

# SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS & ISLE OF SKYE - PRIVATE ITINERARY

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## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

Upon your arrival in **Edinburgh**, you will be greeted by a private driver who will take you to your hotel in the city centre. For those arriving early in the day, we recommend spending the day 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 beautiful St Giles Cathedral and the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

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

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## DAY 2: INTO THE HIGHLANDS

Today your guide will pick you up from your hotel in a comfortable vehicle to start your private tour. On the way you'll have many possible stops, such as the picturesque village of **Dunkeld**, the 13<sup>th</sup>-century **Blair Castle** and the **Highland Folk Museum** inside the **Cairngorms National Park**. Arriving near **Inverness**, you can visit 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 could also roam around **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*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8-9 hours*

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

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## DAY 3: LOCH NESS, CASTLES & ISLE OF SKYE

Today, the guide will take you from Inverness to the famous **Isle of Skye**. You'll be driven along the shores of **Loch Ness** and, if you have time, take a boat tour in search of its notorious and elusive monster, or go explore the nearby **Urquhart Castle** ruins. Further along the drive, make a stop at the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**. When you arrive on Skye, your first stop will be at the scenic village of **Portree**, where you can explore and admire its colourful buildings and dine at a local restaurant.

Spend the night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

*Included: Entrance to Urquhart Castle*

*Driving distance: 185 km / 115 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 7-8 hours*

**Attractions:** Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Ness, Portree, Urquhart Castle

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## DAY 4: THE ISLE OF SKYE

Today you can take advantage of a full day on Skye, a haven for nature lovers. We recommend exploring the northern part of the island and taking your time around all the attractions on 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** rock face, the **An Corran Beach** at Staffin, where you may spot ancient dinosaur footprints, and the mystical **Fairy Glen**.

Spend another night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

*Driving distance: 70 km / 45 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 6-7 hours*

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

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## DAY 5: SLEAT PENINSULA & GLENFINNAN

Heading south to the Sleat Peninsula, you'll be able to admire the beautiful beaches, lochs, and glens of the region. You may wish to stop on the way to enjoy a walk to the crystal-clear **Fairy Pools** at the foot of the **Black Cuillin Hills** or to sample Single Malt Whisky at the **Talisker Distillery**. In the afternoon, catch a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig on the mainland. Your guide will then drive you to **Fort William**. On the way we recommend stopping at **Camusdarach Beach** and at **Glennfinnan** where you can visit the Glenfinnan Monument, overlooking Loch Shiel, and admire the viaduct, featured in Harry Potter.

Spend the night in the Fort William area.

*Ferry from Armadale to Mallaig: 30 minutes*

*Driving distance: 135 km / 85 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 7-8 hours*

**Attractions:** Camusdarach Beach, Cuillin Mountains, Fairy Pools, Fort William, Glenfinnan, Glenfinnan Viaduct, Talisker Distillery

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## DAY 6: TRAVEL ALONG DRAMATIC GLENS

Today's drive will take you past Scotland's most famous valley, **Glen Coe**, which offers world-famous scenery. You'll then travel along the 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 Kilmartin Glen/Inveraray: 285 km / 180 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8-9 hours*

**Attractions:** Glen Coe, Inveraray & Inveraray Castle, Kilmartin Glen

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## DAY 7: TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK TO EDINBURGH

Your guide will bring you back to Edinburgh (you can choose to end your trip in Glasgow in the optional activities below). It will take you 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*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 6-7 hours*

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

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## DAY 8: DEPARTURE FROM SCOTLAND

On your day of departure, a private driver will pick you up from your hotel to take you directly to the airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you may take your last few hours to do some last-minute shopping, visit one of Edinburgh's many 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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