

a breath of fresh air

THE BEST OF SCOTLAND IN THE SUMMER



Enjoy the very best that Scotland has to offer in Summer 2024

SAVE UP TO £150pp

Discover a Scottish Summer

Summer is just around the corner and if you are planning to holiday at home this year what better destination than Scotland. From May to September the days are long and bright, perfect for exploring everything that this part of the British Isles has to offer.

In these pages you will find our most popular Scottish holidays, that can take you from the northernmost isles of Yell and Unst to the Mull of Galloway in the south-west, and from the Butt of Lewis in the Western Isles to the rolling hills of the Scottish Borders. Whether you want to follow in the footsteps of the Picts, observe ospreys in the Highlands or learn the art of Fair Isle knitting, there is something for every interest.

And if you want to simply sit back and relax as some of the most magnificent scenery in the world passes by at a leisurely pace, we've got that covered too.

So do join us on a Scottish summer staycation that may just surprise you!

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson
Managing Director

Latest Offers

Summer Special Offer*

If you book selected holidays departing in 2024, you can save up to £150pp*

Please quote **SUMMER24** at the time of booking.

*T&C's savings applicable £150pp on UK tours. Offer is valid for tours departing before 31st December 2024. Discount can only be applied at the time of booking via the phone and holidays must be paid for in full at the time of booking. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers – please speak to a Specialist Sales Executive for details. Offer expires 31st May 2024 but may be withdrawn at any time and is not applicable to travel agent bookings or private groups. The prices shown in the following pages include the relevant discount.



Financial Protection

All our holidays are fully bonded and financially protected. Holidays with flights included are protected by ATOL and those without flights by ABTOT.



Get in touch with an expert

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call,
Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on:

01334 845 389

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com



Brightwater Holidays has been bringing groups of guests to our home country of Scotland for over three decades now. With this kind of longevity comes a lot of experience, and our time in the travel industry has allowed us to become the No.1 tour operator for holidays to Scotland. So, choose Brightwater for your next Scottish holiday and see why we're the top choice for this, our most beloved destination.

Broad range of itineraries

We have an incredibly broad range of scenic Scottish holidays, more than any other, and the majority of our tours are well established, as they have been running for decades. We often introduce new itineraries, but the majority are tried and tested.

No and low single supplement

Our Scotland holidays continue to be so popular with guests that we have created as many low and no single supplement spaces as possible to ensure that our trips also cater to our valued solo travellers.

Knowledgeable and experienced tour managers

We have a team of highly experienced tour managers who know Scotland inside out, and as well as ensuring the holiday runs smoothly they will provide key facts and figures about each destination on the tour.

Personal experience of the locations

Between us, the members of the Brightwater team have personally visited every island and destination among our Scottish portfolio. We have extensive experience in our home country, which allows our tours to be the very best they can be.

We cater for different needs and activity levels

As our range of Scottish holidays is so broad, it means that we can cater for all kinds of interests - from ancient archaeological sites to island-hopping adventures and activity levels. So, whether you want to sit back and enjoy the view or head out on an active walking tour, there's something for everyone.

Simply Scotland

With its unique landscapes, rich culture and ancient history, Scotland has so much to offer. The hospitality is as warm and friendly as ever and the range of attractions is huge. Our knowledgeable guides and tour managers will take you on a journey through its geography and history while at the same time ensuring your holiday is relaxing as possible. From island-hopping to great rail journeys, from historic houses to art treasures and from glorious gardens to sublime scenery, Scotland has it all.



Glasgow



Outer Hebrides



Barra Airport

5 DAYS FROM £945	6 DAYS FROM £1,345	SAVE PER PERSON £150
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A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

Whether you choose our five or six day itinerary, our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with ten different islands and four ferry trips included. Two comfortable hotels ensure that this holiday is as relaxing as possible while at the same time offering great variety and the sense of a true journey of discovery which will live long in the memory. Our odyssey begins as we travel via Glencoe, Fort William and Glenfinnan to Mallaig. From here we take the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist and cross the causeway to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists, before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.

A captivating journey follows as we travel through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris, the rolling moorland of Lewis, and on to Stornoway. We continue with visits to the Standing Stones of Callanish (the main Callanish site will be closed from 1 Sept 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead), the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrannan.



Gearrannan

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) for Mallaig, where we take the ferry to Lochboisdale, with dinner served on board. On arrival we continue to our hotel in **Benbecula**, the 'stepping stone' between North and South Uist. (*D*)

Day 2 We drive south, cross the causeway to the island of **Eriskay** and continue by ferry to **Barra**. We will visit **Castlebay** with views of **Kisimul Castle**; watch as the plane lands on the beach which serves as the island's runway, and visit **Vatersay** with its amazing beaches of white sand and turquoise sea. (*B, D*)



Kisimul Castle

Day 3 We travel north today as we take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on the isle of **Harris**, visiting **St Clement's Church** at Rodel before continuing through the mountains to **Lewis** and our hotel in Stornoway. *(B, D)*

Day 4 The 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish***, **Black Houses of Gèarrannan** and **Norse Mill** at Shawbost await us today. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We visit **Lewis Castle and Museum** and **St. Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites in the area. We then see the **Port of Ness** and the **Butt of Lewis**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We take an early ferry to **Ullapool** and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

*Our Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula. *The main Callanish site will be closed from 1 September 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED 6-DAY ITINERARY

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island / Isle of Benbecula Hotel and three nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway *(one dinner and one breakfast served on board the ferry)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

2024		
26 - 31 May	£1,495	£1,345
23 - 28 Jun	£1,575	£1,425
22 - 27 Sept	£1,495	£1,345

STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

2024		
14 - 19 May	£1,575	£1,425
19 - 24 Aug	£1,495	£1,345
Single Supplement		£250

Tour code: **BGTS / BGTB**

5-DAY ITINERARY

We also offer a five-day itinerary exploring the delights of these charming islands. Highlights include: Cockleshell Beach, the Standing Stones of Callanish*, the Norse Mill at Shawbost and much more.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula and two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway *(one dinner and one breakfast served aboard the ferry)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
30 Sep - 4 Oct	£1,095	£945
Single Supplement		£200

