



Scotland: Lochs and Landscapes 2025

Settle in for your own Scottish story, filled with soaring mountains, enchanting lochs and mysterious castles. Stroll through a fairytale glen as mist swirls past ancient ruins. Sip on a dram of local Scotch whisky in a cosy fire-lit inn. And spot majestic golden eagles on a Highland safari experience as the Hebrides becomes our home for a while. We've woven together the myth and magic of Scotland's wonderful west, but where it will take you is another tale entirely.





About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey. We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

Important: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

Malmaison Glasgow @ 18:00

Glasgow

Malmaison Glasgow @ 17:00

Glasgow



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Tour highlights

- ✓ Experience soul-stirring views on a Highland safari on the Isle of Arran
- ✓ Admire the stunning natural beauty of Loch Lomond aboard a scenic cruise
- ✓ Visit an 18th century World Heritage Mill Village at New Lanark

More inclusions

- ✓ 7 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- ✓ 7 nights in thoughtfully selected accommodation
- ✓ Luxury minicoach

Currencies you'll use

- Scotland - GBP



Included meals

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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Your itinerary

Day 1 | Glasgow (Scotland)

A land of magnificent historical treasures and imagination-firing landscapes – we'll meet in Bonnie Scotland's splendid city of Glasgow. After settling into our hand-picked hotel, we'll get to know one another better over a deliciously hearty welcome meal. Here's to the incredible journey ahead!

Included today



Accommodation

Malmaison Glasgow (or similar)



Meals

+ Dinner

Day 2 | Glasgow – New Lanark – Arran

This morning, the picturesque 18th century mill village of New Lanark awaits. Abundantly filled with remarkable intrigue, we'll amble through the streets of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, discovering its tales along the way. A leisurely stroll along the picturesque River Clyde is a must! Then: take in the sights as we traverse Clyde Coast to meet the ferry. Its destination: the tranquil Isle of Arran, our home for the next two nights. Its vast green landscapes, idyllic waters and friendly charm will bask you in warmth (no matter the weather!). An afternoon of free time awaits. Explore the delightful area, get to know the locals, or sit back and relax, soaking up the ambience of this authentic adventure.

Included today



Accommodation

Auchrannie Resort (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 3 | Arran

Scotland is home to all sorts of incredible flora and fauna. Today, we'll be seeking out Arran's wonderful native creatures on a unique safari experience with our local guide. Spot golden eagles, stags and red squirrels as we roam through the isle's beautiful terrain, learning its unique history, culture and ecology along the way.

Included today



Accommodation

Auchrannie Resort (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

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Day 4 | Arran – Oban Area

Ahoy, the mainland is calling! The first port of call upon our return: Kilmartin Glen. This rich landscape boasts 5,000 years of history and is considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland; some say, even Europe. Together, we will wander its lush ground, taking in the linear cairns, scattered standing stones and carved rocks. What's more, our journey into the past will unearth ancient forts and castles which may or may not be filled with ghouls Scotland is famed for. Pack your wits, just in case! Onwards, our adventure takes us towards Oban, the seafood capital of Scotland, where we will exchange tales of the journey so far over a group dinner.

Included today



Accommodation

Knipoch Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 5 | Oban Area

Are you ready to awaken your senses? This morning, we'll visit Arduaine Garden – a place filled with colour and fragrance. The garden first bloomed in 1898, during a time of curiosity and hunger for the exotic. From bold azaleas to magnificent magnolias and giant Himalayan lilies to lovely forget-me-nots, this scented world tour is a truly unforgettable experience. Following our visit, we journey on to Oban where our expert Tour Leader will give a short orientation tour – an opportunity to get your bearings. After lunch, the mighty Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel awaits. Built before 1240, the stronghold is one of the oldest stone castles to exist in this glorious country, boasting centuries of treasured history.

Included today



Accommodation

Knipoch Hotel (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast



Day 6 | Oban Area – Glencoe – Luss

More breathtaking scenery is on the cards today as we take a trip through the magnificent Glencoe valley. Sit back and enjoy the leisurely pace as we admire the towering mountain ranges formed by volcanic eruptions and glacial movement thousands of years ago. While we're here, we'll visit Glencoe Visitor Centre and learn the haunting story of the Glencoe Massacre of 1692. Afterwards, we'll relish an afternoon of more fascinating landscapes as we journey through Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, our Tour Leader will choose the finest viewpoints to stop at before we move on to our next destination: Luss.

