



Itinerary

Prepared for: Family Ireland & Scotland Tour

Prepared by: Aidan Hanrahan

13 May 2024

Proposal number: 001

EXECUTIVE TOUR SUMMARY

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Day 1 - Touring Rock of Cashel & Blarney Castle (Kinsale)

Early morning flight arrival at Shannon Airport. Touring Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle & Charles Fort.

Day 2 - Touring West Cork & Killarney National Park (Kinsale to Killarney)

Touring Charles Fort, Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall, Bantry House & Gardens, Kenmare, Killarney National Park and Ladies View.

Day 3 - Touring Ring of Kerry (Killarney)

Touring Sheep-dog demonstration at Caitins, off the beaten track Skellig Ring tour to Valentia Island, Kerry Cliffs and Skellig Michael, Waterville, Staigue Fort, Derrynane House, Sneem, Molls Gap, Killarney National Park, Muckross House & Gardens and Ross Castle.

Day 4 - Touring Dingle Peninsula (Killarney)

Touring Dingle Town (Dingle Crystal, Dingle Aquarium/Fungi & Dingle Distillery), Sleah Head Ring (Beehive Huts, The Blasket Centre, Gallarus Oratory & Kilmalkedar Church).

Day 5 - Touring Cliffs of Moher & Burren (Killarney to Shannon Airport)

Touring Cliffs of Moher, traditional music town of Doolin, The Burren Centre & Perfumery, Poul nabrone Portal Dolmen Tomb.

Day 6 - Touring Edinburgh City (Edinburgh)

Walk to nearby Shannon Airport. Depart Shannon Airport at 7.15am and arrive at Edinburgh Airport at 8.30am. Touring Edinburgh City, Royal Mile, Royal Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland & Royal Botanic Gardens.

Day 7 - Touring Cairngorms National Park (Edinburgh to Inverness)

Touring Cairngorms National Park, Cock Bridge & Tomintoul.

Day 8 - Touring Inverness & Caledonian Canal (Inverness to Fort Augustus)

Touring Culloden Battle Field, Outlander locations (Clava Cairns), Caledonian Canal & Loch Ness Monster

Day 9 - Touring Fort Augustus (Fort William)

Touring Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle & Fort Augustus.

Day 10 - Touring Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (Fort Augustus to Glasgow)

Touring Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

Day 11 - Depart Glasgow Airport via Airport Shuttle Bus

ACCOMMODATION LOCATIONS

Accommodation is 4 star hotels.

4 / 5 STAR ACCOMMODATION

1 x Night @ Trident Hotel, Kinsale. 1 x Junior Suite room

3 x Nights @ Victoria Hotel, Killarney. Junior Suite & Double rooms

1 x Night @ Radisson Park Inn Hotel, Shannon. 1 x Superior family room

1 x Night @ Mercure Hotel, Edinburgh. 2 x double rooms

1 x Night @ Culloden House Hotel, Inverness. 1 x Garden Suite room

2 x Nights @ Inch Hotel, Fort Augustus. 2 x Superior rooms

1 x Night @ Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Glasgow. 1 x Family room

TRANSPORT

2 x Adults & 2 x teenage kids 11 x Days Chauffeured Guided Tour & Transfers in Deluxe 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.

COST

Description	Days	Cost
TRANSPORT & ACCOMMODATION	10	€ 13,955
Total		€ 13,955
Deposit Payment (to be paid)		€ 3,995

Terms & Conditions

25% Deposit required to secure the booking of 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 is not included.

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.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive Shannon Airport. Touring Rock of Cashel & Blarney Castle.

Arrive at Shannon Airport. Touring the Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle (Kiss the Blarney Stone) & Charles Fort.



