

# DISCOVER SCOTLAND 2025

UNEARTH A LAND OF RUGGED BEAUTY,  
RICH CULTURE & ANCIENT TREASURES



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AVAILABLE**

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from a selection  
of UK airports  
to join your tour



BEST TRAVEL COMPANY  
FOR  
COACH HOLIDAYS

4 New Tours | Travel with Experts

# Your next Scottish escape awaits...

A very warm welcome to our latest collection of tours to Scotland.

At Brightwater, we are delighted to bring to you these superb breaks and pride ourselves on expertise knowledge of the depth and breadth of this incredible country, renowned for its rugged highlands, stunning landscapes, ancient castles and distinctive culture.

We've made sure to include a variety of holidays, giving you the chance to uncover a diverse wealth of wonders, including the stunning Scottish Islands, iconic railway journeys over charming lands and fine horticultural gems. From glorious gardens and sublime scenery to historic houses and art treasures, a tour in Scotland has it all.

There is plenty of choice – surround yourself with the natural beauty of the Highlands, on a Highland Wildlife Safari or enjoy a tranquil escape on a tour of the Outer Hebrides and discover incredible ancient monuments, such as 5000-year-old standing stones. Iconic views over Loch Shiel from the Glenfinnan Viaduct can be admired on our Scenic Scottish Railways tour, while Gardens of Wester Ross takes us to Inverewe, widely regarded as one of Scotland's greatest gardens, flourishing with exotic plants, native wildlife and glorious views. With bustling cities, brimming with culture and art, woven into the architecture of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland's appeal is endless.

Our knowledgeable and experienced Tour Managers will take you on a journey through Scotland's geography and history while at the same time ensuring your holiday is as relaxing as possible.

Wherever you choose, exciting voyages and new discoveries await.

Best wishes,

*Alison Wilson*

Managing Director

*P.S: Please keep an eye on our website as new tours and departure dates are being added all the time!*



## Fly to Scotland from a selection of UK airports to join your tour

We are delighted to announce that flights from a range of UK airports including London Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Southampton are available on a selection of holidays to Scotland.

Start your tour with one of our flights and let us take the hassle out of getting to your tour pickup point. We include all transfers in Scotland to join your tour so you just need to sit back and enjoy your flight.

Look out for our flight icon on tour pages to see which tours can be joined directly from your nearest airport on the day of departure - with no overnight stay required. Alternatively, you can join any tour from any airport by flying the day before and arranging an overnight stay.

**Call us for more details and information**



Flights available from your local airport

Get in touch with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, on:

**01334 800 371**

Alternatively, send us an email to:

**info@brightwaterholidays.com**

For further details, please visit our website:

**www.brightwaterholidays.com**

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## 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.





## Share our *passion* for Scotland

Our experience and excellent relationships mean that a tour with Brightwater Holidays is often unlike what you will get with other operators. Many of our tours include private access behind the scenes, tours by the estate or garden owners themselves and of course the in-depth knowledge that comes from our expert Tour Managers.

As a Scottish holiday operator with over 30 years' experience of organising holidays to Scotland, we know that we can offer you something that others cannot. From the country's awe-inspiring mountain ranges and rugged coastlines dotted with historic castles and weathered villages to bustling cities such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland's appeal is endless. Our expertise and knowledge of Scotland can be found in our diverse holiday collection which includes island hopping in the Outer Hebrides, fascinating insights into ancient wonders plus art and architecture in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Amongst our new for 2025 tours is our specially designed seasonal tour **Gardens of Wester Ross** (p10).



## A *unique* holiday experience

Choose to travel with Brightwater Holidays and you can expect a unique holiday experience. From expertly designed tours and itineraries, comfortable hand-selected accommodation, exclusive access and visits to private gardens and comfortable travel, we make sure that all your needs are taken care of so you can sit back and enjoy your holiday from the moment you join.

### Expect quality & comfort

You can be assured of excellent quality and comfort on a Brightwater holiday, as we only select trusted hotels to provide the best possible stay, along with travel from easy-to-reach pick-up points.

### So much included

Enjoy exceptional value, with your accommodation, travel and excursions to must-see highlights and hidden gems all included in the price of your holiday. Many holidays have a selection of meals included, just look out for the details on each individual holiday.

- ✓ Great value for money with coach travel, visits, accommodation and most evening meals included
- ✓ Over 30 years of tour experience and knowledge
- ✓ Unique and innovative itineraries
- ✓ Behind the scenes access to private gardens
- ✓ No hidden extras
- ✓ Knowledgeable and welcoming Tour Managers
- ✓ Professionally recognised partnerships
- ✓ Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection
- ✓ Return flights between your local airport and Scotland and transfers in Scotland where selected.

## *Upgrade* and enjoy more

All our accommodation is comfortable and well-appointed, but you may want to treat yourself to a flight upgrade, a cabin or room upgrade or perhaps enjoy an airport lounge. We are experts at helping you enjoy your holiday your way and are pleased to help.



### Extend pre-or post-tour

If you want to explore more of what your chosen destination has to offer, why not extend your trip by adding extra nights before or after your tour?



### Room and cabin upgrades

Whether you want to treat yourself to a room with a sea view, sprawl out in a junior suite or gaze across the water from an upper deck cabin, let us know and we'll do what we can to make it happen.



### Extra nights either side

If you have to travel to reach your departure point, you may want to take it easy with a night at a hotel on either side of your holiday in a relevant city or at an airport. We can help you to book this for a reasonable supplement.



### Car parking

Let us help with your airport or port parking.





