
EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

Arrive and Depart from Edinburgh Airport

Day 1 - Touring Edinburgh City (Edinburgh)

Touring Edinburgh City, Royal Mile, Royal Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland & Royal Botanic Gardens. Lunch @ Wedgwood & Dining @ The Number One Balmoral, Edinburgh.

Day 2 - Touring East Coast (Edinburgh to Ballater)

Touring Firth of Forth, Golf Coastal Drive, Firth of Tay, Dundee & Balmoral Castle. Lunch @ Storma Bistro, Montrose & Dining @ Rothesay Room, Ballater.

Day 3 - Touring Cairngorms National Park (Ballater to Inverness)

Touring Cairngorms National Park, Cock Bridge, Tomintoul, the Malt Whiskey Trail, Culloden Battlefield & Clava Cairns. Lunch @ Craig Bar, Grantown-On-Spey & Dining @ Chez Roux Restaurant, Inverness.

Day 4 - Touring Caledonian Canal (Inverness to Fort Augustus)

Touring Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness Monster, Urquhart Castle & Fort Augustus. Lunch @ The Loch Ness Inn, Drumnadrochit & Dinner @ Glengarry Castle, Fort Augustus.

Day 5 - Touring Isle of Skye (Fort Augustus to Isle of Skye)

Touring Talisker Distillery, Dunvegan Castle & Isle of Skye. Lunch @ The Old Inn, Carbost & Dining @ Scorrybreac, Portree

Day 6 - Touring Isle of Skye

Touring The Old Man of Storr, Staffin, Uig, & Quiraing. Lunch @ The Flodigarry Lodge, Flodigarry & Dining @ Sea Breezes, Portree.

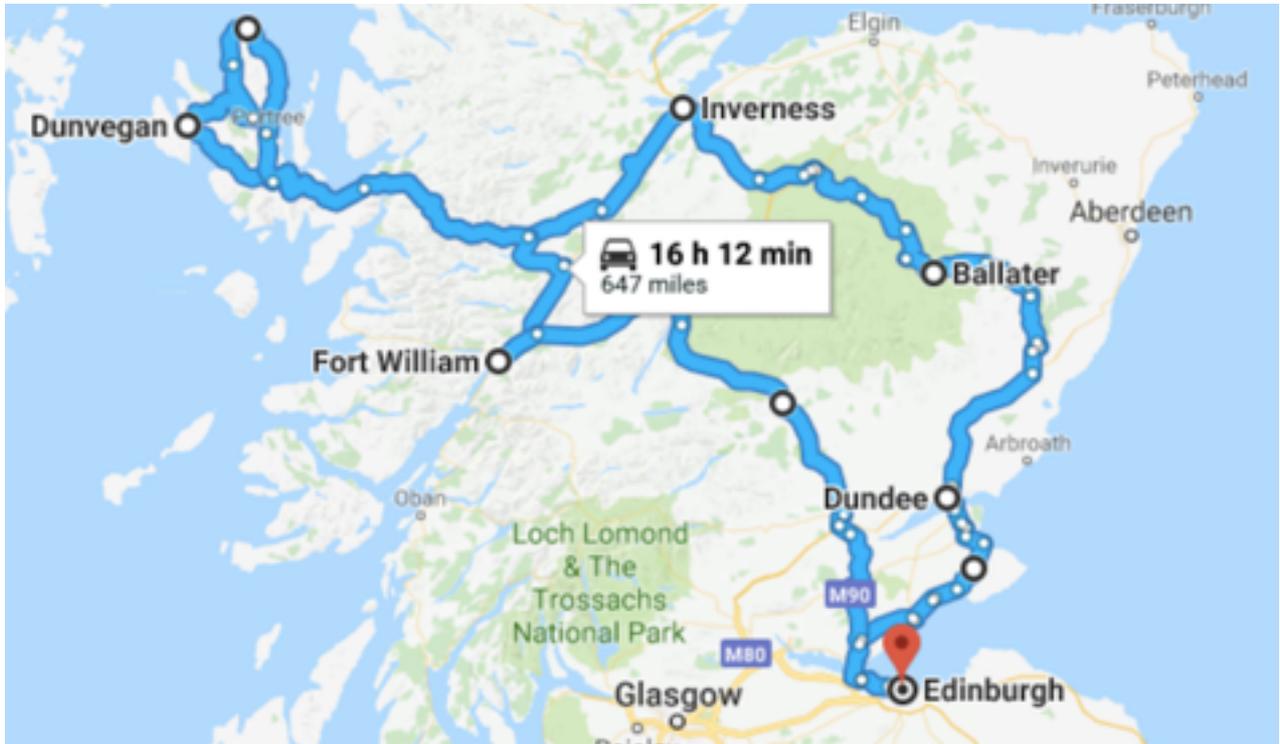
Day 7 - Castles (Isle of Skye to Fort William)

Touring Eileen Donan & Inverlochy Castle Activities. Lunch @ Inverlochy Castle (Afternoon Tea) & Dining @ Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle.

