



Booking Reference: 12649

A Private Luxury 9 Day Tour to Edinburgh, The Highlands, Isle of Skye and Glasgow



# ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH, PRIVATE MEET GREET AND TRANSFER

Upon arrival in Edinburgh, you will be met by your driver/guide holding a sign with your name on it and privately transferred to your hotel. Check in and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.



**Edinburgh** is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It boasts a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. A visit to Edinburgh wouldn't be complete without visiting Edinburgh Castle which looms over the city, home to Scotland's crown jewels.

## **Balmoral Hotel**

1 Princes Street, Edinburgh, Eh1 1Tr, EH2 2EQ

### 3 nights at Balmoral Hotel in a Deluxe Room inclusive of breakfast



The Balmoral combines stunning views and warm hospitality with world-class facilities to create the perfect urban retreat. It offers the perfect marriage of tradition and modernity in each of the 167 rooms. Enjoy Michelin-starred dining at the famous Number One restaurant, sample modern Scottish Afternoon Tea under the glass dome of Palm Court or relax in the serene sanctuary of The Balmoral Spa. The Balmoral is the perfect home-from-home to discover Edinburgh and Scotland's finest attractions.



# PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF EDINBURGH NEW TOWN AND THE ROYAL MILE INCLUDING EDINBURGH CASTLE



Private Half Day Edinburgh Walking Tour. Your tour, with an expert local guide, will explore the city's main attractions on or around the Royal Mile including The Palace of Holyroodhouse, The Scottish Parliament and of course Edinburgh Castle. Entrances are included to Edinburgh Castle only to allow for flexibility.

Edinburgh Castle is one of the most exciting historic sites in Western Europe, set in the heart of Scotland's dynamic capital city it is sure to capture your imagination. The scenery will take your breath away. Standing on its great rock, Edinburgh Castle dominates Scotland's capital. Great events have taken place within its walls and it has witnessed many sieges. To control the castle was to hold the keys to the kingdom. Iron Age warriors understood the rock's military potential and built a hill fort here. The castle is now a world-famous visitor attraction and a key element of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.



## DAY<sub>3</sub>

# PRIVATE TOUR TO ST ANDREWS WITH AN EXPERT DRIVER/GUIDE

After breakfast this morning, meet with your driver/guide for a full day travelling east into the Kingdom of Fife and to St Andrews. Enjoy some local sightseeing with the driver. You will see the Castle and the University and of course the Old Course. In the late afternoon, return to Edinburgh for an evening at your leisure.





**St. Andrews:** Standing proudly on the east coast and within half an hour from Dundee and less than two hours from Edinburgh and Glasgow, it's easy to explore this historic gem in the Kingdom of Fife. St Andrews, Scotland's world-famous Home of Golf, is known for its historic university, medieval streets and gorgeous traditional buildings. The town is filled with exciting things to see and do, from St Andrews Cathedral to nearby Scotland's Secret Bunker. Discover the town's fascinating past, explore its stunning surroundings and experience golfing history in the place where it all began - and with 10 fantastic courses to choose from including the renowned Old Course, St Andrews is an unmissable experience for any golfer.

#### DAY 4

# EDINBURGH TO THE HIGHLANDS INVERNESS VIA BLAIR CASTLE AND THE DALWHINNIE DISTILLERY

Check out of your hotel and meet a driver/guide at 9.00AM and travel North towards Inverness. Suggested stop at South Queensferry to get a great view of the Forth Bridges and it's a beautiful little village. From there possibly stop off at the small town of Dunkeld close to the "Little Houses" (an area renovated and looked after by the National Trust) and take a wander up the lane leading to Dunkeld Cathedral which is located on the shore of the River Tay (very picturesque). Then on through Pitlochry and you may wish to stop for a visit to Blair Castle followed by lunch in a nearby pub. After lunch, we will include a stop for a scheduled tour and tasting at the Dalwhinnie Whiskey Distillery. Arrive in Inverness in the afternoon and check in to your hotel for an evening at leisure.





**Blair Castle & Gardens.** Spanning the Medieval, Georgian and Victorian eras through to present day, Blair Castle encapsulates remarkable periods in Scotland's

Dalwhinnie Distillery stands in the Cairngorm National Park at the heart of the Scottish Highlands in the village of Dalwhinnie. From this remote but accessible location comes our liquid known as the gentle spirit. Take a peek at the ins and outs of our working distillery. Discover its unique high location and its iconic malt. Discover the right tour for you and book your experience online today.





**Inverness** is the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands and attracts visitors from across the world for its natural landscapes, quaint towns, medieval ruins, and prehistoric sites.



### **Ness Walk**

12 Ness Walk, Inverness, IV3 5SQ

## 2 nights at Ness Walk in a Cedar Room inclusive of breakfast



An idyllic 5-star retreat hotel in Inverness, surrounded by a dramatic canopy of impressive trees. The grand building allows you to experience a secluded atmosphere in the heart of the vibrant city centre. Originally a 19th century house, our lovingly restored Grade B listed building still retains many of its periodic features...

