

Scotland: The Highlands

Air Package Itinerary

In addition to the perfect blend of breathtaking scenery, historic castles, and incredible walks, the Scottish Highlands are also home to the perfect blend of Scotch whiskey. Steeped in history and pristine natural surroundings, this Scotland hiking tour takes you from the deep blue waters of Loch Lomond to the grandeur of Glamis Castle. Enjoy sweeping views from the water as you cross Loch Katrine by boat, while at Castle Menzies, your expert guide brings history to life. Visit a whiskey distillery, and delight in creative Scottish fare during picnic lunches and at fine-dining restaurants. Relax in comfort at elegant accommodations throughout your tour. This Scotland walking tour through the Highlands is a scenic journey you'll remember for a lifetime.



Highlights

Taste the honey-smooth and smoky flavors of handmade Scotch at the Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery, home to one of America's top-selling Scotch whiskies

Learn about the exploits of Rob Roy MacGregor, a noted Highland outlaw (1 Feb. 1671–28 Dec. 1734). Cruise on beautiful Loch Katrine, the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's poem, "Lady of the Lake" and the novel "Rob Roy"

Enjoy lunch and a tour at Castle Menzie, the seat of the Chiefs of Clan Menzies for over 500 years.

Meet the Wood family on an exclusive visit to the historical Ledard Farm, where you will be offered a glimpse of traditional Scottish culture during an evening complete with a music, stories, and a hearty meal served in the 17th century MacGregor Barn.

Walk amid the splendor of Scotland's peaceful interior, hiking through forests of ancient pines, past verdant pastures, and alongside gentle brooks and shimmering lochs

Enter a world of privileged splendor at Glamis Castle, the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth and the childhood home of The Queen Mother

On all Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided - Full Walking Adventures, rated easy to moderate with an average of 2 to 7 miles of walking daily. The trails are a combination of flat paved roads; uneven grassy, gravel, or dirt paths often with protruding rocks and tree roots; damp, boggy areas; working pasture land; and some small stream crossings, which may be rocky and slippery when wet. There are occasional wooden step stiles

over fences. For those who do not want the more challenging walks, there will often be easier options (but equally scenic walks!) with shorter mileages available, although over similar terrain. Scottish history and traditions are framed by the breathtaking contrasting scenery of mountains and water— islands, lochs, glens, moorland, cliffs, and forest.

DAY 1

Overnight Flight from USA to Glasgow, Scotland

Begin your adventure by departing from a convenient gateway city in the United States or Canada. Spend the first night aloft.

DAY 2

Arrive in Glasgow, Scotland

Upon arrival at Glasgow Airport, a representative holding a Country Walkers sign meets you as you exit the baggage-claim area. A complimentary small-group transfer is provided to the Blythswood Square in Glasgow, approximately 15 minutes away. The remainder of the day is at your leisure (no meals included).

If you are delayed for any reason, we kindly request that you contact our emergency assistance provider, Allianz Global Assistance. This service is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week to assist you with any type of travel delay.

Please note: If you arrive early, and your hotel room is not available prior to the designated check-in time, you may store your luggage with the reception desk.

Country Walkers provides you with City Information that includes recommendations on what to see and do in Glasgow during your stay.

Accommodation: Blythswood Square, Glasgow

DAY 3

Join your *Scotland: The Highlands* tour

Section of the West Highland Way and Loch Lomond; 4.5 miles, easy to moderate; 3.5 miles, easy

Breakfast is included at your hotel. Your guide(s) will meet you at the Blythswood Square Hotel at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby. Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking.

Once your group has gathered in Glasgow, drive to the picturesque village of Drymen. Your walk follows a section of the West Highland Way, Scotland's premier long distance footpath covering 96 miles from Milngavie, just north of Glasgow, to Fort William. Today's route passes through open countryside and wooded areas, with rewarding views over Loch Lomond. Meet the coach in Milton of Buchanan and drive a short distance to Balmaha, located on the banks of Loch Lomond.

Gather for lunch at the Oak Tree Inn, a family-run inn constructed of local slate on the shores of Loch Lomond. Throughout your journey, you find that Scottish cuisine has left its reputation for bland food in the past. Today, chefs infuse the typical fresh meats and produce from farming communities and the fresh fish from the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean with creative flair and color, making for memorable meals that are sure to be a rewarding part of your experience. You also enjoy a wide range of ales, malts, and whiskies.