Day 8 - Castles & Distilleries Day Tour (Fort William to Edinburgh)

Touring Blair Castle, Distilleries of Athol & Edradour & House of Bruar. Lunch @ The Loft Restaurant & Dining @ Victoria's, Pitlochry.

Day 9 - Depart Edinburgh Airport



TRANSPORT

9 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour & Transfers in Deluxe Mercedes Vehicle with leather trim, wifi and air con. Fuel, Tolls, Ferry crossings and driver/guide expenses all included. Your knowledgeable chauffeur will guide you to the best restaurants and local bars as well as informing you on all the historical facts and fables.

ACCOMMODATION

5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Nights @ Principal Hotel, Edinburgh. The Principal Edinburgh on George Street has been welcoming hotel guests since 1881. At its heart are five listed Georgian townhouses, built in 1775 as homes for Edinburgh's most prosperous citizens. Winner of Scottish Hotel of the Year at the 2017 Scottish Hotel Awards, The Principal is an ideal base from which to explore the city. A nod to Edinburgh's rich literary heritage, The Printing Press Bar & Kitchen was once home to acclaimed novelist Susan Ferrier, whilst Burr & Co. is a lovely coffee shop with a devoted local following. The hotel also boasts the magnificently grand King's Hall.

1 x Night @ Gordon Guesthouse, Ballater. A warm Scottish welcome awaits you from Martin and Amanda Will at The Gordon Guest House, situated in Ballater in the heart of beautiful Royal Deeside. A Victorian Town House which is furnished and decorated to a high standard with attention to detail with all rooms are en-suite making for a delightful stay.

1 x Night @ Rocpool Reserve Hotel, Inverness. Rocpool Reserve will redefine the experience forever. It's about elegance, not exhibitionism. Glow, not glitter. Quality, not quantity. This discreet boutique hotel, bar and restaurant offers 5 star luxury in the heart of Inverness - an invitation to come and indulge. Located in the capital of the Highlands, Inverness, this beautifully renovated Georgian mansion house has stunning views over the River Ness and is only a few minutes walk from Inverness Castle and city centre.

1 x Night @ Glengarry Castle Hotel, Fort Augustus. Glengarry Castle Hotel is a comfortable country house hotel with a jewel of a setting on the shores of Loch Oich, which lies between Loch Ness and Loch Lochy at the heart of the Great Glen in the Highlands of Scotland. The hotel enjoys a deserved reputation for Highland hospitality. The ruin of Invergarry Castle lies within the hotel grounds near our main entrance.

2 x Nights @ Cullin Hills Hotel, Isle of Skye. Stunning Location set within fifteen acres of mature private grounds with a fantastic view over Portree Bay towards the majestic Cuillin Mountain Range, Probably the best view you will get from any hotel in Scotland. Skye's greatest asset is the natural beauty and unspoilt landscape. At the Cuillin Hill Hotel these views capture all off the qualities of this fine hotel.

1 x Night @ Inverlochy Castle, Fort William. Inverlochy Castle Hotel is a beautiful 19th century castle surrounded by the luscious green of the evergreen trees and the sparkling blue from the nearby loch. Being in Scotland's finest Country Hotel, you will enjoy the holiday of a lifetime, where every detail for your comfort and enjoyment has been carefully considered and one which you are sure never to forget. Dining at 'Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle' is a culinary experience to savour, with the legendary father and son taking the helm of the kitchen and offering the finest dishes using local produce. Sample the activities on the Castle grounds.

1 x Night @ Craigatin House, Pitlochry. Beautiful 4 Star Property. Pitlochry is an excellent base for exploring Perthshire - Queen Victoria certainly thought so. She's said to have been one of the earliest holidaymakers to have discovered the beauty of this hillside town.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Touring Edinburgh City (Edinburgh)

Touring Edinburgh City, Royal Mile, Royal Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland & Royal Botanic Gardens.



