

CULTURE + WALKING

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh & the Highlands



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Wild Beauty, Warm Hospitality

We love the wide-screen scale of the Scottish Highlands. Great heather-covered moors roll into a broad, blue horizon. Ruined castles stand watch over silvery lochs. There's a wonderful wildness to it all. But for all of that sweep and solitude, it's the close-ups of local life that we remember best. You'll meet the shepherd whose choreographed collies steer a flock with fluid grace. We walk with a naturalist along a windswept North Sea estuary famous for its salmon runs. And we'll also introduce you to fascinating folks like the cashmere weavers of Elgin...the whisky aficionados at an artisanal distillery...and the groundskeepers who manicure a 600-year-old golf course to within a micron of perfection. Throughout, you'll spend your nights in lovely country house hotels, and enjoy a wide range of walks from canal towpaths to Edinburgh's lively High Street. We suspect you'll join our honorary clan of travelers who count the Scottish Highlands as one of their favorite destinations ever.

DAY 1

INVERARAY CASTLE / INVERNESS

- Explore the Argyll family castle
- View the dramatic landscapes of the highlands

We meet in Glasgow, and head right out into the Scottish Highlands for a short walk in the village of Luss on the sandy white shore of Loch Lomond. You get an immediate feel for how Scotland's deep lakes shelter at the foot of hills and mountains—and how great estates command great hilltop views. There's no better example than Inveraray Castle, where we've arranged a guided visit. With its stately turrets, the 18th century castle stands in a 50,000-acre estate and is the family seat of the Duke of Argyll, Chief of the Clan Campbell.

Later, we'll see the haunting ruins of Kilchurn Castle on Loch Awe where great gushes of seawater push through the narrows to the Firth of Lorn at ebb tide. We'll end the day at our country house hotel near Inverness. Nestled amid six acres of beautiful gardens, this fine Georgian inn will be our home for three nights.

OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS
MEALS: D

DAY 2

LOCH NESS / GLEN AFFRIC

- Visit the iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle
- Glide on the waters of Loch Ness
- Walk in an ancient Caledonian forest

Our morning begins with a guided visit of Urquhart Castle. Even if the name isn't familiar, you'll recognize the distinctive profile of this magnificent ruin on the shores of Loch Ness. Built in the early 13th Century, it sits on a fine headland near the stretch of the loch where many of the reputed Nessie sightings occurred. We'll board a launch for a cruise on the loch's waters. At 23 miles in length, Loch Ness actually fills a deep glacial valley and contains more fresh water than all of the lakes in England and Wales combined.

A glen is long deep valley. And one of the longest, deepest and most scenic is Glen Affric. To walk here is to step back in time. The Caledonian pinewoods are the largest and most ancient in Scotland. On the trail, you'll really appreciate the quiet of the woods and how they open unexpectedly to views of moorland and mountains. You'll also have a chance to spot wildlife that can include red deer, golden eagle, badger, pine marten, otter and more.

OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS
MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

CULLODEN MOOR / SPEY BAY

- Visit the battle site on Culloden Moor
- Meet the cashmere weavers of Elgin
- Take a seaside walk in the Spey Bay estuary

The one-hour battle that occurred on Culloden Moor in 1746 changed highland life forever. We'll walk on this hallowed ground where the forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie fell to the Duke of Cumberland. In the battle's aftermath, tartans and

kilts were banned as part of the effort to break the Gaelic culture.

From the epic to the everyday, we'll make our next stop in Elgin at Scotland's only woolen mill where raw cashmere is dyed, teased, carded, spun and hand-finished into luxurious woven fabrics. It's a rare look at one of the country's most storied crafts – not to mention a fine chance to do some shopping.

This afternoon, our guide takes us to the estuary where the River Spey flows into the Moray Firth. As we walk along the windswept bay, you'll hear about its history. It's been a prime salmon fishery since prehistoric times, and in season for humans—and for the whales and dolphins that sometimes stalk the waters to feed on salmon as they head out to sea.

OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS
MEALS: B

DAY 4

CAIRNGORMS N.P.

- Meet a shepherd and his amazing team of sheepdogs
- Take a classic country walk in the heart of the highlands

It's a good morning fuel up on the "full Scottish breakfast" – eggs, bacon, grilled tomato, mushrooms, baked beans and maybe a slice of black pudding or even a kipper. We're off then for a fantastic walk in the crystal clear air in the Cairngorms National Park. On the path around Loch an Eilein, we're following the footsteps of Rob Roy, one of Scotland's favorite outlaws and folk heroes...on land where the Grant family of Rothiemurchus has lived for 18 centuries.

After our walk, we head to one of our favorite places in Scotland: Leault Farm in Kincaig. The steep green pastures here have long been the grazing lands of massive herds of sheep. Here, we have the opportunity to see a team of incredible sheepdogs go through their paces. Our friend Neil is the shepherd, and he'll shear a sheep, introduce you to his collie pups and talk to you about life on his farm.

