

SELF DRIVES IN SCOTLAND ***SELF-GUIDED ITINERARIES 2024***



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TASTE OF SCOTLAND 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



*Edinburgh – Loch Lomond/Stirling – Fort William – Inverness/Aviemore–
Pitlochry/Perth - Edinburgh*

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH – LOCH LOMOND – STIRLING

On arrival in Edinburgh, pick up your hired car and start your journey towards Stirling Castle (not included). Stirling has many reminders of the famous William Wallace, star of the film “Braveheart”. Continue around the scenic Loch Lomond. The mesmerising loch lies in the Trossachs National Park, where you’ll be surrounded by charming villages, rolling countryside, hills, and some truly wonderful activities. Overnight in the Loch Lomond / Stirling area.

Accommodation: Loch Lomond / Stirling area for 1 night

DAY 2 LOCH LOMOND CRUISE – FORT WILLIAM

After breakfast, experience a cruise on Loch Lomond. This one-hour circular tour of Loch Lomond's south basin enjoys views of the magnificent Ben Lomond and passes a number of Loch Lomond's stately homes and castles along the shoreline. You will venture out towards Inchmurrin Island - the largest of Loch Lomond's 33 islands and home to the ancient remains of Lennox Castle, which in the 14th century sheltered a fugitive Robert the Bruce before he was to become King of Scotland. In the afternoon, drive towards the West Highlands to Fort William, nestled at the foot of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Scotland. In Fort William, we suggest visiting the West Highland Museum (free), world famous for its Jacobite exhibits but also for housing an excellent local history collection from archaeology to the present day. (B)

Accommodation: Fort William area for 1 night



DAY 3 LOCH NESS – INVERNESS – AVIEMORE

After breakfast, drive northeast through the Great Glen towards Inverness. En-route you will travel along the Caledonian Canal which links Fort William and Inverness and of which Loch Ness forms a part. Travel along the banks of this famous loch keeping an eye open for the famous monster “Nessie”! Reach Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. Explore this compact city and discover a slower way of life, but still with interesting things to do. We suggest a stop at Culloden Moor (not

included), site of the very last land battle on British soil when the Jacobites, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, were finally defeated by the English army. Drive south to Aviemore, a popular holiday resort located in the northwest corner of the majestic Cairngorms National Park. Towering mountains, sparkling lochs and dense forests surround this bustling town where you can enjoy dinner at leisure. Overnight in the Aviemore area. (B)

Accommodation: Aviemore area for 1 night

DAY 4 TAY FOREST PARK – PITLOCHRY – PERTH

In the morning, keep driving south - big trees, breath-taking views, delicious food, and a spot of retail therapy are all at the heart of Tay Forest Park. It is a wonderfully varied patchwork of forests across the most scenic parts of Highland Perthshire, featuring some of the country’s best loved viewpoints and tallest trees. Discover legends about demons and dragons, saints, and queens along woodland trails with unforgettable loch and mountain views. In the afternoon, stop in Pitlochry, where we suggest visiting the Blair Athol Distillery (not included), before continuing to the “Fair City”, Perth, located on the river Tay. Nestled between two sprawling public parks, and has elegant Georgian townhouses, cobbled streets, and medieval spires. Explore the monuments, art galleries and museums before discovering the glorious Perthshire countryside. (B)

Accommodation: Pitlochry / Perth area for 1 night

DAY 5 DEPARTURE FROM EDINBURGH

After breakfast, continue to Edinburgh, taking the Forth road bridge with its spectacular views of the Firth of Forth and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Forth Rail Bridge, before returning your car to Edinburgh and joining your flight home or extending your stay in Scotland. (B)

INCLUSIONS

- 4-night accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 1h Experience Cruise on Loch Lomond (day 2)
- Car rental (automatic economy EDAR) Opel Corsa (or similar) for 5 days
 - Includes: VAT, liability insurance, fire insurance, collision damage waiver (CDW) with deductible, theft protection (TP) with deductible, unlimited mileage (please see rental company for complete details)

Not included: Flights – Fuel, extra vehicle insurance, GPS, child seats, tolls – Meals and drinks, unless indicated in the itinerary – Optional excursions – Entrances to monuments and museums – All other items not mentioned in the Inclusions.