Tour code: **BGTO**



Westray, Orkney islands

5 DAYS FROM £1,345	SAVE PER PERSON £150	NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT*
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Undiscovered Orkney

An archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, Orkney is home to boundless history and natural beauty. Based in Kirkwall, on the mainland, we will discover the landmarks and landscapes of the North and South Isles. On Westray, we relive Orkney's Viking past; on Mainland, we discover Neolithic Orkney; and on Hoy, we enjoy dramatic scenery as we sail across the Scapa Flow. Over the years we have explored almost every nook and cranny of Orkney, yet these beautiful islands contain many more secrets and hidden gems that demand to be discovered.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and travel north to Scrabster, where we catch the ferry to Orkney. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit **Westray**, the 'Queen of the Orkney Isles'. Our tour here starts at the **Scaun Natural Arch**, at Westray's northmost point, home seabirds such as the Shag, Black Guillemot and Fulmar. After a visit to the unique **Quoygrew** 10th century Norse site, we will visit the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village, and then **Castle O'Burrian**, one of the best places to see puffins in Orkney. Finally we visit the **Westray Heritage Centre**, and **Noltland Castle**. (B, D)

Day 3 Tour the island of **Hoy**, the second largest island in Orkney, which is mountainous in the north and flatter and more fertile in the south. Here, we visit the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit the **Scapa Flow Museum**, which was in the final

shortlist of five in the Art Fund Museum of the Year awards in 2023. In the afternoon we'll pay a visit to the stone-built **Martello Tower** at Hackness and the **Naval Cemetery**, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in this important theatre of two world wars. (B, D)

Day 4 We have a full day excursion of mainland Orkney visiting the many archaeological sites including **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe; **Skara Brae**, a world famous monument; and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**. Later, we continue to Stromness to visit the local Museum and the Pier Arts Centre, and then it's on to the **Highland Park Distillery** for a tour and tasting. (B, D)

Day 5 We catch the ferry back to the mainland and visit the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale before returning to our original departure points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Scapa Flow Museum
©Orkney Islands Council

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 14 Jun	£1,565	£1,415
27 - 31 Aug	£1,495	£1,345
<i>Single Supplement</i>		£175
<i>No single supplement in August*</i>		

Tour code: **BUOR**



St. Ninian's Isle

5 DAYS FROM
£1,795

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Orkney and Shetland by Air

You asked and we listened! As it's a long way by road and sea, we have launched this alternative itinerary that explores the glorious and wild Orkney and Shetland Isles, which includes a flight from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh and back from Kirkwall. This makes the journey to the start point of our tour far shorter and avoids us having to take an overnight sailing to Lerwick. Over the course of five memorable days, we will explore lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds as we lose ourselves in the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

Day 1 We depart from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh. On arrival we transfer to the cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve renowned for the seabirds that reside here. We continue to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3,000 years of human habitation. Other highlights today include **Scalloway**, the former capital, and the spectacular cliffs of **Eshaness**. (D)

Day 2 This morning begins with some free time **Lerwick**. This afternoon we visit the Iron Age broch on the little island of **Mousa**. Remarkably the broch of Mousa still stands to its original height of 13m. (B, D)

Day 3 We depart from Sumburgh to Kirkwall. On arrival, we visit the **Churchill Barriers** and the **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. Several hundred Italians, captured during the North African campaign of World War II, were sent here to work on the Barriers that

Churchill ordered to be built following the sinking of HMS Royal Oak in 1939, and converted two huts into a chapel. Later, we return to **Kirkwall** for some free time and a chance to visit the architectural masterpiece of **St. Magnus Cathedral**. (B, D)

Day 4 Today we head west into the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**, where we find some of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in Europe, including the mysterious stone circles at **Stenness** and **Brodgar**, the chambered tomb at **Maeshowe** and the famous stone age village at **Skara Brae**. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to Kirkwall airport for our return flight to Aberdeen or Edinburgh. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Skara Brae

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel, Shetland and two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ Flights from Aberdeen (Edinburgh flight supplement £100pp) to Sumburgh, Sumburgh to Kirkwall, and Kirkwall to Aberdeen
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
25 - 29 May	£1,945	£1,795
21 - 25 Aug	£1,995	£1,845
Single Supplement	from £275	

Tour code: BAOS



Sumburgh Head

5 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Shetland and its Outer Isles

If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. As close to Norway as it is to Scotland, Shetland is rugged and remote, with a raw natural beauty, a unique culture and wonderful wildlife. There are over a hundred islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited, each with its own individual character, and our tour offers the opportunity to visit four of them, providing a real taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago, not to mention the simple pleasure of travelling by boats, both large and small, as the indomitable inhabitants of these islands have done for hundreds of years.

We visit the little island of Mousa, whose Iron Age broch is the best-preserved example anywhere in the world, the Shetland Croft House Museum which gives an insight into a typical 19th century croft, while Jarlshof provides a unique archaeological time-capsule, spanning 3,000 years of successive settlements. Finally we have a tour of the northernmost islands of Yell and Unst, a day of stunning seascapes and air so fresh it takes your breath away.



Shetland

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven*) and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to Lerwick with Serco Northlink Ferries. *(D)*

Day 2 Disembarking at Lerwick, we begin our visits at the **Shetland Croft Museum**, housed in a typical thatched croft house of the 19th century restored with traditional materials, low doorways and uneven floors and warmed by a peat fire. Next, we explore the outstanding Norse settlement of **Jarlshof**, with over three acres of remains, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval shaped bronze age houses, iron age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon, weather permitting, we visit the little island of **Mousa** and the 2,000 year old broch, the best preserved example in the world. The



Lerwick

island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. Storm petrels, Arctic terns and skuas nest here, and harbour seals lounge on the shore. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we enjoy a full day tour to the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. We travel north through Tingwall and Girsta and past the oil terminal at **Sullom Voe**, which has transformed life in Shetland since it started operating in 1973, before arriving at Toft, where the ferry departs

for the island of Yell. On arrival in Unst, we visit **Muness Castle**, **Baltsound** and **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we return to **Lerwick** to enjoy some free time. Later, we take the overnight ferry to Aberdeen. (B, D)

