

Experience the **Best of Scotland** with **Classic Scotland Tours**

- Every tour is personally planned, so you visit the places you want to see.
- Customised private itineraries, transported in style at your own pace.
 - Fully qualified **Blue Badge** driver / guides
 - Any group size from 2 upwards.
- Indulge yourself with fine dining and the best hotels.
 - Departures all year.
- Fully bonded and licensed operator so you are financially protected

You decide, we provide!

Classic Scotland Tour Profile

Starting in Scotland's sophisticated capital, Edinburgh, this tour travels throughout this great and beautiful country discovering the history and hidden places that make it so endearing. We will explore some of the most stunning scenery in the world from picturesque mountains to peaceful lochs and glens.

Why Not? Create your own tour. As with all our tours the attractions you see will take account of your interests and can be adapted to what you want to see.

DAY ONE ► AIRPORT TRANSFER • CITY TOUR

From your arrival airport, our guide will collect you and introduce you to the history and sites of Edinburgh. The heart of the city is a World Heritage Site and one of the most beautiful cityscapes anywhere. Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline and you can relax whilst we drive through the city streets. You will start with the **Old Town** – a medieval city with the complicated street pattern and bustling cultural scene before passing Arthur's Seat and the new **Scottish Parliament** building. One of the best views of the city can be had from **Carlton Park** and then, passing **Princes Street** we then move onto the **Georgian New Town** and award winning architecture.

You will stay for the next two nights in the heart of the city.

DAY TWO ► EDINBURGH CASTLE • ST GILES CATHEDRAL • PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

On our first full day, we will take a stroll down the **Royal Mile**. At the top of the street is **Edinburgh Castle**. This is most famous of Scottish castle and dates from the C12th. Your guide will relate the castle's stories and key personalities and you will see the Crown Jewels of Scotland and the Stone of Destiny. From here, we will walk down the Royal Mile exploring its numerous hidden alleys and legends. About half way down is **St Giles Cathedral**. Often referred to as the "Cradle of Presbyterianism" it was John Knox's church in the reformation. At the bottom of the street is the **Palace of Holyroodhouse** – the Queen's official residence in Scotland. It is probably best known as the home of Mary Queen of Scots and the setting for the most dramatic parts of her reign.

DAY THREE ► LINLITHGOW PALACE • STIRLING CASTLE • OLD TOWN • ARGYLL'S LODGING

To the east of Edinburgh is the ancient burgh of **Linlithgow**. Just off the town square is **Linlithgow Palace** – the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots. Originally built in the C15th the palace is perfectly positioned beside the loch. Now a ruin, there are many tales to discover. Then, travelling north to Stirling – named Scotland's newest city in 2002. **Stirling Castle** was once the residence of the Scottish Kings and it perches onto of an extinct volcano. It is here that some of the country's most famous warriors lived and fought including William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. The exquisite architecture and cobbled streets of the Old Town are testament to Scotland's troubled past. Within the old town is **Argyll's Lodging** – the most complete surviving example of a C17th town house in Scotland. From here we will travel the few miles to your hotel.

DAY FOUR ► SCONE PALACE • DUNKELD • BLAIR CASTLE

This morning we will drive to the east. Once the crowning palace of the kings of the Scots, **Scone Palace** occupies a unique position in the country's history. A breathtakingly beautiful place of power and mystery it is the rightful home of the Stone of Scone – also known as the Stone of Destiny. Today, it is a superb estate with outstanding grounds and landscapes. From here, we track back to **Dunkeld**. This little town was the original seat of the kingdom of the Picts and the Scotland's first king, Kenneth McAlpin, built a stone church here. This later became the centre of Christianity. Lastly today, we will visit **Blair Castle**, a classic castle and a major stately home. The seat of the Murray family, the castle has vast collections of weapons, paintings and furniture. Your overnight stop can either be in the town of Pitlochry or on one of the many estates nearby.

DAY FIVE ► CAIRNGORMS • ELGIN CATHEDRAL • CAWDOR CASTLE • WHISKY TOUR

You are now in the Scottish Highland and this morning we will travel through the **Cairngorm National Park**. This range of mountains is the largest area of arctic landscape in the UK and is home to 25% of Britain's flora and fauna. This area also has the World's highest concentration of whisky distilleries including famous names like Glenlivet and Glenfiddich. Discovering the process is very interesting and we can take a **whisky distillery tour** at lunchtime or later in the day. To the north, is Elgin. **Elgin Cathedral** has many ancient and unusual Pictish decorated stones. **Cawdor Castle** is magical place. Made famous by Shakespeare as the home of MacBeth, it is a fairly tale castle over 600 years old. Today, it is a family home with three gardens and even a golf course.

