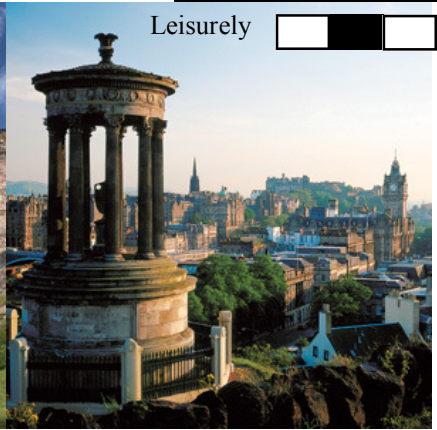


SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

June 10 - June 24, 2011 15 Days

PACE OF TOUR

Leisurely Active



After an overnight in Glasgow, head south to the Lowlands to see poet Robert Burns' birthplace in Alloway and Gretna Green. Cross into England for a guided visit of 11th-century Carlisle Castle and to see a section of Hadrian's Wall. Back in Scotland, see the house of Mary, Queen of Scots, the Jedburgh Abbey ruins, Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford House, and spend two nights in the Scottish capital of Edinburgh, with visits to its castle and Holyrood Palace. Heading north, stop at St. Andrews, home of golf, and Braemar, home of the Royal Highland Games. In the Scottish Highlands, drive through the Grampian Mountains, visit a whisky distillery, and the Highland capital of Inverness. An included excursion takes in Culloden Moor and Cawdor Castle, setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth. Also visit majestic Dunrobin Castle before boarding a ferry for the Orkney Islands. Here, a Local Guide shows you the unique sites, including a 5,000-year-old Neolithic village and the Ring of Brodgar, the area's own Stonehenge. Stunning scenery delivers you to the isles of Skye and Mull for 2-night stays on each. Return to Glasgow for the completion of your vacation.



TOUR PRICE per person, sharing.

Double occupancy \$4,161
 Single supplement \$409

DEPOSIT: \$300 per person non-refundable.

HEALTH: None required. Consult with your physician and health clinic.

DOCUMENTATION: Valid Canadian passport 6 months beyond return date (recommended).

INSURANCE: Comprehensive Insurance \$150 per person including tax.

VISA: No visa required for Canadian Citizens.

INCLUSIONS

- Professional Tour Director and local guides.
- Direct flights from Toronto with Air Transat.
- Accommodation in first class hotels. • Gratuities to Guides & Coach drivers.
- Meals as listed. • Sightseeing as listed.
- Roundtrip airport transfers at destination.
- Tour Leader accompanies you from Toronto with a minimum number of participants.

Day 1 - DEPART TORONTO - GLASGOW - Depart for your overnight transatlantic flight.

Day 2 - ARRIVE IN GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (D) - Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax in Scotland's largest city. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 3 - GLASGOW - ALLOWAY - CARLISLE (B,D) - Start your grand tour of Scotland with interesting Lowland sights: Scottish poet Robert Burns' birthplace and Museum at Alloway, and Gretna Green, where the blacksmith used to wed runaway couples. Step over the border for a guided visit to Carlisle Castle, which has guarded England's frontier with Scotland since the 11th century. Overnight nearby.

Day 4 - CARLISLE - ABBOTSFORD - EDINBURGH (B) - First, see a section of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman coast-to-coast defense against marauding northern tribes. On the way back over the Scottish border, glimpses of the house of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Jedburgh ruins. Finally, a highlight visit to Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford House for a fascinating guided tour.

Day 5 - EDINBURGH (B) - Morning city sightseeing with a Local Guide introduces you to the 200-year-old "New Town" and famous scientists, inventors, and novelists. In the "Old Town," drive up the narrow Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle to admire Scotland's Crown Jewels, then explore Holyrood Palace (except when the Queen is in residence). The afternoon is free to enjoy this "Prince of Cities" at your own pace.

Day 6 - EDINBURGH - ST. ANDREWS - BRAEMAR - INVERNESS (B,D) - Over the elegant Forth Road Bridge and through Fife to St. Andrews. Cross the Firth of Tay and from Dundee, head into the Highlands with a lunch stop in pretty Braemar, home of the Royal Highland Games. Drive through the Grampian Mountains to visit a Whisky Distillery. The next two nights are spent in the Highland capital.

