



# Scotland for Solo Travelers: Highlands, Aberdeen & Edinburgh

10 days | 12 days with Edinburgh extension

Lochs, glens, moors—what more could you want from Scotland? Let this Solo Tour show you. Over the course of this journey, we'll whisk you and your fellow travelers up, down, and all about this inimitable country. Begin in Glasgow before checking off some of the country's major destinations: Loch Ness, Speyside, and Aberdeen. Along the way, you'll stop in Inverness and the Highlands, two places that deserve their own share of the spotlight. And if you haven't had enough old-world charm, get your fill during your trip's grand finale—a stay in elegant Edinburgh.



## Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liquor tasting
- 1 food tasting
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Glasgow Cathedral
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
- Glencoe
- Urquhart Castle & Loch Ness
- Speyside Cooperage & distillery
- Aberdeen's Brig o' Balgownie
- Aberdeenshire farm visit
- St Andrews
- Edinburgh Castle
- Bagpipe lesson

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least one hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved trails, with some steep hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Glasgow today.

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## Glasgow → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Glasgow

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Scotland! Settle in at your hotel, then meet your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer. Afterward, continue getting to know one another over an included dinner, served with either beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Glasgow

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out to explore Glasgow—Scotland's second city and the U.K.'s cultural and creative capital—with a local as your guide.

- Drive past The Burrell Collection museum and admire the city's university—founded in 1451, it's the fourth-oldest in the English-speaking world and one of four Renaissance universities still operating in Scotland today.
- Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. First opened in 1870 as Glasgow's first municipal museum, it features substantial exhibitions of everything from European portraiture to Egyptian antiquities.
- Discover local highlights, including 18th-century George Square and the River Clyde.
- Stop outside the city's medieval cathedral—the oldest building in all of Glasgow—for photos.

Spend a free afternoon in Glasgow or add an excursion.

+ Historic Scotland & Stirling Castle

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## Inverness → 2 nights

### Day 4: Inverness via Glencoe & Loch Ness

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Continue on through the famed Scottish Highlands, admiring winding lochs and pausing at two incredible spots as you make your way to Inverness.

- Drive through The Trossachs, one of Scotland's two national parks, and pass by Loch Lomond—the largest on the island of Britain by surface area.
- Stop in Glencoe, a village of fewer than 400 people and the site of a 1692 massacre of a Scottish clan by members of government forces. Learn about the area and the infamous ambush, and why Clan MacDonald was attacked by the Scottish army in the first place.
- Stop for a photo at the medieval ruins of Urquhart Castle and take in panoramic views of Loch Ness—a freshwater lake whose depths are purportedly home to the mythical Nessie.

Continue to Inverness and enjoy an included dinner, served with either beer or wine, after settling into your hotel.

### Day 5: Free day in Inverness

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Inverness or add an excursion.

+ Historic Highlands: Culloden Moor & Cawdor Castle

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## Aberdeen → 2 nights

### Day 6: Aberdeen via Speyside Region

*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting*

Set out for Aberdeen, Scotland's third-largest city, by way of the Malt Whisky Trail and get a good understanding of why the Speyside Region produces some of Scotland's best pours.

- Take a tour of the Speyside Cooperage, the only working cooperage of its kind in the U.K., seeing firsthand how—and why—barrel makers exclusively make casks out of American Oak to age Speyside whiskies.
- Visit a distillery and sample the fruits of that labor: some of the region's best Scotch whisky.

Continue on to Aberdeen and enjoy a free evening.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Aberdeen

*Included meals: breakfast*

Meet up with a local guide this morning and get to know the "Granite City" on a guided tour.

- Pass through the campus of the University of Aberdeen, another of Scotland's four ancient universities, and learn about its three ceremonial colleges: Christ's College, King's College, and Marischal College.
- Admire the 13th-century Brig o' Balgownie, the oldest bridge in the country, and contemplate how it's inspired poetry and folklore over the years.
- Visit Footdee (pronounced "fittie"), a beautifully preserved traditional fishing village marking the eastern end of Aberdeen Harbour.
- Take a short walk through Old Aberdeen—the historic heart of the city and home to its famed university's King's College—followed by free time to explore the area.

Enjoy an afternoon to yourself in Aberdeen or add an excursion.

+ Balmoral Castle

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## Edinburgh → 2 nights

### Day 8: Edinburgh via farm visit & St Andrews

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch*

Travel deeper into the Aberdeenshire council area to visit a working cattle farm and learn about Scotland's agricultural pedigree.

- Meet up with your farm guide and set off on a walking tour of the grounds, including its barns and land.
- Learn about the history of the iconic Highland cow. Then, hear about the farm's high standards for raising beef cattle, before sitting down to a tasting of some fine cuts produced on-site.
- Sit down for a delicious included lunch at the farm. (Vegetarian options will be available.)

Later, stop in St Andrews—the home of golf and of Scotland's oldest university.

- Walk by the grounds of the University of St Andrews, an institution of higher education that has existed since 1413. (Fun fact for our anglophiles: Prince William met Kate Middleton while studying there!)
- Join a local guide to enter the ruins of the

town's medieval cathedral—a 12th-century structure that, in its heyday, was the largest church ever built in Scotland. Then, make the short walk to St Andrews Castle, and marvel in the view of the North Sea.