HOTEL OPTIONS OR SIMILAR			
Area	3* Hotels	4* Hotels	Manor / Castle
Loch Lomond / Stirling area	Golden Lion Hotel / Poppies Hotel / Tormaukin Hotel / The Inn At Strathyre / Winnock Hotel / BW Buchanan Arms Hotel	Macdonald Forest Hills Hotel	Roman Camp
Fort William area	Alexandra Hotel / Glenfinnan Hotel, Imperial Hotel / Isle of Glencoe / Ballachulish Hotel / Ben Nevis Leisure Club	Moorings Hotel	Corriegour Lodge, the Lovat
Inverness / Aviemore area	Craiglynne Hotel / MacDonald Morlich Hotel	MacDonald Aviemore Highland Hotel / The Boat Country Inn	N/A
Pitlochry / Perth area	Fishers Hotel / Macdonald Loch Rannoch Hotel / Atholl Arms Hotel	The Struan Inn	Crieff Hydro Hotel / Atholl Palace

RATES IN \$ CA PER PERSON, STARTING FROM, IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY			
Daily Departures 2024	3* Hotels	Mixed Hotels	Manor / Castle
March	1095	1125	1245
April	1220	1299	1419
May – June October	1230	1235	1410
July - September	1360	1349	1610
Supplement			
Single	On request		

Tour Code: J

NOTES:

- **Mixed package:** 1 night in B&B, 1 night in a 3* Hotel, 2 nights in a 4* Hotel or Manor/ Castle (a specific accommodation type cannot be guaranteed – subject to availability)
- **Manor/Castle package:** mix of Manor / Castle types of accommodation. Please kindly note that only one accommodation type cannot be guaranteed (subject to availability).
Please kindly note that we will always book a 4* hotel in the Aviemore area, because of the lack of Manor/Castle accommodation type in the area.

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HIGHLAND AND WHISKY TRAIL

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



Perthshire – Aberdeen Area – Inverness Area – Edinburgh Area

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH (OR GLASGOW) – PERTSHIRE

Arrive at Edinburgh (or Glasgow Airport) and pick up your rental car. Depart for the north of Scotland, crossing the Forth Road Bridge if coming from Edinburgh, and continue up the M90 to Perth. Overnight in Perthshire area.

Accommodation: Perthshire area for 1 night

DAY 2 PERTSHIRE - ABERDEEN

After your full Scottish breakfast, visit Scone Palace (not included), the family home of the Earl of Mansfield and the site of the famous coronation Stone of Scone, brought there in the 9th century by Kenneth MacAlpine, King of Scots. Continue to Pitlochry, a small Highland town. Stop at the Salmon Ladder where you may be lucky enough to see salmon leaping! From Pitlochry, travel towards Braemar. You will take the very scenic and dramatic road over the Spittal of Glenshee one of the highest points in Scotland and site of one of Scotland's ski resorts. Continue to Braemar, which sits in the heart of Royal Deeside, the favoured holiday area for the Royal Family in Scotland. If time allows, visit Balmoral Castle (not included - open May – July only), home of the Royal Family. Continue to your accommodation in the Aberdeen area. (B)

Accommodation: Aberdeen for 2 nights



DAY 3 ABERDEEN – ROYAL DEESIDE

Take a trip to Aberdeen. Old Aberdeen is lovely and is where the university is based. See Kings College, a chapel famous for its rich woodwork dates from the 16th century. Nearby is St Machar's Cathedral, mainly 15th century it is a granite structure of simple austere grandeur. Two notable features are the West Front with its twin castellated towers and the painted wooden Heraldic Ceiling in the nave, dated 1520. Visit Duthie Park and Winter Gardens – a

beautifully laid out 50-acre park with floral displays in all seasons including a “rose mountain”. There are two boating ponds and many interesting sculptures and mountains. The Winter Gardens feature exotic plants, flowers, birds, fish, and turtles. Outside Aberdeen, visit Crathes Castle (not included) which has royal historic associations dating from 1323, when the Land of Leys was granted to the Burnett family by Robert the Bruce. The castle features some remarkable late 16th century painted ceilings. There is a large walled garden and the great yew hedges dating from 1702, fascinating examples of topiary. Return to your hotel to overnight. (B)