Logan Botanic Garden

Flights available from Gatwick, Luton & Bristol



Drumlanrig Castle

## Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

4 DAYS from £895 | TOUR MANAGER: Colin Crosbie\*

 PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

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.



Dumfries House

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points 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. Our visit includes tea and shortbread. (D)

**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 Charles Jenks' **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled among rolling hills. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)


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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 an expert Tour Manager (\*Colin Crosbie in July and September)

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jun, 20 - 23 Jul\* & 14 - 17 Sep\*

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£895**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Gatwick, Luton & Bristol **£1,095**

Single Supplement **£195**





NEW  
TOUR



Stirling Castle



Flights  
available from  
Bristol

## Castles, Palaces and Abbeys of Eastern Scotland

4 DAYS from £995 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

The East of Scotland is home to a fine collection of Royal Palaces and historical castles. Our tour begins at the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots – Linlithgow Palace, which was also used as a rest stop between Edinburgh and Stirling Castle, the latter of which is also on our agenda. Heading north into Angus, we visit Glamis Castle, said to be the setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth. The Royal connection continues as this was the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Scone Palace, set in the heart of Perthshire countryside is the ancestral home of the Earls of Mansfield and is most famous as the crowning place of Scottish Kings. Built in red sandstone with a castellated roof, it is a great example of Gothic Revival style in Scotland. Continuing with connections to Mary, Queen of Scots we visit one of her places of refuge - Falkland Palace and also the site of her imprisonment, Loch Leven Castle. Our final visits include Culross Palace with its maze of passageways and painted ceilings and Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, resting place of many Scottish royals but possibly most notably Robert the Bruce.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to our first visit - **Linlithgow Palace**. Situated on the shore of Linlithgow Loch the Palace was once one of the principal residences of the monarchs of Scotland during the 15th and 16th centuries. We spend some time here exploring the ruins of the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots where highlights include the Great Hall and an intricate fountain found in the

central courtyard. There is also a chance to climb up to the roof for panoramic views. Later we head to the heart of the city of Stirling where we find **Stirling Castle**, a magnificent castle set in an imposing position with impressive architecture overlooking the city and with breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside. We step back in time as we explore Scotland's past, her Renaissance Kings and Queens as well as the collection of

colourful and exquisitely crafted rooms. There is much to explore including the Great Hall dating back to 1503, the graceful Chapel room built by King James VI and the delightful Queen Anne Gardens. Following our visit we continue to our comfortable hotel. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we venture into the heart of Angus to the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, **Glamis Castle**. The

inspiration for William Shakespeare's Macbeth, the castle has been the ancestral home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne since the 14th century. During our visit we enjoy a **tour of the castle** and learn about over 1000 years of history and its famous visitors who include Mary, Queen of Scots. Glamis Castle also boasts an impressive collection of ghosts. This afternoon we head to **Scone Palace**, perched above the River Tay in Perthshire. Its enviable location overlooks the routes heading northwards to the Highlands and eastwards through Strathmore to the coast. The Grampian Mountains make a dramatic backdrop and across the river you can gaze upon the city of Perth. Scone Palace throughout its history has been the seat of Parliaments as well as the crowning place of the Kings of Scots including both Macbeth and Robert the Bruce. We can explore the palace which is home to a fine collection of antiques, paintings and extraordinary artefacts. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning our first visit is to **Falkland Palace and Gardens** where Mary, Queen of Scots often took refuge during the tumultuous political and religious upheavals of the 16th century. We spend some time exploring this fine renaissance Palace, its formal gardens and the surrounding wildflower meadow. Inside the castle there is detailed panelling in the drawing room and fascinating painted walls in the library to look out for. Other highlights include the elaborately embellished Falkland Bed and the royal apartments, where we find the Queen's Room which has been arranged as Mary, Queen of Scots may have used it. This afternoon we make our way to **Loch Leven Castle**. We cross the loch to the ruins of the Castle where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned in 1567. After



Falkland Palace

spending a year at the castle as a prisoner, Mary was forced to abdicate before dramatically escaping using May Day celebrations as a cover. We spend some time surrounded by beautiful scenery soaking up the tranquillity of the Castle's setting before exploring the Tower House rooms and Glassin Tower. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit **Culross Palace** which was constructed between 1597 and 1611 by Sir George Bruce, Laird of Carnock. We spend the morning exploring the tiny Palace rooms, connecting passageways and painted ceilings. We then head outside to the restored gardens which incorporate many features which would have been found in the 17th century. Located on a slope behind the Palace the garden offers dramatic views across the Firth of Forth. The small garden is full of vegetables, herbs and aromatic plants and don't forget to look out for the freely roaming 'Scott's Dumpty' hens! In the early afternoon we will make our way to **Dunfermline Abbey and Palace** which was originally founded as a Priory before becoming a Royal resting place, serving this role for over 250 years. Here you are able to see the hugely impressive nave, to its Romanesque architecture is very similar to the Cathedral in Durham. We can also search for fossilised

crustaceans in the marble plinth of St Margaret's shrine, admire the James Ballantine Window in the Nave showing portraits of Queen Margaret, Malcolm Canmore, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. We can also visit the final resting place of Robert the Bruce and see a reconstruction of his original tomb although his heart is interred in Melrose Abbey, in the Scottish Borders. We later return to our original pick-up points. (B)


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


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed breakfast at the Salutation Hotel, Perth
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 6 Jun & 15 - 18 Jun

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£995**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Bristol **£1,195**

Single Supplement **£150**

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON 3 JUN**



**NEW  
TOUR**



Inverewe Gardens

## Gardens of Wester Ross

**5 DAYS** from £1,195

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

 **Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details**

Join us on our tour which strings together some of the best gardens in one of the most beautiful and scenic parts of the country.

