

Magical Mull, Isle of Iona & West Highlands

4 day tour

Find yourself in perfect harmony with nature as you relax amidst the beauty of Scotland.

Places you'll explore

Glencoe and the West Highlands - Famous for a bloody ancient massacre, this beautiful spot offers peaceful waterside views from the site of ancient ruins.

Taking the ferry across the Sound of Mull - Glide across this Atlantic sound on a charming ferry ride between Hebridean isles.

The colourful harbour town of Tobermory - Famous for its local whisky and charming architecture, this wee town wins over many who see it.

Iona with its ancient Abbey - Beauty and spirituality mingle here, with the near 1500 year old Christian settlement complementing Iona's ancient majesty.

Remote beaches at Calgary Bay - Bright white sands front crystalline water in this famously beautiful spot for pictures.

Kilmartin Glen standing stones - Return to the past at one of the richest areas in the UK for Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland. A real prehistoric feast!

Inveraray - Explore the fabulous home town of the Duke of Argyll and its stunning ancestral castle.

Your journey

You'll keep your phone on silent mode on this tour.

Because you won't want to disturb the tranquil wildlife, unspoilt blonde beaches, and traditional fishing villages. You'll simply want to take in as much of the natural harmony as possible.

You stay in the brightly coloured fishing village of Tobermory, where the locals live peacefully alongside the wild ocean. You visit ancient abbeys and prehistoric standing stones that have stood serenely for centuries. And you get the chance to see the unchanging geological wonder of Fingal's Cave.

So take part in this tour and rejuvenate your senses in the peaceful natural surroundings of Iona and Mull.

Departs

09.00 - Gate J and Gate K, Edinburgh Bus Station, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3DQ

Returns

19.00 approx

(Stirling customers please note, that although this tour starts/finishes in Edinburgh, both on the outbound and return journey this tour passes near to Stirling and we can arrange a pick up/drop off from the Riverhouse Restaurant on the outskirts of Stirling for you – you can get there by taxi within 5-10 minutes from the University/Bridge of Allan/Stirling town centre area)

Departs most Tuesdays May to October Prices per person in 2018, excluding accommodation

May: £215 / £199 discounted

June – September:: £229 / £219 discounted

October £215 / £199 discounted

Discounts

Students, seniors over 60, and children between 5 and 15
(unfortunately, we don't carry children under 5 years old)

Important information

Pack your waterproof clothing and walking shoes

One 15 kilogram bag, and one carry-on bag per person

Tour inclusions

All ferry fares except the optional trip to Staffa

Transport in a 16 seat Mercedes mini-coach

Air conditioning as standard

The stories and services of a driver-guide

Tour exclusions

Entry fees to visitor attractions

Tour accommodation

- Learn about the epic battles that took place as you travel to Callander
- Surrender to the majesty of Glencoe
- Fall in love with the lovely little harbour town of Tobermory

Day 1

You leave Edinburgh and travel past Stirling Castle to the small bustling town of Callander.

From here, you continue through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and bristling terrain of the Trossachs, before reaching the wide and remote expanse of Rannoch Moor.

Your drive north brings you to Glencoe, scene of the infamous massacre of Clan MacDonald in 1692.

After a short ferry ride across Loch Linnhe, you meander through the impressive mountains of Morven to Lochaline, where we take another ferry to the Hebridean island of Mull.

You arrive in Tobermory, the island's capital, for our three-night stay. Tobermory, meaning 'Well of Mary', has brightly coloured houses looking over the sea and is often referred to as one of the prettiest harbour towns in Scotland.

Day 2

Enjoy the serenity of the tiny settlement of Dervaig

Explore the quaint shops of Tobermory

You drive to the remote areas of the island and visit the pretty settlement of Dervaig.

From here, you venture to the wild thrashing sandy shores of Calgary Bay. And if you're lucky, you may see the huge white tailed eagles, which live in this area.

An early afternoon return to Tobermory, allows you to soak up the atmosphere of this pretty town. You have a chance to peruse the small shops, and the local Tobermory whisky distillery

Day 3

Examine the geological and mythical wonder of Fingal's Cave
Visit one of Scotland's most sacred places at the Iona Abbey and Nunnery

You head south to Fionnphort, where you take a passenger ferry to the small island of Iona.

Iona is an island of quiet charm, and is the cradle of Celtic Christianity. You have time to explore the island's Abbey, and museum of history and Celtic heritage. There are magnificent Celtic crosses and headstones to see, or, alternatively, you can enjoy a stroll along the peaceful sandy beaches.