Finally, make your way to Edinburgh and enjoy a free evening in the capital city.

### **Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh & bagpipe lesson**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- Pass through a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the elegant New Town, before moving through another (the Old Town) to see the Royal Mile—a famous street that connects Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse.
- See the King George statue, Bute House (the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland), and the Sir Walter Scott monument.
- Enter Edinburgh Castle to view two timeless icons: the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Scone, a fixture at coronation ceremonies since at least the 13th century.

This evening, head to a private room at a local restaurant and meet a professional bagpipe player.

- Learn about the history of the bagpipe, Scotland's national instrument, and listen to the musician play a few songs.
- Pick up your own bagpipe and follow along as they teach the group essential breathing techniques and share other playing tips.

Celebrate your trip, and your fellow travelers, over a farewell dinner served with beer or wine.

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## **Flight Home**

### **Day 10: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to continue exploring Edinburgh.

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### **+ Edinburgh extension**

Continue your tour to keep exploring this historic, hilly city, and discover the charms waiting at the end of every close. (That's Scots for "alley.") Spend your extra time in Edinburgh

however you'd like, leaning on your Tour Director to point you toward the most exciting sights. And for a taste of royal life, sit down for afternoon tea at the Palace of Holyroodhouse—our treat!

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## **Edinburgh → 2 nights**

### **Day 10: Palace of Holyroodhouse & afternoon tea**

*Included meals: breakfast, light lunch*

Make your way down the Royal Mile and pop by the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Kings' official residence in Edinburgh. Also known as Holyrood Palace, this 16th-century retreat has been the Scottish home to British monarchs for more than 600 years.

- Take a self-guided audio tour of the palace and gardens to learn more about the Royal Family.
- Walk through the state apartments, throne room, and portrait gallery before heading outside to stroll along pathways that wind through manicured grounds.
- Enjoy a spot of afternoon tea complete with unlimited refills, sweet and savory pastries, and scones served with clotted cream and jam.

*Please note: Photography is not permitted inside the palace.*

Spend a free evening in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

+ Scottish Cèilidh

### **Day 11: Free day in Edinburgh**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in the city or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you reminisce about your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Rosslyn Chapel & Royal Yacht Britannia

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## **Flight Home**

### **Day 12: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/SC6](https://goaheadtours.com/SC6) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Historic Scotland & Stirling Castle

\$115/\$125\* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Visit Stirling, a town steeped in the history of the Wars of Scottish Independence. For generations, Stirling Castle held off British advances and served as a rallying point for rebellious Scots. It was within Stirling Castle that the infant Mary Stewart was crowned Mary, Queen of Scots. You'll learn more about the castle's extensive history as you follow along with an audio guide. In addition to the castle, you'll visit the town of Falkirk. While here, stop to see The Kelpies. These two 98-foot-high steel sculptures pay homage to the role horses played in Scotland's agricultural development. Then, visit the ruins of the Antonine Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in 142 A.D., just 20 years after the completion of Hadrian's Wall.

## Day 5: Historic Highlands: Culloden Moor & Cawdor Castle

\$119 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Today, discover the Scottish Highlands' fascinating past with visits to a pair of historic places. Start off by making your way to Culloden Moor, site of the British's final victory over the Jacobite uprising in 1746. Learn more about this insurrection before heading out to the terrain where the Battle of Culloden was fought. Afterward, head to stately Cawdor Castle for an audio-guided tour of the grounds, and discover how this fortress inspired the clan castle in the acclaimed "Outlander" series.

Please note: In the event Cawdor Castle is closed, it'll be replaced with a visit to Fort George. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 7: Balmoral Castle

\$105 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Sitting within Cairngorms National Park, Balmoral Castle is a beautiful Scottish Baronial-style mansion that serves as the Royal Family's summer home. On this excursion, you'll set off on a self-guided audio tour of the castle grounds—from its gardens to its ballroom and other exhibitions—and take a closer look at a residence made famous in multiple seasons of the hit show, "The Crown."

Please note: Travelers should feel comfortable walking for about 1.5 hours. Good walking shoes are recommended. Additionally, the ballroom is the only space open to visitors. All other areas are private residences of the Royal Family. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 10: Scottish Cèilidh

\$129/\$139\* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Enjoy a special evening of Scottish tradition as you witness an authentic cèilidh, an age-old Scottish celebration. Sit down to an included dinner and be serenaded by a band playing Scottish folk tunes while you dine. As the evening winds down, dancers take to the stage to perform a series of traditional dances. Then, cap it all off by joining the company on stage to try the steps for yourself.

### Day 11: Rosslyn Chapel & Royal Yacht Britannia

\$115 (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Famous for its connections to the Holy Grail as depicted in the bestselling novel "The Da Vinci Code," Rosslyn Chapel is a place shrouded in mystery and legend. Step inside with a local guide to marvel at the crypt, colorful stained glass windows, and the intricate carvings that adorn the interior pillars and arches. Then, make your way back to Edinburgh, where you'll board the Royal Yacht Britannia. Once the floating residence of Queen Elizabeth II, you'll see how the Royal Family and the ship's crew lived and worked above and below decks during its commission.

Please Note: This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure. Photography inside Rosslyn Chapel is not permitted, and a dress code of no short sleeves or shorts is strictly enforced. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)