

# WONDERS OF SCOTLAND

## ITINERARY

DAY

**1**

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN SCOTLAND

When you arrive in Scotland, make your way into Edinburgh city centre where your hotel will be located. Many travellers opt to take a taxi or use public transport, but for a more direct and comfortable ride, we will be happy to organise a private airport transfer for you.

For those arriving early in the day, we recommend spending the afternoon walking through the city, strolling along the Royal Mile and exploring the Old and New Towns, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are also plenty of museums and landmarks to visit in the city centre, including the majestic Edinburgh Castle. For a spectacular view over the city we recommend going up Castle Hill or Calton Hill. Tonight you can enjoy dinner at one of Edinburgh's many gourmet restaurants and spend the evening at your leisure.

Spend the night at **Nira Caledonia** or similar.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Calton Hill - Edinburgh - Edinburgh Castle - Edinburgh New Town - Edinburgh Old Town - The Grassmarket - The Royal Mile & St Giles Cathedral

DAY

**2**

### DAY 2: SCOTLAND'S DRAMATIC EAST COAST

Today, your guide will pick you up to start your epic trip around Scotland. The tour will start with a drive across to the Kingdom of Fife where the first stop will be in the quaint village of Falkland. There we will visit the Renaissance Falkland Palace, the country residence of the Royal Stuarts.

We will then head east to explore the historic town of St Andrews, famous for being the home of golf and home to the oldest university in Scotland. As we continue north, we will pass Scotland's first city of design, Dundee, before making a stop at the spectacular Dunnottar Castle for a fantastic photo opportunity. When we reach the hotel near Aberdeen, we will take part in a private whisky tasting for a flavour of the locally-produced Speyside malts before enjoying a gourmet dinner.

Spend the night at **Mercure Ardoe House Hotel** or similar.

**Included:**

- Entrance to Falkland Palace
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner and private whisky tasting at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Aberdeen - Dundee & Angus - Dunnottar Castle - Falkland - St Andrews

DAY

**3**

### DAY 3: ROYAL DEESIDE, CASTLES & WHISKY

Today we will journey further into the Scottish Highlands, all the way to Inverness, the "Capital of the Highlands". The journey will take us through Royal Deeside for an enchanting drive into the Cairngorms National Park, famous for its wildlife, high peaks and beautiful Highland landscapes. On the way we will stop at the 16th-century Crathes Castle, where we will have time to explore the tower house and its grounds.

We will then continue through Speyside, the heart of Scotland's whisky-making country where there are over 40 distilleries on the way. We will enjoy a tour of the historical Glenlivet Distillery where we will have the opportunity to taste single malt whisky, known in Scotland as 'water of life'. When we reach the hotel near

opportunity to taste single malt whisky, known in Scotland as water of life. When we reach the hotel near Inverness, we will enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Spend the night at **Bunchrew House Hotel** or similar.

**Included:**

- Entrance to Crathes Castle
- Whisky tasting and tour of Glenlivet Distillery
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Cairngorms National Park - Crathes Castle - Royal Deeside - Scottish Whisky - Speyside & Whisky

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## DAY 4: HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS

This morning, the tour will take us to the haunting Battlefield of Culloden Moor, the site where the last battle on British soil occurred in 1746, which also marked the end of the Highlander way of life. We'll have some time to explore the visitor centre before getting back on the road. The next stop will be a visit to an even older site, the Bronze-age cemetery, Clava Cairns. This site includes passage graves, ring cairns and standing stones dating back roughly 4,000 years, making it older than Stonehenge.

In the afternoon, the guide will drive us north to explore the beautiful Black Isle Peninsula and head to Chanonry Point, where dolphins can sometimes be spotted at low tide in the Moray Firth. Tonight, we will enjoy a gourmet dinner at the hotel.

Spend the night at **Bunchrew House Hotel** or similar.

**Included:**

- Entrance to Culloden Battlefield
- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Black Isle - Clava Cairns - Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre - Moray Firth - Urquhart Castle

DAY

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## DAY 5: FROM LOCH NESS TO SKYE

Today will start with a drive through the remote Glen Affric, one of Scotland's most beautiful valleys and hidden gems, especially beloved by hikers. We will then continue south to reach the famous and mysterious Loch Ness, where we will have a chance to take photos and see if we can catch a glimpse of Nessie.