DAY 4 ABERDEEN – INVERNESS

After breakfast, travel northwards towards Inverness. In the morning, follow the Whisky Trail and visit one of the many famous distilleries in the area. You can visit Glenfiddich (included), McCallan (not included), Grants (not included), Cardhu (not included) and many more. Each gives an audio-visual show and then a guided tour of the distillery to learn of the processes and for many the highlight is a tasting at the end of the tour. The choice of what to see and do in the Speyside area is huge – there are castles (not included) – Brodie, Cawdor (made famous by Shakespeare's Macbeth), and Ballindalloch. Visit Culloden Moor (not included), site of the last land battle on British soil, wander around Inverness, capital of the Highlands, take the Strathspey Railway (not included) from Boat of Garten to Aviemore, to watch the Ospreys at Loch Garten. Continue to the Inverness area overnight. (B)

Accommodation: Inverness area for 2 nights

DAY 5 INVERNESS – INVERWE GARDENS – INVERNESS

Enjoy a day visiting the West Coast of Scotland. Travel across to Ullapool, a quaint fishing village. Then travel down past the dramatic Corrieshalloch Gorge to the Inverewe Gardens (not included), run by the National Trust. These magnificent gardens have a famous rhododendron collection and who would expect to find palm trees in Scotland. Return through the magnificent scenery of the Torridon area and past Loch Maree. Return to the Inverness area to overnight. (B)

DAY 6 INVERNESS – LOCH NESS – GLENCOE – EDINBURGH

Today, travel south again, going via Loch Ness. Loch Ness forms part of the Caledonian Canal, a feat of some great engineering by Thomas Telford, linking East Scotland with West, by using a series of lochs linked by a canal system. Make a stop at Urquhart Castle, a very scenic spot, and the place where the most sightings of “Nessie” have been. Continue towards Fort William, which nestles beneath the highest mountain in Great Britain – Ben Nevis. If time allows, why not take a ride up in a gondola at Anoch Mor (not included) which on a good day will offer stunning views over the west coast. From Fort William, start travelling south. Drive through the beautiful and mysterious Glencoe, which is great for walking and climbing and full of nature. You then travel over Rannoch Moor and into the heart of the Trossachs, known as the “Gateway to the Highlands”. Stop at Stirling Castle (not included) which has played such an important role in much of Scotland's vibrant history. The Great Hall has just been refurbished and the Visitor Centre has a very good audio-visual exhibition explaining much of the history. Return towards the Edinburgh area, where you will stay overnight. (B)

Accommodation: Edinburgh area for 2 nights

DAY 7 EDINBURGH

Enjoy a full day in Edinburgh. Use your 1-Day Hop On / Hop Off pass to explore the city. Start your bus tour journey at Waterloo Place and enjoy the ride as you ride to some of the finest, culture-rich destinations in Edinburgh. Experience the great historic marketplace, Grassmarket, located right in the middle of Edinburgh's Old Town. Hop off to learn all about the history of Edinburgh in the National Museum of Scotland on famous Chambers Street. Visit John Knox House, a magnificent medieval building dating back all the way to the 15th century. Fancy a stroll while you're visiting? We recommend you hop off and take a walk along Canongate, where you'll see some glorious buildings, or at Holyrood Palace, the official residence of the King whilst he is in Scotland. The Palace has a wonderful ballroom and staterooms to visit where you can roam around the royal park and visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse.



If you wish to visit on your own, go up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the Edinburgh skyline. The Castle is site of the oldest building in Edinburgh – St Margaret's Chapel and the Crown Jewels of Scotland. Continue down the Royal Mile – take time to explore the many "closes" which run off this street and which hold so many secrets. There are many restaurants, pubs, and souvenir shops on the Royal Mile for lunch. Later, go into the New Town to admire the Georgian architecture and the well-laid out streets that are in complete contrast to those of the Old Town. Return to your hotel to overnight. (B)

DAY 8 DEPARTURE FROM EDINBURGH

Unfortunately, it is time to leave Scotland. Return to the airport and drop off your car or extend our stay in Scotland. (B)

INCLUSIONS

- 7-night accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Explorers Tour at Glenfiddich Distillery (or similar alternative, such as Glenlivet) – *preferred day 4 (time to be confirmed at time of booking)*
**Note: Please note Glenfiddich Distillery is only open for tours Wednesdays to Sundays. If closed, we will book and confirm an alternative*
- 24h Edinburgh City Sightseeing Hop On/Hop Off tour
- Car rental (automatic economy EDAR) Opel Corsa (or similar) for 8 days
 - Includes: VAT, liability insurance, fire insurance, collision damage waiver (CDW) with deductible, theft protection (TP) with deductible, unlimited mileage (please see rental company for complete details)

Not included: Flights – Fuel, extra vehicle insurance, GPS, child seats, tolls – Meals and drinks, unless indicated in the itinerary – Optional excursions – Entrances to monuments and museums – All other items not mentioned in the Inclusions.

