

SCOTLAND TOURS - GROUP PACKAGES: EDINBURGH TATTOO TOUR

a journey through time in scotland!

Group travel

A Scotland tour & The Edinburgh Tattoo

day 1 Welcome to Scotland!

We assume arrival of the group at Edinburgh Airport in the afternoon. Meet and greet by your language guide and we already head north from here over the Forth Road Bridge, offering fantastic views over to the famous Forth Rail Bridge. We continue towards Perth, the former capital of Scotland for a century until 1437. It is known as the 'Fair City of Perth' and is situated at the head of the River Tay, famous for its salmon. It is an attractive market town with many interesting shops. The transfer to Perth will take approximately one hour and we will spend here our first night in Scotland. Welcome drink at the hotel followed by dinner. Overnight at the Salutation Hotel.

day 2 Enjoy some impressive views!

Leaving the hotel this morning we head further north. We will do a stop at the spectacular viewpoint along Loch Tummel to the peak of Schiehallion at 3547 ft. This point was visited by Queen Victoria in 1866 and is known as 'Queen's View'. Later that day we continue our route. We come through the town of Pitlochry, often referred to as the gateway to the Highlands. If time allows we will stop here at the Salmon Ladder. Later that afternoon we pass the Cairngorm mountain chain and pass Aviemore, one of Scotland's skiing areas. Soon we reach Inverness, the capital of the Highlands and drive to nearby Highland town of Beaulieu for dinner and overnight at the traditional Lovat Arms Hotel.

day 3 North West Highlands

Today we make a full day excursion through the North West Highlands. Driving via the spectacular Corrieshalloch Gorge with the 150 foot Falls of Measach which we can admire from the suspension bridge viewpoint. Stopping farther on at Poolewe we visit the tropical Inverewe Gardens. Created by Osgood Mackenzie over 120 years ago, these gardens contain plants from many countries giving an almost continuous display of colour. Then we follow the road to Gairloch where we can admire sandy beaches and the nearly tropical green-blue of the water. Do not miss the visit of a traditional Scottish Highland Pub here to taste the outstanding Ales and Beers. Later, continue via the beautiful Loch Maree to Garve and Strathpeffer on our journey back to Beaulieu for dinner and overnight again.

day 4 Discover the national drink: Whisky

This morning we will follow the whisky trail. By Elgin we turn south and into the heart of the Whisky country to Craigellachie and Dufftown. More than half of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries are in the Grampian Highlands! Visit at least one of these distilleries, where you can join a tour to see the processes involved in making the whisky and of course a tasting of Scotland's national drink will be included. Near the seaside town of Nairn we visit Cadwor Castle and also have time to spend in their fantastic gardens. The old central tower has been a family home for over 600 years. Shakespeare's Macbeth was Thane of Cawdor and the castle is one of the traditional settings for the murder of Duncan. Return back to Beaulieu and the hotel for dinner and overnight.

day 5 Legend comes true...

This morning we drive alongside the famous Loch Ness as far as the ruins of Urquhart Castle, once one of the largest castles in Scotland. It is situated on a promontory on the banks of Loch Ness, from where sightings of the legendary Loch Ness Monster are most frequently reported - you might see it today! Continuing south through this great valley, created by a natural geographical movement, we pass Fort Augustus and soon arrive in the little town of Fort William, which lies at the foot of Ben Nevis - Britain's highest mountain at 1344 metres. The route takes us further through the rough beauty of Glen Coe. We later reach the Trossachs -the Highlands in miniature and on to Stirling. If time allows me make a visit at Stirling Castle before transfer from here to Edinburgh. Check in at the Learmonth Hotel and overnight.

day 6 The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

This morning we make a half day sightseeing tour of Edinburgh with guide and coach. Edinburgh really is two cities. We have the Old Town, which is built around the Castle and down along the Royal Mile to Holyrood Palace. The style here is very traditional and rather medieval with high tenement houses and very narrow lanes, so called 'closes'. In contrast there is the New Town which was built in the classic Gregorian Style, at the end of the 18th century, thus to handle the constant stream of increasing population and business activities. The afternoon will be free for the guests for shopping or further sightseeing. Early dinner at the hotel at 18.30hr today. After dinner walk up to Edinburgh Castle to attend the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo Show to start at 21.00hr (seats have to be taken no later than 20.30hr)

day 7 Bye...

Depart from the hotel in the morning and transfer to Edinburgh Airport before midday.

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