An undoubted highlight of our tour will be our visit to **Attadale Gardens**, a true gem of a garden which was voted RHS Partner Garden of the Year for Scotland in 2023. Here we will have an exclusive private visit and will enjoy a light lunch in the dining room of the main house, which is not normally open to the public.

Other visits include a three acre private garden on the outskirts of Inverness, a trip to Skye where we enjoy the award-winning formal garden of Dunvegan Castle and Inverewe, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country – this tour is a real treasure trove of treats for anyone who enjoys beautiful gardens and wonderful scenery.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel northwards, stopping for lunch in Pitlochry (*not included*). We continue with a visit to the private garden of the **Oldtown of Leys**. Established in 2003, on the outskirts of Inverness, this large garden of three acres has year-round interest. Highlights here include rhododendrons and azaleas as well as summer herbaceous plantings and shrubs. Features include a rockery,

ponds, musical instruments, a stumpery and a new area of late summer colour. Later we will continue to our accommodation in Gairloch, pausing on the way for a brief visit to the spectacular **Corrieshalloch Gorge**. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast we have a long but most rewarding day as we drive across the north of Scotland to visit **Dundonnell House Garden**. The house was completed in 1769 by the Mackenzies of

Dundonnell, who lived in it until the 1940s. Since then it has had a number of owners, including the late Alan Roger – rumoured to be in MI5, but known locally simply as a plantsman and bonsai expert. The current owner has added delightful new borders for year-round colour, centred on an enormous and ancient yew tree over 300 years old. The main part of the garden lies within very old walls and is divided into distinctive compartments, adding greatly to the

interest here; other highlights include riverside walks in the fine arboretum and a restored Victorian glasshouse. Our second visit of the day is to **Inverewe gardens**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country. The northern road into Inverewe is spectacular – towering mountains and breathtaking vistas – and the view from above Gruinard Bay has to be seen to be believed. Famous gardens do not always live up to their reputations but it would be hard to imagine anyone failing to be excited by Inverewe, when at this time of year it will be at its most colourful. The balmy Gulf Stream Drift Climate promotes luxuriant growth and today it is a jungle of mature exotic trees and shrubs laced with winding walks, rising and falling, giving sudden glimpses of shimmering water through the foliage. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we travel south through the spectacular scenery of **Torriddon** and cross the graceful arching bridge at Kyle of Lochalsh to the **Isle of Skye**. Here we visit the award-winning formal gardens at **Dunvegan Castle**, which began life in the 18th century. In stark contrast to the barren moorland and mountains which dominate Skye's landscape, the castle's Water Garden, Rose Garden, Walled Garden and woodland walks provide a hidden oasis for an eclectic mix of flowers, exotic plants, specimen trees and shimmering pools fed by waterfalls and streams flowing down to the sea. In the afternoon we take the ferry (*as foot passengers*) from Sconser to **Raasay**, the 'Roie Isle'. A pleasant ten-minute walk takes us to the **Raasay Walled Garden**. This community-owned project has breathed new life into the old walled garden attached to Raasay House, with a productive fruit and vegetable garden as well as a rose garden and herbaceous borders. We then return



Attadale Gardens

by ferry to Skye and over the bridge to the mainland and arrive back at the hotel in time for dinner, after a long but most rewarding day. (B, D)

**Day 4** After breakfast we will travel south again, this time via Achnasheen and Achnashellach Forest, to **Attadale Gardens**. Voted RHS Partner Garden of the Year for Scotland in 2023, Attadale is a gem of a garden on the shores of Loch Carron, where the Gulf Stream influenced micro-climate nurtures 20 acres of outstanding water gardens, old rhododendrons, unusual trees and a fern collection in a geodesic dome. There is also a sunken fern garden developed on the site of an early 19th-century drain, a waterfall into a pool with dwarf rhododendrons, a sunken garden, a peace garden and a kitchen garden. Other features include a conservatory, Japanese garden, sculpture collection and giant sundial. On our **exclusive private visit** we will be welcomed and personally guided round the garden by a member of the family and the gardening staff, followed by a **light lunch** served in the dining room of the main house, which is not normally open to the public. We return to Gairloch, where there will be an opportunity to visit the **Gairloch Museum**, housed (*though you wouldn't know it*) in a former nuclear bunker. Displays include the original lens from Rubh Re lighthouse, a

replica croft house showing how people used to live and an interactive gallery about our magnificent natural world, midges and all! (B, L, D)

**Day 5** This morning after breakfast we head for home but we have one more treat in store. After a very scenic journey via Invergarry and Fort William, we reach the **Kinlochlaich Garden and Plant Centre** in Appin. Since it was opened in 1975, it has evolved to become one of the leading Garden Plant Centres in Scotland with some wonderful plants for sale, and the perfect souvenir of your holiday. We then return via Glencoe to our original departure points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Highland Lodge, Gairloch
- ▶ Light lunch at Attadale Gardens
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 Jun	<b>£1,195</b>
2 - 6 Aug	<b>£1,195</b>
Single Supplement	<b>£295</b>





Luskentyre

## A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from £1,195 | 6 DAYS from £1,595

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

 Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

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 until early 2026 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead), the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gairrannan.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points for Mallaig, where we take the ferry to Lochboisdale, with dinner served on board. On arrival we continue to our hotel in **Benbecula**. (D)

**Day 2** We drive south 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



Gairrannan

amazing beaches of white sand and turquoise sea. (B, D)

**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 Gairrannan** 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 until early 2026 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.*