Day 5 We disembark and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Mousa Broch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

3 - 7 Jul	£1,395	£1,245
17 - 21 Aug	£1,395	£1,245
Single Supplement		£325
Outside cabin supplement		£55

Tour code: **BSHI**



Fair isle knitting

6 DAYS FROM

£1,495

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

Even those who think they know all there is to know about the art of knitting can pick up a thing or two in the scenic Shetland Isles, and we're not just talking about those pesky dropped stitches! There are workshops aplenty, both starting off our mornings and rounding off our afternoons. These present the perfect opportunity to hone our skills - and perhaps even learn some new ones - under the watchful eye of experienced local tutors.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee*) and travel to Aberdeen for our overnight sailing to **Shetland**. (D)

Day 2 On arrival in Lerwick we travel to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We stop at **Sumburgh Head**, a windswept sanctuary for all manner of birds. This afternoon we visit the award-winning **Textile Gallery of the Shetland Museum** and Archives for a guided tour to learn all about the knitwear that once supported the island's economy. Our final visit is the **Shetland Textile Museum**, where we find an inspiring collection of local pieces, housed in a restored 18th century fishing station, or "böð". (B, D)

Day 3 This morning we are joined by our local tutor for the first of our **interactive workshops** to learn the basics of Shetland hand knitting. After lunch, we depart for a visit to the **Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick**, where we discover an inventive range of alternative knitwear, including hand-spun batts just waiting to be used.

We continue to **Hoswick** where we will call in at the **Visitor Centre**, housed in a former woollen mill. The Centre includes weaving machinery, local items and an interpretation of the Hoswick Whale case. We will also visit the Laurence Odie Knitwear outlet at **Hoswick Woollen Mill**. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We depart on a tour of the southern mainland of Shetland which includes **St Ninian's Isle** and **Mavis Grind**, the only place in the UK where you can throw a stone from the North Sea to the Atlantic. We return to our hotel in the afternoon for the second of our **knitting workshops**. (B, L, D)

Day 5 This morning we enjoy a final **knitting workshop** with a local tutor. After lunch, we head to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland. We continue to **Lerwick** where the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure before we board the ferry back to Aberdeen. (B, L, D)

Day 6 We arrive in Aberdeen and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch,

D: Dinner



Jarlshof

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 24 Sep	£1,645	£1,495
Single Supplement		£375
Outside cabin supplement		£55

Tour code: BKS4



Dun Carloway Broch

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. In the company of a specialist guide we will tour a succession of sites, from Lewis in the north to Harris in the south. Highlights include the Bosta Iron Age Village, the Standing Stones and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

Day 1 Depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head north to **Ullapool** to catch the early evening ferry to Stornoway and our centrally located hotel.

Day 2 We cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit **Bosta Iron Age Village** and the nearby **museum**. From here we travel to the 5,000 year old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles. In the afternoon we visit **St Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on the island. *(B)*

Day 3 Following breakfast we travel south to **Harris**, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous and fringed by superb white sandy beaches. Here we visit **St Clement's Church** at Rodel, whose tombs are among the most spectacular

in Scotland, followed by the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton, a chance to learn how island communities have evolved over the centuries. We continue to the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid**, which overlooks the island of Taransay. Finally, we return to Stornoway and visit **Lewis Castle**. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we discover the stunning scenery of **Lewis** as we take a journey through time from the Bronze and Iron Ages to the days of Norse settlement and the more recent past. Visits include **Carloway Broch, Black Houses, Norse Mill** and the standing stone **Clach an Trushal**. *(B)*

Day 5 We take the ferry from Stornoway to **Ullapool** then continue our journey back to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



Standing Stones of Callanish

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 3-star Royal Hotel, Stornoway
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of archaeological expert Carol Knott as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024	
6 - 10 Jul	£1,345 £1,195
Single Supplement	£175

Tour code: **BAOH**



Blackwaterfoot

5 DAYS FROM
£1,045

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

Often described as “Scotland in Miniature”, Arran has a blend of Highland and Island scenery with granite peaks and deep glens to the north of the island, contrasting with its rolling and lush farmlands to the south. From our base in Blackwaterfoot, we visit Brodick Castle and its wonderful gardens, we enjoy a circular tour of Arran that passes through Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Corrie and Sannox, and we can look forward to both a tour and a tasting at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head to Ardrossan for our ferry to Arran and transfer to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. (D)

Day 2 Today we have a **circular tour** visiting **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie, Sannox, Catacol, Pirnmill** and **Isle of Arran Distillery**. Only 56 miles around its coastline, the small villages are compared to ‘jewels on a necklace’ strung out like pearls around the island. (B, D)

Day 3 Explore at your leisure or take an optional excursion to the little Hebridean **island of Gigha** including a visit to **Achamore Gardens**. Nestling close to the mainland just off the

Kintyre peninsula, this is a gem of an island often overlooked by the island-hopper. Sir James Horlick came here in 1944 and created a woodland garden. The mild climate combined with high rainfall means that there is always something in bloom. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we visit **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, looking east across the Firth of Clyde. The present garden dates from 1932 when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast we depart on the morning ferry to Ardrossan and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Brodick Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot
- ▶ Return ferry crossings
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 24 May	£1,195	£1,045
12 - 16 Aug	£1,195	£1,045
9 - 13 Sept	£1,195	£1,045
Single Supplement		£180
Optional excursion Gigha		on request

Tour code: **BARR**



Duart Castle

4 DAYS FROM
£1,345 SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Mull, Staffa and Iona

The Isle of Mull is a place of tumbling burns, high peaks, dramatic views, and a silent, lonely beauty. We will explore some of the highlights of the island including the multi-coloured buildings that line the waterfront of the island's principal town, Tobermory. We sail on a wildlife cruise that takes us to the Treshnish Isles, and the little island of Staffa, whose natural cathedral of basalt columns is one of the wonders of the west coast. We also visit Duart Castle, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean and the sacred isle of Iona.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head for **Oban**, where we board the late afternoon ferry to **Mull**. (D)