Arrive Shannon Airport. Travel via the **Rock of Cashel** for a tour. The Rock of Cashel is one of Ireland's most visited sites, and is a spectacular and archaeological site. A collection of medieval ecclesiastical buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale. The 12th-century round tower is of the oldest surviving building on the Rock, also include a high cross, and the ruins Romanesque chapel - Cormac's Chapel is one of the earliest, and finest churches built in the Romanesque style. The 13th-century Gothic cathedral is a large cruciform Gothic church without aisles built between 1230 and 1270. Also a 15th-century castle and the Hall of the Vicars is the entry point to the ecclesiastical enclosure. The Hall houses the museum where the original Cross of St. Patrick can be found.

Travel to Blarney to tour **Blarney Castle and Gardens**. The historic Blarney Castle near Cork City is perhaps most famous for the Blarney Stone but it's also a great destination for the whole family. According to legend, the stone has the power to give anyone who kisses it the 'gift of the gab' (or the ability to be a smooth talker), so for those who dare, a climb to the battlements to reach the famous stone could be well worth it. For a more relaxing experience, take a stroll through the Blarney Castle Gardens and Rock Close—an attractive destination in their own right.



Tour of **Charles Fort**. This star-shaped military fortress was constructed between 1677 and 1682, during the reign of King Charles II, to protect the town and harbour of Kinsale in County Cork. William Robinson, architect of the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham Dublin, and Superintendent of Fortifications, is credited with designing the fort. As one of the largest military forts in the country, Charles Fort has been associated with some of the most momentous events in Irish history. These include the Williamite War in 1690 and the Irish Civil War of 1922 - 23. Charles Fort remained garrisoned by the British army until 1922.

Accommodation: 4 Star Trident Hotel, Kinsale

Day 2 - Touring West Cork & Killarney National Park (Kinsale to Killarney)

Depart Kinsale and travel for a tour of Franciscan friary of Timoleague, Clonakilty, Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Union Hall, Bantry House & Gardens.

Tour of the **Franciscan friary of Timoleague** which was founded in the late-13th or early-14th century and today, extensive ruins remain in the village, which is located in County Cork, just 10km east of Clonakilty. Visitors can explore the long church, nave, transept, cloister and tower. They can also find a bullaun stone and fine windows. It's believed that either Donal Glas MacCarthy or William Barry founded the friary, which survived until it was burnt by English soldiers in 1642. Travel onwards to Clonakilty for a quick stop in this harbour town.



Travel to **Drombeg Stone Circle**, or as it is locally known as the Druid's Altar, which is located on the edge of a rocky terrace overlooking the sea about a kilometre away, in Glandore County Cork. This is a circle of 17 standing stones which on excavation showed that there had been an urn burial in the centre. It has been dated to between 153 BC and 127AD. Excavations in 1957 and 1958 revealed cremated bones in a deliberately broken pot wrapped with thick cloth and buried near the centre of the circle along with 80 other smashed sherds, four bits of a shale and a collection of sweepings from a pyre. After Drombeg travel onwards via the spectacular picturesque fishing villages of Glandore and Union League.

Travel onwards to tour **Bantry House & Gardens**, which is the ancestral home of the Earls of Bantry which is situated overlooking Bantry Bay in West Cork. The title lapsed in 1891 but the house is still owned and lived in by the direct descendants of the 1st Earl of Bantry. Since 1946 the House and Garden has been open to the public. The House has an important collection of art treasures mainly collected by the 2nd Earl of Bantry on his Grand Tour. The garden was inspired by travels of the 2nd Earl. It is laid out in the Italian style over seven terraces, with the house sitting on the third terrace. A Parterre facing south surrounding a wisteria circle which again surrounds a fountain was also created. From there rise the famous Hundred Steps, a monumental staircase built of local stone, set amidst azaleas and rhododendron.



Accommodation: 4 Star Victoria Hotel, Killarney

Day 3 - Touring Ring of Kerry (Killarney)

Tour of the Ring of Kerry including sheep-dog demonstration at Caitins, Waterville, Staigue Fort, Derrynane House, Sneem, Molls Gap, Killarney National Park, Muckcross House & Gardens and Ross Castle.