The historic city of Edinburgh is a World Heritage Site with magnificent historic Victorian Architecture. Edinburgh is divided into the Old and New Towns. The **Royal Mile** is the name given to a succession of streets forming the main thoroughfare of the Old Town of the city of Edinburgh in Scotland. The name was first used in W M Gilbert's Edinburgh in the Nineteenth Century (1901), and was further popularised as the title of a guidebook, published in 1920. The thoroughfare is,

as the name suggests, approximately one Scots mile long and runs downhill between two significant locations in the history of Scotland, namely Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. Tread the route of royals, past and present – and let your expert guide unlock the history of this ancient seat of power. The glorious **Royal Palace of Holyrood house** –

which you'll explore in your own time. The palace was the setting for many dramatic episodes in the short reign of Mary, Queen of Scots and is now Her Majesty The Queen's official residence in Scotland. Your chance to walk in the footsteps of the distinguished Royal Family and explore a Royal Palace fit for a King and Queen.



Edinburgh Castle is a world famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site. This most famous of Scottish castles has a complex building history. The oldest part, St Margaret's Chapel, dates from the 12th century; the Great Hall was erected by James IV around 1510; the Half Moon Battery by the Regent Morton in the late 16th century; and the Scottish National War Memorial after the First World War. The castle houses the Honours (Crown Jewels) of Scotland, the Stone of Destiny, the famous 15th century gun Mons Meg, the One O' Clock Gun and the National War Museum of Scotland.

The **National Museum of Scotland** is one of the Top 10 UK visitor attractions, and in the Top 20 of the most visited museums and galleries in the world. Fresh from a £47 million redevelopment, the museum houses a spectacular array of over 20,000 fascinating artefacts. The magnificently diverse collections will take you on an inspirational journey through the history of Scotland, the wonders of nature, world cultures and the excitement of science and discovery – all under one roof.



Lunch @ Wedgwood, Edinburgh

Located on the Royal Mile. They are truly passionate about food and wine together with the whole dining experience. Their aim when opened in 2007 was to create a restaurant which offered what was considered to be a perfect night out in the perfect surroundings. Above all they aim to give you a relaxed and enjoyable lunch with great food to match.

The **Royal Botanic Garden** offers visitors peace and tranquillity amongst 72 acres of stunning scenery and is one of the finest botanic gardens in the world. A pleasure for all the family, the Garden offers fantastic views of the capital's skyline, featuring Edinburgh Castle, and is located just a mile from the city centre. Visitors can discover its fascinating history, which dates back 300 years, learn about its plantings and walk around 70 acres of beautiful landscape. The Glasshouse visit is a particular highlight, starting at the Victorian Temperate Palm House dating back to 1858 and one of the tallest traditional palm houses ever built. The Garden's 10 magnificent Glasshouses each has a different climatic zone, from steamy tropics to arid desert, and are home to 3,000 exotic plants from around the world including a 200-year-old palm tree. Visitors can enjoy the serenity of the Chinese Hillside, explore the world-famous Rock Garden or stroll amongst the awe-inspiring Giant Redwood trees in the Woodland Garden. Plus, there are fine artworks to view in the Garden's contemporary art gallery Inverleith House.



Dining @ The Number One Balmoral, Edinburgh

With Jeff Bland, the executive chef who's held a Michelin star for 13 years, and his talented head chef Brian Grigor, the newly refurbished Number One at the Balmoral Hotel continues the tradition of serving some of Edinburgh's best food.

Accommodation: Principal Hotel, Edinburgh

Day 2 - Touring East Coast (Edinburgh to Ballater)

Touring Firth of Forth, Golf Coastal Drive, Firth of Tay, Dundee & Balmoral Castle.



The **Firth of Forth** is just north of Edinburgh and is an estuary (firth) of several Scottish estuaries including the river Forth. The Forth Bridge is a cantilever railway bridge across the Firth of Forth in the east of Scotland is considered an iconic structure and a symbol of Scotland (having been voted Scotland's greatest man-made wonder in 2016), and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was designed by the

English engineers Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker. It is sometimes referred to as the Forth Rail Bridge to distinguish it from the Forth Road Bridge, though this has never been its official name. Construction of the bridge began in 1882 and it was opened on 4 March 1890 by the Duke of Rothesay, the future Edward VII. The bridge spans the Forth between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry and has a total length of 8,094 feet (2,467 m). When it opened it had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world and today is the second longest in the world.

Travel onwards along the **Golf Coastal Drive** and travel through the famous village of St. Andrews. Golf has been associated with St. Andrews for hundreds of years. The first written record of golf in St. Andrews dates from 1552. Today St. Andrews is recognised across the world as the “Home of Golf”. Golfing in St. Andrews at the spiritual heartland of the sport is the ultimate ambition of many golfers. The oldest and most iconic golf course in the world, where golf was first played 600 years ago. The Swilcan Bridge and Hell Bunker are recognised across the globe as a host of multiple British Opens, yet the greatest feature of the Old Course is that despite its grand status it remains a public golf course.