Day 7 - INVERNESS. HIGHLANDS EXCURSION (B) - Fascinating visits on today's excursion. At Culloden Visitor Centre the story unfolds of the crushing Hanoverian victory over Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish clans. Then, call at Cawdor Castle, setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth and home to the Thanes of Cawdor for over 600 years. Back in Inverness, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 8 - INVERNESS - THURSO (B,D) - Continue an unforgettable journey and follow the coast road to majestic Dunrobin Castle, for centuries the seat of the Dukes and Earls of Sutherland. Visit the formal gardens and enjoy a fascinating Falconry Display.

Day 9 - THURSO, EXCURSION TO ORKNEY ISLANDS (B,D) - A fascinating day full of adventure. At John o'Groats, board a Ferry for the 45-minute crossing to South Ronaldsay, one of the Orkney Islands, where a local coach and driver-guide await you. Cross the four Churchill Barriers and overlook Scapa Flow, where the German fleet scuttled itself in World War I. Visit the Italian Chapel, built by prisoners of war in 1943 from scrap metal, concrete, and other materials. Then, head for Skara Brae, where you see the fascinating remains of a 5,000-year-old Neolithic village and visit Skail House. Yet more highlights: the Ring of Brodgar, the Orkneys' Stonehenge, and finally Kirkwall, the small and picturesque island capital. Return to the mainland by Ferry in the late afternoon.

Day 10 - THURSO - ULLAPOOL - ISLE OF SKYE (B,D) - A day to sit back and enjoy the breathtakingly wild and unspoiled scenery, some of the finest in Britain. Make a lunch stop in the quaint fishing port of Ullapool. Later, an early evening arrival on the Inner Hebridean Isle of Skye.

Day 11 - ISLE OF SKYE (B,D) - A full day on Skye to absorb the breathtaking scenery of this spectacular and history-steeped isle. Explore Portree, the tiny island capital, then visit remote Dunvegan Castle, seat of the chiefs of Clan MacLeod since 1200. Take in the views of the Cuillin Hills on the way back to Broadford.

Day 12 - ISLE OF SKYE - GLENFINNAN - ISLE OF MULL (B,D) - Call at the Clan Donald Centre for a visit to its Museum of the Isles and an insight into 13 centuries of clan history before boarding your Ferry at Armadale to sail across the Sound of Sleat. Rejoin the mainland at Mallaig and follow the "Road to the Isles," passing Glenfinnan. Finally, take the Ferry to the Isle of Mull.

Day 13 - ISLE OF MULL. IONA EXCURSION (B,D) - A leisurely day to relax and enjoy the best of the Scottish western isles. Drive across Mull for a visit to the beautiful and fascinating Isle of Iona. Time to visit the Cathedral and explore the religious settlement before returning to the hotel early afternoon. Later, enjoy the drive up to Tobermory for a visit to the quaint island capital. Dinner.

Day 14 - ISLE OF MULL - INVERARAY - GLASGOW (B,D) - The final island Ferry crossing brings you to Oban. Then, over the Pass of Brander and from Inveraray to the "Bonnie Banks" of Loch Lomond. Back in Glasgow this afternoon your orientation city tour takes in the fine 12th-century cathedral, imposing university buildings, and elegant Georgian squares. Time for last-minute shopping before enjoying a farewell dinner at your hotel.

Day 15 - DEPART GLASGOW - TORONTO (B) - Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING

Glasgow - Welcome dinner; orientation drive; farewell dinner.
Alloway - Visit Robert Burns' birthplace and museum.
Carlisle - Guided tour of the castle.
Jedburgh - Take pictures of the abbey ruins.
Abbotsford - Guided tour of Sir Walter Scott's house.
Edinburgh - Guided sightseeing.
St. Andrews - Visit the home of golf.
Highlands - Guided tour of a whisky distillery.
Inverness - Visit the Highland capital.
Culloden Moor - Visit the battle site's visitor center.
Cawdor - Visit the castle and gardens.
Dunrobin - Visit the castle, see a falconry display.
Dunnet Head - British mainland's northernmost point.
John o'Groats - Take the ferry to and from the Orkney Islands.
Orkney Islands - Drive-guide commentary and visits to the Churchill Barriers, Italian Chapel, Skara Brae and Skail House, and Kirkwall.
Isle of Skye - Visit Portree, Dunvegan Castle and the Museum of the Isles at the Clan Donald Centre.
Armadale-Mallaig - Cross the Sound of Sleat by ferry.
Glenfinnan - Take pictures of the monument.
Lochaline-Fishnish - Take the ferry to the Isle of Mull.
Isle of Mull - Visit Tobermory.
Isle of Iona - Ferry to the island & visit center of Celtic Christianity.
Craignure-Oban - Take the ferry back to the Scottish mainland.
Inveraray. Loch Lomond