



TOUR OF SCOTLAND

Day One

Arrive into Glasgow Airport and collect your **hire car** and then take the driver into Glasgow for a **guided tour of Glasgow Cathedral** and it is allegedly located where the patron saint of Glasgow, Saint Mungo, built his church. Check-in at your accommodation, followed by the remainder of the day at leisure to relax after your flight, or for independent sightseeing.

Day Two

Depart Glasgow and take the journey along picturesque **Loch Lomond**, and what makes it so special is its natural beauty, the diversity of its landscapes and its wildlife, the contrast between highland and lowland, and the way the loch pulls all these elements together. On then for a visit to **Inveraray Castle**, home to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll and the Duke is head of the Clan Campbell, and his family have lived in Inveraray since the early 15th century. Designed by Roger Morris and decorated by Robert Mylne, the fairytale exterior belies the grandeur of its gracious interior. Continue to **Fort William**, situated at the foot of Ben Nevis, taking the route along **Loch Awe**, sometimes called “the Jewel of Argyll” and it is the centrepiece of the stunning countryside stretching from the North Argyll Glens, on the edge of Rannoch Moor, to the ancient Kingdom of Dalriada in the south. On then for a drive through the **Glencoe Valley**, which owes its fame to two facts: firstly, the back-stabbing and traitorous massacre on Clan MacDonald of Glencoe in 1692, and it’s really outstanding natural beauty, which has made it a Scottish landmark all around the world. On arrival in **Fort William**, **check-in at your accommodation for overnight.**

Day Three

Take the scenic drive to **Mallaig for the ferry to Armadale on the Isle of Skye**, stopping for photos at **Glenfinnan Monument**. On arrival visit the **Museum of the Isles**, to discover the history of the Highlands and Islands through the story of Clan Donald, its most powerful clan, at this award-winning museum. Six interconnecting galleries, each with their own theme, take you through 1500 years of the history and culture of the area once known as the Kingdom of the Isles. The MacDonalds, or Clan Donald were the Lords of the Isles and sit at the heart of the history of Gaeldom and the museum follows their story and that of the Highlands. Continue to **Portree** for the remainder of the day at leisure. Check-in at your accommodation and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**.

Day Four

Today enjoy a **full day tour of the Island of Skye** to include **Uig, Kilt Rock Falls and Dunvegan Castle**, built on a rock in an idyllic loch side setting, Dunvegan is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years. **Overnight Portree.**

Day Five

Take the road bridge to the mainland and then continue to **Inverness**, stopping for a photo opportunity at the famous **Eilean Donan Castle**. You will then take a **Cruise on Loch Ness**, for some Nessy spotting and one of the best ways to enjoy some of the highlands' stunning scenery and the opportunity to view the huge ruins of Urquhart Castle. Late afternoon there will be a visit to the **Battlefield of Culloden**, where the Jacobite artillery opened fire on government soldiers and the government responded with their own cannon, and the Battle of Culloden began. **Overnight Inverness.**

Day Six

Depart Inverness, taking the drive through the **Cairngorm National Park**, with towering mountain ranges and large tracts of the original Caledonian Pine Forest to **Pitlochry**, in a spectacular setting under the dramatic skyline of Ben Vrackie (2,760 feet) with the River Tummel and Loch Faskally at its base. Take a guided tour of the **Blair Athol Distillery**, standing at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands, in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, and from the water of the Allt Dour Burn comes a 12 year old single malt whisky, with a mellow deep-toned aroma, a strong fruity flavor and a smooth finish. Enjoy some time to explore Pitlochry before taking the drive to **St Andrews** to check-in at your accommodation and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**.

Day Seven

Today there will be time to explore **St. Andrews**, the home of golf, location of Scotland's first University, and the epicenter of key events in Scotland's religious reformation. There will be a visit to the ruins of **St Andrews Cathedral and the Castle**. This will be followed by a traditional **Afternoon Tea at the Old Course Hotel**, with spectacular views of the world famous golf course. **Overnight in St Andrews**.

Day Eight

Take the drive for a morning visit to **Bannockburn**, which is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular battles of the Scottish Wars of Independence. Although the struggle against the English was to continue for some 13 years more, the Scottish victory was of enormous importance, as it secured the future of the throne for Robert Bruce, King of Scots. This will be followed by a stop at the **National Wallace Monument** to include an audio visual tour. On then for a visit to **Stirling Castle**, which played an important role in the life of Mary Queens of Scots and she spent her childhood in the castle, and her Coronation took place in the Chapel Royal in 1543. Continue to **Edinburgh**, to check-in at your centrally located hotel and this will be your base for the next **2 nights**.

Day Nine

After breakfast take an **Open Top Bus Tour of Edinburgh**, taking in the main sights and an opportunity to hop on and hop off and visit the attractions. **Overnight Edinburgh**.

Day Ten

Depart Edinburgh for the journey into the **Scottish Borders** for a visit to the ruins of **Jedburgh Abbey**, founded by David I in the years before he became King of Scots. From 1113, David effectively controlled all of southern Scotland and started his programme of monastic foundations. In 1118 he brought a colony of Augustinians or 'Canons Regular' from the Abbey of St-Quentin, at Beauvais, France to establish a priory at Jedburgh. You will then continue for a visit to **Melrose Abbey**, a magnificent ruin on a grand scale with lavishly decorated masonry. The Abbey is thought to be the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart, marked with a commemorative carved stone plaque within the grounds. There will be time to visit some of the **Scottish border villages** before taking the journey to your hotel near **Glasgow for overnight**.

Day Eleven

Take the short journey to Glasgow Airport, in time for your return flight home.