

# SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

## ITINERARY

DAY

1

### 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*

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

DAY

2

### DAY 2: INTO THE HIGHLANDS

Start your road trip driving into the Highlands. On the way you'll have many possible stops, such as the picturesque village of **Dunkeld** and the 13<sup>th</sup>-century **Blair Castle**. Driving through the **Cairngorms National Park** you could also stop at the **Highland Folk Museum**. Arriving near **Inverness**, you can drive to the **Battlefield of Culloden Moor**, to see where the last battle on British soil occurred in 1746, marking "the beginning of the end for the Highlands." Nearby you can visit **Clava Cairns**, a series of tombs and standing stones dating back roughly 4,000 years.

Spend the night in the Inverness area.

*Driving distance: 251 km / 156 miles*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Blair Castle - Cairngorms National Park - Clava Cairns - Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre - Dunkeld - Highland Folk Museum - Inverness

DAY

3

### DAY 3: THE BEAUTY OF LOCH NESS

Spend some time exploring Inverness, "The Capital of the Highlands", and its surroundings, such as the Black Isle Peninsula and Moray Firth, where dolphins can sometimes be spotted at low tide. Drive south along the shores of the mysterious **Loch Ness**, where you can stop to visit the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition or to try to spot the notorious monster, Nessie. You can also explore the nearby **Urquhart Castle** ruins. You could also opt to take a detour to visit the picturesque Glen Affric.

Continue south to **Fort William**, passing by Scotland's highest mountain, **Ben Nevis**.

Spend the night in the Fort William area.

*Included: Entrance to Urquhart Castle*

*Driving distance: 155 km / 95 miles*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Black Isle & Moray Firth - Fort Augustus - Fort William - Glen Affric - Loch Ness - Urquhart Castle

DAY

4

## DAY 4: EXPLORE FORT WILLIAM AT YOUR LEISURE

You have today to explore the surroundings of Fort William, or you have the option of taking a day trip to the **Isle of Skye**. For Skye we recommend an early start. Before arriving at the island, you can stop by the picturesque **Eilean Donan Castle**. On Skye, you can visit the village of **Portree** and hike to the mystical **Fairy Pools**, from where you can take in the beauty of the **Cuillin Mountains**.

For a more leisurely day, we recommend staying around Fort William. You could board the “Harry Potter train”, the Jacobite Steam Train, which passes by the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** and is considered one of the most beautiful railway journeys in the world. Hikers will love the area and could discover the beautiful Glen Nevis where you can view the Steall Falls, Scotland's second highest waterfall.

Spend another night in the Fort William area.

*Driving distance to Skye and back: 380 km / 235 miles*

*Driving distance around Fort William: 85 km / 55 miles*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Ben Nevis - Eilean Donan Castle - Fairy Pools - Fort William - Glenfinnan - Portree

DAY

5

## DAY 5: 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*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Glencoe - Inveraray & Inveraray Castle - Kilmartin Glen - Loch Lomond

DAY

6

## DAY 6: 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 impressive **Kelpies**, two giant horse-head sculptures.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

*Included: Entrances to Doune Castle and Stirling Castle*

*Driving distance: 130 km / 80 miles*

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Doune Castle - Loch Lomond - Stirling & Stirling Castle - The Kelpies - Trossachs National Park

DAY

7

## DAY 7: 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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