In the afternoon, you have the opportunity to take a small boat to the island of Staffa, where nature enthusiasts can seek out the abundant marine life.

Staffa is home to Fingal's cave, which is one of the most amazing geological sites, and is known as 'Nature's cathedral'.

After a day in the great outdoors, we return to Tobermory for the night.

Day 4

See the pristine Inveraray castle on the shores of Loch Fyne

[if !supportLists]· [endif]Look down a cascading valley at the 'Rest and be Thankful' viewpoint

Departing Tobermory, we head south to Craignure for a short crossing to Oban, the biggest town in Argyll.

From here, you head to Kilmartin Glen, and get the chance to explore an area of Neolithic Burial Chambers, known as 'the valley of ghosts'.

Continuing west, you arrive in the whitewashed 18th Century town of Inveraray, on the shores of Loch Fyne. Inveraray castle is a mixture of

Scots Baronial and Neo-Gothic architecture and is the seat of Clan Campbell.

After leaving the town, you arrive in the National Park of Loch Lomond and climb up more than 800 feet to the 'Rest and be Thankful'.

You continue to drive east towards Stirling, with opportunities for photos of the castle, before we return to Edinburgh in the early evening.

Accommodation

Where does this tour stay overnight?

Your tour stays one night in Inverness.

How does the accommodation work?

Your tour excludes accommodation; but when you book, you can ask us to reserve local accommodation for you, or you can choose to reserve your own accommodation in the overnight locations.

I want you to book my accommodation, what happens now?

Once you've booked your tour, we'll reserve all your accommodation, and your driver will drop you off with your hosts. You'll pay your accommodation hosts directly. Most accommodation hosts don't accept credit cards, so be prepared to pay cash.

Due to availability, we may not be able to reserve your first choice of accommodation. When this happens we'll book your second choice, and if there are any further issues we'll contact you.

What if I want to change my accommodation booking with you?

Changes to accommodation cannot be guaranteed and are subject to availability. A minimum amendment charge of £5.00 will apply, increasing to a maximum of £25.00 depending on the length of your tour.

I booked my own accommodation is there anything I need to do?

You'll need to contact us with your accommodation details. Please only reserve accommodation within the overnight towns that your tour stops in. And if you're unsure, please check with us first.

Your driver will drop you off at your chosen accommodation as long as it's relatively central.

What if I cancel my tour at short notice?

If you cancel less than three days before departure, you may be liable for the cost of your first nights' accommodation. And occasionally you may be liable for all your accommodation costs.

What are the accommodation types and what do they cost?

We try to reserve accommodation that's no more than a 20-minute walk from the town centre. But during busy periods there can be a walk of up to 30 minutes.

We regularly check our accommodation suppliers to ensure they reach a certain standard. The prices below are for guidance only.

B&B (Bed and Breakfast) Standard

The toilet and showering facilities are shared with at least one other rooms in the house, and the price includes breakfast. The cost is between £30.00 - £35.00 per person per night. A single standard is between £35.00 - £60.00 per night.

B&B En/suite

The showering and toilet facilities are private, and breakfast is included in the price. The expected cost for a room, based on two people sharing, will be between £40.00 – £50.00 per person per night.

The expected cost for a single room will be between *£55.00 - £65.00 per night. If you travel during a busy period, you can expect to pay up to *£75 - £80 per night. Rooms with a view are limited and may be more expensive.

Hotels

Hotels have a bar or restaurant and provide evening meals. Breakfast is included in the price. The expected cost of Hotel 3* is between £65.00 - £85.00 per person per night. Hotel 4* is approximately £75.00 - £120.00 per person per night. Please be

advised that 4* hotels aren't available in some smaller rural areas of the Scottish Highlands and islands.

Hostels

A hostel consists of dormitory rooms with 4 to 16 bunk beds. Towels aren't provided, but you can hire towels there. The bathroom facilities are a short distance from the dorm room. Kitchen facilities are equipped so you can make your own meals. The cost is between £15.00- £25.00 per person per night. Please note that SYHA hostels only offer same gender dorms. Some independent hostels will offer mixed rooms (males and females together). If you have a preference, please let us know at the time of booking.

Let me know,
which if this tour would suit you best,
which dates exactly you are looking to travel
confirm your full name
telephone number
your accommodation preferences (B&B, hotel or hostel)

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch and I shall be happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Mike

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