover the different techniques that make Scotland's favourite drink.

### **FILM LOCATIONS**

See iconic locations from your favourite films and TV shows, like *Outlander*, *Macbeth* and *Game of Thrones*.

### **TASTE OF SCOTLAND**

With some of the best produce around and incredible restaurants to boot, Scotland is a foodie's paradise.

### **HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

Explore your Clan's heritage or relive one of Scotland's great stories from the past.

### **WEDDINGS**

Get married in your dream castle in Scotland to make your special day truly memorable.

### **CASTLES**

Discover some of our most iconic buildings built centuries ago.

### **GOLF**

Scotland is the home of golf. There are hundreds of brilliant courses to choose from.



Image: Orkney Isles

**We are committed to making your tour with us as enjoyable as possible no matter what your individual needs are. Nevertheless, there are certain limitations that may arise due to the local and rural nature of Scotland.**

## **DIETARY REQUIREMENTS**

B&Bs/guest houses only provide breakfast, whereas hotels offer both dinner and breakfast options. Hostel dormitory accommodation does not include breakfast. There will always be vegetarian options available, but in more rural locations, gluten-free and dairy-free options may be limited. It will not be possible for guests to prepare their own food in guest house or hotel kitchens.

## **WHEELCHAIRS AND MOBILITY IN THE HIGHLANDS**

Unfortunately, our guides are not able to assist with wheelchairs or offer physical assistance when embarking or disembarking from the bus. Passengers should be able to board and disembark the coach themselves using the access stairs or with the assistance of a travelling companion.

Due to the rural nature of Highland towns and villages, getting to and from the accommodation establishments may require short to medium-distance walking, some of which may involve walking on stairs, sloping streets and uneven paths.

If you have any accessibility requirements, please contact us before booking. One of our experienced reservations staff will be more than happy to assist with your enquiry.



For our full accessibility statement, go to:  
[highlandexplorertours.com/essential-info/accessibility](https://highlandexplorertours.com/essential-info/accessibility)

# TOURS AT A GLANCE

Please arrive 15 minutes before departure for check-in

1 DAY TOURS	Operating Season	Day of Departure	Departs	Returns
1 Day Loch Ness Explorer	All Year	Every Day	7:30am	7:45pm
1 Day Scottish Highlands & The Jacobite Steam Train	April - October	Every Day	7:15am	8:30pm
1 Day Castles, West Highlands & Loch Lomond	April - October	Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday	8:00am	6:30pm
1 Day Outlander Explorer	All Year	Every Day	8:45am	5:30pm
1 Day Loch Lomond, Stirling Castle & The Kelpies	All Year	Every Day	8:45am	5:00pm
1 Day Scottish Glens, Highlands & Whisky	April - October (excl. August) August	Monday, Wednesday & Friday Every Day	8:15am 8:15am	5:30pm 5:30pm
1 Day Alnwick Castle & The Borders	April - October	Every Day	8:15am	5:30pm
1 Day Highland Games	May - September*	Sat & Sun (selected days)	8:30am*	5:45pm*
1 Day The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo	August	Mon - Sat	8:15am	5:30pm**

\* Except Braemar - departs 8:00am / returns 8:30pm \*\* Show time is 9:30pm

MULTI-DAY TOURS	Operating Season	Day of Departure	Departs	Returns
3 Day Isle of Skye & The Highlands	April - October November - March 2026	Mon, Wed & Sat Wed & Sat	7:45am 7:45am	6:00pm <sup>o</sup> 6:00pm
4 Day Mull, Iona & Staffa Puffin Experience	June - August	Mon	8:15am	6:00pm
5 Day Isle of Skye, Loch Ness & Inverness	All Year June - September	Mon Thu	8:30am 8:30am	5:30pm 5:30pm
5 Day Isle of Skye Volunteer Adventure <sup>^</sup>	27 October 2025	Mon	8:30am	5:30pm
6 Day Up Helly Aa	24 & 25 January 2026	Sat & Sun	8:00am	5:30pm
6 Day Isle of Skye & Outer Hebrides	May - September	Thu	8:30am	8:30pm
8 Day Isle of Skye, Orkney & North Coast 500	June - September	Sun	8:30am	5:00pm

<sup>o</sup> Return time is 6pm from 5 May to 24 September 2025. From 2 April to 3 May and 27 September to 22 October 2025, return time is 8pm <sup>^</sup> Departs from Inverness

All times, dates, and prices are correct from March 2025 and are subject to change.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION | HOW TO BOOK

### BOOK IN PERSON

- Our Office | 60 High Street | Edinburgh | EH1 1TB
- Your Concierge, B&B or Guest House Reception

**BY PHONE** | +44 (0) 131 558 3738

**ONLINE** | [highlandexplorertours.com](http://highlandexplorertours.com)

**EMAIL** | [info@highlandexplorertours.com](mailto:info@highlandexplorertours.com)

### SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

[highlandexplorertours.com/about-us/newsletter/](http://highlandexplorertours.com/about-us/newsletter/)

Highland Explorer Tours are part of Radical Travel Group and The Travel Corporation.

### ALL TOURS DEPART FROM

60 High Street | Edinburgh | EH1 1TB  
Please arrive 15 minutes before departure time

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Twitter: [@HIGHEXTOURS](https://twitter.com/HIGHEXTOURS)



MARCH 2025

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