Your hotel choices include a castle or a boutique hotel in the heart of whisky country.



Edinburgh



Holyroodhouse



Stirling Castle



Blair Castle



Cairngorms

DAY SIX ► CULLODEN • LOCH NESS • URQUHART CASTLE • EILEAN DONAN

The **Battle of Culloden** is arguably the most important battle in Scotland's history. In 1745, Jacobites – mainly highland Scots rose up against the British government in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie's claim to the throne. After a series of conflicts the final battle took place at Culloden where the Jacobites were defeated by the government and severe penalties were imposed. We will explore the sites to see the brutal battle took place. From here, we will take the road past Inverness then down the west side of **Loch Ness**. From one of the many viewpoints, there are many boats to seek out the monster. At the southern end of the Loch is **Urquhart Castle** a romantic ruin and probably a very ancient site. The castle probably dates from the C13th. The overnight stay is on Skye and the road to the new bridge is probably the most scenic in Britain. On the way is **Eilean Donan** – the most photographed castle on the planet and an icon of Scotland.



Urquhart Castle

DAY SEVEN ► ISLE OF SKYE • FERRY • JACOBITE STEAM RAILWAY • GLEN COE

The **Isle of Skye** is the most breathtaking of the Scottish Islands. The jagged ridge of the Cuillin Hills, dominate the western part of the island but there are many tiny villages, bays and inlets to explore towards the east. Skye is also a haven for local crafts with many specialist artisans. The **Ferry** to the mainland inspired the Skye Boat Song. This is a traditional folk song recalling Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape from Culloden. The ferry arrives at Mallaig and during the summer months, the **Jacobite Steam Railway** runs from here to Fort William. This is one of the great railway journeys of the world and has come to recent prominence as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter Movies. From here we will drive south through **Glen Coe** – hearing the stories behind the conflict between the Campbells and the MacDonalds, before arriving at your overnight accommodation, close to **Loch Lomond**.



Isle of Skye

DAY EIGHT ► LOCH LOMOND • LUSS • GLASGOW • GLASGOW CATHEDRAL AND NECROPOLIS

On our way to Glasgow, we will see Loch Lomond. Now a National Park, the loch is the largest expanse of fresh water in Britain. It is a focal point for wildlife and water sports. Close to the loch is **Luss**. Made famous in the TV soap, "Take the High Road" it is a conservation village originally built for workers in the local cotton mill.

Glasgow has many elegant streets with outstanding Victorian architecture. It was known as the second city of the British Empire with many wealthy traders and merchants. The city has many famous sons including Charles Rennie Mackintosh who founded the famous Glasgow School of Art. At the east end of the new city is the **Cathedral** – a wonderful example of gothic architecture. Overlooking the Cathedral is **Glasgow Necropolis** which is essentially a graveyard to the rich and famous of Victorian Scotland.



Glasgow

Please contact us – Toll Free: 1866 464 7389

Tour Extensions and Activities

Each of our tours is personally planned to take account of your interests. Here is just a sample of the wide range of activities that we can add to enhance your tour.

Extensions

We personally plan all our tours and use the tour detailed above as a sample. You can adapt this to include many other places and attractions. These can include:

- **ST ANDREWS CITY AND GOLF COURSE**
- **BALMORAL CASTLE**
- **ABERDEEN**
- **ROBERT BURNS**
- **ORKNEY, SHETLAND, ISLAY AND ANY OF THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS**
- **HADRIAN'S WALL**
- **A WHISKY TRAIL BASED TOUR**
- **CLAN HISTORY AND FAMILY HISTORY**

LET US KNOW WHERE YOU WANT TO GO AND WE CAN OFFER YOU A TOUR PLAN WITHIN 24 HOURS

Fishing and Hunting

From craggy beaches and forest lochs to deep rivers and estuaries, the Southern Uplands offer an extremely wide variety of sports fishing opportunities. The water is amongst the cleanest in Europe, and therefore rich in natural fish stock including pike, carp, perch and roach as well as the salmon and trout for which Scotland is world famous.

The dramatic natural environment of Scotland offers some of the World's finest hunting, with a wide variety of game including grouse, pheasant, partridge, snipe, woodcock and woodpigeon. Scotland is also famous for deer stalking.



