

## Isle of Skye, Loch Ness & West Coast

Tour Code: 28EE/5HE



**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. We enjoy the scenery of the wild Drumochter Pass, driving through high mountains as we head for Dalwhinnie, home to Scotland's highest whisky distillery. We'll stop here for a wee dram of the famous 'Uisge Beath' - Water of Life. We then enter 'Monarch of the Glen' country, as we pass Loch Laggan and the famous 'Glenbogle' (Ardverickie Castle) heading onto our overnight accommodation by Loch Ness. You will have the option of enjoying an evening cruise\* on the Loch, a perfect way to end an unforgettable first day. (Overnight Loch Ness)

**DAY TWO:** This morning we head north, following the entire Loch Ness shoreline and visit the atmospheric Culloden Battlefield, scene of Bonnie Prince Charlie's defeat and the end of Jacobite Rebellion. Afterwards, we explore Inverness, capital of the Highlands, giving you time to have a wander around some of the shops and pick up some lunch. In the afternoon we explore beautiful Glen Affric, arguably Scotland's most scenic Glen and take in this fantastic landscape before returning to Loch Ness and stopping at the famous viewpoint beside Urquhart Castle. This is your last chance to capture a photograph of the famous monster before heading once more to our overnight accommodation by Loch Ness. (Overnight Loch Ness)

DAY THREE: Firstly we visit the most photographed castle in Scotland, the famous stronghold Eilean Donan Castle (used in the film "Highlander") before we spend the rest of the day exploring Skye. Highlights include the mysterious Quirang mountain pass and a spectacular walk through some of Skye's extraordinary geological scenery. Visit Kilt Rock, with its waterfall cascading over the cliffs and into the sea below. Tonight we spend the evening in a quaint village on the Island. (Overnight Skye)

DAY FOUR: In the morning we explore the south of the island, named 'the garden of Skye' before taking the ferry to Maillaig. You have time to explore this busy west coast fishing village and perhaps enjoy its famous seafood. You then have the option\* to take the steam train to Fort William (voted by Wanderlust Magazine as the 'Top Rail Journey in the World'), crossing the Glenfinnan viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films.

Those that don't opt for the steam train can enjoy a trip along the road to the Isles including Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard at the start of the failed Jacobite campaign. From Fort William, we enjoy some magnificent coastal scenery as we head south. We will take you to the awe inspiring Glencoe, where your guide will regale you with the story of the famous massacre, before driving south to the gorgeous port town of Oban, our home for our last night. Your guide will try to source tickets to a local Ceilidh so that you can end your tour in traditional Scottish style! (Overnight Oban)

DAY FIVE: Our final day is another fantastic day full of highlights. First of all, we pass picturesque Loch Awe (Scotland's longest Loch) as we travel East and then down to Inveraray, on the banks of the famous sea Loch, Loch Fyne (famous for its oysters). We then head up over the Arrochar Alps and stop for a magnificent view at Rest and be Thankful. Lunch is on the shores of the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond, giving you time to take in the beauty and romance of this famous Loch before heading into the Trossachs national park and onto Stirling - home to Scottish hero William Wallace. Our final stop will be at the impressive William Wallace Monument, where your passionate and knowledgeable guide will recount exciting tales of Scotland's national hero William Wallace. It's a short drive from here back to Edinburgh, where we end the adventure and say goodbye...for now.