Travel onwards over the **Firth of Tay** to Dundee. The Firth of Tay is a firth in Scotland between the council areas of Fife, Perth and Kinross, the City of Dundee and Angus, into which Scotland's largest river in terms of flow, the River Tay empties. Two bridges span the firth, the Tay Road Bridge and the Tay Rail Bridge. Travel through Dundee and onwards along the Aberdeenshire Coast.

Lunch @ Storma Bistro, Montrose

Overlooking the Montrose Basin, the name Storma is derived the Nordic word 'Straumr-øy' meaning '. The lunch menu is more concise, listing sandwiches, jacket potatoes, traditional hot mains. High tea lists traditional British classics with a side of cakes and scones.



Balmoral Castle has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852, having been first leased in 1848. The Castle is an example of Scots Baronial architecture and is classified by Historic Scotland as a category A listed building. The new castle was completed in 1856 and the old castle demolished shortly thereafter. The Balmoral Estate has been added to by successive members of the royal family, and now covers an area of approximately 50,000 acres.

Dining @ Rothesay Room, Ballater

Leading the kitchen is award-winning Head Chef Ross Cochrane. His focus is on Scottish dishes, executed immaculately, embracing a field to fork cooking philosophy. The menu changes with the seasons as we love to showcase the finest local food available at the time our guests dine. The dishes we create use almost exclusively Scottish produce, bought from farmers they know well, and are always constructed with a light, modern, touch.

Accommodation: Gordon Guesthouse, Ballater

Day 3 - Touring Cairngorms National Park (Ballater to Inverness)

Touring Cairngorms National Park, Braemar Castle, Cock Bridge, Tomintoul, the Malt Whisky trail, Culloden Battlefield & Clava Cairns.

Travel to **Cairngorms National Park**. The Cairngorms National Park is a living, working landscape with wild land at its heart. Larger than the Lake District and twice the size of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, the park contains some of the best wildlife habitats in the UK and its ancient pine forests, arctic mountain tops, lochs, rivers and moorlands are home to a quarter of the nation's threatened species. There's a good chance of seeing red deer, golden eagles, red and black grouse, red squirrels and mountain hares. Discover a landscape steeped in history and folklore. Learn about land management and the diversity of flora and fauna and be stunned by breathtaking views. View **Braemar Castle**, an iconic landmark in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, with castellated turrets, a star shaped curtain wall and a bottle necked dungeon. Home to the chiefs of Clan Farquharson, it is furnished with the furniture, memorabilia and personal belongings of the

Farquharson family. Now the castle's future rests with the small community of Braemar. With a 50 year lease from Invercauld Estate, for the past 10 years the village has been working to raise funds and gradually conserve and restore the castle and provide even better visitor facilities. A grand dining room, gracious drawing room, Victorian bathrooms and delightful morning room and with 12 rooms on show there is plenty to see and discover in this compact castle. An L shaped tower house, it has an unusual right winding spiral stone staircase leading to 3 floors of furnished rooms.



Travel onwards through the picturesque road between the villages of Cock Bridge and Tomintoul. Continue to **The Malt Whiskey trail**. Glenlivet is shrouded in legend, history, and in some cases mystery. The 'Glen Livet' was a stretch of Highland Scotland that would later expand to become the Speyside whiskey region. The Glenlivet was part of a rich history of illicit stills in the glen. Founded by a gutsy farmer, George Smith, the distillery flourished as whiskey production was legalised. Smith's whiskey quickly gained a reputation as a



'smooth whisky', and won praise from figures of the day like Charles Dickens, and even the King. In the 1870s, as the quality of the whiskey gained more praise, other distilleries laid claim to the Glenlivet name. The distillery eventually won the right to call itself the Glenlivet, and it stands on the same site to this day. Today, The Glenlivet is enjoyed the world over, and is one of Scotland's best-selling whiskey brands. Each year the picturesque distillery welcomes visitors from all over the world.