Day 2 Today we will drive through the spectacular scenery of the Ross of Mull to Fionnphort, from where we cross as foot passengers to the 'sacred isle' of **Iona**. Here you have the opportunity to visit the **Abbey** and wander over the island, taking in the atmosphere of calm and contemplation which attracts visitors from all over the world. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we depart for **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital', and the starting point for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. We will land on the idyllic Isle of **Lunga**, the largest of the Treshnish Isles which is

surrounded by wildflowers and stunning scenery. The main attraction that can be seen close up (*June departure only*) is the large puffin colony nesting in burrows on the grassy hillside. Next, we take the short crossing to the geological wonder of **Staffa**, which was formed by volcanic eruptions over 50 million years ago. We have a chance to explore the island and the massive natural cathedral known as **Fingal's Cave**. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Today we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We can explore the dungeons, the state rooms and appreciate the strategic position of the castle from the top of the keep before our ferry crossing back to the mainland and our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Staffa

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the comfortable Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craignure
- ▶ One packed lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
29 Jun- 2 Jul	£1,495	£1,345
29 Sept- 2 Oct	£1,495	£1,345
Single Supplement		£395

Tour code: **BMSI**



Dolphins, Moray Firth

4 DAYS FROM £745	SAVE PER PERSON £150	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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Highland Wildlife Safari

Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size. This tour of the Highlands aims to provide close encounters with a wide range of wildlife, all set against a backdrop of magnificent scenery.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) for the **Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve**, where the star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys. We continue to the **Highland Wildlife Park**, near Aviemore, which has an extensive collection of both native and exotic animals. (*D*)

Day 2 We make our way to **Inverness**, capital of the Highlands, where we will leave for our **Dolphin Cruise** and head out onto the Moray Firth. We hope to see a variety of bird life such as terns, gannets, fulmars, razorbills, kittiwakes, red kites and ospreys, and a variety of wading birds on the shoreline. We later visit the **House of Aigas Field Centre** near Beauly. Here we will enjoy **lunch using produce from the estate** before embarking on a guided walk around the estate to view the beaver dam, Scottish Wildcat project and other native wildlife such as red squirrels. (*B, L, D*)

Day 3 After breakfast we travel through some glorious mountain scenery to

Loch Maree, where we enjoy a gentle woodland walk at the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**. It is the oldest nature reserve in Britain comprising 10,500 acres and it was established in 1951. In the afternoon, we visit **Inverewe Gardens**, unquestionably recognised as one of the most outstanding gardens in the country with a host of botanical specimens, both native and exotic. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We visit the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten, where we hope to see a number of different birds, including the crested tit, crossbills and ospreys. Continuing south, our final stop is at the RSPB Reserve at **Insh Marshes**, near Kingussie. The marshes, part of the River Spey floodplain, are home to large populations of breeding waders, including Curlews, Lapwings, Redshanks and Snipes. We then return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Craiglynn Hotel, Speyside (*or similar*)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 24 Jun	£895	£745
19 - 22 Jul	£925	£775
Single Supplement		£90

Tour code: **BHWS**



Aberlemno Pictish Stone

4 DAYS FROM

£645

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

In the Footsteps of the Picts

Living beyond the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, the people of northern Scotland in the Dark Ages were known as the Picts – a name given by the Romans meaning the ‘painted, tattooed ones’. They were renowned as one of the most warlike of the Celtic barbarian tribes of Europe, successfully attacking the Roman army, and yet few of their homes or forts have ever been found. They did, however, leave behind some of the finest carved stones and jewellery from early medieval Europe.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh*) and head to the **National Museum of Scotland**. Here we view their collection of the Pictish jewellery and sculpture held here, which includes the **St Ninian’s Isle Treasure**, which was discovered in Shetland in 1958 and is the only Scottish hoard of fine metalwork of this date to survive in its entirety. (*D*)

Day 2 We enjoy a sculptural high-point with a visit to **Aberlemno**, with its four magnificent Pictish stones. We then visit a professional stone-carver, **David McGovern**, who will give us an exclusive Pictish stone carving demonstration. Then we travel the short distance to **St Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture**, which houses one of the most important collections of early medieval sculpture in Western Europe. (*B, D*)

Day 3 Today begins with a visit to the symbol-inscribed cross-slab depicting angels and a striding cloaked figure at Eassie. From here we continue to **Perth Museum** with its fine display of Pictish sculpture, and Dundee’s **McManus Museum** to meet a digital reconstruction of a Pictish woman. (*B, D*)

Day 4 This morning we drive to **St Andrews**, where we see the decorated stone sarcophagus of a great Pictish king, featuring biblical royal imagery along with artistic influences showing their European connections. Our final visit is to the **East Lomond Hillfort**, for a specially-arranged tour led by the leader of the current archaeological investigations. We return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



St Andrews Cathedral

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Links Hotel, Montrose
- ▶ Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (*Peter Yeoman in June*)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 17 Jun	£795	£645
2 - 5 Aug	£795	£645
Single Supplement		£60

Tour code: **BPIC**

Destination Inspiration

We asked three of our Scottish Tour Managers to tell us about their favourite parts of Scotland. Here's what they said:



Sue

Pomeroy

"I've been lucky enough to travel all over the world but nowhere compares to the place I now call home. Inverewe Gardens has to be one of my favourite spots, with its exotic plants, native wildlife and glorious views."



Alastair

Walker

"For me, nothing beats the rail journey from Fort William to Mallaig. As the train slows down and crosses the viaduct at Glenfinnan you can hear the oohs and aahs echo throughout the carriage!"



David

MacLennan

"The Outer Hebrides are hard to beat for scenery and I love Orkney and Shetland, but I do have a special affection for the Scottish Borders with its fine mansions and rolling hills."



Inverewe Gardens



Jacobite train



Orkney



Glen Coe

7 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland provide such a wealth of scenic journeys that it can be a daunting prospect to work out how best to take them all in. This tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems. At the same time it provides a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys: driving through Glen Coe, travelling by train along the West Highland Line, a round trip on the historic Jacobite steam train and cruise along Loch Linnhe, in the shadow of Ben Nevis.



