

SCOTLAND & SKYE ADVENTURE 2027

A Private Chauffeur-Driven Tour

A 7-day custom tour of Scotland. Transportation, breakfast and nightly accommodations in the castles and hotels of Scotland are included.

DAY 1

EDINBURGH (ON OWN)

Arrive in Edinburgh and transfer by taxi to your hotel. Spend the rest of the day exploring the capital. There is no better way to discover Edinburgh's majestic and inspiring history than a hop-on hop-off bus tour, an entertaining introduction to Scotland's capital. At the top of the Royal Mile, overlooking Princes Street Gardens and the New Town, is Edinburgh Castle. In 1566 Mary, Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI in the royal palace within the castle, and the tiny bed-closet still survives. Most importantly to Scots, in 1996 the Stone of Destiny, Scotland's coronation stone, was placed in the Crown Room alongside the Honours of Scotland, the nation's crown jewels, after 700 years at Westminster. Travel along the Grassmarket, a paradise of independent merchants and eateries with a rich history, and stop to visit Greyfriars Bobby, the loyal Skye Terrier who is said to have stayed by his master's grave for fourteen years. Travel down the Royal Mile past St. Giles' Cathedral, the historic High Kirk of Edinburgh with its famed crown spire, the mother church of Presbyterianism, which contains the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's chivalric order of knights headed by the monarch. Continue past the Scottish Parliament building to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the monarch in Scotland and home of Mary, Queen of Scots for six years, which houses beautiful tapestries and paintings. Then compare the old and the new with a trip around the New Town through Charlotte Square to the Georgian House, to experience the elegance of 18th-century living. Charlotte Square, designed by Robert Adam, Scotland's foremost 18th-century architect, was one of the most fashionable addresses in the New Town. Alternatively, visit Ocean Terminal and the Royal Yacht Britannia, where presidents, kings and queens were entertained; it was, first and foremost, the royal family's home away from home when entertaining abroad. **Overnight at the Apex Waterloo Place Hotel, Edinburgh.**

DAY 2

EDINBURGH – STIRLING –
LOCH LOMOND –
INVERARAY – OBAN

This morning your driver collects you at 9:00 AM and you depart for the west coast of Scotland. Travel to Stirling, once known as the “Key to Scotland” for its imposing position in the center of the country, and to Stirling Castle. For centuries this was the most important castle in Scotland, and the views from the top make it easy to see why. Mary, Queen of Scots spent part of her childhood here, and her coronation took place in the Chapel Royal in 1543. From the ramparts you can see the Wallace Monument, perched high on Abbey Craig, near where William Wallace is said to have camped before his heroic victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. The monument was built in 1869 to commemorate Scotland’s hero. We then travel west along the banks of Loch Lomond, where you can make a brief stop in Luss to enjoy the views of the loch from the pier. There has been a settlement here since medieval times, although much of the current village dates from the 18th and 19th centuries, when it was developed to house workers from the nearby slate quarries. Around Loch Long and over “The Rest and Be Thankful,” we reach Inveraray. Take a wander through the Edinburgh Woollen Mill for traditional and contemporary knitwear and souvenirs, or browse the unique shops on the main street, especially the Loch Fyne Whisky Shop, where you may even be offered a dram. You may wish to stop at Brambles for refreshments and home baking. Finally, we reach Oban, the unofficial capital of the West Highlands and a busy working port, where fishing and pleasure craft rub shoulders in the harbor. Often described as the “Gateway to the Isles,” Oban is the main port for ferries to the Inner Hebrides. Houses cling to the steep hillsides around the calm bay, and dominating the skyline is McCaig’s Tower, a Colosseum-style monument. Retreat to your hotel, the Manor House, a Georgian villa built for the Duke of Argyll in 1780 and overlooking Oban Harbour. **Overnight at the Manor House Hotel, Oban.**

DAY 3

OBAN – GLENFINNAN –
SKYE

Your destination today is Skye, in Scots Gaelic Eilean a’ Cheò, the “Misty Isle.” It has a wild, mountainous interior where the peaks, ridges and pinnacles of the Cuillin Hills are among the most breathtaking in Europe, and its coastline, with all its coves and inlets, is said to stretch a thousand miles. Our first call this morning is a brief stop at the Glenfinnan Monument, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. From here you can also see the Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous by the Harry Potter films. We then take the 11:00 AM ferry from Mallaig to Armadale (advance booking is essential). Once on the island, travel north to Broadford and on to the west coast for lunch (on own) at The Three Chimneys, a world-renowned restaurant on the shore of Loch Dunvegan at Colbost, housed in the bare stone walls of an original crofter’s cottage. After lunch we visit Dunvegan Castle, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and the stronghold of the Chiefs of MacLeod for nearly 800 years. Take a tour to see important clan relics, such as the famous Fairy Flag of Dunvegan, said to have been given to the clan by a fairy queen. Legend has it that the flag can save the clan in times of need if waved, but only three times; so far it has been used twice. Another of the castle’s treasures is the Dunvegan Cup, a unique medieval drinking cup, or mazer, gifted by the O’Neills of Ulster to Sir Rory Mor MacLeod in thanks for his support against the forces of Queen Elizabeth I in 1596. **Overnight at the Bosville Hotel, Portree, Skye.**