Helicopter Flights

Take to the air with the ultimate in sightseeing. Soaring above Scotland's great cities to the remote highlands and islands. From short sightseeing trips to longer tours, you would be able visit the outlying islands with your own helicopter and guide. Visit some islands few human reach and discover the unique wildlife and culture of these places.



The Royal Scotsman

One of the great railway journeys of the World, The Royal Scotsman has a number of wonderful excursions we can plan into a private tour. Travel between 2 and 7 nights and you will experience the majesty of this outstanding 5 star train. From the comfort and warmth of your carriage the train will glide through the highlands. Food is the key to this experience and you will be served only the finest local produced, cooked by the best chefs. The experience is enhanced by tales told by the locals making Scotland's colourful history come alive.



Trekking, Horse Riding and Wildlife trips

Scotland's stunning and dramatic scenery offers a wealth of opportunities for hill walking, horse riding and wildlife trips. Whether it's enjoying a gentle country stroll or a breezy coastal walk, trekking long distance routes or scrambling amidst the majestic mountains, Scotland's breathtaking landscape and overwhelming spirit-of-place will refresh and enliven your senses. On many of the islands, trips can be taken to see the dolphins, basking sharks and whales that frequent their waters and the sea eagles which feast on the fish-rich waters.



Malt Whisky Tours and Local Cookery

Your tour of Scotland is not complete without experiencing Scotland's most famous export – malt whisky. With a huge number of distilleries to choose from, set in beautiful locations alongside rivers and lochs. Experience the whole process from malting to bottling and even blend your own malt. Visit Speyside, the capital of whisky production or travel to the western isles and Islay, where the finest peaty malts are crafted. As part of a whisky tour, many of our guests visit Dufftown, the centre of the Speyside malt whisky region and attend dinners where each course reflects the subtle flavours of the different malts served with them.



Edinburgh Festival and Highland Games

Scotland has a wealth of festivals and special events including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Speyside and Islay malt whisky festivals, the Highland games, the Loch Shiel Festival (classical music), the Tarbert Seafood Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, to name but a few. Your vacation can be timed to coincide with any of these and we can arrange tables at prestigious Gala dinners for you.



Golf

Golf, it is believed, was first played in its modern form in Scotland about 300 years ago and every golfer should play here. The "Home of Golf" and the most famous course in the World is St Andrews and tee times can be arranged for you. There are courses throughout the country to suit all levels. Don't worry about equipment as we can hire clubs; arrange the tee time and anything else to make your experience memorable.



Please contact us – Toll Free: 1866 464 7389

Accommodation and Tour Details

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation is based on first class hotels on a bed and breakfast basis. Lunch and evening meals are not included unless specifically stated in the tour notes. Two further hotel bands are available, our Country House and our Platinum Collections.

Entrance Fees

Each tour is led by a fully qualified **Scottish Blue Badge Driver / Guide**. In most instances, entrances to historic attractions are included in the price we will quote you.

Prices

We aim to offer the best and most competitive price for each of our tours. We use our partners to get the best price at the time of booking. The cost will also depend on the services you require. Please **contact us** for the best price.

Airport Transfers

Return transfers from London airports to the start and finish of the tour are not in the tour costs. We can provide transfers from any location, from other airports and cruise ports.

Practical Information

Climate

As some of attractions on this tour are out of doors it is advisable to take the correct clothing. With the unpredictability of the climate and forecast, wet weather clothing is essential. Sturdy footwear and waterproof clothing are advised.

Jan 6	Feb 7	Mar 10	April 13	May 17	June 20
July 22	Aug 21	Sept 19	Oct 14	Nov 10	Dec 7

Health

This tour involves a walking on some terrain that can be fairly rough. We ask all our travellers to carefully consider the physical demands of our tours and discuss any concerns that may arise. There is much scope for flexibility within each tour to accommodate a range of limitations and needs, but we do have to be clear what they may be before accepting any booking.

Additionally, if you find walking difficult or any other health requirement, please let us know as soon as possible. There may be motorised wheelchairs available at some attractions. These may be booked if sufficient notice is given.

Taxes

Value Added Tax is applied to most goods. Most travellers can get a VAT refund, but you must ask and the paperwork and procedures can be long and complicated.

Tipping

Some restaurants and hotels will automatically add a 10-15% service charge. Check your bill before tipping further. Taxis, Restaurants, Bell Boys, Porter expect a tip, bar staff in pubs, do not.

Important information

The information in this tour profile is given in good faith and covers the planned excursions, attractions and conditions which should be available on this tour. In some instances, due to unforeseen circumstances, changes in the above itinerary might be necessary. To appreciate this tour to its best, you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

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