Balmaha is home of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a spellbinding canvas of hills, lochs and glens where Scotland's renowned Highlands converge with the heather-covered Lowlands. After lunch, you set out on your pleasant and easy walk along the shores of Loch Lomond, enjoying magnificent views over the lake and its nearby islands. This is Rob Roy country, where the outlaw "Red Robert" MacGregor gained status as a local folk hero.

Afterwards transfer just less than one hour, through the National Park and lovely countryside to your hotel, located on the banks of Loch Ard. There will be time to relax before dinner tonight in the hotel.

Accommodation: Macdonald Forest Hills Hotel & Spa

DAY 4

Loch Ard Forest walk, Loch Katrine cruise, Ledard Farm

6 miles, easy

After breakfast, set off on your days walk directly from the hotel. This wide trail skirts the banks of Loch Ard, one of the most picturesque in Scotland, through the peaceful Loch Ard Forest, all set within the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Beautiful views keep emerging across the loch and towards the surrounding mountains. The Scottish outlaw Rob Roy MacGregor knew this area well, having been born at Glengyle, at the head of Loch Katrine. He used a small cave on banks of this loch as a hiding place during the Jacobite risings.

Meet the coach at the end of the walk and drive a short distance along the valley to The Pier Cafe, Stronachlachar. With breathtaking views across Loch Katrine enjoy lunch in this isolated cafe.

For over 150 years Loch Katrine has offered a serene and tranquil spot for visitors from all over the world and is recognized as the favored and much-loved setting of some of Sir Walter Scott's most famous poetic works. After lunch board the Lady of the Lake, named after Sir Walter Scott's classic poem. Sit back, relax and admire the magnificent scenery unfold whilst listening to the tales and legends of the loch during this one-hour cruise. Meet the coach at the far end of the loch and transfer back to your hotel. There is time to unwind and relax before meeting your guides for a short stroll to nearby Ledard Farm.

Meet the Wood family and catch a glimpse of the authentic Scottish way of life as they invite you explore their 16th century working farm. Hiking shoes are recommended as you will taken on a tour to visit the sheep, lambs, goats, and sheepdogs before settling for a hearty dinner in the MacGregor Barn, complete with Scot's Lamb and local produce. Sip on a dram of whiskey and enjoy stories of days gone by whilst listening to traditional Scottish music and song.

Accommodation: Macdonald Forest Hills Hotel & Spa

DAY 5

Glen Finglas Visitor Centre to Brig O'Turk and Callander

Morning; 1.5 miles, easy or 3.5 miles, easy to moderate

After a 40-minute shuttle through the beautiful scenery of the Trossachs National Park, arrive at the Glen Finglas Visitors Centre. After time to see the exhibits you have the choice of walks, both finishing at your

lunch spot. The longer option starts with a steady 400-foot climb, over about half a mile, up through the mixed woodland. Stop at the top to admire the views across the valley and surrounding hills. The trail then is almost flat as it traverses the hillside. Gently descend to see Glen Finglas Reservoir before joining a paved road down into Brig O'Turks. The shorter option remains at a much lower level, circling back behind the village of Brig O'Turks. Join your fellow walkers for lunch at along the shores of Loch Venachar.

After a 15-minute drive arrive into the bustling tourist town of Callander. Situated on the River Teith, it is often described as the gateway to the Highlands. Stroll along the river bank, browse the souvenir shops, or maybe talk a longer walk with your guides.

Enjoy time to relax back at the hotel before dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Macdonald Forest Hills Hotel & Spa

DAY 6

Glen Ogle Trail, Castle Menzies and Dewar's Whisky Distillery

3 miles, easy

Check out of the hotel and embark on a scenic drive of around one hour to visit to the church yard which holds the graves of Rob Roy, his wife, and two sons. Continue through Lochearnhead to Glen Ogle and the start of today's walk. Glen Ogle evokes emotions that are heightened in the knowledge that druids, Jacobite rebels, ancient clans, ancient Royals, famous authors, and Rob Roy McGregor have tread before us. The waymarked trail follows an old railway line which is part of the famous long-distance path, the Rob Roy Way. The walk features views extending over the vast glen to Loch Earn and passes charming streams before eventually crossing the impressive Glen Ogle Viaduct.