Midday, we pause in the pretty spa town of Pitlochry that came to prominence when Queen Victoria visited in the 19th Century. For lunch on your own, you might want to go to Perthshire's oldest inn, The Moulin, dating back to 1695. We end the day at our elegant country house hotel in St. Andrews.

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS
MEALS: B, D

DAY 5

FALKLAND PALACE

- Explore the gardens of a Royal Stuart castle
- Taste the single malt whisky at an artisanal distillery

Mary Queen of Scots loved to hunt and go hawking at Falkland Palace, and this morning we'll see why. After falling into ruin, the palace was restored in the early 20th Century. The gardens are some of the best anywhere, full of vivid flower plants with a wildflower meadow that carpets the estate's orchard.

Scotland's first whisky distilleries show up in the tax records from the 1490s. After 5+ centuries, it remains one of the most

DAILY ITINERARY

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characteristic crafts in the country. Today, a legion of artisanal distilleries leads the way, and we'll visit one of the best. We'll see how the single malt is produced, and then we'll sit down for a "nosing" and tasting session.

Back in St. Andrews, you'll have the afternoon on your own. The town is ideal for strolling and shopping.

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS
MEALS: B, D

DAY 6

ST. ANDREWS OLD COURSE

- Walk the world's oldest golf course
- An optional round on one of the legendary golf courses (advance reservations required)

Even if you've never held a golf club, you'll know that St. Andrews is the home of the world's most fabled links. This morning we'll take a guided stroll in the medieval harbor town, including a visit to Scotland's oldest university.

Midday, our guide leads us out on to the aptly named Old Course, the world's oldest golf course on lands where the game was first played around the year 1400. The course is a dramatic study in rugged landscape that's immaculately manicured. On our walk, we'll see Granny Clark's Wynd, the Seven Sisters, and Hell, the bunker to end all bunkers. We cross Swilcan Bridge, pass through the Valley of Sin, before ending up at the majestic Royal & Ancient clubhouse.

If you are a golfer, you have the option of making the most of this pilgrimage with a round of your own at the Old

Course or any of the other remarkable links in and around St. Andrews. (If you wish to play the Old Course, please contact our office as far in advance of your trip as possible for details on handicap limits and how to reserve a tee time.)

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS
MEALS: B, D

DAY 7

EDINBURGH

- Cap your week with a walk along the Royal Mile
- Visit famed Edinburgh Castle

After a hearty breakfast, we make our way to Edinburgh, the perfect finale to our week. The historic capital is a beautiful blend of medieval Old Town, Georgian New Town and Victorian lanes, all over-looked by ancient Edinburgh Castle. We especially love this lively city because it's so compact and easy to explore on foot.

We'll stroll the Royal Mile, the city's main thoroughfare. At one end sits the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland. The streets slope upward, lined with shops, medieval buildings and landmarks including Parliament House and St. Giles Kirk. At the top: Edinburgh Castle, where we'll enjoy a guided tour and take in the spectacular views from the ramparts. Mid-afternoon we part company. If you like, you can easily extend your visit in Edinburgh.

OVERNIGHT: NONE
MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Loch Ness Country House Hotel

Built in 1710, this country-house property is a haven of tranquility, elegant comfort and excellent food. The striking Georgian building is surrounded by six acres of beautiful gardens, and its main drawing room is a great setting for afternoon tea.

OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS | NIGHTS: 3



Rufflets Country House

One of the oldest and highest quality country house hotels in Scotland, this idyllic turreted mansion house is set in 10 acres of gardens. Rufflets has been in the same family ownership since 1952 and won Scottish Hotel of the Year in 2015.

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS | NIGHTS: 3

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
May 23-29, 2021	\$5,195	\$6,090
June 13-19, 2021	\$5,495	\$6,390
August 1-7, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,290
September 5-11, 2021	\$5,395	\$6,290
May 22-28, 2022	\$5,295	\$6,190
June 12-18, 2022	\$5,595	\$6,490
Jul 31-Aug 6, 2022	\$5,495	\$6,390
September 4-10, 2022	\$5,495	\$6,390

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 9:00 AM Indigo Hotel, Glasgow, Scotland

END: 1:00 PM Edinburgh downtown hotels & rail station, Edinburgh, Scotland
Guests will be dropped off at their downtown hotels or the rail station.

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Wine on Us**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

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AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Scotland...

- Setting out for a classic highlands walk through Glen Affric
- Cruising on the waters of the legendary Loch Ness
- Meeting a shepherd and his remarkable team of sheep dogs
- Wandering the medieval lanes of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh
- Tasting single malt whisky at an artisanal distillery

"Your Scottish guide is a national treasure! Add to that a wonderful sense of humor and kindness. He is the best!"