HOTEL OPTIONS OR SIMILAR		
Area	3* Hotels	Manor / Castle
Perthshire	Scotlands Hotel / Salutation Hotel / Macdonald Loch Rannoch Hotel	Crieff Hydro Hotel / Parklands Hotel / Murrayshall Hotel / Atholl Palace
Aberdeen area	Douglas Aberdeen / Dee Hotel / Hampton Hill Westhill / Holiday Inn Express Aberdeen / Loch Kinord Hotel	Copthorne Aberdeen / Park Inn by Radisson / Doubletree by Hilton / Hilton Aberdeen Treetops / Jurys Inn Aberdeen
Inverness area	Mercure Inverness / Craigmonie Hotel / Royal Highland / Glen Mhor,	Kingsmills Hotel / Kinraig Castle / Tulloch Castle / Hotel Newton Hotel
Edinburgh area	Murrayfield Hotel / Best Western Braidhills / Travelodge Cameron Toll	Melville Castle / Cringletie House / Dalhousie Castle

RATES IN \$ CA PER PERSON, STARTING FROM, IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY			
Daily Departures 2024	3* Hotels	Mixed Hotels	Manor / Castle
March	1450	1495	1745
April	1595	1805	1975
May	1745	1735	2020
June	1765	1780	2160
July	2080	1985	2369
August	2285	2180	2399
September	1805	1780	2290
October	1555	1630	1975
Supplement			
Single	On request		

Tour Code: J

NOTES:

- **Mixed package:** 3 overnights in B&B, 2 overnights in a hotel and 2 overnights in a Manor/Castle (a specific accommodation type cannot be guaranteed – subject to availability)
- **Manor/Castle Package:** Mix of Manor / Castle types of accommodation. Please kindly note that only one accommodation type cannot be guaranteed (subject to availability).

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7 WONDERS OF SCOTLAND

10 DAYS/ 9 NIGHTS



**Edinburgh Area – Fort William Area – Kyle of Lochalsh – Inverness Area –
Speyside Area – Perthshire**

*

SCOTLAND'S 7 WONDERS:

1. **EILEAN DONAN CASTLE:** Set at the junction of three lochs, Loch Duich, Loch Long and Loch Alsh, Eilean Donan is completely surrounded by water with just a footbridge connecting the island to the mainland. Appearing in various film and television scenes, this is Scotland's most photographed castle, and it is not difficult to see why. Although the island of Eilean Donan has been a fortified site for at least eight hundred years, the castle you see today dates largely from the early 20th century, making it even harder to believe it is yet to celebrate its 100th birthday.
2. **GLENFINNAN VIADUCT:** A location made famous in the popular "Harry Potter" films, situated approximately 20 miles from Fort William. Overlooking the waters of Loch Shiel and the Glenfinnan Monument, the viaduct carries the railway between Fort William and Mallaig. Constructed between 1897 and 1898, made up of 21 arches and a maximum height of 30 metres, the views offered are simply spectacular.
3. **GLENCOE:** Another "Harry Potter" location and scene of the 1692 massacre of the MacDonald Clan by the soldiers of King William, the valley of Glencoe is one of the most hauntingly picturesque sites in Scotland. A popular photo stop for visitors travelling North, Glencoe is often considered as boasting the most magnificent scenery in the country, making it no surprise this famous spot made the list.

4. **EDINBURGH:** *Recognised as the capital city of Scotland since at least the 15th century, Edinburgh has many historic buildings including Holyrood Palace, St. Giles Cathedral and of course, Edinburgh Castle. Also, home to UNESCO World Heritage Site, the jointly listed Old Town and New Town attract more than one million visitors per year making it the United Kingdom's second most popular tourist destination. Celebrating the largest annual international arts festival in the world, the list wouldn't be complete without the historical, cultural, and above all, beautiful capital city.*
5. **MELROSE ABBEY:** *A Cistercian abbey founded by King David I circa 1136. It was largely destroyed by an English army in 1385 but rebuilt in the early 15th century. Melrose Abbey is the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart, marked with a commemorative carved stone plaque found within the grounds. It is now highly regarded as the most famous ruin in Scotland because of the elegant and elaborate stonework which remains.*
6. **THE FORTH BRIDGES:** *Recently awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status, the iconic, historic, and dynamic, the Forth Bridges represent a milestone in the development of design and engineering. Towering over the turbulent waters of the Firth of Forth, the structures are a highly celebrated Scottish landmark. With the imminent arrival of the beautiful new Queensferry Crossing, a new chapter is being written for the site of these world-famous bridges.*
7. **ST. ANDREWS OLD COURSE:** *Located in the country's capital of golf, the Old Course is the most famous and most prestigious course in Scotland having hosted more Open Championships than any other course. Often believed to be the oldest course in the world with origins dating back 600 years, it is no wonder where this famous course gets its name. With features recognised across the globe, including the iconic Swilcan Bridge, St. Andrews Old Course is a site admired not just by lovers of the home sport.*