Lunch @ Craig Bar, Grantown-On-Spey Famous for its Pies & Pints. Whether you are in Grantown on holiday, just passing by or here for a longer stay you are guaranteed a warm welcome at the Craig Bar. Robbie and Beryl are always on hand with a selection of beers including Real Ales as well as a great range of whiskies. If you are hungry try our range of our connoisseur pies

Travel onwards to Inverness. Visit the powerfully moving **Culloden Battlefield** site of the final Jacobite Rising – the last and most harrowing pitched battle to be fought on British soil. Explore the interactive visitor centre, view fascinating artefacts from both sides of the confrontation, and experience the battle in our immersive surround cinema. On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head. Jacobite supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British thrones, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops. It was the last pitched battle on British soil and, in less than an hour, around 1,500 men were slain – more than 1,000 of them Jacobites. The richly researched, stimulating and sensitive Culloden

Visitor Centre, which stands beside the battlefield, features artefacts from both sides of the battle and interactive displays that reveal the background to the conflict. It stands as a monument and a guide to a pivotal day in history. Discover how a bloody fight that lasted only an hour changed life in the Highlands forever.



Clava Cairns are a well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery complex of passage graves; ring cairns, kerb cairns and standing stones in a beautiful setting. Clava Cairns or the Prehistoric Burial Cairns of Bulnuaran of Clava are a group of three Bronze Age cairns located near Inverness. A hugely significant and exceptionally well preserved prehistoric site, Clava Cairns is a fantastic example of the distant history of Highland Scotland, dating back about 4,000 years. The famous time travel scene from Outlander Series was shot here.

Dining @ Chez Roux Restaurant, Inverness

"Mid afternoon at Rocpool Reserve Hotel and the hallways exude an atmosphere of quiet, modern elegance. At the end of one corridor though, just a few yards away, behind an anonymous, unmarked door, there's a completely different world, the world of the restaurant kitchen..." "I want to recreate the kind of restaurant I remember from my home town, offering good and honest country cooking. The kind of place you can go to eat without ringing the bank for permission... Chez Roux will offer Scottish ingredients with a French twist." Albert Roux.

Accommodation: Rocpool Reserve Hotel, Inverness.

Day 4 - Touring Caledonian Canal (Inverness to Fort Augustus)

Touring Caledonian Canal, Loch Ness Monster, Urquhart Castle & Fort Augustus.

The **Caledonian Canal** stretches 60 miles along the Great Glen from Inverness to Fort William. This stunning Highlands waterway runs from Inverness to Fort William on the west coast. It passes through a range of pretty towns and villages, lochs and countryside, providing a beautiful scenic setting to visitors. The Caledonian Canal was opened in 1822 and engineered by Scottish civil engineer Thomas Telford. Formed as part of the Great Glen, Lochs Dochfour,



Ness, Oich and Lochy all feed into this canal. A grand total of 29 locks dot the length of the canal. You can take a glimpse of these at certain viewpoints along the waterway, including the Beauty Forth, Muirtown, Banavie, Dochgarroch and Corpach.

The most famous Loch on the Caledonian Canal is **Loch Ness**. Explore the mysteries and discover the history of the world famous Loch at the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Experience. Discover the history of Loch Ness from the ice age to the third millennium in a seven room, themed, automated walk through. Explore the history of the loch and the many mysteries and explorations that have surrounded its past. Learn about the rumours, the hoaxes and the truths and discover what may really live in Loch Ness. Using a highly effective mixture of animations, lasers and special effects, visitors can experience the history of the monster by exploring Scotland's geological past and folklore. Find out what has been discovered and what research has been done and view some of the actual equipment used to explore and navigate the Loch.



Lunch @ The Loch Ness Inn, Drumnadrochit

Winner of several Scottish Hotel awards Loch Ness Inn provides visitors with the opportunity to meet locals and eat meals sourced in the Scottish highlands. The venison used in their meals is caught wild in the hills above Loch Laggan. Selling traditional Scotch dishes such as Cullen Skink alongside haggis bobotie – a Scottish take on the South African dish – customers are truly spoiled.

Urquhart Castle offers a taste of the Highlands at their most dramatic. Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life and enjoy stunning views over Loch Ness from the ruins of the greatest castle in the Highlands. Climb the Grant Tower that watches over the iconic loch, peer into a miserable prison cell, said to have held the legendary Gaelic bard Domhnall Donn, and imagine the splendid banquets staged in



the great hall. Urquhart's stories are also told through a remarkable collection of artefacts left by its residents, historic replicas, including a full-sized, working trebuchet siege engine, and a short film. The castle has a distinctly Highland heritage and the site has witnessed some of the most dramatic chapters in Scotland's history. This is where St Columba is said to have worked miracles in the 6th century, where acts of chivalry and defiance provided inspiration during the Wars of Independence and where the MacDonald Lords of the Isles struggled with the Crown for power.