The **sheep-dog demonstration at Caitins** is one of the most unusual – and popular – sights on the Ring of Kerry. Local farmer Brendan Ferris will introduce you to his sheep dogs. In the distance, a flock of sheep can be seen widely dispersed on the side of the mountain behind him. Brendan then gives a fascinating demonstration of how sheep dogs are used to bring in the sheep on real farms. Responding to Brendan's whistled commands, the dogs guide the sheep downwards. Miraculously, by the end of the demonstration all the sheep are calmly gathered in a pen beside you.

Travel onwards via **Waterville** to **Staigue Fort**. This one of the largest and finest ring forts you are likely to see in Ireland. The fort consists of a massive circular rampart surrounded by an external bank. The wall is up to 5.5m (18ft) high and 4m (13ft) thick, surrounding a circular area of 27.4m (90ft) in diameter. Staigue fort shows great skill and craftsmanship in the area of stone building. The technique of dry-walling so well demonstrated here has a long tradition in Ireland. The survival of so many early structures throughout the Irish countryside is partly due to the mastery of the craft of interlocking stones to achieve total stability, even in large building works like Staigue fort.



Travel onwards via the photographic Wild Atlantic way coastline to **Derrynane House**. This was the ancestral home of one of Ireland's most famous historical figures, Daniel O'Connell, lawyer, politician and statesman. Situated on 120 hectares of parklands on the scenic Kerry coast, the House displays many relics of O'Connell's life and career as a museum in his honour. The main street in Dublin, O'Connell Street is called after him. Derrynane National Historic Park, plantations and garden walks were laid out in the 18th and 19th Centuries, principally north and west of the house. Some features of the demesne are strongly associated with Daniel O'Connell, including the old summer house.



Travel onwards to the quaint little village of **Sneem** famously the home of the Casey Family of 7 brothers considered to have been the strongest and toughest family on earth. In 1982 the seven Casey brothers were inducted into the Irish Sports Hall of Fame, the only family ever to receive that honour. The list of Casey sporting achievements are many and varied. Paddy Casey was undefeated light and heavyweight wrestling champion of Ireland and also won many long-distance cycling races in Ireland. Dan Casey was a contractor, champion oarsman, and a tug-of-war champion. Jack Casey had remained in Ireland, married and had taken up farming and fishing. A superb oarsman in his own right, he helped the Caseys win the Salter cup in the Killarney Regatta. Tom Casey became British amateur champion in 1937 after only nine days' training. Jim Casey won the Canadian and South American wrestling titles. Mick Casey in a career that lasted over twenty years, had 200 wrestling bouts and, of course, probably the greatest of them all, Steve 'Crusher' Casey became the supreme wrestler in the world and he retired undefeated as world wrestling champion. A statue stands in Sneem in his honour. Travel onwards over the Macgillycuddy's Reeks to **Molls gap**, an area and its shop is a panoramic spot visited by thousands of tourists each year. Moll's Gap is named for Moll Kissane who ran a shebeen, a small pub, on a rocky breach during the construction of the original Kenmare Killarney road in the 1820s. She became popular for selling home brewed poitin, whiskey, to the hardy men who worked on the road.



Travel to the shores of Muckross Lake in Killarney and visit the 15th century tower house **Ross Castle**. It is a typical example of the stronghold of an Irish chieftain in the Middle Ages and is fully restored and furnished with period oak furniture. It is typical of its style, with square bartizans on diagonally opposite corners and a thick end wall containing a tier of chambers and winding stairs. **Muckross House & Gardens**, once visited by Queen Victoria, is situated on the shores of Muckross Lake within the stunning surroundings of Killarney National Park. This magnificent Victorian mansion is one of Ireland's leading stately homes. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyles of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement you can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the House back in the day. Muckross House is also home to a number of skilled craftworkers, who can be seen using skills in the crafts of weaving, pottery and bookbinding. Many exotic trees and shrubs flourish in the mild climate and sheltered location of the Muckross gardens. Attractive features include a fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, an outstanding rock garden on a natural rock outcrop and beautiful tree-fringed lawns.