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



Benbecula

### OUTER HEBRIDES BY AIR PACKAGE - 6 DAYS

Departs 17 June 2025  
From £1,695pp from Gatwick or Luton

### 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.

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 on board the ferry)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA	
17 - 21 Aug	£1,295
6 - 10 Oct	£1,195
Single Supplement	£200

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES 6-DAY ITINERARY

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 13 Jun	£1,695
20 - 25 Jul	£1,695
10 - 15 Aug	£1,595
Single Supplement	£250



Blackwaterfoot

✈️  
Flights available from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Bristol & Birmingham

## Arran, Scotland in Miniature

5 DAYS from £1,395

**PICK-UP POINTS:** Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

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 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 levels of 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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

19 - 23 May, 8 - 12 Jun,  
11 - 15 Aug & 13 - 17 Sep

Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,395**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Gatwick, Stansted, Bristol, Birmingham & Luton **£1,595**

Single Supplement **£325**  
Optional excursion Gigha: **£85**



Balmoral

✈️  
Flights available from Gatwick, Stansted, Bristol & Birmingham

## Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire

4 DAYS from £995

**PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee

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 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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

9 - 12 Jun

Join at one of our pick-up points **£995**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted, Bristol & Gatwick **£1,195**  
Birmingham **£1,225**

Single Supplement **£150**







Ardreck Castle



## Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

5 DAYS from £1,195 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

**PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

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, one of the world's most scenic road trips, along this iconic route you can experience an array of stunning beaches, historic castles, and the breath-taking landscapes of the wild Northern Highlands. Highlights of the tour include the Castle of Mey, the impressive Smoo Cave and the North West Highlands Geo Park.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points 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 northern 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 **North West 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 **Ardreck 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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

19 - 23 Aug, 8 - 12 Sep & 21 - 25 Sep

Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,195**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from Luton **£1,445**

Single Supplement **£120**  
\*Itinerary operates in reverse



Dolphins, Moray Firth

## Highland Wildlife Safari

4 DAYS from £995 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

**PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

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 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. Our final stop is at **Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder**, an opportunity to see salmon passing upstream on the River Tummel. An

interesting new visitor centre tells the story of the construction of the dam. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge (*or similar*)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

25 - 28 Jun **£995**  
Single Supplement **£120**





The Jacobite steam train

Flights available from Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Bristol & Birmingham

## A Classic Scottish Steam Break

4 DAYS from £845 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh

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.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points 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 Tighnabruach 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 a comfortable 3-star hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 11 May	£845
25 - 28 Jun	£945
21 - 24 Aug	£945
10 - 13 Oct	£825

Join at one of our pick-up points **from £845**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Birmingham, Luton, Gatwick & Bristol **from £1,045**  
Stansted **from £1,245**

Single Supplement **£90**



Duart Castle

Flights available from Gatwick, Luton & Bristol

## Mull, Staffa and Iona

4 DAYS from £1,595

PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

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 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, PL, 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 returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at a comfortable hotel on the Isle of Mull
- ▶ One packed lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

28 Jun - 1 Jul & 6 - 9 Sep

Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,595**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted, Luton, Gatwick & Bristol **£1,845**

Single Supplement **£420**





NEW  
TOUR



Pitmuies Gardens

Flights available from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham & Southampton

## Best of Angus Gardens featuring the Future Gardens Exhibition at the Dundee V&A

4 DAYS from £795 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee

The rich, fertile soil of Angus provides an ideal environment for gardening, so it's no surprise that within this historic county in North-East Scotland, there is a host of wonderful gardens to enjoy. We include access to the Garden Futures: Designing with Nature exhibition at the V&A museum, which highlights groundbreaking gardens by multiple visionaries.

The House of Pitmuies, with its lavishly planted herbaceous borders, is perhaps the star of the show. We see two grand gardens at Edzell Castle, which features a delightful formal garden, and at Glamis Castle, perhaps better known for its royal connections. Further highlights include a trip into the Braes of Angus to see an intriguing upland garden; the herbalist's garden at Logie House; traditional mixed borders at Dunninald, and Langley Park near Montrose, which features four separate walled gardens along with woodland and wildflowers.

**Day 1** We depart from our local pick-ups and head to the walled gardens at **Logie House**, a herbalist's garden set amid a walled 18th-century garden and large Victorian greenhouse.. (D)

nesting birds. We then visit, **Langley Park Gardens** featuring walled gardens, woodland walks and a wildflower meadow. We continue to **Dunninald**, which offers many attractive features including a beech avenue and a walled garden planted with traditional mixed borders. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit the garden at **Pitmuies House**. The flower garden features lavishly planted borders which are planned to maintain their flowering interest all year. We continue to **Glamis Castle**, the ancestral home of the Earls of Strathmore. Here we see a delightful Italian garden filled with the scent of flowers. Following this we continue our homeward journey. (B)

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

**Day 2** Today we head to **Dundee** where we visit the **V&A museum** and enjoy access to the Garden Futures: Designing with Nature exhibition which explores the history of modern garden design. (B, D)


**Day 3** We begin today at **Edzell Castle**, which was once home to the Earls of Crawford. The garden is defined by the 'Pleasance' - a delightful formal garden with walls decorated with sculptured stone panels, flower boxes and niches for


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Links Hotel, Montrose
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 11 Jul

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£795**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted, Luton, Bristol, Gatwick & Birmingham **£1,045**  
Southampton **£1,145**

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**



Dunrobin Castle

## Castles and Palaces of the Highlands

4 DAYS from £895

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

 Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

This tour takes us through some of the most stunning and dramatic landscapes of Scotland. We head north to the village of Blair Atholl, where we find Blair Castle nestled in the Perthshire countryside. The castle is the ancestral home to Clan Murray and the historical seat of the Dukes of Atholl. We then skirt around the western edge of the Cairngorms National Park to our hotel in Carrbridge. From here we visit Cawdor Castle, immortalised in William Shakespeare's Macbeth as the scene of Duncan's murder. Another highlight will be our trip to the chateau-style Dunrobin Castle with its magnificent example of a 19th century garden laid out on terraces descending to the sea. Our final visit is to Scone Palace, which has been the seat of parliaments as well as the crowning place of the Kings of Scots.

