



SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS

JUNE 1ST - 11TH 2023

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 explore off the beaten path locations.

After a stay in Inverness, with time to visit the Great Glen, we'll have two nights and a day to explore the Isle of Skye, soaking up tales of the Lords of the Sea Kingdom, and a full day's excursion to the Holy Isle of Iona to examine the beginnings of Christianity in Scotland. From Iona we head through the Trossachs, along the banks of Loch Lomond, and spend a final night in Stirling, the gateway to the Highlands.

Along the way there will be unexpected stops and detours, and plenty of time for a wee dram in the local pub and to appreciate the best of Scotland's backroads and scenery. Join Discover Europe this summer for an unforgettable journey through Scottish landscapes and history as we experience *Skye & the Highlands*.



SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$4580
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 780

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 9 nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 6 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guide for Edinburgh
- BAGGAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST - Departure this evening from your international gateway city.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND - Upon arrival in Edinburgh you will be met and transferred to your city center hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax, rest from the flight, and begin exploring this beautiful city, sometimes characterized as “The Athens of the North.” A dinner party at the hotel welcomes us to Scotland. **(D) OVERNIGHT: EDINBURGH**

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD - 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 up Calton Hill and into the “New Town,” built in the 18th century. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: EDINBURGH**

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH - Leaving the capital, we head north across the Forth Bridge. We’ll make a stop in Pitlochry, famous for its woolen mills, as we continue up into the Highlands. A short drive brings us to Blair Atholl, where we’ll stop for lunch and visit the castle – the Dukes of Atholl are the only nobility in Britain still allowed to maintain a private army! We’ll continue further north to Inverness, the “capital of the Highlands.” There will be time to relax and freshen up before dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS**



PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE

MONDAY, JUNE 5TH - A morning excursion takes us to Culloden, the site of the battle in 1745 where Scottish hopes of independence were dashed by the “butcher” Cumberland and his Hanoverian infantry. We’ll return to Inverness for a free afternoon and evening in the city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS**

TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH - 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 drive across the heather-clad moors to Eilean Donan Castle for a visit, and from there it is a short journey across the new bridge to the Isle of Skye, where we continue on to our hotel for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SKYE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH - 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 Whiskey Distillery, the island’s only distillery. Tonight, we’ll gather for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SKYE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH - Today we take the ferry back to the mainland and follow the coast south. Skirting around Fort William, we stop in the breathtakingly beautiful and haunting valley of Glen Coe, literally the “Valley of Weeping.” It was here that the MacDonalDs were betrayed and brutally murdered by Campbell of Glenlyon in 1692. The Visitor Centre’s short film recounts the events leading up to that fateful day. A short drive brings us to the ferry where we cross over to the Isle of Mull and the town of Tobermory where we have dinner and spend the night. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MULL**



IONA ABBEY & NUNNERY

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH - Today is a full-day excursion across the Island of Mull to the holy island of Iona. Before we board the ferry to Iona we’ll visit the Columba Centre, which retells the story of St. Columba’s life. Once on Iona we’ll explore the Abbey complex, including Columba’s Shrine. We return by bus and ferry to Tobermory for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MULL**

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH - Departing the Highlands, we cross the vastness of Rannoch Moor and travel along the banks of lovely Loch Lomond to our hotel in Stirling. After checking in we will have plenty of time this afternoon to visit Stirling Castle, set atop a craggy rock, controlling the gateway between the Highlands and the Lowlands of Scotland. Our final dinner party this evening brings us together to share stories of our adventures. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: STIRLING**

SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH - It is a short drive from Stirling back to the airport in Edinburgh for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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