Accommodation: 4 Star Victoria Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Day 4 - Touring Dingle Peninsula (Killarney)

Touring Dingle Town (Dingle Crystal, Dingle Aquarium & Dingle Distillery), Sleah Head Ring (Beehive Huts, The Blasket Centre, Gallarus Oratory & Kilmalkedar Church).

Travel to Dingle and firstly tour **Dingle Aquarium**. Gaze in wonder as you get up close and personal with the magnificent marine life inhabitants. Submerge yourself in the wonderful enchanted underwater world! Come face-to-face with the most fearsome creatures of the sea: sharks. Gain exclusive access to Sandtiger Sharks! Meet the delightful Polar Penguins and gets hands-on experience at the Touch Tank where you can stroke the friendly Rays and even hold a Starfish.



Dingle Crystal are a family business specialising in hand-cut Irish crystal. Each piece is handmade by master craftsman Sean Daly at his workshop in Dingle, Co. Kerry. Sean's unique celtic designs are inspired by the rich heritage and breathtaking landscape of Ireland's west coast. All of our crystalware is designed, cut and polished by hand, using traditional techniques. With every step of the production process being carried out in Ireland, Dingle Crystal is a true embodiment of Irish craft. No two pieces are exactly the same and each piece is personally signed by Sean. This is how Sean guarantees a unique and individual piece of Irish crystal to each of his customers. The **Dingle Whiskey Distillery** is not in the business of creating megabrands, nor do they distil for anyone else. Their scale is modest, their approach to what they make is essentially artisan and they have rekindled the tradition of independent distilling in Ireland. Two hundred years ago, this small island had over a hundred officially recognised distilleries; by the turn of this century there were two. The Dingle Distillery welcomes visitors to enjoy a tour of their facility where the entire production process, for all their products, are explained and a gin/vodka sample is provided. The distillery tour will give you an introduction into Irish whiskey and into the Dingle Distillery.

Depart Dingle and travel tour the **Beehive Huts**, the most common surviving house type in Corca Dhuibhne during the Early Medieval period was the clochán (or Beehive Hut as known locally), a round house built using local stone, and roofed either in stone, using the corbelling technique. Many examples can be found in the Ceann Trá area, particularly near Sleah Head and they date from the 6th to the 10th or 11th centuries AD. These structures are found either singly, conjoined or three together. These were the houses in which people lived, be they of moderate or even high status, or monks within monasteries. Sometimes underground passages known as souterrains are found associated with them.



Travel onwards to the **Blasket Centre**. This is a fascinating heritage & cultural centre/museum honouring the unique community who lived on the remote Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953. The Centre details the community's struggle for existence, their language and culture, folklore & customs, and their extraordinary literary legacy – with classics such as 'The Islandman', 'Twenty Years A-Growing' and 'Peig'.

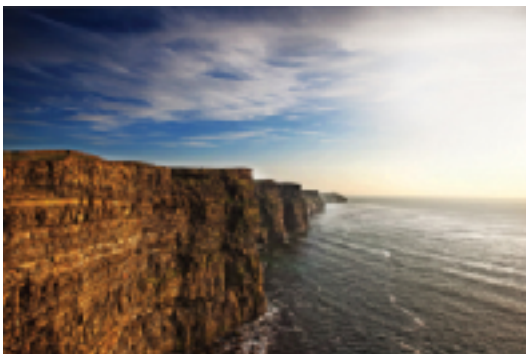


Travel onwards to **Gallarus Oratory**, which is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland. Gallarus Oratory, was built between the seventh and eighth century and is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland. It represents the apogee of dry-stone corbelling, using techniques first developed by Neolithic tomb makers. The stones were laid at a slight angle, lower on the outside than the inside to allow water to run off. Travel onwards to tour **Kilmalkedar**. Kilmalkedar is a spectacular early-Christian and medieval ecclesiastical site. The ruins are spread across an area of 10 acres. Among them, visitors will enjoy examining the fine 12th-century Hiberno-Romanesque church and several fascinating artefacts, such as an alphabet stone, holed Ogham stone, sundial and large stone cross.