The drive will then continue towards the Isle of Skye, passing by dramatic landscapes of mountains and valleys. Before arriving on the island, the guide will make a stop at the iconic Eilean Donan Castle, a sight you will surely recognise from films.

On Skye, our first stop will be the biggest settlement, Portree, where you can spend some time wandering around, admiring the colourful houses and seaport. When we reach the hotel on Skye, we will enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Spend the night at **Hame on Skye** or similar.

**Included:**

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Eilean Donan Castle - Loch Ness - Portree - Urquhart Castle

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## DAY 6: THE ISLE OF SKYE

Today we will have a full day to take in the magic of Skye, a haven for nature lovers. Our guide will take us to the northern part of the island, to the breathtaking Trotternish Peninsula. This is where so many of the island's mythical and spectacular landscapes lie.

Driving over the Quiraing, we will be able to admire some of the jaw-dropping natural sights. We'll also pass by the very Scottish Kilt Rock waterfall, the iconic "The Old Man of Storr" rock pinnacle, and we'll even be able to go looking for dinosaur footprints at the An Corran Beach at Staffin. Tonight, we will enjoy a gourmet dinner.

Spend the night at **Hame on Skye** or similar

### Included:

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Isle of Skye - Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls - Old Man of Storr - Quiraing - Staffin & An Corran Beach

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## DAY 7: MARINE WILDLIFE & GLENFINNAN

Today, the tour will head south to Elgol, where we will then set sail on a Misty Isle boat tour on Loch Coruisk in the heart of the Cuillin Hills. This will be a great photography and sightseeing opportunity for bird watchers and marine lovers, as we may spot marine wildlife such as minke whales, seals and dolphins as well as giant sea eagles which soar above these parts.

In the afternoon, we'll take a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig. On the mainland, the tour will continue with a beautiful drive to Glenfinnan. This is where the Glenfinnan Monument and viaduct overlook the beautiful Loch Shiel. We will have some time to take some iconic photos before continuing our journey to Fort William. Tonight, enjoy some local cuisine in one of Fort William's restaurants.

Spend the night at the **Nevis Bank Inn** or similar.

### Included:

- Misty Isle boat tour (1 hour & 45minutes)
- Ferry from Armadale to Mallaig (30 minutes)
- Breakfast at your hotel

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Fort William - Glenfinnan - Glenfinnan Viaduct - Loch Coruisk

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## DAY 8: TRAVEL ALONG DRAMATIC GLENS & LOCH LOMOND

Today, a new guide joins us for the rest of the journey, as we head down to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park area. On the way, we will travel through Glen Coe, Scotland's most famous valley offering breathtaking scenery, which you may recognise from films like Skyfall and Harry Potter. Here, we will go on a guided 20-minute walk, a perfect chance to take photos.

At Loch Lomond, we'll stop at the picturesque village of Luss. Dating back to medieval times, many of the cottages are from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, nesting on the shores of the tranquil Loch Lomond. When we reach the hotel on the banks of Loch Long, we will enjoy one last gourmet dinner together.

Spend the night at the **Knockderry House Hotel** or similar.

### Included:

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Dinner at the hotel restaurant

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Glencoe - Loch Lomond - Luss

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## DAY 9: TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK TO EDINBURGH

Today's drive will start through the impressive Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. On the way we will stop at Doune Castle for a visit. You may recognise this castle from famous films and television series such as Monty Python & the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones and Outlander. We will also pass by the beautiful city of Stirling, which can't be missed because of its imposing castle sitting atop a hill, overlooking the town below. Our last stop on this tour will be the Kelpies, two impressive horse-head statues that will capture your attention.

Back in Edinburgh, your driver-guide will drop you off at your accommodation. Tonight you can enjoy dinner at one of Edinburgh's many gourmet restaurants and spend the evening at your leisure.

Spend the night at **Nira Caledonia** or similar.

### **Included:**

- Entrance to Doune Castle
- Breakfast at your hotel

*Average Travel & Exploring Duration: 8 hours*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Doune Castle - Stirling & Stirling Castle - Trossachs National Park

DAY

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## DAY 10: DEPARTURE FROM SCOTLAND

On your day of departure, make your way back to the airport. If you would like to add any additional nights to your trip or to arrange a private transfer, you can add the option below. If your flight is in the afternoon, you may have time for some last-minute shopping, a visit to one of Edinburgh's museums, or one last stroll through the charming city centre.

### **Included:**

- Breakfast at your hotel

*Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

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