#### DAY 5

# PRIVATE LOCH NESS CRUISE AND LOCAL SIGHTSEEING



This morning you will meet with your driver who will bring you to the boarding area (Urquhart Bay harbour which is 1 mile north of Drumnadrochit on the A82) for a private 1-hour cruise on Loch Ness. There will be plenty of photo opportunities so a camera today is a must! After the cruise, meet your driver and travel to Urquhart Castle for an included visit. Spend the afternoon sightseeing with your driver/guide. You can discuss options with him on the day, The battlefield at Culloden Moor is a great visit (payable locally). Return to Inverness for an evening at your leisure.

**Private Loch Ness Cruise (1 Hour):** Join a local skipper for a trip lasting approximately one hour and enjoy stunning views of the Great Glen, Loch Ness and the ruins of Urquhart Castle. On board, instruments monitor sub surface activity showing both bottom profile and mid water targets, which, although usually fish, are very very occasionally much larger and not readily explained. Fun Facts, Legends and History galore from your host Gordon as you enjoy the very best views from the Loch.



**Urquhart Castle.** Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. The power struggles continued, as the Lords of the Isles regularly raided both castle and glen up until the 1500s. The last of the government troops garrisoned here during the Jacobite Risings blew up the castle when they left. Urquhart's iconic ruins remain, offering glimpses into medieval times and the lives of its noble residents.





Culloden Moor Visitor Centre. Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. Visit the powerfully moving 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.



# OVER THE SEA TO SKYE



This morning you will meet your driver/guide for a full day tour to the Isle of Skye. En-route you will see the most photographed castle in the world, Eilean Donan. The island of Skye, connected to Scotland's northwest coast by bridge, is known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, it has an indented coastline of peninsulas and narrow lochs, radiating out from a mountainous interior. Spend the afternoon exploring the wonderful Island and the spectacular scenery.



The Island of Skye is 50 miles long and the largest of the Inner Hebrides. The capital is Portree. Villages in the north of the Island include Dunvegan, Edinbane, Uig and Staffin. Notable villages in the south of Skye include Broadford, Armadale, Carbost, Elgol and Kyle akin. The Island has a rich History covering many topics, such as: dinosaur fossils, clan warfare, Highland Clearances and the infamous Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite Rebellion.Both Clan MacDonald and Clan MacLeod have their Clan castles on the Island and should be on your list of places to visit. The Isle of Skye is also a great destination for Wildlife watching with the white-tailed sea eagle at the top of bird watchers lists. Otters, seals, whales, dolphins and red deer are just some of the other impressive creatures that can be seen on and around the Isle of Skye



#### Kinloch Lodge

Sleat, Isle of Skye, Scotland, IV43 8QY

## 2 nights at Kinloch Lodge in a Suite inclusive of breakfast



Kinloch Lodge is more than a hotel and restaurant. It's a white jewel nestled in the hills on Scotland's spectacular Isle of Skye

#### DAY 7

# SIGHTSEEING AND ACTIVITIES ON THE ISALE OF SKYE

Today, enjoy the natural beauty of the Isle of Skye. Below are listed some of the most amazing sights you can see. You can discuss with your driver/guide for your preferences. This evening is at your leisure.

- Travel over Sligachan Old Bridge.
- · The Fairy Pools
- The Old Man of Storr
- · Visit Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls
- The Quiraing
- The Fairy Glen Tour



Portree, the main town on the Isle of Skye, is a bustling port and a thriving cultural centre. Set round its natural harbour and fringed by high ground and cliffs the town is the perfect spot for a bit of lunch. Famous for its seaside houses painted in various bright colours, Portree offers a chance for a relaxed stroll along the shore side with an ice cream. There are also several shops to pick up some souvenirs for friends and family back home.



# SKYE TO GLASGOW VIA GLENFINNAN, FORT WILLIAM, GLENCOE AND LOCH LOMOND



This morning you will check out of your hotel and take the morning ferry for the 45-minute journey from Armadale to Mallaig admiring the spectacular scenery as you go. Travel to Fort William via Glenfinnan and time o see the monument to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Viaduct. You will see the majestic Glencoe and enjoy time for an optional lunch before continuing south via the Bridge of Orchy and Crianlarich and along the bonny banks of Loch Lomond. In the evening you will arrive in Glasgow and check into your hotel. The evening is at your leisure to relax and explore.



**The Glenfinnan Viaduct** is a renowned feat of Victorian engineering and the longest concrete railway bridge in Scotland. It takes the West Highland Railway over the River Finnan 100ft below, on its journey between Fort William and Mallaig – and is one of the most picturesque train rides in the world. Built in the 1890s by 'Concrete Bob' McAlpine, the viaduct's 21 huge arches were constructed using pioneering technology at the time.