Accommodation: 4 Star Victoria Hotel, Killarney.

Day 5 - Touring Cliffs of Moher & Burren (Killarney to Galway)

Travel to the Cliffs of Moher. Stop in the traditional music town of Doolin for lunch. Travel onwards to tour The Burren Centre & Perfumery and Poulnbroone Portal Dolmen Tomb.



Travel to Ireland's most visited natural attraction, the **Cliffs of Moher**. They stretch for 8km (5miles), as the crow flies, along the Atlantic coast of County Clare in the west of Ireland and reach 214m (702feet) at their highest point at Knockardakin just north of O'Brien's Tower. At the southern end of the Cliffs of Moher stands Hags Head a natural rocky promontory that resembles a seated woman when viewed from the north. In the ancient Gaelic language, the word Mothar means "ruined fort" and a 1st century BC fort stood where Moher tower now stands. Therefore the Cliffs of Moher means the cliffs of the ruined fort and although there is no trace remaining of this two thousand year old fort it has given name to the cliffs

which are visited annually by almost one million visitors. The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is located almost midway along these spectacular cliffs and is home to; an environmentally friendly visitor centre set into the hillside, O'Brien's Tower – a 19th century viewing tower, and 800metres of protected cliff side pathways, viewing areas and steps. Travel onwards to **Doolin Village** for lunch in one of the many traditional Irish musical pubs. Sample the great atmosphere in this village that is steeped in the history of traditional Irish music.



Discover the unique magic of this 'Bhoireann' or 'stony place' region in the **Burren Centre**. This visitor centre lies at the heart of the historic village of Kilfenora. It boasts a fantastic exhibition, an audio-visual theatre, local crafts shop and tea room. The audio visual film, narrated by famous environmentalist Eamon de Buitlear, traces the formation of the Burren 320 million years ago and explains why Alpine, Arctic and Mediterranean plants grow side by side in this unique limestone world. Understand how ancient man left his mark on the landscape in the form of the Dolmen Tombs and burial chambers, which still stand today as stone sentinels to the Burren's heritage. Travel onwards to visit the famous **Poulnabrone Portel Dolmen Tomb**. Travel through the rugged Burren landscape and back down to your accommodation at Shannon Airport.

Accommodation: 4 Star Park Inn Hotel by Radisson, Shannon Airport.

Day 6 - Touring Edinburgh City (Edinburgh)

Depart from Shannon Airport and Travel to Edinburgh Airport. Touring Edinburgh City, Royal Mile, Royal Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland & Royal Botanic Garden.



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.



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.



Accommodation: 4 Star Mercure Hotel, Edinburgh

Day 7 - Touring Cairngorms National Park (Edinburgh to Inverness)

Touring Firth of Forth, Cairngorms National Park, Braemar Castle, Cock Bridge & Tomintoul.



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 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 repairing 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**. This road passes over four summits, at Dava Moor 1053 ft (321m), west of Bridge of Brown 1436 ft (438m), at the Lecht Ski Centre 2090 ft (637m) and at the Gairnshiel Summit 1836 ft (550m). The road is regularly the first road in Great Britain closed due to snowfall between Cock Bridge and Tomintoul. Visit Tomintoul Art Gallery, home to artist in residence, Jane Lannagan. Jane's batik art displays a wide range of images from Scottish landscapes, local scenes of Glenlivet and Upper Banffshire and figure and animal art.