Cairngorm funicular railway

Day 1 Assembling at Glasgow Queen Street Station where our tour begins, we depart on a rail journey for **Fort William**, with views of mountains, lochs and glens. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we drive down to Oban and take the ferry to **Mull** to visit **Duart Castle** and **Tobermory** before crossing by ferry to **Morvern** and returning to our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After a look at the canal locks known as **Neptune's Staircase**, we cruise on **Loch Linnhe** and take a scenic drive through the magnificent mountain scenery of **Glen Coe**, an ancient volcanic caldera. *(B, D)*



Tobermory

Day 4 A treat lies in store as we ride aboard the **Jacobite steam train** forging over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** to **Mallaig**, following 'The Road to the Isles'. *[B, D]*

Day 5 We cruise on **Loch Ness**, with views of the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**, and travel to the shores of the **Moray Firth** where we hope to spot the resident pod of dolphins. *[B, D]*

Day 6 Using the scheduled diesel train service from Inverness, our route takes us through Strath Bran and the isolated little station at Achnasheen, on into Strath Carron to the head of Loch Carron, passing Stromeferry, the one-time terminus of the line, before we reach the current terminus at **Kyle of Lochalsh**. This afternoon, we visit the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**. *[B, D]*

Day 7 Board the **Cairngorm funicular railway** for sweeping views. Later, we'll catch the train from Aviemore to Glasgow, where the group will disperse or make onward connections. *[B]*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Duart Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Fort William area and three nights in the Inverness area
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
1 - 7 Sept	£1,895	£1,745
Single Supplement		£195

Tour code: **BSJH**



Cawdor Castle

5 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Castles and Palaces of the Highlands

This tour takes us through some of the most stunning and dramatic landscapes of Scotland. We head north to Blair Castle, nestled in the secluded Perthshire countryside. From our base in the heart of Speyside we visit a compilation of castles including the privately owned Ballindalloch Castle, the château-style Dunrobin Castle and blush-coloured Brodie Castle. We also stand in awe beneath the mighty ramparts of Fort George, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. The highlight of the tour is our visit to Cawdor Castle, immortalised in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as the scene of King Duncan's murder, where we are delighted to be joined by Lady Cawdor herself for a private drinks reception.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) and head north to **Blair Castle**, home to some of the finest views in Scotland, not to mention the only private army in Britain. A **private guided tour** of the Castle has been arranged, after which we enjoy a **light lunch**. (*L, D*)

Day 2 This morning we visit **Ballindalloch Castle**, a privately owned castle that is a much-loved home and has been continuously lived in by the original family since the 16th century. Then we head to **Cawdor**, home to a magnificent garden, that includes vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden, a peony walk and a kitchen garden. **Lady Cawdor** will host a **drinks reception** and share her experiences as a chatelaine. (*B, D*)

Day 3 We travel north into Sutherland for a full day at **Dunrobin Castle**, which appears to have been plucked from the Loire Valley. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We visit **Brodie Castle**, which has been the ancestral home of the Brodie clan for over 400 years, and continue with a visit to **Fort George**, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. (*B, D*)

Day 5 We conclude in the historic surroundings of **Scone Palace**, where we have a guided tour of the gardens in the company of Head Gardener **Brian Cunningham** of Beechgrove Garden fame. We will also explore the palace and have lunch before returning to our pick-up points. (*B, L*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



Blair Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Grant Arms Hotel, Granttown-on-Spey
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 21 Jul	£1,395	£1,245
Single Supplement		£240

Tour code: **BPHL**



Balmoral

4 DAYS FROM
£795

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is dotted with historic houses and castles, many of them outstanding examples of Scots Baronial architecture. Each one has a fascinating story to tell with countless legends and several royal connections including Balmoral, sadly now remembered as the place where Her Majesty The Queen passed away.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee*) and head to **Drum Castle and Gardens**. The sweep of 700 years of history is stamped into Drum's stalwart battlements, medieval square tower and sprawling extensions. The beautiful Garden of Historic Roses is divided into quadrants that show how roses have been cultivated from the 17th to the 20th century and an ancient oak forest adjoins the castle. (*D*)

Day 2 Our first visit of the day is to **Haddo House**. Unusual for Aberdeenshire in that it is not a castle, the house elegantly blends Georgian architecture with late Victorian interiors. We'll also see its terrace garden with geometric rosebeds, a lavish herbaceous border and secluded glades. Later we visit the magnificent fortress of **Fyvie Castle** with ghosts, legends and folklore woven into its 800-year history. Outside we find an

18th century walled garden for fruit and veg. (*B, D*)

Day 3 We start at **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest of the Scottish baronial tower houses, with a strikingly simple Great Hall. Next is **Craigievar Castle**, another fine example of Scots Baronial architecture, which seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. We round off the day at **Balmoral**, which needs little introduction as a favourite royal residence. Built around 1854 for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, it is relatively modern though clearly in the style of a 'Scottish' castle. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We conclude at **Crathes Castle**, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and within its own glorious gardens. Crathes is every inch the classic Scottish tower house, with a labyrinth of cultural and family history. We then return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Haddo House

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 6 Jun	£945	£795
Single Supplement		£150

Tour code: **BHHA**



Mellerstain

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders are often overlooked in comparison with the Highlands and Islands, whose grandeur and drama have an obvious attraction. Yet the Borders have a quiet, understated beauty of their own, with softly rolling hills draped in early morning mist, peaceful valleys dotted with sheep farms and the sinuous, salmon-filled River Tweed, which runs like a silver thread from the Lowther Hills to the sea at Berwick.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh*) and drive into the Scottish Borders for our visit to **Manderston House**, built in the finest Georgian country house style in the 1790s. The mansion was rebuilt in the early 20th century, and when the architect asked how much he could spend, he was told that “it simply doesn’t matter.” (*D*)

Day 2 Travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. There are extensive grounds leading down to the River Tweed and a fine walled garden, however it is the house that steals the show. In the afternoon we visit **Traquair House**, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. (*B, D*)

