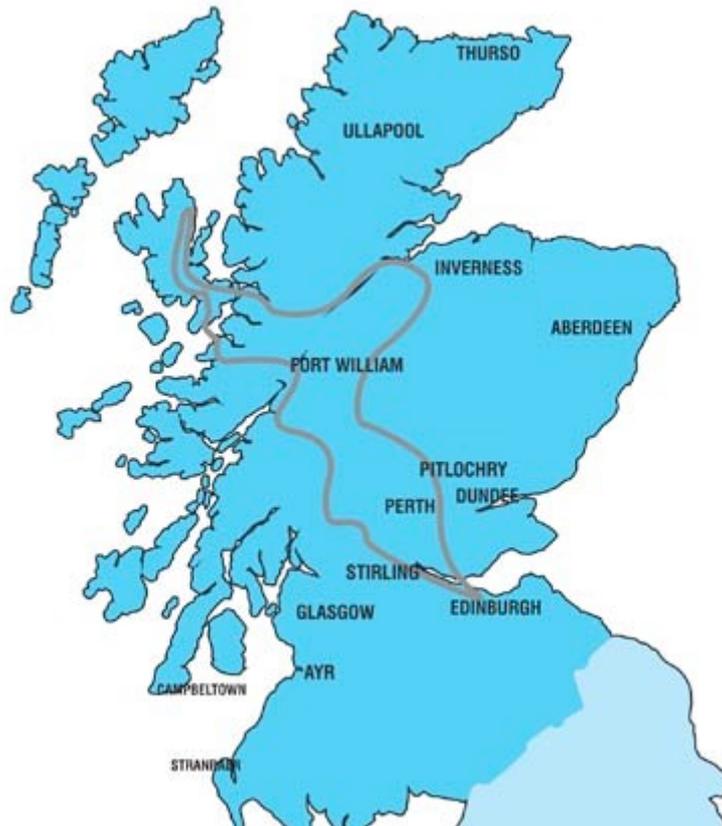


## Isle of Skye, Loch Ness & the Highlands

Tour Code: 27EE/3HE



**Group discounts for 4 or more apply**

**Depart: Edinburgh**

**Finish: Edinburgh**

**DAY ONE:** Heading north, we enjoy views of the Forth Railway Bridge and enter the Highlands via beautiful Perthshire, a land of forests, rivers and mountains stopping at the stunning natural beauty of The Hermitage. We then enter 'Monarch of the Glen' country, and the captivating scenery and wildlife of The Cairngorms National Park. We travel through the wilds of Kintail to Eilean Donan Castle, perhaps the most romantic castle in the Highlands and then arrive on the magical Isle of Skye and our home for 2 nights. **(Overnight Skye)**

**DAY TWO:** You will spend a full day exploring the magical Isle of Skye with its ruined castles, amazing scenery; hear tales of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite Rebellion against the backdrop of the jagged Cuillin Mountains. Discover the scenic Island Capital of Portree, take walk by its harbour, sample some locally caught seafood or just relax. Our journey heads to the north of the Island past the mysterious Trotternish Ridge with its spectacular cliffs and rock formations including the Old Man of Storr. The 'Winged Isle' is immersed in celtic myths & legends, you'll hear about Selkies, the mischievous faeries and even learn the secret of eternal youth! **(Overnight on Skye).**

**DAY THREE:** In the morning we explore the south of the island, named 'the garden of Skye' before taking the ferry to Maillaig. This is a dramatic crossing with spectacular views over the wild Mountains of Knoydart and back to Skye dominated by the stunning Cuillin Mountains. You have some time to explore this busy west coast fishing village and perhaps sample its famous seafood. You have the option\* to take the historic West Highland Jacobite steam train to Fort William (voted top rail journey in the world by Wanderlust Magazine). It passes Britain's most westerly mainland railway station (Arisaig), on a clear summer's day from Arisaig you can see the "Small Isles" of Rum, Eigg, Muck, Canna and the southern tip of Skye. From there the train passes Morar and the silvery beaches used in the films "Highlander" and "Local Hero". It then passes close by the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar, which it's very own Monster, Morag, the village of Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. The train crosses the amazing 21 arch Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous in the Harry Potter movies, and offers wonderful views down Loch Shiel before heading back to Fort William in the shadow of mighty Ben Nevis. Those that don't opt for the steam train can still enjoy a trip along the road to the Isles on the coach, meeting up with the train in Fort William. Our return journey from Fort William takes in the dramatic beauty of haunting Glencoe, scene of the massacre and the wilds of Rannoch Moor, skirting The Trossachs and Rob Roy Country before arriving back in Edinburgh around 8pm.