Accommodation: 4 Star Culloden Hotel, Inverness

Day 8 - Touring Inverness & Caledonian Canal (Inverness to Isle of Skye)

Touring Culloden Battle Field, Outlander locations (Clava Cairns) & Caledonian Canal.

Before leaving 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.



The **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 TV Series was shot here.

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 Beaully Forth, Muirtown, Banavie, Dochgarroch and Corpach.

Accommodation: 4 Star Inch Hotel, Fort Augustus

Day 9 - Touring Castles & Loch Ness (Fort Augustus)

Touring Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle & Fort Augustus.



Eilean Donan Castle is one of the most recognised castles in Scotland, and probably appears on more shortbread tins and calendars than any other. It is, without doubt, a Scottish icon and certainly one of the most popular visitor attractions in the Highlands. Strategically located on its own little island, overlooking the Isle of Skye, at the point where three great sea-lochs meet, and surrounded by the majestic splendour of the forested mountains of Kintail, Eilean Donan's setting is truly breath-

taking. Crossing the bridge to today's castle, the fourth version, you can clearly understand why Bishop Donan chose the tranquil spot back in 634AD to settle on it and create a monastic cell. The first castle was later established in the 13th century by Alexander II in an effort to help protect the area from Viking incursions. At this stage in history the original castle encompassed the entire island and is believed to have been constructed with seven towers connected by a massive curtain wall. In 1719 when it was involved in one of the lesser known Jacobite uprisings and when the British Government learned that the castle was occupied by Jacobite leaders along with a garrison of Spanish soldiers, three Royal Navy frigates were sent to deal with the uprising. On the 10th of May 1719, the three heavily armed warships moored a short distance off the castle and bombarded it with cannons. With walls of up to 5 metres thick, these cannons had little impact, but eventually the castle was overwhelmed by force. Discovering 343 barrels of gunpowder inside, the Commanding officer gave orders to blow the castle up; following which Eilean Donan lay in silent ruin for the best part of two hundred years. The castle that visitors enjoy so much today was reconstructed as a family home between 1912 and 1932 by Lt Col John MacRae-Gilstrap, and incorporated much of the ruins from the 1719 destruction.

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.



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.



Accommodation: 4 Star Inch Hotel, Fort Augustus.

Day 10 - Touring Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (Fort Augustus to Glasgow)

Touring Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

falls into four distinct parts: Loch Lomond, the Trossachs, Breadalbane and Argyll Forest. The largest freshwater expanse in mainland Britain, mountains loom to the north of Loch Lomond, while a scattering of islands can be found at its south. Pretty villages such as Luss line the loch's western shores. Drop into the National Park Centre at Balmaha where you can enjoy an exhibition on Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, learn about geology and explore the Highland Boundary Fault. Admire views of the pretty island of Inchcailloch, walk through the Millennium Forest Path, go canoeing and take a ferry or water bus. Loch

Lomond with its 'immensity of loch and landscape' is a great place to look for wildlife. As well as the loch itself, there are over 20 islands, many of them wooded. The loch, which famously features in the song 'The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond', extends north for 24 miles from Balloch, which is a popular access point to the the Highlands. The Trossachs to the east of the National Park is a transition from the settled pastoral Lowlands to the rugged Highlands. It is a landscape of beautiful lochs and woodlands with a wealth of wildlife to discover. With 720 square miles to explore, it can be difficult to know where to find the best views. The uniquely designed viewpoints are conveniently located along the main roads that loop through the National Park and make ideal stopping points to take in the landscape and snap the perfect picture. These stunning artworks offer you some breathing space to break up your journey through the National Park. Each viewpoint was designed by young architects as part of the first round of Scottish Scenic Routes competitions and offer their own unique rewards to those who visit them.

Accommodation: 4 Star Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Glasgow Airport.

Day 11 - Depart Glasgow Airport

Depart Hotel via hotel shuttle bus to Glasgow Airport for your departing flight home.
