

CLASSIC SCOTLAND & OUTER HEBRIDES

ITINERARY

DAY
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DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

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 Town** and **New Town**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are also plenty of museums and landmarks to visit within the city centre, including the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

Included: Entrance to Edinburgh Castle

Attractions: Calton Hill, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh New Town, Edinburgh Old Town, The Grassmarket, The Royal Mile & St Giles Cathedral

DAY
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DAY 2: SCOTLAND'S DRAMATIC EAST COAST

Today, start your road trip driving up to Fife. Your first stop will be the quaint village of **Falkland**, where you can explore its Renaissance palace. From there, drive east to the town of **St Andrews**, famous for being the home of golf and of the oldest university in Scotland. As you continue north, pass by **Dundee**, a UNESCO City of Design. You can then take the direct route to **Aberdeen**, or take the coastal scenic route, which will take you past the **St. Cyrus National Nature Reserve** and the spectacular **Dunnottar Castle**, near Stonehaven.

Spend the night in the Aberdeen area.

Included: Entrances to St Andrews Castle & St Andrews Cathedral

Driving distance: 235 km / 145 miles

Attractions: Aberdeen, Dundee & Angus, Dunnottar Castle, Falkland, St Andrews, St Cyrus National Nature Reserve

DAY
3

DAY 3: ROYAL DEESIDE, CASTLES & WHISKY

Today will take you into the Scottish Highlands. First drive along the "**Deeside Tourist Route**", an enchanting route through the **Cairngorms National Park**. On the way, there is a plethora of castles you could visit, including 16th-century **Crathes Castle**, and of course, the Scottish residence of the Royal Family, **Balmoral Castle**, which you can visit from April to July. You will then continue to **Speyside**, which is famous for its whiskies. You may want to visit one of the many distilleries (there are over 40 to choose from!), such as Glenfiddich or Aberlour.

Spend the night in the Inverness area.

Driving distance: 240 km / 150 miles

Attractions: Balmoral Castle, Cairngorms National Park, Royal Deeside, Speyside & Whisky

DAY 4: NORTH COAST 500 ROUTE

This morning, you can visit the famous **Battlefield of Culloden Moor** and roam the Bronze-age cemetery **Clava Cairns**. Leaving Inverness behind, take a walk at the picturesque **Rogie Falls**. From here you can choose a direct route to reach the small fishing village of **Ullapool**. We recommend visiting the breathtaking **Corrieshalloch Gorge** and the Falls of Measach.

Alternatively, you can choose a longer drive along the **North Coast 500**, one of Scotland's most scenic driving routes. Pass through the imperious and dramatic landscape of the **Torrison Hills**. Explore the **Inverewe Garden**, a botanical garden which boasts exotic plants and flowers that flourish in Northern Scotland due to the warmth of the Gulf Stream.

Spend the night in the Ullapool area.

Driving distance shorter route: 115 km / 70 miles

Driving distance via North Coast 500: 220 km / 140 miles

Attractions: Black Isle & Moray Firth, Clava Cairns, Corrieshalloch Gorge, Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre, Inverewe Garden, Rogie Falls, Torrison Hills, Ullapool

DAY 5: GAELIC CULTURE & NEOLITHIC MEGALITHS OF LEWIS

This morning catch the ferry from Ullapool to **Stornoway** on the **Isle of Lewis**, where the Gaelic culture and language still thrives. In Stornoway, you could visit the Stornoway Museum located within Lews Castle, which houses exhibits about the island including six of the famous Lewis Chessmen. You will want to make the detour toward the west side of the island to see the spectacular **Callanish Standing Stones**, an impressive collection of Neolithic stone circles and megaliths. We also recommend visiting the **Black Arnol Museum** to learn about the history of the island life.

Spend the night on Lewis or Harris.

Ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway: 2.5 hours

Driving distance: 165 km / 100 miles

Attractions: Arnol Blackhouse Museum, Butt of Lewis, Stornoway, The Callanish Standing Stones

DAY 6: HARRIS & THE GOLDEN ROAD

Today enjoy the beauty of the **Isle of Harris**. You can explore the small village of **Tarbert** and then take in the striking scenery on a drive along "**The Golden Road**" towards Rodal. We recommend exploring the beautiful medieval **St Clement's Church** and going for a walk on **Luskentyre Beach**, one of the most spectacular in Scotland, boasting miles of white sands and dazzling turquoise waters. You can also visit the Harris Tweed outlets for a genuine souvenir, as this tweed is still woven by hand in the Outer Hebrides.