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

Arrive in Scotland and pick up your hired car. Depart for the capital, Edinburgh. As one of Europe's must-see destinations Edinburgh offers much for the visitor, great museums and art galleries, fantastic shopping, great restaurants, and bars and one of the most unforgettable skylines overlooking Princes Street Gardens.

Accommodation: Edinburgh for 3 nights

DAY 2 EDINBURGH

Enjoy a full day in the Scottish capital. Make use of your Hop On / Hop Off Sightseeing Bus ticket (included to get around the city and its best attractions. You can visit Edinburgh Castle (not included) which dominates the city from its 400-foot rock where you will see the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, now back in Scotland where it belongs. You can also visit the private apartments of Mary Stuart and St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest building in the city which dates to the 11th century. Continuing down the Royal Mile, you can visit Saint Giles' Cathedral. Founded in the 1100s, it is a triumph of 14th and 15th century architecture with a crown spire that has dominated the Edinburgh skyline for 500 years. It became the church of John Knox during the Reformation and contains memorials to many great Scots, including Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns. (B)



DAY 3 SCOTTISH BORDERS – MELROSE ABBEY

Enjoy a full day exploring the truly stunning Scottish Borders. You will visit a variety of abbeys (not included), today starting with Jedburgh Abbey, one of the border abbeys founded by David 1 in around 1138 for Augustinian canons. The church is mostly in the Romanesque and Gothic styles and is remarkably complete. Remains of the cloister buildings have recently been uncovered and finds from the excavations, including the 12th century “Jedburgh comb” are on display in the award-winning visitor centre. Travelling north from Jedburgh, you will visit the ruins of the stunning, Melrose Abbey (not included, *but entrance: £3.80 per person*), a Cistercian abbey founded by King David I circa 1136. It was largely destroyed by an English army in 1385 but rebuilt in the early 15th century. It is now probably the most famous ruin in Scotland because of the elegant and elaborate stonework which remains. You will finish the day with a visit to Dryburgh Abbey (not included). One of the four famous Borders, founded in the reign of David I. It is also the burial place of Field Marshall Earl Haig and Sir Walter Scott. Return to Edinburgh for your overnight stay. (B)

DAY 4 LOCH LOMOND – GLENCOE

You will drive through the area known as the Trossachs in the heart of Scotland, stopping by Loch Lomond, the largest stretch of inland water in Britain, and framed by lovely mountain scenery. The landscape of this area has played a significant part in the history and literature of Scotland. It was the inspiration and setting for Sir Walter Scott’s major work, “The Lady of the Lake”, inspiring the first tourists to venture to Highland Scotland. You will travel through the Argyll Forest one of the most beautiful areas in the country before continuing north through Glencoe with its spectacular landscape and on to Fort William which nestles beneath the highest mountain in Great Britain – Ben Nevis. (B)

Accommodation: Fort William for 2 nights

DAY 5 MALLAIG

Today you will journey towards Mallaig, visiting Glenfinnan Monument (not included), the statue of a Highland Chieftain, which looks towards the Hills erected on the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied the Highland Clans in preparation for the disastrous rebellion of 1745 fought at Culloden. You will see the breathtaking Glenfinnan Viaduct; a location made most popular in the “Harry Potter” films. (B)

DAY 6 KYLEAKIN – KYLE OF LOCHALSH

This morning, journey to Kyleakin and enjoy a stop at Eilean Donan Castle, which stands on an islet connected by a causeway in Loch Duich. This picturesque and inhabited castle dates to 1214 and was the magnificent setting of the film “Highlander”. Visit the Balmacara Estate, an area covering 2,550 hectares (6,330 acres) on the Lochalsh peninsula, this traditional Highland crofting estate is a diverse mix of Scotland’s most beautiful landscapes. It encompasses croft and farmland, woodland, moorland, villages, coastline, saltmarsh, lochs, and offshore islands, and offers stunning views across the water to the mountains of Skye and Applecross. (B)