DAY 4

SKYE

This morning you may wish to walk in Glen Brittle to see the stunning Fairy Pools, beautiful crystal-clear blue pools on the River Brittle at the foot of the Black Cuillin. The walk of about 2 km is a suitably adventurous one, and the pools attract visitors from all over the world, some brave enough to try wild swimming in the cold water. For the less adventurous, they make fantastic photographs. Return through Portree and continue north past The Storr, the highest point on the Trotternish Ridge, the longest geological landslip in Britain, which has exposed the innards of an ancient landscape sculpted by volcanic activity. Below The Storr is The Sanctuary, home of the extraordinary rock pinnacles known as the Old Man of Storr and the Needle Rock. Travel further around the coast to Mealt Falls, which plunge into the sea (in windy weather the spray is blown back up the cliff), and to the popular viewpoint for Kilt Rock, where columns of dolerite form what appear to be pleats in the cliff, like a kilt. If you fancy stretching your legs and enjoying a fabulous view, a drive over The Quiraing is a must. Go on a bright, clear day for views of the Outer Hebrides and the Scottish mainland, framed by pinnacles, cliffs and great buttresses. We stop so you can walk through a landscape that dates from Jurassic times and see if you can identify the rock formations known as the Needle, the Table and the Prison. Visit the Skye Museum of Island Life, where a township of thatched cottages has been preserved to show the conditions on the island at the close of the 19th century. You may also wish to visit the cemetery behind the museum, where Flora MacDonald is buried. **Overnight at the Bosville Hotel, Portree, Skye.**

DAY 5

SKYE – INVERNESS

Today you travel to Inverness, crossing the Skye Bridge to Eilean Donan Castle, situated on an island at the point where three sea lochs meet, surrounded by majestic scenery. Originally a stronghold of the Mackenzies of Kintail, it passed out of their control in the 14th century; the Mackenzies obtained a charter of Eilean Donan in 1509, and in 1511 the Macraes, as protectors of the Mackenzies, became its hereditary constables. It has been home to the Clan Macrae ever since. We travel through some of the most stunning mountain scenery towards Fort Augustus at the southern end of Loch Ness, stopping for lunch and to marvel at Thomas Telford's feat of engineering, the flight of five locks that lifts boats between Loch Ness and the Caledonian Canal. We continue up the west side of Loch Ness to Clansman Harbour for a Jacobite Cruise, enjoying the stunning views of the surrounding mountains from the loch as we sail to Urquhart Castle, the site of many battles, which stands on a rocky promontory on the north shore of the loch with stunning views of the glen and a chance to spot the famous Loch Ness Monster. It has a turbulent history: seized by the English in 1296, sacked in 1545 by the MacDonald Lord of the Isles, and left to decay after 1689. **Overnight at Culloden House Hotel, Inverness.**

DAY 6

INVERNESS – BONNYRIGG

Today you return south through the Cairngorms National Park. Before leaving the Highlands, you visit Culloden Battlefield, site of the last battle of the Jacobites and the last pitched battle fought on British soil, which takes on a whole new meaning with its visitor center and interactive exhibition. The battlefield has been restored to as close as possible to how it looked on that fateful day. Your route then takes you over the Drumochter Pass (1,500 feet above sea level). Your first stop is the House of Bruar, beside the famous Bruar Falls, for shopping in Scotland's most prestigious country store, with an extensive range of Scottish foods and a fabulous country kitchen restaurant. Travel through beautiful Blair Atholl to Queen's View, generally believed to be named after Queen Victoria, who took tea here in 1866, though it is said to commemorate Queen Isabella, wife of Robert the Bruce, who ruled Scotland from 1306 to 1329. The stunning view across Loch Tummel to the Munro Schiehallion is one of the most famous in Scotland. We then visit Rosslyn Chapel, where scenes of The Da Vinci Code were filmed. It took some 40 years to build, and practically every surface is covered with stone carvings, masterpieces of the stonemason's craft. People travel from all over the world to see the intricate carvings and their many interpretations, and myths, legends and Hollywood fiction have given Rosslyn a unique sense of mystery and wonder. Your overnight accommodation is Dalhousie Castle, a magnificent 13th-century fortress set within acres of wooded parkland on the banks of the River Esk. The castle was the seat of the Earls of Dalhousie, chieftains of Clan Ramsay. **Overnight at Dalhousie Castle, Bonnyrigg.**

DAY 7

EDINBURGH AIRPORT

Transfer by taxi to Edinburgh Airport for your onward journey. Haste ye back!

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE

- Professional Scottish Driver Guide with deluxe vehicle from Day 2 (depart Edinburgh) until the end of Day 6 in Bonnyrigg

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 6 nights as follows, or similar:
- **Edinburgh – Apex Waterloo Place Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star apexhotels.co.uk
- **Oban – Manor House Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star manorhouseoban.com
- **Skye – Bosville Hotel** – 2 nights, 4-star perlehotels.com
- **Inverness – Culloden House Hotel** – 1 night, 4-star cullodenhhouse.co.uk
- **Bonnyrigg – Dalhousie Castle** – 1 night, 4-star dalhousiecastle.co.uk

MEALS

- Breakfast daily

ALSO INCLUDED

- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary
- All Driver's expenses (except tip to the driver)
- Hotel taxes

NOT INCLUDED

- Tip to your Driver Guide
- Any items of a personal nature
- Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Admissions not listed above. These are paid directly to each venue so that, because a private tour is meant to be flexible, you never pay for a site you later decide not to visit

This is a suggested itinerary and can be customized to your interests. Dates, hotels and pricing are provided on request.