



Into the WESTERN ISLES of SCOTLAND

THE VOYAGES OF
THE LORDS OF THE SEA KINGDOM
AUGUST 25TH - SEPTEMBER 3RD 2023

Well over a thousand years ago the Vikings sailed across the North Sea, first to raid and then to settle in the Hebrides and Western Scotland. They mingled with the native Gaelic people and brought a special gift – their mastery of the sea and their fast, flexible ships. Before long, a race of strong and independent leaders was born. The highest title, the Overlord, was claimed by the Norse King. Somerled, the earliest ancestor of Clan Donald, rebelled to lead a great revival of Gaeldom. The Norse were driven out of Western Scotland and the Isles, and Somerled crowned himself “King of the Isles.”

Join Discover Europe on this magical and historical journey through the Western Isles of Scotland as we explore both the landscape and culture of this powerful clan. We’ll arrive in Glasgow, pausing just long enough to shake the jet lag and enjoy an introduction to this vibrant modern city. The real adventure begins as we turn northwest to one

of the earliest headquarters of the Sea Kingdom, the Isle of Islay. Today the island is perhaps best known for its malt whisky distilleries, but long ago the leaders of the Clan Donald gathered here to decide matters of law, land, religion, and marriage. We’ll spend two days exploring the island and its special place in the clan history.

Returning to the mainland, we’ll travel north to Oban for the easy ferry crossing to Mull. From there, we’ll begin our island adventures with visits to Duart Castle and Torosay Castle. An excursion to the windswept Holy Isle of Iona lets us examine the beginnings of Christianity in Scotland, for it was here that St. Columba brought his faith in 563. We’ll return to the mainland across the Sound of Mull to Lochaline, then north through the forgotten corner of Sunart and Moidart, still Macdonald territory. Our final leg of the journey is on the spectacular “Road to the Isles,” which passes Loch Morar, the deepest body of water in Britain, and its silver sands. We’ll also visit the Isle of Rhum.

Discover Europe has crafted an itinerary rich in beauty and full of history. Along the way there will be unexpected stops, time for a wee dram in the local pub, and the best of Scotland’s backroads. Join us for an unforgettable journey through Western Scotland.

*This itinerary is also being offered by Sandi Tinyk of our partner, *Travels with Sandi*, and as such, Sandi may be accompanying this tour.



KINLOCH CASTLE



GLEN COE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$4690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 990

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 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, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe guide throughout, local guide for Edinburgh
- BAGGAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- TICKETS:** All ferry crossings as detailed 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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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25TH - Depart the U.S. this evening aboard your transatlantic flight. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH - Upon arrival in Glasgow, you'll be met for transfer to your city-center hotel. After time to rest from the flight, the city of Glasgow will be introduced in a panoramic sightseeing tour, ending with a visit to the internationally acclaimed Burrell Collection. Reopening in 2022 after its closure in 2016 for refurbishment, the museum contains over 9,000 objects, including an important collection of medieval art, Islamic art, artefacts from ancient Egypt and China, Impressionist works by Degas and Cézanne and modern sculpture. This evening we'll gather for an opening dinner party. Welcome to Bonnie Scotland! **(D) OVERNIGHT: GLASGOW**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH - This morning, we depart for the west coast via the "Rest and Be Thankful" pass—an 803' climb out of Glen Coe, where for centuries, due to the long and steep trek, travellers and drovers would rest at the top, and be thankful for having made it to the highest point—on our way to the Isle of Islay.

We'll stop in Inverary for lunch and to visit the castle, the seat of the Dukes of Argyll, chiefs of the Clan Campbell, since the 1800s. We'll continue down the long peninsula of Kintyre to our hotel. There will be time to relax and freshen up before we gather for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: TARBERT**



MONDAY, AUGUST 28TH - A panorama of the neighboring Islay today. Making the short crossing by ferry, we'll discover the proud history of the island as we travel to various points of interest including the round church at Bowmore and Kildalton Chapel with its fine 8th-century Celtic cross. We'll visit Finlaggan, headquarters of the Lords of the Isles for 400 years and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Centre, the Port Charlotte Museum, and, if open, the Ardbeg Distillery. Tonight the evening is free to sample a local pub for dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: TARBERT**



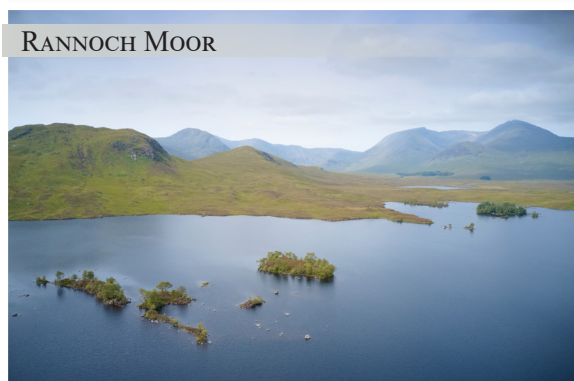
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29TH - We drive north this morning, stopping in the Kilmartin Valley to see its remarkable collection of stone circles and cairns, relics from an ancient past. We'll visit Arduaine, enjoying remarkable views across Loch Melfort to the tiny islands of Shuna, Luing, and Scarba, and explore the glorious Arduaine Gardens. Set on a rocky promontory, overlooking the Sound of Jura, Arduaine Gardens benefits from the warming effects of the Gulf Stream, allowing a vast variety of exotic plants to thrive here that would not normally be able to survive this far north. Upon arrival in the bustling port of Oban we'll take the ferry to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MULL**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH - An excursion today to the holy island of Iona. We'll visit the Colomba Centre, which retells the story of St. Columba's life and how he left Ireland in 563 CE in order to bring Christianity to the pagan Scots. Once on Iona we'll have a leisurely exploration of the Abbey complex and then return to Mull. On the way back to the hotel, we'll stop and visit Duart Castle, the ancient seat of the Clan Maclean. Free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MULL**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST - It's just a short ferry hop across the Sound of Mull to Lochaline where we'll travel north through the vast emptiness of Sunart and Moidart, pausing to look at Castle Tioram, a romantic ruin set on its own island, and the Monument to the 7 Men of Moidart, supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie in the rebellion of 1745. Our route brings us to the lovely "Road to the Isles," which passes the still, deep waters of Loch Morar and its famous silver sands, before terminating at the busy port of Mallaig. This evening we gather for dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALLAIG**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - Today we'll cross from Mallaig to the tiny island of Rhum in the Inner Hebrides, for a panorama of the island including a visit to the extraordinary Kinloch Castle. Built in 1900 as a summer residence for the textile magnate, Sir George Bullough, Kinloch is now owned by Scottish heritage. We'll take the ferry back across to the mainland and our hotel. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: MALLAIG**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - A return today to the bright lights of Glasgow. We'll skirt Fort William and stop in the breathtakingly beautiful and haunting valley of Glen Coe, literally the "Valley of Weeping." It was here that the MacDonalds were betrayed by Campbell of Glenlyon in 1692. The short film at the Visitor Centre recounts the events leading up to that fateful day. We'll then cross Rannoch Moor and travel along the banks of Loch Lomond to our hotel. Our farewell dinner party this evening brings us together for a final opportunity to share stories and laughter. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: GLASGOW**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - Transfers to Glasgow airport this morning for returning flights home. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**