Rejoin the coach and arrive at Castle Menzies in time for a picnic lunch within the castle. Dating back to the 16th century it has been the ancestral seat of the Clan Menzies for over 400 years. Restored during the 20th century by the Menzies Clan Society it still gives the feel of a rugged Highland fortresses. A guided tour will bring the castle and its history to life.

Later this afternoon visit the Dewar's Whisky Distillery in Aberfeldy, the spiritual home of one of America's

top-selling Scotch whiskies. During a tour of the distillery see how the distinctive honeyed richness of the spirit is created. And no tour is complete without a tasting too!

Arrive into Ballathie House Hotel in time for dinner.

Accommodation: Ballathie Country House Hotel, Kinclaven

DAY 7

Glamis Castle and Perth

Morning stroll around Glamis Castle gardens; 1.5 miles, easy; Afternoon Perth city walk; 4 miles, easy

You awaken to magnificent scenery and an ample breakfast then embark on a short drive through the very different flat Angus agricultural lands to Glamis Castle. Home to the Lyon family since the 14th century, and currently the home to the Earl and Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne. Glamis was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, wife of King George VI. Their second daughter, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was born there. It's also the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth. Steeped in history, it's impossible not to be impressed by the Castle's turrets and towers at the end of the mile-long entrance drive. A guided tour will reveal its legendary tales and secrets and highlight it's not a museum but an incredible family home.

Lunch will be taken in café following a walk through the castle's gardens, including the formal Italian Gardens, mixed woodland, and pinetum.

Afterwards, drive to the "Fair City" of Perth, Scotland's ancient capital for five centuries and now the country's newest city. Situated on the banks of the River Tay, this afternoon's walk will highlight its elegant Georgian townhouses, cobbled streets, and medieval spires. Enjoy an evening at leisure to sample dinner in one of the many restaurants before returning to the hotel.

Accommodation: Ballathie Country House Hotel, Kinclaven

DAY 8

Hermitage and Braan Walk to Dunkeld

5 miles, easy to moderate

You awaken to magnificent scenery and another hearty breakfast then embark on a short drive to the Hermitage car park. Here, your walk begins through the beautiful wooded glen of the Hermitage, originally designed as a pleasure ground in the 18th century for the Dukes of Atholl, complete with picturesque folly Ossian's Hall and attractive Black Linn waterfalls. The giant Douglas firs here are among the tallest trees in Britain. The route then continues to visit the dramatic Rumbling Bridge before a return through more open countryside with attractive views of the surrounding Perthshire countryside. The walk finishes in the small historic town of Dunkeld where you have free time to explore the independent shops and galleries, visit the imposing Dunkeld Cathedral and view the brightly colored "little houses" of Dunkeld which were built in the early 1700s.

Afterwards return to your hotel and relax overlooking the river or maybe stroll through the grounds. Later enjoy a final evening's celebratory dinner at the excellent restaurant.

Accommodation: Ballathie Country House Hotel, Kinclaven

DAY 9

***Your Scotland: The Highlands* tour concludes**

After enjoying breakfast, travel with your group in a private coach to the Blythswood Square, Glasgow, for your post-tour night. Please note your room may not be ready but the hotel will store your luggage to enable you to explore the city. (Dinner is on your own.)

Country Walkers provides you with City Information that includes recommendations on what to see and do in Glasgow during your stay.

Accommodation: Blythswood Square, Glasgow

DAY 10

Departure

This morning a complimentary small-group transfer is provided to Glasgow Airport based on your departure time. Your guides will confirm the transfer time while on tour.

What's Included

Air Package

Tour Only

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| Exceptional boutique accommodations | ✓ | ✓ |
| All on-tour meals except 1 dinner and 2 lunches | ✓ | ✓ |
| Local guides with you throughout tour | ✓ | ✓ |
| Local wine and/or beer with dinner | ✓ | ✓ |
| Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary | ✓ | ✓ |
| Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz | ✓ | ✓ |
| Roundtrip airfare | ✓ | |
| Two extra nights in Blythwood Square, Glasgow | ✓ | |
| Airport car service for arrival & departure | ✓ | |
| Pre- and post-tour breakfasts | ✓ | |
| Business-class upgrades available | ✓ | |