Accommodation: Kyle of Lochalsh for 1 night

DAY 7 ISLE OF SKYE – LOCH NESS

Start the day with a visit to the Isle of Skye. You will cross the new “Skye Bridge”, enjoying some time on the largest and most scenic of the Hebridean Islands before travelling via Loch Ness towards Inverness. Make a stop at Urquhart Castle, one of the largest castles in Scotland which fell into decay after 1689 and was blown up in 1692 to prevent it being occupied by Jacobites. Most of the existing remains date from the 16th century and include a tower. This is a very scenic spot and the place where the most sightings of “Nessie” have been. (B)

Accommodation: Inverness area for 1 night

DAY 8 SPEYSIDE

This morning you will follow the whisky trail! The Speyside region houses some of the oldest and most established whisky distilleries in Scotland and you can visit one of these distilleries to experience the whisky making process and have a chance to taste the true “Water of life”. You then enter the Grampian region and take the road over the hills through the village of Tomintoul, the highest village in Scotland. Coming down from the hills, we arrive at Ballater in Royal Deeside the favourite region of the Royal family. You can visit Balmoral castle; the summer residence of the royal family and you will see the magnificent colours of this beautiful countryside*. (B)

Accommodation: Speyside area for 1 night

Visiting Balmoral: The grounds are open to the public on specific dates over the autumn and winter months. You will be able to enjoy a relaxed walk in the grounds, view the exterior of the Castle and have an opportunity to visit the Mews Gift Shop and Cafe. As admission is free of charge, there is no requirement to book admission tickets to visit the grounds.

DAY 9 ST ANDREWS – FIFE

Follow the coast road south and cross the Firth of Tay at Dundee Bridge for an afternoon spent exploring this town, home of the oldest university in Scotland and capital of golf with its famous and prestigious Old Course. The remains of the 12th century cathedral, the largest in Scotland and the medieval layout of the town are still visible. You will also see the 13th century castle overlooking the North Sea, where, during the Reformation, many evil deeds took place in the “Bottle Dungeon”. You will enjoy the traditional small shops and the beautiful sea views. (B)



Accommodation: Perthshire area for 1 night

DAY 10 DEPARTURE FROM EDINBURGH

Head south today, crossing the Forth Road Bridge with its dramatic views of the Victorian feat of engineering the Forth Railway Bridge. Unfortunately, it is now time to leave Scotland. Return to the airport and join your flight home. (B)

INCLUSIONS

- 9-night accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Edinburgh City Sightseeing Hop-on-Hop Off Tour (day 2)
- Car rental (automatic economy EDAR) Opel Corsa (or similar) for 10 days
 - Includes: VAT, liability insurance, fire insurance, collision damage waiver (CDW) with deductible, theft protection (TP) with deductible, unlimited mileage (please see rental company for complete details)

Not included: Flights – Fuel, extra vehicle insurance, GPS, child seats, tolls – Meals and drinks, unless indicated in the itinerary – Optional excursions – Entrances to monuments and museums – All other items not mentioned in the Inclusions.

HOTEL OPTIONS OR SIMILAR	
Location	3* Hotels
Edinburgh area	Best Western Braid Hills Hotel / Murrayfield Hotel / Travelodge Cameron Toll / Holiday Inn Express West End
Fort William area	Glenfinnan Hotel / Imperial Hotel / Isle of Glencoe Hotel / Ballachulish Hotel / Alexandra Hotel, Premier Inn Hotel / Muthu Fort William Hotel / Onich Hotel
Kyle of Lochalsh	Balmacara Hotel / Kyle Hotel / The Lochalsh
Inverness area	Craigmonie Hotel / Royal Highland / Priory Hotel / Steadings Hotel / Garve Hotel / Holiday Inn Express / Premier Inn
Speyside area	Eight Acres Hotel / Craiglynne Hotel
Perthshire	Ballathie Sportsmans Lodge / Fishers Hotel / Salutation Hotel, BW Queens Perth / Premier Inn / Grampian Hotel / Craigmhor Lodge & Countryard / Moulin Hotel