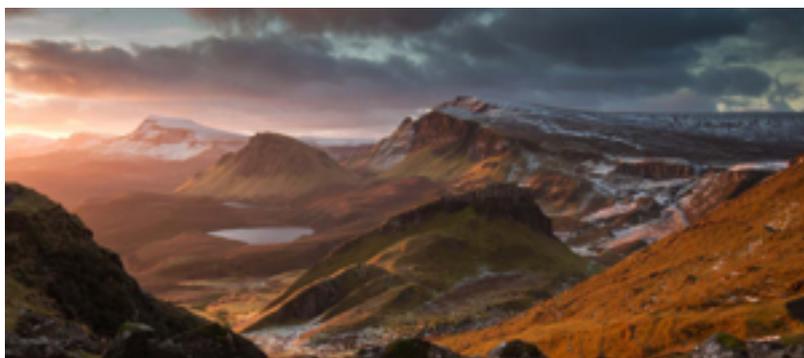
Dinner @ Glengarry Castle, Fort Augustus

The food is of very high quality and the hotel makes good use of the abundant local supplies of meat and fish in a modern culinary style that is very popular with visitors. Glengarry Castle Hotel offers a warmth of welcome in a most traditional environment that will relax the most discerning visitor.

Accommodation: Glengarry Castle, Fort Augustus

Day 5 - Touring Isle of Skye (Fort Augustus to Isle of Skye)

Touring Isle of Skye, Talisker Distillery & Dunvegan Castle.



Skye, or the **Isle of Skye**, is the largest and northernmost of the major islands in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. The island's peninsulas radiate from a mountainous centre dominated by the Cuillins, the rocky slopes of which provide some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in the country. Although it has been suggested that the Gaelic Sgitheanach describes a winged

shape there is no definitive agreement as to the name's origins. The island has been occupied since the Mesolithic period, and its history includes a time of Norse rule and a long period of domination by Clan MacLeod and Clan Donald. The 18th century Jacobite risings led to the breaking up of the clan system and subsequent Clearances that replaced entire communities with sheep farms, some of which also involved forced emigrations to distant lands. Resident numbers declined from over 20,000 in the early 19th century to just under 9,000 by the closing decade of the 20th century.

Travel over the Kyle of Lochalsh via the Skye Bridge and onto **Talisker Distillery**. The original distillery on the Isle of Skye, set on the shores of Loch Harport with dramatic views of the Cuillins. This alluring, sweet, full-bodied single malt whiskey is so easy to enjoy, and like Skye itself, so hard to leave. Enjoy a tour of this distillery which is the only single malt whiskey distilled on the Isle of Skye.



Lunch @ The Old Inn, Carbost

At The Old Inn they are proud and honoured to offer local produce, all sourced and prepared by their dedicated chefs. They use oysters from our neighbouring farm and only fresh meat from the Highlands. They specialise in cooking an abundance of locally caught fish from tasty langoustines to mackerel caught from the loch that their situated next to.

Any visit to the Isle of Skye is incomplete without savouring the wealth of history and clan legend on offer at **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**. Built on a rock in an idyllic loch side setting, Dunvegan is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years. On display are many fine oil paintings and clan treasures, the most famous of which is the Fairy Flag. Legend has it that this sacred banner has miraculous powers and when unfurled in battle, the clan



MacLeod would invariably defeat their enemies. Another of the castle's great treasures is the Dunvegan Cup, a unique 'mazer' dating back to the Middle Ages. It was gifted by the O'Neils of Ulster as a token of thanks to one of our most celebrated Chiefs, Sir Rory Mor, for his support of their cause against the marauding forces of Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1595. We also have a small collection of Bonnie Prince Charlie related items on display including: One of the Prince's waistcoats, a Jacobite amen glass, a lock of the Prince's hair etc.

Dining @ Scorrybreac, Portree

Scorrybreac restaurant is set in a beautiful location, above the harbour in Portree, Isle of Skye. Chef Calum Munro aims to seek the finest local, seasonal produce, delivering modern Scottish cuisine, with French influences.

Accommodation @ The Cullin Hills, Portree

Day 6 - Touring Isle of Skye

Touring The Old Man of Storr, Kilt Rock Falls, Staffin, Duntulm Castle, Uig & Quiraing.



The Trotternish peninsula, famous for the tagline “Theatre of Geology” lies to the north of Portree. As you travel north the Geology does indeed assert itself in a landscape formed from landslides and erosion. The Old man of Storr dominates the skyline as he stands silhouetted before sloping buttresses of the Trotternish escarpment. This is properly the most famous walk on the Island of Skye and definitely the busiest. The ‘**Old Man of Storr**’ is a large pinnacle of rock that stands high and can be seen for miles around. As part of the Trotternish ridge the Storr was created by a massive ancient landslide, leaving one of the most photographed landscapes in

the world. Explore The Storr by walking up the hiking path which starts & returns at the same point. Travel onwards to visit the picturesque village of **Staffin**. This is a liberal sprinkling of white houses over the rich green fields of a successful and prolific township.