**Day 1** We depart and travel to the village of Blair Atholl for a visit to, **Blair Castle**. Throughout the ages the castle has been transformed from its cold and austere beginnings in the Middle Ages to a delightful Georgian mansion and then to a Baronial Victorian castle. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we head into **Inverness**, the capital of the Highlands for some free time. This afternoon we head to **Cawdor Castle**. William Shakespeare immortalised Cawdor in Macbeth as the scene of Duncan's murder, however, both the castle and its history are colourful enough without the aid of myth. A turreted 14th century tower, protected on one side by a gully and on the other by a dry moat, rises majestically from the woods of the Nairn Valley. The

magnificent gardens include vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden, a peony walk and a kitchen garden. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we travel north and visit **Dunrobin Castle** - the chateau-style ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland. The Castle is a wonderful early 19th-century fantasy Castle with a touch of the Loire and a dash of Bavaria. Below the castle is a magnificent example of a formal nineteenth century garden. The gardens are laid out on terraces which descend to the sea. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we depart for **Scone Palace**, perched above the River Tay. Scone Palace throughout its history has been the seat of parliaments as well as the crowning place of the Kings of Scots including both Macbeth and Robert the Bruce. Here we can spend time

in the gardens as well as exploring the palace that is home to a fine collection of antiques, painting and extraordinary artefacts. We later continue to our original departure points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge (or similar)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 23 Jul **£895**  
Single Supplement **£150**





Westray, Orkney islands

Flights available from Luton

## Undiscovered Orkney

5 DAYS from £1,695 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

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 and travel north to Scrabster, where we catch the ferry to **Orkney**. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Westray** and the **Scaun Natural Arch**, where guillemots and fulmars can be spotted. After a visit to the unique **Quoygrew** 10th century Norse site, we visit the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village, and then **Castle O'Burrian**. Finally we visit the **Westray Heritage Centre**, and tour **Noltland Castle**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Tour the island of **Hoy**, visiting the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit the **Scapa Flow Museum**, the **Martello Tower** at Hackness and the **Naval Cemetery**. (B, D)

**Day 4** We have a full day excursion of mainland Orkney. Visits include **Maeshowe**, **Skara Brae** and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, lying to the north side of the Orphir Hills. 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**, which uses the same traditional methods of production as it did 200 years ago. (B, D)

**Day 5** We catch the ferry back to the mainland and visit the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale, which is described as a meeting place between past, present and future. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

28 Jul - 1 Aug	
Join at one of our pick-up points	£1,695
Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Luton	£1,995

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**



Aberlemno Pictish Stone

Flights available from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Bristol & Birmingham

## In the Footsteps of the Picts

4 DAYS from £845 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

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 and head to the **National Museum of Scotland**. Here we view their collection of Pictish jewellery and sculptures, 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**, which has recently re-opened following a £27 million re-development programme. Lastly we visit to 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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Aug	
Join at one of our pick-up points	£845
Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted	£1,095
Luton	£1,145
Birmingham & Bristol	£1,175
Gatwick	£1,195
Single Supplement	£60








Bressay Island

Flights available from Stansted, Luton, Manchester & Birmingham

## Shetland and its Outer Isles

5 DAYS from £1,545

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

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.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to Lerwick. (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. This afternoon, we visit the little island of **Mousa** and the 2,000 year old broch, the best preserved example in the world. The 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 **Munes Castle, Baltasound** 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


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

9 - 13 Aug

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,545**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted & Luton **£1,795**  
Manchester & Birmingham **£1,845**

Single Supplement **£350**  
Outside Cabin Supplement **£55**



Lerwick

### HIGHLIGHTS OF ORKNEY & SHETLAND

Embark on a remarkable no-fly journey to the Orkney and Shetland Isles exploring ancient ruins and discovering the captivating stories of the Picts, Norsemen and seafaring legends.

**Departures in May, Aug, Sep & Oct from £1,845pp**

## Orkney & Shetland by Air

5 DAYS from £2,095

 **DEPARTURE POINTS:** Aberdeen or Edinburgh

 **Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details**

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 by air.

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. Many people have landed there before you - some as early as 3000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you will find historical treasures. Both islands, but particularly Shetland, in summer have virtually no darkness and the beauty of this 'Simmer Dim', as it is called locally, has to be seen to be realised.