RATES IN \$ CA PER PERSON, STARTING FROM, IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	
Daily Departures - 2024	3* Hotels
April	2375
May – June October	2485
July	2689
August	3155
September	2599
Supplement	
Single	On request

Tour Code: J

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SCOTLAND - ISLAND EXPLORER, INCLUDING ORKNEY

13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS



Edinburgh – Aviemore / Inverness – Wick / Thurso – Orkney – Ullapool – Stornoway – Isle of Lewis – Uig – Isle of Skye / Mallaig Kyle of Lochalsh – Oban - Glasgow

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

Arrival in Edinburgh, pick up your hired car and check into your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, you might have time for a visit of the Scottish capital, Edinburgh.

Accommodation: Edinburgh area for 1 night

DAY 2 DUNKELD – HEART OF SCOTLAND – HIGHLAND CHOCOLATIER - AVIEMORE

After breakfast, head north towards Aviemore. Visit Dunkeld, an old market town with a long history, and take a stroll along the River Tay. Stop in Pitlochry, one of Scotland's most beautiful and vibrant places in the heart of Scotland. Make sure to visit Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier and enjoy an award winning "Europe's Best" hot chocolate (included). Continue your journey north. We recommend a relaxing dinner at the Old Bridge Inn, a traditional pub in Aviemore. Overnight in the Aviemore/ Inverness area. (B)

Accommodation: Aviemore/ Inverness area for 2 nights

***Optional excursion (+\$):** Take part in one of the Highland Safaris from Aberfeldy – either a Walking Safari, Mountain Safari or Mountain Safari with delicious picnic – the choice is yours!*

DAY 3 SPEYSIDE – WHISKEY – CASTLES – CASHMERE

The Speyside area should be on the agenda for today. It is home to the highest number of whisky distilleries in Scotland, with well over 60, at present. Enjoy a Whisky Distillery tour and tasting while in the area (included). We also recommend a visit to *Johnstons of Elgin*, a working cashmere mill. (B)

Optional Excursion - Johnston's of Elgin Mill Experience (+\$): At the Elgin site, see the only vertical weaving mill in Scotland, you can experience some of the thirty processes involved in crafting a single scarf and learn more about the families that have shaped the business over the decades.



DAY 4 INVERNESS (CAPITAL OF THE HIGHLANDS) – DUNROBIN CASTLE - THURSO

After breakfast, you should include a quick visit to Inverness. It's considered as the capital of the Highlands, before continuing towards Thurso. Brace yourself for rugged landscapes and a stunning coastline! Depending on the time, we also recommend visiting the Dunrobin Castle (+\$) - it is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands, with 189 rooms (*entrance includes entry to the*

Castle, Museum, Falconry and Gardens - £14.00 per person). Overnight in the Wick / Thurso area. (B)

Accommodation: Wick / Thurso area for 2 nights

DAY 5 ORKNEY ISLANDS – SKARA BRAE

In the morning, drive to John O'Groats and take the ferry to the Orkney Islands. Learn more about its ancient history by visiting the Neolithic village of Skara Brae (entrance included) and the mystical Ring of Brogar. You will also cross the Churchill Barriers which were built in the 1940s and thread five islands together to form the eastern boundary of Scapa Flow. Return to the hotel to overnight. (B)

DAY 6 NORTH COAST 500 – SMOO CAVE – ULLAPOOL

Enjoy the North Coast 500 (NC500), Scotland's "Route 66", at your own pace, as you head towards Ullapool. Explore uninhabited areas of Scotland, enjoy the most stunning beaches, and meet the local sheep. Be careful while driving, as they own the streets and only make space for vehicles if they feel like it! We also recommend a walk to the Smoo Cave, a dramatic and spectacular sea cave is set into the limestone cliffs in Sutherland. Overnight in Ullapool. (B)

Accommodation: Ullapool area for 1 night

DAY 7 OUTER HEBRIDES

After breakfast, take the ferry to the largest island of the Outer Hebrides, the Isle of Lewis. Explore the Outer Hebrides with its dramatic landscapes, white sandy beaches, Gaelic culture, and fascinating history. Overnight on the Isle of Lewis area. (B)

Accommodation: Isle of Lewis area for 2 nights

DAY 8 ISLE OF LEWIS

We recommend visiting the Calanais Standing Stones, Blackhouse Village, and the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse. Experience the full power of the Atlantic Ocean when taking a walk along the cliffs. You can also visit local art galleries, a gin distillery and enjoy delicious seafood. (B)