Day 3 We visit **Mellerstain House**, one of Scotland’s great Georgian houses, then move on to Kelso to visit **Floors Castle**, home of the Duke & Duchess of Roxburghe, situated on a natural terrace overlooking the River Tweed. This fairytale castle boasts a roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We conclude at **Thirlestane Castle**, a magnificent 16th century castle set in a quiet meadow. The family home of the Duke of Lauderdale, Thirlestane Castle is one of the finest castles in Scotland, and dates to at least the 12th century. Lunch is provided in the authentic Victorian Kitchen here. We return to our original pick-up points. (*B, L*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



Floors Castle

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Peebles Hydro Hotel
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 18 Sept	£995	£845
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BHSB**



Kelvingrove Museum

4 DAYS FROM £495	SAVE PER PERSON £150	NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

Re-opened in March 2022 after an ambitious refurbishment, Glasgow's Burrell Collection allows visitors for the first time to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries, visible stores and special exhibition spaces. This incredible collection holds treasures from all over the world, including 5,000-year-old porcelain from China, paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas, and medieval artefacts such as stained glass, armour and tapestries. Our tour includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where notable works of art from across Britain and Europe are featured alongside a diverse collection of exhibits; the Hunterian, Scotland's oldest public museum, the Gallery of Modern Art located in the centre of Glasgow, Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built in the 1990s to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1901.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) to visit the **Gallery of Modern Art** housed in an impressive neo-classical building in Royal Exchange Square. Outside is one of Glasgow's iconic landmarks, the cheekily crowned equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington. (*D*)

Day 2 Today we explore the **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** and the **Hunterian Museum**, part of the University of Glasgow, which was founded in 1807, making it Scotland's oldest public museum. You may be interested in viewing the **Mackintosh Collection** here. (*B, D*)

Day 3 We start our day at the **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and far-reaching refurbishment programme, was voted **Art Fund Museum of the Year** in 2023. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. (*B, D*)

Day 4 Today we visit the **House for an Art Lover**, whose origins lie in drawings prepared by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1901 as his entry to a competition. We later return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Gallery of Modern Art

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Best Western Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 16 Sep	£645	£495
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: **BGAT**



Smoo Cave

4 DAYS FROM

£525

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

Scotland's Extreme North West

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at this time of year.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head north to the tip of the north west coastline and our accommodation at the **Kinlochbervie Hotel**, which overlooks the fishing harbour and the open sea beyond. (*D*)

Day 2 Today we travel south into **Assynt**, an extraordinary landscape of vast, undulating moorland studded with hundreds of freshwater lochans. We will spend some time in **Lochinver**, a large village with a busy harbour, set on the shores of Loch Inver with superb views inland to the famous mountain of **Suilven** (*2,389ft*), which presents a fearsome sight with its seemingly unconquerable summit. (*B, D*)

Day 3 This morning we will have a walk along the beach at **Oldshoremore**, one of the most beautiful in Scotland,

before travelling up the single track road and through spectacular scenery to **Durness**, where we will visit the beautiful old church graveyard of **Balnakeil**. We will also visit the wonderful chocolatier at **Cocoa Mountain** where you have the opportunity to buy the finest hot chocolate drink anywhere in the world (*official!*). We also visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** and the old Norse settlement of **Tongue**. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We begin our homeward journey, which takes us through more splendid scenery as we travel via **Laxford Bridge, Loch More, Loch Shin and Lairg**, crossing high moorland and secluded straths. We continue via **Bonar Bridge and Tain** and return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Suilven

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 11 Oct	£695	£545
22 - 25 Oct	£675	£525
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BXNW**



Ardvreck Castle

5 DAYS FROM £945	SAVE PER PERSON £150	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

On the northern edge of Scotland, where ancient rock meets restless sea, the views are among the most spectacular to be found in the British Isles. Dunnet Head in particular, the most northerly point on the mainland, offers extensive sea views, as do the cliffs at Duncansby Head. Following much of the North Coast 500 route, our tour also takes in John O'Groats and the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey; the impressive Smoo Cave and the Knockan Crag Geo Park, which tells the story of the unique geology of the area and also provides some of the most stunning views on this highly scenic tour.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head to our hotel in Thurso. (D)

Day 2 We visit **Duncansby Head**, which offers stunning views from the cliff top. After a brief stop at **John O'Groats**, the landmark at the "end of the road", we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, former holiday home of the late Queen Mother, and **Dunnet Head**, which boasts some of the most extensive views in Scotland. (B, D)

Day 3 We travel to **Tongue**, where we have some free time for lunch before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** then continue to our hotel in Kinlochbervie. (B, D)

Day 4 We travel to **Knockan Crag**, an open air visitor centre within the NW Highlands Geo Park with information panels describing the history and

geology of the local landscape, which also enjoys stunning views across the Sutherland hills. We continue with a look around the ruins of **Ardvreck Castle** and then on to **Lochinver** for some free time and an opportunity for lunch (*not included*). After a visit to **Highland Stoneware**, which produces beautiful hand-painted pottery, we continue over the highly scenic road via Drumbeg and Eddrachillis Bay back to Kinlochbervie. (B, D)

Day 5 We journey home today, travelling via **Laxford Bridge, Loch More, Loch Shin, Lairg, Bonar Bridge** and finally **Tain**. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



John O'Groats

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the 3-star Station Hotel, Thurso (*or similar*) and two nights at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 14 Sept	£1,095	£945
Single Supplement		£90

Tour code: **BSNE**

Destination Inspiration

Here's what some of our guests have had to say about their holidays in Scotland.

Highly enjoyable. We managed to see so much of the islands thanks to the knowledge of our local driver and the enthusiasm of our tour manager. I had a list of must-sees, all of which I saw, and so much more besides.

Guest on Shetland and its Outer Isles,
July 2023



Shetland

It was a well-organised and interesting trip, which visited several museums and sites I wouldn't have reached on my own. Our tour manager was reassuring, well informed and genial.

Guest on Glasgow's Art Treasures,
March 2024



Gallery of Modern Art



Jacobite train

Wonderful! We saw amazing places and were looked after throughout. Hotel accommodation was very good and our tour manager was extremely informative and cheerful.

Guest on A Classic Scottish Steam Break, August 2023



Glen Coe

Good, interesting guide and lovely people on the trip. Saw many places and appreciated the space of Scotland.

