

## SCOTLAND HIGHLIGHTS

### 09 Nights / 10 Days

#### *Highlights:*

- **Edinburgh** – Royal Mile, St. Giles Cathedral, Holyrood Palace, Holyrood House, Arthur's Seat, Princess Street, Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh Castle.
- **Perth and Pitlochry** – Elcho Castle, Huntingtower Castle, Edradour Distillery.
- **Inverness** - Fort George, Elgin Cathedral, Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle.
- **Fort William** – Eilean Donan Castle, Isle of Skye, Glencoe and Loch Lomond.
- **Glasgow** - Stirling Castle, The Trossachs, Glengoyne Malt Whisky Distillery, George Square., City Chambers, Glasgow Cathedral and the Museum of Transport.

#### **Day 01 Arrive Edinburgh**

Arrive at Edinburgh International Airport. Transfer to hotel and check in. Rest of the day at leisure on own to explore this beautiful city, known as the "Athens of the North". Overnight at the Hotel.

#### **Day 02 Edinburgh**

After a Scottish breakfast proceed for full day sightseeing of Edinburgh with an English speaking guide and visit the many fascinating highlights. Travel down the Royal Mile, pass St. Giles Cathedral to Holyrood Palace and get views of Holyrood House and Arthur's Seat, shop for tartan and shortbread along Princess Street, the Scottish Parliament and a visit to the famous Edinburgh Castle which is Scotland's number one visitor attraction. Features include Scottish Crown Jewels exhibition, Scottish National War Memorial, Mons Meg (500 year old siege cannon) and much more. In the evening, why not try some haggis and experience the sound of bagpipes including Scottish dinner at a local Scottish pub. Overnight at the Hotel.

#### **Day 03 Edinburgh – Perth – Pitlochry – Inverness**

After a Scottish breakfast check out and proceed to Perth. Perth is a beautiful city to walk around with its streets and public gardens filled with colours. Perth's heritage features fine buildings utilized as venues for cultural activities. Two Historic Scotland properties are also to be found in and around Perth. Elcho Castle is a handsome and complete fortified mansion of 16th-century date, with three projecting towers. Huntingtower Castle has two fine and complete towers, built in the 15th and 16th centuries and joined by a range in the 17th century. Then proceed to Pitlochry which is a delightful Victorian town nestling in the Perthshire Highlands amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe, Pitlochry has been a popular holiday resort for over a hundred years. Visit the "Edradour Distillery" which is the smallest Scottish distillery and the whisky is handmade since 150 years. Experience the charm of tasting the smooth and golden whisky. Then continue onto Inverness. Arrive at Inverness which is situated at the mouth of the river Ness from which the city derives its name. Nestled amid some of Scotland's most dramatic countryside, Inverness - 'the city in the Highlands' - is the perfect place for a break. Check in at the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 04 Inverness**

After a Scottish breakfast visit "Fort George" - conceived in the immediate aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising, the fort was intended to be the final solution to the threat posed by the Highlands, and the Jacobites in particular. Sitting behind huge fortified walls on an isolated spit of land jutting into the

Moray Firth this fort is an excellent example of military might. Then visit the “Elgin Cathedral” which is a historic ruin. Its octagonal chapter house—a unique feature in Scottish cathedrals—is mostly intact. Rest of the day at leisure. You can take an optional tour of the Inverness Dolphin cruise. See bottle nose dolphins, seals and porpoises. Evening you can catch a show at the Eden Court Theatre. This is the biggest and the best art venue in Scotland. You can also enjoy the art galleries, exhibitions, the fantastic bar and restaurant facilities or visit the Bishop's Palace, one of the most important historical buildings in Inverness. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 05 Inverness – Loch Ness – Fort William**

After a Scottish breakfast check out and proceed to Loch Ness. Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland, one of the most celebrated holiday destinations. Wild and beautiful, the surrounding countryside is teeming with wildlife and yet a host of visitor attractions. It is the perfect base for exploring the Highlands and provides a natural link to Skye and the West Coast. At the loch itself, of course, there's always a chance to glimpse „Nessie“, the world-famous Loch Ness Monster. No holiday in Scotland is complete without a visit to Loch Ness. Over 20 miles long, a mile wide and 700 feet at its deepest, Loch Ness is the largest lake in Scotland by volume. The surrounding area is filled with historic attractions, natural wonders, cosy places to stay, and superb eateries. The Loch Ness Monster is just one of the many myths and legends to be discovered in this particularly beautiful part of Scotland. You can take the majestic Great Glen Way through some 70 miles of Scotland's finest scenery. Stop here to take pictures at the romantic ruins of “Urquhart Castle”. Then proceed onto Fort William. Arrive at Fort William which is the outdoor capital of the UK and forms a large part of the West Highlands of Scotland. One will be amazed at the sheer beauty of the countryside. The area has fresh clean air all year round, lochs and rivers, unspoilt beaches, castles, distilleries, restaurants, shopping and lots more to offer. Transfer to hotel and check in. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 06 Fort William – Isle of Skye**

After a Scottish breakfast visit Nevis Range and Ben Nevis, as well as the Glencoe area, which are renowned as mountainous areas of great beauty and wait for you to explore. Ardnamurchan, the Road to the Isles and the Great Glen area have more to offer than you could possibly imagine. Today we enjoy the highlight of our tour - a full day excursion to the beautiful island of Skye. We'll make a photo-stop at Eilean Donan Castle, perched on its island at the head of Loch Duich. You will marvel at the views when we stop at this most picturesque of castles. Soon we'll be crossing "over the sea to Skye" and visiting the beautiful gardens of the Clan Donald Centre before enjoying the dramatic scenery of the famed Cuillin Mountains. Evening return back to Fort William. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 07 Fort William – Glencoe – Loch Lomond – Glasgow**

After a Scottish breakfast check out and continue south past Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain and through beautiful Glencoe which is steeped in history, admire the spectacular Highlands before stopping on the „bonnie bonnie banks“ of Loch Lomond which is the “Queen of Scotland's” lakes. You can take a cruise on the lake at Loch Lomond and you also have an opportunity to take pictures. Continue onto Glasgow and arrive at Glasgow and check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 08 Glasgow**

After a Scottish breakfast start your tour with a drive to the medieval city of Stirling. Here there is an opportunity to visit Stirling Castle. The castle overlooks the ancient city of Stirling and is one of the historic buildings that have come to symbolise the spirit of Scotland. Your extended stop in Stirling will allow a leisurely visit to the Castle or the chance to explore the town itself. The Trossachs is a wonderful area of lochs and wild mountain vistas. You will travel by Loch Venachar then climb the dramatic Dukes

Pass to the pretty village of Aberfoyle, where you will make a stop for lunch (not included). Your last stop of the day is to pretty Glengoyne Malt Whisky Distillery. As well as having a behind the scenes tour to learn all about the distillers art there will be a chance to taste the end product too! Return back to Glasgow. Rest of the day at leisure on own. Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 09Glasgow**

After a Scottish breakfast proceed for a city tour to discover the main attractions of Glasgow. Drive around George Square with its ornate City Chambers and Glasgow Cathedral. Visit the Museum of Transport to view collection of cars, buses and bicycles. Rest of the day at leisure to explore on own or shop. Overnight at the hotel.

**Day 10Depart Glasgow**

After a Scottish breakfast check out and transfer to the airport for your departure flight.