

Highland Explorer: Skye & Far North

5 day tour

Soak up the romantic beauty of the Isle of Skye and the Far North.

Places you'll explore

Cairngorms National Park - Gaze in awe at Scotland's most beautifully rounded peaks.

Loch Ness - This loch holds more fresh water than all of the lakes in England and Wales combined.

Ullapool and Assynt - Explore outstanding natural scenery and breathtaking views in these beautiful locations.

Applecross* & Torridon - Looking for some serenity? This peaceful spot offers unblemished landscapes in their most natural state.

Eilean Donan Castle - Located on its own little island, this famous castle is sure to be a favourite.

Glencoe - Famous for an ancient massacre, this beautiful spot offers intriguing tales and mystical views.

Five Sisters of Kintail - Gaze in awe at the powerful peaks and rising ridges of this impressive mountain chain.

Your journey

Mountains, valleys, forests: we love all the wild places.

And there's nothing we love more than sharing this passion with our passengers.

So on this trip we get you out exploring Scotland's great wilderness. From the wind swept light house on the edge of Skye to the untouched beaches of the Northern Highlands.

But not everything on this trip is wild.

Because in the evenings we make sure you rest easy in Scotland's calm and cosy little villages.

**A road closure on Bealach Na Ba Road means we're unable to take you to the Applecross Peninsula [between 8th April and 18th May](#). Instead, you get more time to explore the other gorgeous sights of the North Coast 500.*

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

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

- Wander around the beautiful village of Dunkeld
- Try your best to spot the Loch Ness Monster

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.

Up to 24th March: £249 / £229 discounted

25th [March](#) – 3rd April: £275 / £255 discounted

7th [April](#) – 28th April: £245 / £225 discounted

May: £275 / £255 discounted

June – September: £299 / £279 discounted

October: £275 / £255 discounted

November: £245 / £225 discounted

Discounts

Students, seniors over 60, and children between 5 and 15
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Day 1

You head north over the Forth Road Bridge to the charming highland village of Dunkeld.

From here, you head into the Cairngorms National Park and the ancient pine forests of the Rothiemurchus estate.

You stop for lunch before a short forest walk takes you to the ruins of Loch an Eilein castle.

You enjoy panoramic views of Loch Ness as you travel down to the banks of the famous loch, and the village of Dores where you can do some “Nessie” spotting!

Then it's onto the shores of Loch Broom where you spend two nights at Ullapool.

Day 2

Visit the crumbling ruins of Ardvreck Castle

Admire the pristine beach of Achmelvich Bay

[Today](#), you explore the far northwest Highlands and the mountains of Assynt. This area is famous as being the first crofting area to be bought by the local crofters, the Assynt Crofters' Trust.

You're immersed in the history of the area and visit the 15th century ruins of Ardvreck Castle, once the stronghold of the MacLeods of Assynt.

The day is full of amazing views of some of Europe's oldest landscapes, the stunning white sand beach at Achmelvich Bay, and the traditional fishing village of Lochinver.

You spend the night in the picturesque fishing village of Ullapool

Day 3

Find out how palm trees arrived in the village of Plockton

Take the Bealach na Ba road, one of Scotland's most beautiful routes.

You head south to take in the drama of the River Droma's 60m plunge into the Corrieshalloch Gorge.

From here, you travel past the mountains of the Beinn Eighe nature reserve and along the picturesque coastline of Loch Torridon.

After your lunch stop in Applecross, you take one of the highest and most exhilarating roads in Scotland, Bealach na Ba.

In the afternoon, you stop in "tropical" Plockton, where you can see palm trees growing alongside Loch Carron and take time to enjoy its sheltered serenity. Then it's over the sea to Skye and the delightful harbour town of Portree.

Day 4

Learn about Skye's heroic landscapes

Spend an evening in the delightful town of Portree

[Today](#) is a flexible day on Skye. There are many options depending on the weather.

You may travel north to the stunning Quiraing mountain pass and enjoy a spectacular walk through Skye's extraordinary geological scenery. You

can also visit Kilt Rock and see its waterfall cascading over the cliffs and down into the sea below.

After lunch, you may travel to Neist Point for a walk out to the lighthouse at the most westerly point on Skye. Alternatively, you may like to visit Dunvegan Castle, ancient ancestral seat of the Clan McLeod. In the late afternoon, we return you to your accommodation in Portree for a free evening in the village

Day 5

Take a picture of Scotland's 'most photographed castle', Eilean Donan Castle

Travel through the mysterious landscape of Glencoe

Travel south from Skye and visit the famous stronghold, Eilean Donan Castle.

Continuing east through the rugged mountains of Kintail, you drive down through Glen Garry past Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, and onto Fort William for lunch.

In the afternoon, you explore spectacular Glencoe, scene of the infamous massacre of the Clan Macdonald in 1692.

You then start your journey towards Edinburgh.

Where does this tour stay overnight?

You stay two nights in the fishing village of Ullapool* and two nights in the harbour town of Portree, on the Isle of Skye (some tours may stay in Inverness instead of Ullapool).

**Tours departing [on 12th May](#) stay in inverness instead of Ullapool on the first night due to a book festival. And the tours departing on 27th and [29th September](#) stay two nights in Inverness instead of Ullapool.*

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.