**Day 1** We depart this morning on a flight from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh. On arrival we will transfer to **Sumburgh Head** home to an RSPB reserve before visiting the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. This afternoon head to **Scalloway**, the former capital of Shetland and finally we visit the **cliffs of Eshaness**. (D)

**Day 2** Today we head to **Lerwick**, where we enjoy some free time. Later, we will travel to Sandwick, where we cross as foot passengers on the ferry over to the island of **Mousa**, where we visit the 2000 year old iron age **broch**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we fly to **Kirkwall**. On arrival, we enjoy a tour of the south end of **mainland Orkney**,

crossing the **Churchill Barriers** which were built after the sinking of HMS Royal Oak in 1939. We also stop off at the beautiful **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning after breakfast, we visit the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney – World Heritage Sites**. Highlights include **Maeshowe**, the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, the adjacent Neolithic village of **Barnhouse** and **Skara Brae**. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast we transfer to Kirkwall Airport where we will take a flight back to Aberdeen or Edinburgh. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ Flights from Aberdeen to Sumburgh, Sumburgh to Kirkwall, and Kirkwall to Aberdeen (Edinburgh flight supplement £225pp)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 May **£2,095**  
16 - 20 Aug **£2,145**  
Single Supplement **£275**






Jarlshof

## An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland

6 DAYS from £1,995

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee

 Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

The islands of Orkney and Shetland are littered with archaeological remains. People first came here over 5,000 years ago and many of their remains survive. Research is ongoing and excavations by archaeologists continue to uncover new information. The islands are therefore of enormous interest to anyone who enjoys first-hand contact with ancient settlements and buildings as well as the people who once lived here.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points and head for Aberdeen. We will stop for a photo opportunity at **Dunnottar Castle**, a dramatic ruined clifftop fortress, before taking the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast we visit the Iron Age broch on the island of **Mousa**. The island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. We continue to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. Finally, we stop at the cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve renowned for the seabirds that reside here. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we begin at **St. Ninian's Isle** and its church dating from the 6th century when Christianity first came to Shetland. We return to **Scalloway** to visit the ruined castle before continuing

through the **Tingwall Valley**, the site of the old Norse parliament. (B, D)

**Day 4** We tour the southern end of Orkney Mainland with visits to the **Churchill Barriers** and the **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. Later, we return to **Kirkwall** for some free time. (B, D)

**Day 5** Today we head west into the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**, including **Stenness and Brodgar**, the chambered tomb at **Maeshowe** and the famous stone age village at **Skara Brae** and **Skail House**. (B, D)

**Day 6** After breakfast we take the ferry back to the mainland and continue to our original departure points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Scalloway Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed and breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including two dinners and one night's accommodation in two berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjalhland on the outward sailing
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON


25 - 30 Aug	£1,995
Single Supplement	£450
Outside Cabin Supplement	£55



Glenfinnan Viaduct

## Scenic Scottish Railways

4 DAYS from £895

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

 Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

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 visit to Boat of Garten on the Strathspey Line, which you may recognise from the BBC series, *Monarch of the Glen*.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel by coach to Aviemore for a return trip on the **Strathspey Railway**. Our train of maroon-liveried coaches will be hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive as we travel to Boat of Garten and Broomhill, with the Cairngorm Mountains providing a scenic backdrop. We continue our journey by coach to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We transfer to **Inverness** and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**. The line takes us along the shores of the **Cromarty** and **Dornoch Firths** and follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland before reaching the terminus at **Wick**. We re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more direct but equally scenic coastal route. (B, D)

**Day 3** We depart by diesel train from Inverness, this time heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh**, travelling over what is often considered to be the most scenic of all of Scotland's railway lines. In the afternoon we explore the iconic 13th century castle of **Eilean Donan**, with its impossibly romantic setting on Loch Duich. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we travel to Fort William, where we join **The Jacobite** steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world, crossing the famous **Glenfinnan Viaduct** as we steam on a return trip to **Mallaig**. After some free time and an opportunity for lunch (not included) in Mallaig, we return on the train to Fort William. We then return by coach to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge (or similar)
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 10 May	£895
27 - 30 Aug	£975
24 - 27 Sep	£945
15 - 18 Oct	£895
Single Supplement	£120





Dun Carloway Broch

  
Flights available from Gatwick

## Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from £1,595 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

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 of Callanish\* and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

**Day 1** Depart from our designated pick-up points and head north to **Ullapool** to catch the evening ferry to Stornoway and our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit **Bosta Iron Age Village** and the nearby **museum**. We then 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 Isle of Lewis. (B, D)

**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 **Lews Castle**. (B, D)

**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 **Dun Carloway Broch, Black Houses, Norse Mill** and the standing stone **Clach an Trushal**. (B, D)

**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, D: Dinner


\*The main Callanish site will be closed until early 2026 we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2 - 6 Sep

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,595**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Gatwick **£1,845**

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**



Kelvingrove

  
Flights available from Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham & Southampton

## Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

4 DAYS from £695

 PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow

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 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, in 2024 received the Andrew Doolan **Best Building in Scotland Award**. 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


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 8 Sep

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£695**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Stansted & Luton **£895**

Bristol, Birmingham & Gatwick **£945**  
Southampton **£995**

Single Supplement **£275**





Glen Coe

## Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

7 DAYS from £1,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: Glasgow

 Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

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 new tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems while at the same time providing a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys by train, coach and boat.

**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)

**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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Fort William area and three nights at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge (or similar)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

15 - 21 Jun	£1,995
7 - 13 Sep	£1,995
Single Supplement	£195



Abbotsford House



Flights available from Gatwick

## Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

4 DAYS from £1,095

 **PICK-UP POINTS:** Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh

The Scottish Borders are often overlooked in comparison with the Highlands and Islands. 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.