Included today



Accommodation

The Lodge on the Loch (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

Day 7 | Luss

After a leisurely morning, we'll continue our discovery of Loch Lomond with a scenic cruise filled with stunning views of distant islands, majestic mountains and enchanting forests. Then, we'll savour some free time in the picturesque village of Luss. For the history buffs, get lost in a world of medieval times. For those who wish for a peaceful haven, explore the 19th century parish church filled with staggering Victorian stained-glass windows. Tonight, we'll join together for a farewell dinner where we shall toast to a cherished adventure filled with wonder and friendship.

Included today



Accommodation

The Lodge of Loch (or similar)



Meals

+ Breakfast

+ Dinner

Day 8 | Luss – Edinburgh – Glasgow

Before our tour comes to a close, we've got one last stop to make. A Scottish escape wouldn't be the same without a visit to the beautiful capital, Edinburgh. Here, we'll embark on a driving tour of the New Town and The Royal Mile, taking in the awe-inspiring architecture and diverse culture. The rest of the morning and early afternoon is yours to uncover this sublime city. Then: you can choose to depart the tour here or join the mini-coach back to magnificent Glasgow, where we'll say our goodbyes.

Included today



Meals

+ Breakfast

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Travel advice

Finances

Changing money

Cash: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

Credit cards: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

Cash machines: ATMS are widely available.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

Insurance

Before travelling with Back-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our [FAQ page](#).

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).

Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain



countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

Please note: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your original documents.

Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires x mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team [here](#).



Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.

Will I have regular access to Wi-Fi?

Most accommodation we stay in will offer free Wi-Fi as well as many restaurants and cafes you may visit. If you would like more regular internet access without large roaming fees, you can purchase a Back-Roads Touring eSIM [here](#).



What to Pack

Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Back-Roads Touring tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

Clothing

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Sun hat | ✓ Long-sleeved tops | ✓ Light jacket |
| ✓ Sunglasses | ✓ Short-sleeved tops | ✓ Waterproof jacket |
| ✓ Sleepwear | ✓ Shorts/skirts | ✓ Trousers |
| ✓ Warm jacket | ✓ Socks | ✓ Swimwear |
| ✓ Underwear | ✓ Smart casual evening wear | ✓ Walking/comfortable shoes |

Other essentials

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ✓ Multi-use adapter plug | ✓ Toiletries | ✓ Camera |
| ✓ Batteries | ✓ Sunscreen | ✓ Towel |
| ✓ Umbrella | ✓ Reusable water bottle | ✓ Insect repellent |
| ✓ Any personal medication | ✓ Basic medical kit (paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) | |

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How much luggage can I bring

As we travel in mini-coaches, luggage space is limited. Here's what you can take with you on tour:



1 x suitcase



1 x small carry-on bag
(backpack or handbag)

If you have more luggage, please make arrangements to store it prior to joining the tour. **We are unable to carry extra luggage on the mini-coach.**

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FAQs

What's the weather like?

Scotland's weather is famously unpredictable (even in summer!), so we suggest packing plenty of layers and bringing a trusty raincoat.

Which type of hotels will we stay in?

Our thoughtfully selected accommodation is full of charm and historic details – expect elegant country inns, grand town centre hotels and even the odd castle! For this reason, rooms vary in size, and most hotels don't have lifts – meaning you'll likely need to access your room via stairs. Porterage will be included wherever possible.

Although air conditioning is mostly unavailable in historic buildings, fans will be provided during hot spells. Most hotels have bathtubs with overhead showers (rather than walk-in showers), so you'll be able to enjoy a soak at the end of the day.

How long is the ferry journey to the Isle of Arran?

Ferry crossing times can vary depending on the currents, but you can expect a journey lasting between 55 minutes and 1 hour and 20 minutes.

When is the Edinburgh Fringe Festival?

The Edinburgh Fringe – the world's largest performing arts festival – takes place over three weeks every August. Bringing a brilliant creative energy, the city is much busier during this time. If there's anything you'd like to do or see at the end of your tour, we recommend you book as much as possible in advance.

Will we visit Edinburgh Castle?

We won't visit Edinburgh Castle as part of our tour, but if you've decided to finish your tour in Edinburgh rather than Glasgow, you'll have time to explore it for yourself. We recommend booking your tickets in advance [here](#).



That's everything!

We can't wait to welcome you on tour.

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