Guest on Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands, June 2023



Logan Botanic Garden

4 DAYS FROM

£695

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

In the south-western corner of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. The artistic highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire and which King Charles helped to save. One of the Adam Brothers' finest achievements, the stunning interiors showcase a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, while the walled garden is one of the most exciting new garden developments in all of Scotland.

We see something rather different at Broughton House – an artist's garden at the restored former home of 'Glasgow Boy' E. A. Hornel, which shows the influence of his time in Japan and is always full of colour. Further highlights include Drumlanrig Castle, one of the most important Renaissance buildings in Scotland, and Crawick Multiverse, a gem hidden among the rolling hills of Dumfriesshire.

Former Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley Colin Crosbie will lead our July and September departures.



Drumlanrig Castle

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head for **Dumfries House**, whose stunning interiors are home to a world class collection of furniture, and explore the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland. We continue to our hotel in Dumfries. *(D)*



Dumfries House

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the lavishly planted **Glenwhan Garden**, with marvellous views over Luce Bay. At its heart is an extensive pool, divided by a grassy causeway and fed by a tumbling stream. This afternoon we explore the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**. The gardens are beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well-planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. The climate here is exceptionally mild and several different habitats provide conditions for a huge range of plants. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning sees us at the former artist's studio of **Broughton House**, whose compact but colourful garden displays Japanese influences. Next we spend some more time in **Kirkcudbright**, a haven for artists, as paid testament to by its abundance of art galleries. We visit one such gallery and browse the work of local artists. Following this we visit the wonderful

plantsman's nursery of **Ellenbank**. This wonderful nursery is full of cottage garden perennials such as violas, clematis and penstemons. Our last visit of the day will be to the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, whose extensive gardens have been largely created by students at the School of Horticulture which started here in 1960. (B, D)

Day 4 Art and horticulture are beautifully combined at **Drumlanrig Castle**. Surrounded by the 120,000 acre Queensberry Estate, Country Park and grand Victorian gardens, Drumlanrig Castle was completed in 1691 by William Douglas, 1st Duke of Queensberry and is one of the first and most important Renaissance buildings in the grand manner in Scotland. Our final visit is to the **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled among rolling hills. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Cairndale Hotel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in July and September)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 5 Jun	£845	£695
21 - 24 Jul	£845	£695
15 - 18 Sep	£845	£695
Single Supplement		£160

Tour code: **BDAG**



Inverewe

5 DAYS FROM
£1,145

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Gardens of the Northern Highlands

A journey to the far north of Scotland brings many rewards, not least the sense of freedom and open space to be found in the thrilling seascapes of the coasts or the vast, empty expanses of mountain and moorland. Rewards also come in the shape of some enchanting castles and gardens, which we have threaded together to bring out the best of this remote and unspoilt region. Top of the bill is Inverewe, a truly wonderful garden, which involves a journey to the wild beauty of the west coast through some of the most spectacular scenery to be found anywhere in the world. Another highlight is the garden at the Castle of Mey, the much-loved former summer home of the late Queen Mother.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) and head north, stopping for lunch in Pitlochry (*not included*). We continue with a visit to **Cullooden House Gardens**, which was given a stylish new look some years ago. Later we continue to our accommodation in Inverness. (D)

Day 2 We have a long but most rewarding day as we drive across the north of Scotland to visit **Dundonnell House Garden**. The current owner has added delightful new borders for year-round colour, centred on an enormous and ancient yew tree over 300 years old. Our second visit of the day is to **Inverewe**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country. We will return to Inverness via **Loch Maree** and **Achnasheen**, another spectacularly scenic journey. (B, D)

Day 3 We head north to **Dunrobin Castle**, the chateau-style ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland, with a magnificent example of a formal 19th century garden. We then visit the private garden **Langwell**, a beautiful old walled garden with spectacular borders situated in the secluded Langwell Strath. We continue to our small but comfortable hotel in Thurso. (B, D)

Day 4 Travel along the northern coast to **Bighouse Lodge**, situated at the mouth of the River Halladale. This afternoon we will visit the **Castle of Mey**, the former holiday home of the late Queen Mother. (B, D)

Day 5 We head for home with two further visits en route, the private gardens of **Old Allangrange** and the **Lookout** at North Kessock. (B, D)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Dunrobin Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Palace Hotel, Inverness and two nights at the Station Hotel, Thurso
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 12 Jul	£1,295	£1,145
Single Supplement		£395

Tour code: **BGNH**



Mount Stuart

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195 SAVE PER PERSON
£150

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute

The West Highland Line from Glasgow to Oban is one of the most scenic in Scotland, and unjustly receives less attention than the more famous routes. Here there are many visual delights to enjoy, such as the views over Loch Long and Loch Lomond, the remote Glen Douglas, and the dramatic ruins of Kilchurn Castle. Enjoy the two island gems of little Gigha, home to Achamore Gardens, and the Isle of Bute, where we find one of the most extravagant stately homes in the British Isles.

Day 1 Travel independently to Glasgow and assemble at Queen Street Station where we board the lunchtime train to Oban. The **West Highland Line** takes us along the shores of the Firth of Clyde, through Glen Falloch before joining the former Callander and Oban line and on to Dalmally, where we will leave the train and continue by coach to our hotel in **Inveraray** on the shores of Loch Fyne. (D)

Day 2 We depart on an excursion to the beautiful little Hebridean island of **Gigha** and explore **Achamore Gardens**, the former home of the Horlick family. (B, D)

Day 3 We take the ferry to the Isle of Bute. Here we visit the spectacular house and gardens of **Mount Stuart**, which is one of the largest, most spectacular High Victorian Gothic houses in Britain and yet one of the least known. These 300 acres of

woodlands and gardens are a real treasure trove for the garden enthusiast. (B, D)

Day 4 We begin at **Ardringlas**, considered to be one of architect Sir Robert Lorimer's masterpieces. Following a **private tour** of the house there will be time to look around the Woodland Gardens. This afternoon we have a **guided tour** of **Inveraray Castle**, the seat of the Duke of Argyll since the 17th century. (B, D)