Lunch @ The Flodigarry Lodge, Flodigarry

A unique International menu prepared with only Scotlands best. Hand dived Scallops | Creel caught Langoustines | 35 day matured Highland Beef | Loch Fine Oysters | Kilmuir Lamb | Skye Sushi | And much much more ...

Uig is a charming port with ferry links to Uist and Harris. The Trotternish ridge provides an obvious focus for walkers but there are other shorter walks suitable for all abilities; the Fairy Glen is a beautiful whimsical walk through a valley produced by many small landslides. The standing stones at Eyre where legend had Fingall make a campfire to cook a whole deer or a short walk to see Captain Frasers Folly in Uig. Captain Fraser was an infamous land owner who doubled the rents in 1877 and provoked rebellion among the crofters. He later wheedled for favour with gifts of tea and sugar but the crofters complaints were better answered when parliament passed the Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Act 1886. Travel onwards to visit the **Quiraing**. As part of the Trotternish ridge it has been formed by a massive landslide on the eastern face of Meall na Suiramach, the northernmost summit which has created high cliffs, hidden plateaus and pinnacles of rock. This is an essential walk for any photographer as it passes though some of the most spectacular landscapes in Scotland.



Dining @ Sea Breezes, Portree

Quality food using the best of local produce. Enjoy friendly service in our restaurant located on Portree's historic harbour front. The quayside location offers picturesque views. The restaurant opened in April 2006 and has become a firm favorite with tourists and locals alike looking to sample the excellent fresh seafood on our menu. Sea Breezes Restaurant is located on Quay Street which is part of a Conservation Area and it is believed that the stone walled building was constructed around 1890.

Accommodation: Cullin Hills Hotel, Portree

Day 7 - Castles (Isle of Skye to Fort William)

Touring Eilean Donan & Inverlochy Castle Activities



The name **Eilean Donan**, or island of Donan, is most probably called after the 6th century Irish Saint, Bishop Donan who came to Scotland around 580 AD. There are several churches dedicated to Donan in the area and it is likely that he formed a small cell or community on the island during the late 7th century. The first fortified structure was not built on the island until the early 13th century as a defensive measure, protecting the lands of Kintail against the Vikings who raided, settled and controlled much of the North of Scotland and the Western Isles between 800 and 1266. From the mid 13th century, this area was the quite separate "Sea Kingdom" of the Lord of the Isles where the sea was the main highway and the power of

feuding clan chiefs was counted by the number of men and galleys or "birlinns" at their disposal. Eilean Donan offered the perfect defensive position. Over the centuries, the castle itself has expanded and contracted in size. The medieval castle was probably the largest, with towers and a curtain wall that encompassed nearly the entire island. The main keep stood on the island's highest point. Around the end of the 14th century the area of the castle was reduced to about a fifth of its original size and, although the reason is unclear, it probably relates to the number of men required to defend the structure. By the 16th century, Eilean Donan also played a role in the Jacobite risings of the 17th and 18th centuries, which ultimately culminated in the castle's destruction.

Lunch @ Inverlochy Castle (Afternoon Tea)

Visit the tranquil surroundings of Inverlochy Castle with its options for Afternoon Tea. Select your choice of tea leaves from our very own tea menu and enjoy our Chef's savoury finger sandwiches, freshly made scones and selection of sweet delicatessens.

Partake in the **activities at Inverlochy Castle**. Achnacarry Sporting & Country Pursuits is based on Achnacarry Estate, in the Highlands of Scotland approximately 7 miles from Spean Bridge. The Estate extends to approximately 75,000 acres and there are a wide range of activities to suit all interests and abilities, including wildlife, sightseeing & photography tours, hill walks, stalking, fishing, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, clay pigeon shooting, climbing at the ice factor & golf.

Dining @ Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle

Being in Scotland's finest Country Hotel, you will enjoy the holiday of a lifetime, where every detail for your comfort and enjoyment has been carefully considered. Dining at Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle is a culinary experience to savour, with the legendary father and son taking the helm of the kitchen and offering the finest dishes using local produce. Dining is in any of our three dining rooms, each decorated with period and elaborate furniture presented as gifts to Inverlochy Castle from the King of Norway, creating a unique experience in unrivaled surroundings.