This prosperous region is also home to a number of historic houses, ancient castles and stately homes.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points and drive into the Scottish Borders for our visit to **Manderston House**. Built in the 1790s, the house became the home of the Miller Family in 1855. We continue to our accommodation at the **Peebles Hydro**. Dinner is served in the evening. (D)

**Day 2** We travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. Scott was a passionate collector of armour and weapons - Rob Roy's gun and Montrose's sword along with over 9,000 rare volumes are in his library. In the afternoon we visit **Traquair House**, which is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. Everywhere in the house are portraits, old prints and maps, which refer to its history. (B, D)

**Day 3** We will travel to **Mellerstain House**, the home of the Earl and Countess of Haddington and one of Scotland's great Georgian houses and houses a superb collection of paintings including works by Van Dyck and Gainsborough. The house stands in 200 acres of parkland with an Italianate style terraced garden laid out by Sir Reginald Blomfield in 1909. Later we visit **Floors Castle** - home of the Duke & Duchess of Roxburghe, overlooking the River Tweed and facing the Cheviot Hills. This is a romantic fairytale castle with its roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit **Thirlestane Castle**, a magnificent 16th Century castle. Throughout its long history, Thirlestane has belonged to the Maitland family, one of the most famous in Scotland. We enjoy **Lunch** in the Victorian Kitchen before we

return to our original pick-up points. (B, L)


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


### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Peebles Hydro Hotel
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 13 Sep

 Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,095**

 Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Gatwick **£1,295**

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**







Fair isle knitting

Flights available from Gatwick, Luton, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester & Southampton

## Knitting in the Shetland Isles

6 DAYS from £1,795

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen

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 and travel to Aberdeen for our overnight sailing to **Shetland**. Dinner is served on board. (D)

**Day 2** Disembark in Lerwick, before travelling to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We stop at **Sumburgh Head**, the award-winning **Textile Gallery of the Shetland Museum and Archives** for a guided tour, and finally the **Shetland Textile Museum**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today is the first of our **interactive workshops** to learn the basics of Shetland hand knitting. After lunch, we visit the **Nielanel Design Studio at Sandwick** and **Hoswick Visitor Centre**, housed in a former woollen mill. 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 western mainland of Shetland with visits to **Walls**, terminus for the ferry service to the island of Foula, and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking the island of Papa Stour. We return to our hotel in the afternoon for the second of our **knitting workshops**. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Our final **knitting workshop** is followed with some free time in **Scalloway**. The castle built by Earl Patrick Stewart still dominates the skyline. We continue to **Lerwick** where the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. Later, we board our ferry back to Aberdeen and have dinner in the ship's restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** After our overnight sailing we arrive in Aberdeen this morning and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the Scalloway Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on ferry
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager
- ▶ Return flights to local airport if this option chosen

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 23 Sep

Join at one of our pick-up points **£1,795**

Fly to join this tour from your local airport - Departs from: Luton, Gatwick & Bristol **£1,995**  
Manchester, Birmingham or Southampton **£2,095**

Single Supplement **£375**  
Outside cabin supplement **£55**



Lord of the Glens

## Lord of the Glens - Voyage Through the Heart of Scotland

7 DAYS from £2,395

DEPARTURE POINT: Inverness

Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details

This six-night cruise combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails from Oban to the Isle of Mull and through the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness to Inverness.

**Day 1** Travel under our own arrangement to **Inverness** then transfer by coach to **Oban**, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Alternatively, make your own way to Oban. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. (D)

**Day 2** Enjoy a walk up to **McCaigs Tower** for sweeping views over **Oban Bay**. In the afternoon we sail to **Craignure** on the **Isle of Mull** and visit 13th century **Duart Castle**. (FB)

**Day 3** After breakfast we depart by coach for a visit to the **Isle of Iona**, the last resting place of some 50 Scottish Kings and the place where St Columba introduced Christianity to Britain. The tiny island has a unique sense of peace and tranquility. The afternoon is free to explore Mull's 'capital', **Tobermory**. The small town's most famous and striking feature is the row of brightly painted houses that lines the waterfront, originally built by the British Fisheries Company for £20

each to house its workers. Overnight in Tobermory. (FB)

**Day 4** We sail the sheltered waters of the fjord-like **Loch Linnhe** with spectacular views all around. On arrival at the village of Corpach at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (FB)

**Day 5** Our vessel ascends **Neptune's Staircase** and cruises along the **Caledonian Canal** and connecting lochs as far as **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

**Day 6** We descend the locks at Fort Augustus and sail out into **Loch Ness**, pausing for photos by the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**. On arrival in Inverness we enjoy an excursion to the National Trust for Scotland's Visitor Centre at **Culloden** and the **Clava Cairns**. (FB)

**Day 7** Following breakfast we disembark. A coach transfer will take you back to Inverness city

centre (approx. 10.30hrs and Inverness Airport (approx. 1100hrs). (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, FB: Full Board, D: Dinner

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six 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

Oban to Inverness	
12 Oct	
Lower Deck	<b>£2,395</b>
Middle Deck	<b>£2,995</b>
Middle Deck Superior	<b>£3,495</b>
Upper Deck	<b>£3,495</b>
Single Supplement	from <b>£1,400</b>





Lord of the Glens

## Gardens of Western Scotland Cruise aboard the Lord of the Glens

8 DAYS from £3695

 **DEPARTURE POINT: Inverness**

 **Join your tour from your local airport. Please call us for information and details**

Scotland boasts a diverse collection of gardens which are home to a vast collection of plants from around the world, in spectacular natural settings. Experience the rich diversity of Scotland's west coast gardens and explore botanical beauty on this horticultural extravaganza. Visit some of the area's best kept secrets including Attadale in Wester Ross, the RHS Partner Garden of the Year in Scotland in 2023, Ardchattan Priory garden which was originally planted by medieval monks, Lip na Cloiche a remote hidden garden on Mull, Abriachan Garden and Cawdor Castle Gardens dating back to the 14th century. Other highlights include Neptune's Staircase, Glenfinnan and Armadale Castle.