From our viewpoints, you can marvel at the sight and sound of the *Jacobite* steam train traversing the hillside and crossing the Viaduct. Made famous by the *Harry Potter* films as the *Hogwarts Express*, you can witness this moment in spring to autumn, although our local rail service makes this same journey all year round.





**Fortwilliam** is known as the outdoor capital of the Scottish Highlands with its stunning landscapes, fascinating museums and authentic ales and whiskeys. There is a huge range of outdoors activities to suit every ability from mountain climbing, water sports to fishing and walking to name but a few.

Glencoe: The alluring Glencoe Valley in the Scottish Highlands is most popular due to its waterfalls, peaking trails such as Buachaille Etive More and Bidean nam Bian. It is also adored for its variety of wildlife. If you wish to visit the Glencoe Folk Museum within the village, there sits 18th-century thatched cottages with displays on local heritage and the Glencoe massacre of 1692. There surrounding lush environment is sure to enchant anyone.





## Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park:

The National Park is famous for a reason: the scenery is stunning. From the Arrochar Alps to the island habitats of Loch Lomond, the views from the top of Ben Lomond to the Falls of Dochart, there's a breathtaking view practically everywhere you go. At the heart of the park is Loch Lomond itself. You won't find a bigger loch or lake in the whole of Britain and you'll have a hard time finding a more beautiful one, too. You have the option to take a cruise on the waters and admire the mighty bulk of Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly Munro, as well as the jagged shoulders of the Arrochar Alps. You could maybe even visit one of the loch's 30 islands.



**Glasgow:** Scotland's most populated City sits on the banks of the Clyde and is well known for its excellent shopping, food and nightlife and various tourist attractions and landmarks. Home to Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet and the National Theatre of Scotland, as well as acclaimed museums and a thriving music scene.



# **Blythswood Square Hotel**

11 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, G2 4AD

## Overnight at Blythswood Square Hotel in a Premium Garden View Room inclusive of breakfast



Blythswood Square has been a prestigious address since the early 19th century. Overlooking a private garden square, the hotel's Georgian townhouses were originally home to wealthy merchants and were later turned into the club headquarters for The Royal Scottish Automobile Club.

# DAY 9

# PRIVATE DEPARTURE TRANSFER TO GLASGOW OR EDINBURGH AIRPORT

After breakfast this morning we include a private transfer to Glasgow Airport. Please be ready in the hotel lobby.



# Travelling Passengers: 2

# Please see below for complete list of included services.

Accommodation is included for 8 nights at the following hotels including breakfast.

## Accommodation

| Date  | Nts | City        | Hotel                   | Accommodation            |
|-------|-----|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Day 1 | 3   | Edinburgh   | Balmoral Hotel          | Deluxe                   |
| Day 4 | 2   | Inverness   | Ness Walk               | Cedar Room               |
| Day 6 | 2   | Isle of Sky | Kinloch Lodge           | Suite                    |
| Day 8 | 1   | Glasgow     | Blythswood Square Hotel | Premium Garden View Room |

# Transport

| Date  | City        | Service                                 |                     |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Day 1 | Edinburgh   | Arrival Transfer Edinburgh              | Private Service     |
| Day 3 | Edinburgh   | Private Day Tour to St Andrews          | with Driver/Guide   |
| Day 4 | Edinburgh   | Edinburgh to Inverness                  | with Driver/Guide   |
| Day 5 | Inverness   | Private Loch Ness Cruise and Sightseein | g with Driver/Guide |
| Day 6 | Inverness   | Inverness to the Isle of Skye           | with Driver/Guide   |
| Day 7 | Isle of Sky | Full Day Touring on Skye                | with Driver/Guide   |
| Day 8 | Isle of Sky | Skye to Glasgow                         | with Driver/Guide   |
| Day 9 | Glasgow     | Transfer Glasgow Airport                | Private Service     |



#### Services

| Date  | Service                                 |                 |  |  |  |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Day 2 | Private Half Day Edinburgh Walking Tour | Private Service |  |  |  |
| Day 2 | Edinburgh Castle                        | Entrance Fee    |  |  |  |
| Day 4 | Blair Castle & Gardens                  | Entrance Fee    |  |  |  |
| Day 4 | Dalwhinnie Distillery Tour              | Shared Service  |  |  |  |
| Day 4 | Private Loch Ness Cruise (1 Hour)       | Private Service |  |  |  |
| Day 4 | Urquhart Castle                         | Entrance Fee    |  |  |  |

## PRICE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Tours, Guides and Experiences as specified in your itinerary
- ✓ Transfers with a private driver, touring with an expert driver/guide (one person) and luxury vehicle
- ✓ Professional travel expert available 24/7 throughout your trip.
- ✓ Hotel taxes and fees.

# PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights from USA or Europe.
- Travel insurance and cancellation insurance.
- Tips to your driver / quide
- Your own additional trip costs.
- Anything not specified in your itinerary



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