Spend another night on Lewis or Harris.

Driving distance: 70 km / 45 miles

Attractions: Luskentyre Beach, St Clement's Church, Tarbert, The Golden Road

DAY

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DAY 7: ISLAND HOPPING TO SKYE

Today you'll catch the ferry from Tarbert to Uig on the **Isle of Skye**. Upon your arrival on Skye, we recommend a drive around the northern part of the island via the breathtaking **Trotternish Peninsula**. There you can enjoy a walk up to "**The Old Man of Storr**" rock pinnacle and see the beautiful **Kilt Rock** Waterfall. Other highlights include the **Quiraing**, the **An Corran Beach** at Staffin, where you may spot ancient dinosaur footprints, and the mystical Fairy Glen.

Spend the night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

Ferry from Tarbert to Uig: 1 hour and 40 min

Driving distance: 80 km / 50 miles

Attractions: Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls, Old Man of Storr, Quiraing, Staffin & An Corran Beach

DAY

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DAY 8: THE ISLE OF SKYE

Today take full advantage of your day on Skye, a haven for nature and history lovers alike. Take some time to wander around the scenic village of **Portree** with its colourful buildings and local shops. Drive to the west of the island to enjoy a walk to the crystal-clear **Fairy Pools** at the foot of the **Black Cuillin Hills** and discover and taste the local Single Malt whisky of **Talisker Distillery**. In the northern part of the peninsula you can visit the romantic Dunvegan Castle, home to the Chief of Clan MacLeod.

Spend another night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

Driving distance: 145 km / 90 miles

Attractions: Fairy Glen, Isle of Skye, Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls, Old Man of Storr, Portree, Quiraing, Staffin & An Corran Beach

DAY

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DAY 9: THE BEAUTY OF LOCH NESS

Today's journey will bring you back to the Scottish mainland. Make sure to stop at the picturesque **Eilean Donan Castle**, a sight you will surely recognise from many photographs, films and TV shows. Drive all the way to the shores of the mysterious **Loch Ness**, where you can visit the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition. You might also wish to take a boat tour on Loch Ness in search of its notorious and elusive monster, or explore the nearby **Urquhart Castle** ruins on the shores of the loch.

Spend the night in the **Fort William** area.

Included: Entrance to Urquhart Castle

Driving distance: 260 km / 160 miles

Attractions: Eilean Donan Castle, Fort Augustus, Fort William, Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle

DAY
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DAY 10: TRAVEL ALONG DRAMATIC VALLEYS

Today's journey takes you past Scotland's most famous valley, **Glen Coe**, which offers world-famous scenery. You could stop at the **grave of Rob Roy** at Balquidder and the beautiful **Falls of Dochart** in the village of Killin. Alternatively, you could travel the longer scenic route via the seaside town of Oban onto the historical valley of **Kilmartin Glen** and past the charming village of **Inveraray**. This region is considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland, including cairns, standing stones, and castles.

Spend the night in the Trossachs National Park area.

Driving distance via Glen Coe: 130 km / 80 miles

Driving distance via Kilmartin Glen/Inveraray: 285 km / 180 miles

Attractions: Glen Coe, Inveraray & Inveraray Castle, Kilmartin Glen, Loch Lomond

DAY
11

DAY 11: TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK TO EDINBURGH

Today's drive will bring you back to Edinburgh (you can choose to end your trip in Glasgow in the optional activities below). Drive through the **Loch Lomond** and **Trossachs National Park**, where you could stop to take a walk in nature, enjoy an optional steamship tour on **Loch Katrine**, or visit a local whisky distillery. For a fun photo opportunity, don't miss **Doune Castle**, featured in Monty Python & the Holy Grail and Outlander. If time allows, you could also stop by **Stirling Castle**, one of Scotland's top attractions, or at the **Kelpies**, two impressive horse-head sculptures.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

Included: Entrances to Doune Castle and Stirling Castle

Driving distance: 130 km / 80 miles

Attractions: Doune Castle, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Stirling Castle, The Kelpies, Trossachs National Park

DAY
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DAY 12: DEPARTURE FROM SCOTLAND

On your day of departure, we recommend taking the Airlink bus or a taxi directly from your hotel to reach the airport. If you would like to add any additional nights to your trip or to arrange a private transfer, you can do so during the booking process. If your flight is in the afternoon, you may have time for some last-minute shopping, to visit one of Edinburgh's museums, or take one last stroll through the charming city centre.

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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