—Barton and Barbara K., Hartsdale, NY

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



England

Cotswolds, Stonehenge & London

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking between villages of honey-colored stone
- Rambling hillsides studded with stately homes
- Approaching Stonehenge like a Bronze Age pilgrim

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/londonstonehengecotswolds/>.



England

Cornwall Coast to Land's End

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PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking lush green cliffs lined with coastal paths
- Crossing a causeway to an island castle
- Exploring seaside hamlets with picturesque harbors

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/cornwall/>.



Ireland

Killarney Lakes & Dingle Peninsula

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking breathtaking peninsulas and sandy shores
- Exploring centuries-old ruins on a remote island
- Socializing with locals at colorful pubs

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/ireland/>.

SHEPHERDED THROUGH SCOTLAND



WITH DAVY IN THE LEAD, OUTLANDERS FEEL
RIGHT AT HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS.

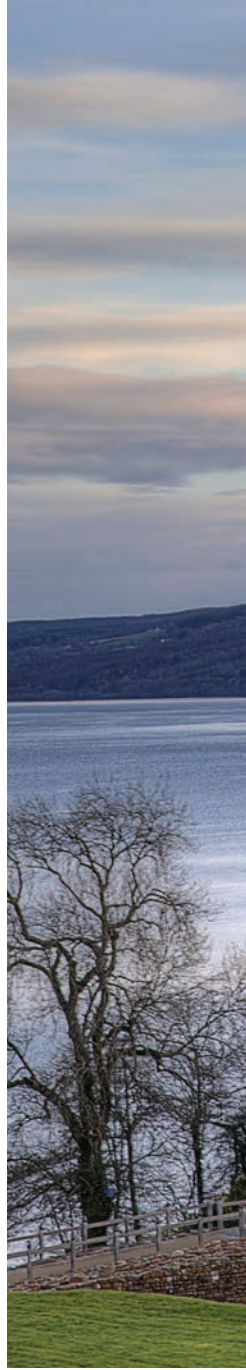
My mom broke down in tears when we were in the Scottish Highlands last fall, thanks to a border collie puppy. As Senior Tour Operations Coordinator at Classic Journeys, I suppose I should have predicted that. One of everybody's favorite parts of this trip is when we go to our friend Neil's farm where he tends to a massive herd of sheep. When we pulled into his barnyard, there he was with 10 or 15 black and white border collies at his feet. Growing up, this was our family's favorite breed, so they had us at hello. Then Neil issued a couple of sharp whistles like Morse code, and one of them charged off over a hill only to reappear minutes later behind about 30 sheep that he guided right down to us. Neil put all of the dogs through their paces for us, and then his son brought out a couple of warm, wiggly 8-week-old puppies for us to hold. You know, the sheer joy of a moment doesn't get much more perfect than that. Pass me a Kleenex, Mom.

Also, several people in our group including my parents are fans of the TV series "Outlander." It's about time travel — a woman from the 20th century slips back and forth to the Scotland of the 1740's. What you quickly realize is that the director of that series doesn't have to spend much on locations. Out in the Highlands, a lot of the scenery looks like it always has, even longer ago than when Claire met Jamie.

Of course, we didn't need to rely on a screenwriter for our story. The secret Classic Journeys weapon is Davy, a longtime friend of ours and the guy

AND

BY PETER HAMILL





who has to be Scotland's best guide. When you walk on Culloden Moor with him, you don't have to guess what it was like the day Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated there by the Duke of Cumberland. Davy paints the most vivid word pictures you'll ever hear, about how the people dressed, and how their military formations were set up and what the battle felt like. He can also tell you that a red deer made that hoofprint, how tall the trees grow in the Caledonian pinewoods, and what St. Columba had to do with the Loch Ness Monster. When a real estate agent in our group asked the going price today for a 2-bedroom cottage outside St. Andrews, Davy knew the answer.

I came to realize that the kind of pleasure Davy has in being a super-guide is a lot like the pride and hospitality that the Scots extend every time you turn around. When we pulled up at Loch Ness Country House, for example, the staff was at attention, waiting for us. We felt like we were arriving at our own summer country home. You see a different variation on the theme at the Old Course at St. Andrews. You really don't need to be a golfer to be impressed. The grass couldn't be greener. I don't think there was even a grain of sand outside any of the traps. Also, at the Scotch whisky distillery we visited, I could hardly believe all of the finesse and the strict historical standards that go into it. I wasn't a Scotch drinker before, but I am now. (I'll get back to you when I can tell the difference between a 12 Year Old and a 21 Year Old.)

For all that I thought I already knew about Scotland, I now recommend this trip for different reasons than I did before. This history isn't just there on display, it really feels alive. Leave Glasgow or Edinburgh — great cities that I truly love — and you really feel that you are plunging back in time to a natural world where the lochs are the deepest, the Highlands couldn't be higher, and there's always a warm greeting and a wet puppy nose to make you happier than you ever thought you could be.