Accommodations: Inverlochy Castle, Forth William

Day 8 - (Forth William to Pitlochry)

Touring Blair Castle, Distilleries of Blair Athol & Edradour & House of Bruar.

Blair Castle, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to Europe's last remaining private army, the Atholl Highlanders. Blair Castle is nestled in the landscape of Highland Perthshire and has been home to 19 generations of Stewarts and Murrays of Atholl. Unique amongst Scottish castles, the story told here will take you from a visit by Mary Queen of Scots to the Civil War and from the Jacobite cause to the disaster of Culloden following Bonnie Prince Charlie's own stay in the castle. You'll hear how the lucky inheritance of a smuggler-infested island helped turn the castle into a comfortable home and how a visit from Queen Victoria led to the creation of Europe's only surviving private regiment, the Atholl Highlanders. More than 30 rooms are on display, full of Scottish cultural history, architectural design, period furnishings, family portraits, landscape paintings and a colourful military past. Highlights include the Victorian Ballroom which is decorated with 175 pairs of antlers, the Entrance Hall which features weapons used at the Battle of Culloden, the classic Georgian styling of the Picture Staircase and the grandeur of the Drawing Room and State Dining Room.



Lunch @ The Loft Restaurant

The Loft pride themselves on using local Scottish produce and every dish is designed and prepared to make the most of the abundance of fresh locally sourced ingredients. Their chefs can often substitute or modify ingredients in existing dishes to accommodate the needs of those guests with common food allergies such as gluten, wheat, lactose or dairy.

Blair Athol Distillery is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. Blair Athol Distillery stands at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands in the picturesque town of Pitlochry. The Distillery produces a 12 Year Old Single Malt Whiskey, with a mellow deep-toned aroma, a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish. Blair Athol wins hearts through its contribution to the Bell's Blend, the most popular blended whiskey in the U.K. and a leading brand in South Africa and Scandinavia. The first documented evidence of a distillery on the present site dates from 1798 when John Stewart and Robert Robertson founded a distillery which they named "Aldour" - after the Allt Dour - the "burn of the otter" - which flows through the grounds from the slopes of Ben y vrackie. After enjoying a leisurely conducted tour, you can mull over the distinctive character of the finished article as you sip your dram of Blair Athol 12 Year Old.



Edradour Distillery is world renowned as the smallest traditional distillery in Scotland and arguably the most unique. Dating back to 1825, Edradour, stands alone as the last stronghold of handmade single malt whiskey from a farm distillery still in production today. Hidden in the very heart of Perthshire, this picturesque 'little Model Village' of Edradour is steeped in a history of intrigue to inspire the imagination. And, with matchless commitment to retaining authentic small scale production, Edradour uniquely boasts over 25 distinctive expressions of Highland Single Malt Scotch Whiskey with their wonderful characters and flavours.

The House of Bruar is widely acknowledged as Scotland's most prestigious independent store, and its regal stature at the gateway to the Highlands makes it clear to see why. The House of Bruar offers an extensive range of high quality products in both the Men's and Ladies clothing halls. There is also a taste of luxury from gourmet produce, artisan treats and a fine selection of whisky and spirits in the Food Hall – which also homes the award winning in-store butchery and delicatessen. Housing the largest collection of Cashmere in the UK, you will be spoilt for choice in the Knitwear hall – which carries a large variety of high quality natural fibres. The use of natural fibres extends further into their ample offerings of Tweed garments and accessories, reflecting the Scottish heritage within the brand.



Dining @ Victoria's, Pitlochry

Located on the main street of Pitlochry in the heart of Highland Perthshire, Victoria's has been welcoming locals & visitors for over 20 years. Family owned since 1996 this bistro eatery offers refined cuisine & top notch wines, in a relaxed atmosphere. They are passionate about delivering great service, offering a variety of simple yet authentic dishes, using local produce from Scotland's rich larder. Al fresco terrace dining during Summer months.

Accommodations: Craigatin House, Pitlochry

Day 8 - Depart Edinburgh Airport

Depart Edinburgh Airport

Terms & Conditions

Costs may fluctuate upon the time of year and availability cannot be guaranteed on all accommodations.

25% Deposit required to secure the booking of Accommodation and Transport. Non refundable upon payment.

Full payment of tour required 1 month in advance of the tour date. Non refundable upon payment.

Please note Accommodation includes Bed & Breakfast only.

All lunch and evening meals are not included, but the finalised itinerary will have suggested local restaurants.

Activity costs are not included unless requested.

It is advised to take out travel insurance to cover every eventuality.

Tips are not included but encouraged.