The MV Lord of the Glens has 26 beautifully appointed and well-equipped state cabins, all with windows and en-suite facilities. The 'Robert Louis Stevenson' restaurant presents cuisine using local and freshly sourced produce whilst the 'Sir Walter Scott' bar and lounge on the upper deck provides magnificent all round panoramic views of the Highland scenery.

**Day 1** Travel under own arrangement to Inverness (rail/air connections can be arranged on request). A coach transfer is provided from Inverness Airport (approx. 1300hrs) or Inverness city centre (approx. 1430hrs) to Kyle of Lochalsh, where we embark the MV Lord of the Glens. Alternatively, you may travel independently to Kyle, via the scenic railway line from Inverness. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Attadale Gardens**, voted RHS Partner

Garden of the Year for Scotland in 2023. Attadale is a gem of a garden on the shores of Loch Carron, where the Gulf Stream influenced micro-climate nurtures 20 acres of outstanding water gardens, old rhododendrons, unusual trees and a fern collection in a geodesic dome. The gardens have been skilfully restored by their owner Nick MacPherson as an artist's garden after the 1980 storm. We continue to the woodland gardens of **Armadale Castle**, originally laid out by Lord Macdonald in the early 19th century.

The gardens boast 40 acres of trees, shrubs and flowers in a peaceful oasis. (FB)

**Day 3** Today we visit **Lip na Cloiche**, a remote, hidden garden situated on a steep hillside on the north-west coast of **Mull**. This densely planted garden has stunning views of Loch Tuath and the Isle of Ulva. There is an eclectic and comprehensive collection of small trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants to be found here, including Chilean and New Zealand rarities. The garden



Cawdor Castle

was planned for long-season interest, providing a pattern of good planting ideas all year round. A picturesque burn is planted with primulas, mecanopsis, gunneras and other damp-loving specialities. (FB)

**Day 4** After breakfast we visit **Ardchattan Priory Garden** which was originally planted by medieval monks and affords breathtaking views over Loch Etive to Mull and Ben Cruachan. Highlights here include herbaceous borders, roses, a rockery, ornamental trees and a wild flower garden. After sailing through Loch Linnhe we travel to **Glenfinnan** where the 18m-high monument provides a poignant reminder of the clansmen who gave their lives to the Jacobite cause. (FB)

**Day 5** After breakfast we ascend **Neptune's Staircase**, an impressive flight of eight interconnected locks that lifts the vessel 103 feet above sea level to Banavie. We then sail through **Loch Lochy** and **Loch Oich** and various man-made sections of the **Caledonian Canal**, which was started in 1803 to plans produced by Thomas Telford following survey work by James Watt thirty years earlier. When the canal finally opened in 1822 it had taken 17 years and cost £840,000, but instead of the 20 foot depth in Telford's plans,

when it initially opened the canal was only 14 feet deep, too shallow for many of the increasingly large ships being built at the time. A second phase of construction was then undertaken between 1844 and 1847 and what emerged from this was the canal originally proposed by Telford. The irony was that by the time the canal was finally complete, steam ships could make the passage around Scotland much more easily than the sailing ships in whose era it was designed. We moor overnight in **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

**Day 6** A scenic sail of **Loch Ness** leads us to **Abriachan Garden**, a uniquely beautiful woodland garden with a fantastic mix of native and exotic plantings, and the most northerly botanic garden in Britain. The garden also affords views across Loch Ness. (FB)

**Day 7** Our final visit is **Cawdor Castle Gardens**, forever immortalised in Shakespeare's 'Macbeth.' The castle boasts three very different gardens, each with their own unique history and appearance. Displaying a wealth of flora and fauna, the gardens at Cawdor Castle are ever changing with the seasons. The gardens include large herbaceous borders, collections of rhododendrons and

azaleas, whole borders full of lilies and galtonias, flowering trees and shrubs, archways of rambling roses and laburnum, spring bulbs and contemporary sculptures. (FB)

**Day 8** Following breakfast we disembark. A coach transfer is provided to Inverness city centre (approx. 0930hrs) and Inverness Airport (approx. 1000hrs). Alternatively, you may return home independently – extensions are also available on request. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, FB: Full Board, D: Dinner

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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

12 - 19 May	
Lower Deck	£3,695
Middle Deck	£4,395
Middle Deck Superior	£4,995
Upper Deck	£4,995
Single Supplement	On request



# Scotland's Extreme North West



Achmelvich beach

## 4 DAYS from £695 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring and autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking, particularly along the iconic North Coast 500 and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at these times of year.



**PICK-UP POINTS:** Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness



**Join your tour from your local airport** - Please call us for information and details

**Day** We depart from our designated pick-up points and head north for

**1** **Kinlochbervie** on the tip of the north west coastline and our accommodation, which overlooks the fishing harbour and the open sea beyond. (B, D)

**Day** Today we travel south into **Assynt**, an extraordinary landscape of vast, undulating moorland studded with hundreds of freshwater lochans.

**2** 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**. Though relatively small in Scottish terms at 2,389ft, Suilven presents a fearsome sight with its seemingly unconquerable summit, which we can expect to be flecked with snow. (B, D)

**Day** This morning we will have a walk along the beach at **Oldshoremore**, **3** 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 travel by Loch Eribol and the old Norse settlement of **Tongue**. (B, D)

**Day** We begin our homeward journey, which takes us through more **4** splendid scenery as we travel via **Laxford Bridge**, **Loch More**, **Loch Shin** and **Laig**, 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



Assynt

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert Tour Manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 10 Oct	£695
21 - 24 Oct	£695
Single Supplement	£120