DAY 9 ISLE OF HARRIS – ISLE OF SKYE

Another day, another island! Today, take the ferry from Tarbert, on the Isle of Harris, and head to the famous Isle of Skye. It is the largest island of the Inner Hebrides. Visit Portree and its colourful houses and hike to the emerald-looking fairy pools. Overnight on the Isle of Skye/ Kyle of Lochalsh area. (B)

Accommodation: Isle Skye / Kyle of Lochalsh area for 1 night

DAY 10 EILEAN DONAN CASTLE - GLENCOE – OBAN

Cross the Skye Bridge and stop at Eilean Donan Castle– the most photographed castle in Scotland. Continue towards Fort William – a hub for hikers and wanderers. The next highlight will be driving through the scenic and famous Glencoe Valley. We recommend driving to the Kingshouse Hotel and stopping for a coffee / tea break. If you are lucky enough, you will spot wildlife, such as the Red Stag. Drive back towards Ballachulish and make your way towards Oban. Overnight in the Oban area. (B)



Accommodation: Oban area for 2 nights

DAY 11 EXCURSION TO THE ISLE OF MULL & IONA

After breakfast, depart on your full day excursion to two stunning Inner Hebridean islands – Isle of Mull and Iona. Prepare yourself for white sandy beaches, breath taking landscapes and lots of unforgettable memories. Departing from Oban you will be taking the ferry to Craignure. Your coach driver will drive you to Fionnphort from which you will be taking the ferry for a short sail to Isle of Iona. Enjoy the tranquility of the island and learn more about its interesting history. (B)

DAY 12 OBAN – LOCH LOMOND – GLASGOW

Make your way towards Glasgow. We suggest making a detour via Inveraray, a picturesque town at the shores of Loch Fyne. Continue to Loch Lomond – the largest lake in Scotland. If you are not too tired of boats, we recommend booking a cruise on the Loch Lomond. Here you will be able to experience the landscape from a different angle. Overnight in Glasgow. (B)

Accommodation: Glasgow area for 1 night

DAY 13 DEPARTURE FROM GLASGOW

Depending on your return flight, you might be able to visit the City of Music, Glasgow. Head back to the airport and return your rental car or extend your stay in the UK. (B)

INCLUSIONS

- 12-night accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Hot chocolate at Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier
- Whisky Distillery Tour and Tasting in the Speyside area
- Return ferry to Orkney for car and 2 passengers
- Entry to Skara Brae
- Ferry crossing Ullapool – Stornaway (one-way)
- Ferry crossing Tarbert-Uig (one-way)
- Full day excursion to the Isle of Mull and Iona
- Car rental (automatic economy EDAR) Opel Corsa (or similar) for 13 days
 - Includes: VAT, liability insurance, fire insurance, collision damage waiver (CDW) with deductible, theft protection (TP) with deductible, unlimited mileage (please see rental company for complete details)

Not included: Flights – Fuel, extra vehicle insurance, GPS, child seats, tolls – One-way drop off fee (paid locally) - Meals other than breakfast - Drinks – Gratuities – Entrances to museums and monuments unless indicated – Travel insurance – All other items not mentioned in the Inclusions.

HOTEL OPTIONS OR SIMILAR		
Location	B&B's	3* Hotels
Edinburgh area	Springrove B&B	Adamson Hotel
Aviemore / Inverness area	Ardmeanach House B&B	Boat Hotel
Wick / Thurso area	Sengas B&B	St. Clair Hotel
Ullapool area	Newton House B&B	Caledonian Hotel
Isle of Lewis	Jenna B&B	Caladh Inn Hotel
Isle of Skye / Mallaig Kyle of Lochalsh area	Carrick B&B	Kings Arms Hotel
Oban area	Don Muir B&B	Royal Hotel
Glasgow	Rockfoot B&B	Avonbridge Hotel

***Note: hotels are located outside the city centre, however, are still conveniently located and have parking areas**

RATES IN \$ CA PER PERSON, STARTING FROM, IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY		
Daily Departures - 2024	B&B's	3* Hotels
April October	3485	3850
May September	3799	4379
June - August	3949	4659
Supplement		
Single	On request	

Tour Code: TPG

****Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time, for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease at any time. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment. Prices include the contribution of customers to the Compensation Fund for clients of Quebec travel agents.**