

MACDONALD CLAN TOUR

Introduction

- 4 Days / 3 Nights
- Any Day Start
- First Class Hotels
- Standard Group Size 1 - 8

The word clan actually derives from the Gaelic 'Clann', meaning 'children' or 'stock'. However it's meaning can be a tribe or race or can represent a family unit. At the head of the clan stands the Clan chief. Each Clan took the form of a military regiment. Each Clan having a distinctive badge and war cry and its own pipe tunes. No Clan would enter into a war until its people were consulted. Only after full consent was given was the Clan put on a wartime footing

Trip Profile

On this tour, we travel in a circular route visiting the Highlands and the stunning beautiful Isle of Skye to see the places associated with the largest of the Highland clans, the MacDonalds. The original Donald was a grandson of Somerled, King of the Isles. He drove out the Vikings out in the C12th and inherited many of the Islands and lands on the west mainland. Later generations became so powerful they had their own parliament and rivalled the King of Scotland as "Lord of the Isles".

There are several branches of the clan each having their own chieftain. The Glengarry line adopted the name MacDonnell.

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.

Itinerary

Day One

From your hotel or airport, we travel north to the ancient capital of Scotland, Stirling. **Stirling Castle** dominates the surrounding landscapes sitting serenely above the town. Many of the Scottish kings were crowned in the castle and the area was a stronghold for William Wallace. We spend a short time to explore this outstanding attraction. Close-by is the battlefield of **Bannockburn**. It was here that Edward II of England was defeated by Robert the Bruce with the help of Angus Ogg MacDonald. MacDonald's swordsmen were considered the fiercest in the battle. After lunch, we will travel a short distance to the site of the Battle of **Sherrifmuir**. In 1715, when George I succeeded Queen Anne to the throne, the Jacobites, led by the Earl of Mar, raised an army to restore the Stuart line. The MacDoanalds supported the Earl but the clan chief was killed in a defeat by the government forces. We then travel north through the glorious scenery of the **Cairngorm Mountains**.



Bannockburn

Day Two

This morning we will visit one of the key sites in Scotland's history – the battlefield of **Culloden**. To support the Jacobites many clans joined Bonnie Prince Charlie in his plan to replace George II as King. Whilst some of the MacDonald clans did not favour Bonnie Prince Charlie, he escaped his defeat with the help of Flora MacDonald who disguised him as a woman. This area is also the home of Scotch Whisky. We can take the short journey to **Dufftown**, the whisky capital of Scotland and home to **Glenfiddich**. You can visit the distillery or visit the factories of other famous products of the area, such as Walkers Shortbread or Johnston's Cashmere. Travelling along **Loch Ness** we will start our journey south. At Fort Augustus, we can take a boat out onto the loch to spot the monster! and, to see **Urquhart Castle**. We are nearing the stronghold of the MacDonalds and an area of dispute between the Crown and the Clan. In the C14th and 15th the castle changed hands many times.



Culloden

Day Three

A few miles south of your overnight stay is **The Well of The Seven Heads**. In 1663, two sons of the clan chief were murdered during a quarrel. The deaths of the seven men were ordered. Their heads were removed and washed in a spring. Travelling west along some of the most outstanding scenery you will see anywhere on the planet, we will cross the bridge to the unparalleled beauty of the **Isle of Skye**. Just before the bridge is one of the world's most photographed castles – **Eilean Donan**. A stronghold of the MacRaes, it was attacked many times by the MacDonalds; the castle strong keep remained invisible to their attacks. Skye is dominated by the ancient mountain chain of the Cuillin Hills. To the north side of the hills is the **Trotternish Peninsula**. Flora MacDonald, who died in 1790, is buried at the cemetery in Kilmuir together with some MacArthurs – the celebrated pipers to the MacDonalds.



Eilean Donan

Day Four

On Skye is the **Clan MacDonald Museum**. The museum covers over 1500 years and it explores the culture that flourished under the MacDonald as Lords of the Isles. Exhibits include poetry and song, the musicians, stone carvers and physicians. The museum is part of a 20,000 acres estate which includes **Armadales Castle** and a 40 acre garden.

Taking the legendary Skye ferry to the mainland and after lunch at Mallaig, we will stop at **Glenfinnan**. The monument here was built by Alexander MacDonald in memory of the clansmen who fought for the Jacobite cause in 1745. Passing through the capital of the highlands – Fort William, we will travel back to Edinburgh through **Glen Coe**. This dramatic valley is the site of one of the most notorious massacres in Scottish history. In 1692, 40 members of the MacDonald clan were killed by Campbells.



Glen Coe

(4 days, all accommodation with breakfast, **Blue Badge Driver / Guide**, based on the number in your group)

Price per person – please contact us – Toll Free: 1866 464 7389

Accommodation and Tour Details

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation is based on first class accommodation. Lunch and evening meals are not included unless specifically stated in the tour notes. We are able to offer several grades of accommodations from beautiful bed and breakfasts to country houses and castles.

Guides and Entrance Fees

Each tour is lead 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. Distillery tours will vary according to the level of tour you require and between distilleries.

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

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

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	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
6	7	10	13	17	20
July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	21	19	14	10	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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Issue Date: October 2009 © Leisure Creations Ltd