

Iona, Mull & the Isle of Skye

5 day tour

Rugged mountains, pristine lochs, and mythical moments abound on this tour of Scotland's beautiful islands.

Places you'll explore

Loch Lomond National Park - One of Scotland's largest lochs. Admire the views and take postcard-perfect photos to share with your friends and family.

Oban - This Victorian harbour town offers excellent seafood and a charming intimacy.

Iona and Staffa - Visit the tiny Island of Iona, inhabited with just around 120 people.

Fingal's Cave - The cave is compiled of naturally assembled hexagonal pillars from Paleocene lava flow.

Isle of Skye - One of the world's most stunning islands.

Eilean Donan Castle - An iconic and gorgeous 13th century castle that once warded off Viking invasions.

Prices per person in 2018, excluding accommodation

Please note these are the prices per person for the 5 day tour in a 16 seater+ coach.

March & April: £299 / £279 discounted

May: £329 / £309 discounted

June – September: £359 / £339 discounted

October: £329 / £309 discounted

Discounts

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

Your journey

Living on an island was hard.

You were subject to the will of the ocean, limited to local hunting, and could be invaded from any side, at any time.

But we think all these hardships build the most beautiful cultures and spectacular landscapes.

In the Isle of Skye, you have gorgeous winged cliffs carved by the winds of the east Atlantic. The sea and sky enveloping Mull are stocked with herds of whales and soaring eagles. And the people of Iona have a remarkable culture that has been influenced by the invading Celts, Vikings, and Christians.

Take this tour and discover Scotland's rugged, beautiful, and historic islands.

Departs

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

Returns

19.00 approx

Discounts

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

Important information

[if !supportLists]- [endif]Pack your waterproof clothing and walking shoes

One 15 kilogram bag per person

Tour inclusions

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

- Stare into mountainous horizons in the West Highlands
- Stroll through the handsome harbour town of Oban

Day 1

Travel north past Stirling Castle and to the region of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

You venture through the impressive mountains of the West Highlands and the magnificent whitewashed 18th Century town of Inveraray, home to the Campbell Clan and the Duke of Argyll.

The afternoon will be spent in the heart of Argyll before arriving in the bustling town of Oban for your two night stay.

Day 2

- Discover the history of Celtic Christianity
- See one of Scotland's most unique geological wonders at Fingal's Cave

[Today](#) you have an early start, beginning the day crossing on the ferry to Mull for a chance to explore dramatic coastlines and wild beauty.

You take the small ferry to Iona, birthplace of Celtic Christianity, and ancient burial ground of Scottish Kings. Here you can visit the historic abbey with its intricate carved crosses in the churchyard, or explore rocky headlands and sandy coves.

There's an opportunity to take a small boat to the island of Staffa and view the dramatic basalt columns immortalised by Mendelssohn in his Hebridean Overture "Fingal's Cave".

You then return on the ferry to Oban for your second night.

Day 3

- Arrive in the most 'tropical' town in Scotland, Plockton
- Be awestruck by the majestic slopes of Glencoe

You ramble north along the west coast around Appin, passing the impregnable Castle Stalker, and the gorgeous Glencoe.

You then venture through Fort William and under the shadow of Ben Nevis, which at 1,344 meters is the highest mountain in the British Isles.

We continue through the Great Glen, a natural fault in the earth's crust that runs through Scotland. From here, you travel north to the picturesque fishing village of Plockton. You're dropped off at your accommodation in the early evening.

Day 4

- Traverse the legendary landscapes of Skye
- Delve deep into Celtic history

[Today](#) is a very flexible day on Skye. There are many possibilities depending on the weather; and your driver-guide will use their local knowledge to decide on the best day out for the group.

You may go to the 13th century home of the Clan Macleod, Dunvegan Castle, travel through the emerald green valley of Glendale, or head to the dramatic sea-cliffs and lonely lighthouse at Neist Point.

We return you to your accommodation in Plockton in the late afternoon for a free evening to explore the village.

Day 5

- Snap a few photos at the gorgeous Eilean Donan Castle
- Try and spot the Loch Ness Monster

You're collected from your accommodation for the short drive to the famous stronghold of Eilean Donan Castle.

Then, you travel east taking in the stunning views over Loch Duich and the Five Sisters of Kintail. You continue on to Loch Ness for lunch and the possibility of spotting "Nessie".

Your tour moves through the Grampian Mountains and along Loch Laggan, before passing Dalwhinnie, home to Scotland's highest whisky distillery.

In Perthshire, you stop for refreshments before heading back to Edinburgh past Perth and over the Forth Road Bridge.

Where does this tour stay overnight?

You stay two nights in Oban and two nights in Plockton. During busy periods, you may stay in Portree instead of Plockton.

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.