

## A GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEY TO THE ISLE OF SKYE

SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2019

Few visitors travel over the sea to Skye without leaving at least a part of their heart behind in the Highlands. The breathtaking landscapes, the romance of the tales and legends, and the drama of noble and fiercely independent inhabitants all combine to leave a lasting impression. The Highlands are calling!

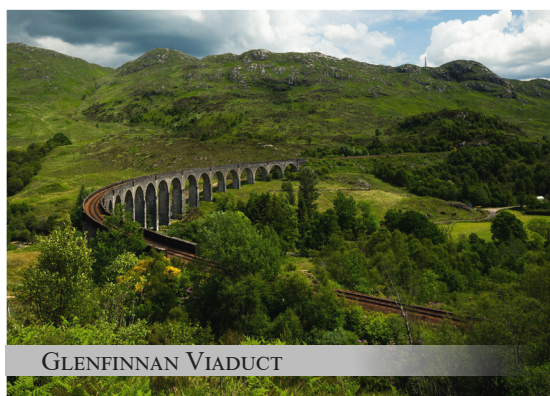
We'll begin in the capital, Edinburgh, exploring its intriguing Old Town, an area of winding streets steeped in atmosphere and history. The backbone of the Old Town, the Royal Mile, leads from Edinburgh Castle down to the Palace of Holyrood House, and in addition to taking in the well-known sites we'll also head off the beaten track.

Then its north to Inverness, the "Capital of the Highlands," and across to Skye. We'll have two nights and a day to explore the Isle of Skye, soaking up tales of the Lords of the Sea Kingdom. We'll travel between cities in comfort by train (first class where available) – which is a wonderful way to sit and watch the magnificent landscapes roll past. The ride from Inverness across to the Kyle of Lochalsh is known as one of the "Great Railway Journeys of the World," but is probably equaled in natural beauty by the West Highland Line from Fort William down to Glasgow.

Along the way there will be unexpected visits, plenty of time for a wee dram in the local pub, and to appreciate the best of Scotland's Highland scenery. Join Discover Europe this fall for an unforgettable journey through Scottish landscapes while the heather is in bloom as we experience *The Highlands by Rail*.



URQHART CASTLE



GLENFINNAN VIADUCT

### THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

<b>LAND ONLY:</b>	<b>\$3990</b>
<b>SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:</b>	<b>\$ 990</b>

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 4 dinners
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide throughout, local guide in Edinburgh
- TICKETS:** Rail pass for all train journeys, 1<sup>st</sup> class where available

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed on receipt of deposit.*



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure this evening from your international gateway city. **Overnight: Plane**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>** - Upon arrival in Edinburgh you will be met and transferred to your city-center hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax, and rest from the flight before an orientation to this beautiful city, sometimes characterized as “The Athens of the North.” The rest of the afternoon is free to unwind and begin exploring the surrounding neighborhood. A dinner party at the hotel welcomes us to Scotland. **(D)**

**OVERNIGHT: EDINBURGH**



EDINBURGH CASTLE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning a local guide introduces the city, beginning with a tour of Edinburgh Castle that includes a visit to the “Honours of Scotland,” the Crown Jewels. From here we’ll explore the Royal Mile, stopping to see St. Giles Cathedral and the Palace of Holyrood House. Then it’s on into the “New Town,” built in the 18th century. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: EDINBURGH**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** - A leisurely start this morning as we leave the capital, heading north by train across the Forth Bridge. We’ll pass by Pitlochry, famous for its woollen mills, and ride in comfort through the Grampian Mountains as we continue up into the Highlands. After we check in to our hotel in Inverness, there will be a brief walking tour of the city center before we have dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>** - Our morning begins with a cruise on Loch Ness ending at the romantic ruins of Urquhart Castle. We’ll disembark, meet our bus, and stop in at the Loch Ness Monster Visitor Centre. After lunch we’ll return to Inverness for a free afternoon and evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>** - Today we take one of the “Great Railway Journeys of the World.” We board the train in Inverness and ride across the country from one side to the other, ending at the Kyle of Lochalsh where we will be met by our bus. We’ll visit Eilean Donan Castle, and from there it is a short journey across the new bridge to Portree on the Isle of Skye, where we continue on to our hotel for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SKYE**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>** - A panorama of Skye today, with highlights that include a visit to Dunvegan Castle, the oldest inhabited castle in Britain and home to the Chiefs of MacLeod for more than 800 years. We’ll also visit the Talisker Whisky Distillery, the island’s only distillery. This evening is free in Portree. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SKYE**



SKYE - THE CUILLIN HILLS

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>** - We cross by ferry back to the mainland and pick up the train back south. This is the West Highland Line which runs through spectacular scenery and across the Glenfinnan Viaduct down to Glasgow. On arrival we’ll transfer to our hotel and have free time to explore the city center before we gather again for a farewell dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GLASGOW**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>ST</sup>** - Morning transfers to Glasgow Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, D - dinner*