Day 5 Today we visit **Arduaine**, full of the most magnificent plants. After a **farewell lunch** at the adjacent Loch Melfort Hotel, we drive north to Oban and take the afternoon train along the full length of the West Highland Line back to Glasgow Queen Street. (B, L)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Gigha

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Inveraray Inn, Loch Fyne
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 11 Sep	£1,345	£1,195
Single Supplement		£195

Tour code: **BSAB**



The Jacobite steam train

4 DAYS FROM £625	SAVE PER PERSON £150	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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A Classic Scottish Steam Break

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. A gentler pace is set as we sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley*, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. We also enjoy a taste of steam aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs, and take a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. We offer two different packages for this tour following the same itinerary: one at the Arrochar Hotel and one at the Stirling Highland Hotel.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh) and travel to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world's first rotating boat lift. Once the wheel has made its ascent to join the **Union Canal** 35m above, we sail under the Antonine Wall, the Romans' most northern frontier. We continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today is long but rewarding as we journey back in time aboard the **Jacobite steam train** and experience one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world, the **Fort William to Mallaig line**, featuring the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, **The Waverley***, built in 1946 to replace the 1899 Waverley, which was sunk at Dunkirk. We leave the ship at Tighnabruaich and our coach will take us back to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 Following breakfast we cruise on **Loch Katrine**, set among the Trossachs. We continue by Aberfoyle, the Duke's Pass and Loch Venachar to **Callander**, where free time awaits before we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

*The itinerary is subject to confirmation of the Waverley's sailing schedule.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Stirling Highland Hotel or Arrochar Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 May	£845	£695
12 - 15 Jul	£875	£725
Single Supplement		£135

Tour code: **BSTH**

ARROCHAR HOTEL

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 23 Jun	£845	£695
8 - 11 Aug	£845	£695
10 - 13 Oct	£775	£625
Single Supplement		£90

Tour code: **BSTB**



Eilean Donan Castle

4 DAYS FROM £695	SAVE PER PERSON £150	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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Scenic Scottish Railways

The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single track lines which cross wild moors and lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a rail journey on the Highland Line that provides some magnificent views and takes us over the Drumochter Pass, 1,480 feet above sea level.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) and travel by coach to to **Pitlochry** where, after some free time, we board the train to **Aviemore**. The railway line was built in 1863 and affords sweeping views of towering mountains and tumbling burns as we climb towards the summit at Drumochter, 1,480 feet above sea level. Upon arrival in Aviemore, we alight from the train and continue our journey by coach to our accommodation. *(D)*

Day 2 We transfer to **Inverness** and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**. The line follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland, pausing at remote stations such as Forsinard and Altnabreac, before reaching **Georgemas Junction**, the most northerly railway junction in Britain, and on to the terminus at Wick. On arrival here we will re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more

direct but equally scenic coastal route. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We depart once again by diesel train from Inverness, this time diverging at Dingwall and heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh**, travelling over what is often considered to be the most scenic of all Scotland's railway lines. In the afternoon we explore the iconic 13th century castle of **Eilean Donan**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After an early breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel via Loch Laggan to Fort William, where we join **The Jacobite** steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world – to **Mallaig** on the famous 'Road to the Isles', featuring the massive **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. After some free time in Mallaig we rejoin the train and return to Fort William and return to our original departure points where we expect to arrive late evening. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



Strathspey Steam Railway

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside *(or similar)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
26 - 29 Jul	£895	£745
13 - 16 Sep	£895	£745
4 - 7 Oct	£845	£695
Single Supplement		£90

Tour code: **BSSR**

Lord of the Glens

Secrets of the Highlands & Islands



Loch Linnhe

8 DAYS FROM
£3,345

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

This seven-night cruise also combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails through the Caledonian Canal from Inverness to the island of Mull and the bustling harbour of Oban and onwards to the Isle of Skye, before concluding in Kyle of Lochalsh. There is a full programme of shore excursions including visits to Armadale on the Isle of Skye, the little islands of Eigg and Iona, colourful Tobermory and the 13th century Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull; the romantic and much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct, the Culloden Battlefield visitor centre and the prehistoric Clava Cairns.

Please note that the itinerary below also operates in reverse order, under the title 'Inland Waterways and Idyllic Isles' - please refer to our website for full details.

Day 1 Travel under our own arrangement to **Inverness**, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. (D)

Day 2 Enjoy an excursion to the National Trust of Scotland's Visitor Centre at **Culloden** and the **Clava Cairns**. Later we set sail on the Caledonian Canal built between 1803 and 1822 to connect with the four lochs of the **Great Glen**. En route we pass **Urquhart Castle** before arriving at **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

Day 3 The vessel descends **Neptune's Staircase** before we arrive in **Corpach**. Later, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (FB)

Day 4 We journey to **Oban** and upon arrival, we walk up to **McCaughs Tower**. (FB)

Day 5 We sail to Craignure, pausing for photographs in front of **Duart Castle**. We head to the **Isle of Iona** and then it's on to **Tobermory**. (FB)

Day 6 Visit the tiny island of **Eigg** and then the village of **Inverie** on Loch Nevis. (FB)

Day 7 Sail across the **Sound of Sleat** to **Armadale** on the Isle of Skye. Here we visit the **Clan Donald Centre**, before we sail to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit **Eilean Donan Castle**. (FB)

Day 8 Transfer by coach to Inverness. (B)

Inc. meals: FB: Full Board, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation in a lower, middle or upper deck twin en-suite cabin on a full board basis
- ▶ Shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- ▶ Return coach transfers from Inverness

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

INVERNESS TO KYLE OF LOCHALSH

2 - 9 SEP

Middle Deck Superior	£4,595	£4,445
Upper Deck	£4,595	£4,445
Single Supplement		from £2,000

Tour code: **BLSW**

KYLE OF LOCHALSH TO INVERNESS

23 - 30 SEP

Lower Deck	£3,495	£3,345
Middle Deck	£3,995	£3,845
Middle Deck Superior	£4,595	£4,445
Upper Deck	£4,595	£4,445
Single Supplement		from £2,000

Tour code: **BLIW**