

Charlie Zahm's Scottish Highlands and Islands Tour Itinerary

August 30 - September 7, 2025

\$3299* per person sharing, \$899 single supplement

Depart USA on your overnight flight to Scotland.

Saturday, August 30 - Arrive at Edinburg Airport. Transfer to Edinburgh on your own. You are free to explore the city at your leisure this afternoon. This evening join your host, Charlie Zahm, and your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. Overnight: Voco Edinburg Haymarket, Edinburgh (D)

Sunday, August 31 - Edinburgh to Inverness En route, enjoy a guided tour of **Glamis Castle**. Glamis Castle is a living and breathing monument to Scottish heritage. The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret. Steeped in history, Glamis Castle has evolved over the years to create a stunning architectural treasure that is full of vitality to this day. You will not fail to be touched by every painting, every piece of furniture, every little detail along the way, as they are sharp reminders that this is not a museum but an incredible family home.

Next, make a stop in the charming town of **Pitlochry** and enjoy some time to explore on your own before continuing on to Inverness. Overnight: Macdonald New Drumossie, Inverness (B, D)

Monday, September 1 - This morning, visit **Culloden Battlefield**.

Scene of the 1746 Battle of Culloden between the Jacobite and the British armies. As the last battle being fought on British soil, Culloden marks the beginning of the dismantlement of the structures of Highland society. In the aftermath of the battle, kilts and tartans were banned. It was here that the Jacobite army fought for a Stuart king in order to reclaim the throne of Britain from the Hanoverians. Today, 250 years on, Culloden is still a site that connects us intimately with Britain's past. Find out why this battle lasted only one hour but still changed the course of Scotland's history. Listen to accounts from genuine characters who were involved in the Battle, experience the battle in a 360 degrees theatre, get a bird's eye view of the forces and tactics at play.

Visit **Clava Cairnes**. (if the road is open for coaches) Clava Cairns or the Prehistoric Burial Cairns of Bulnuaran of Clava are a group of three Bronze Age cairns located near Inverness. A hugely significant and exceptionally well preserved prehistoric site, Clava Cairns is a fantastic example of the distant history of Highland Scotland, dating back about 4,000 years.

Next you will visit **Cawdor Castle**. Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century, having been built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor, with the ancient medieval tower built around the legendary holly tree - wherever you look, Cawdor Castle is steeped in intrigue and history. The imposing, rectangular tower-house consisted of four storeys and a garret with one entrance to the outside world set at upper first floor level; the perfect design to keep out unwelcome visitors. The ancient castle, which is home to the Cawdor family to this day, has evolved over 600 years and has been lovingly filled with beautiful furniture, fine portraits, intriguing objects and amazing tapestries. Return to Inverness. Overnight: Macdonald New Drumossie, Inverness (B)

Tuesday, September 2 - Visit **West Highlands Museum**. Explore eight rooms packed with fascinating objects, from Rob Roy's sporran and treasure from a shipwrecked Spanish Armada galleon, to the bagpipes played at Bannockburn in 1314. Visit our Commando exhibition telling the story of the Commandos training in Lochaber. Afterwards enjoy free time for independent lunch in Fort William.

Visit the **Glencoe Visitor Centre**. Learn all about Glencoe's remarkable history, landscape and wildlife in the National Trust for Scotland's visitor centre. Surrounded by towering mountains, Glencoe is one of Scotland's most spectacular places and provides outstanding opportunities for walking and climbing. Enjoy Living on the Edge, an interactive exhibition exploring the landscape, wildlife and history of this special place. Just a short walk from the visitors centre is the main location of the infamous massacre of 1692. There is also some of the finest climbing and walking country in the Highlands to be found within an area of dramatic landscapes and historical significance. Overnight: Cruachan Hotel, Fort William (B)

** Price is based on current taxes and fees, subject to change if there is a large fluctuation in currency, fuel surcharge or change in taxes and fees*

Wednesday, September 3 - Depart Fort William this morning and journey to the Isle of Skye.

En route, make a photo stop at the **Loch Cluanie Viewpoint**. Then, make a photo stop at **Eilean Donan Castle**. Eilean Donan Castle is recognized as one of the most iconic images of Scotland all over the world. Next, stop in **Portree**, the capital town on the Isle of Skye, and enjoy some free time for independent lunch. After lunch you will visit **Dunvegan Castle**, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland, offers a captivating blend of history, natural beauty, and modern amenities. Overnight: Dunollie Hotel, Isle of Skye (B)

Thursday, September 4 -This morning, take a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig to continue your journey to Fort William on the **Jacobite Steam Train** (*subject to availability - tickets will be purchased in November 2024). The Jacobite Steam Train is a described as the greatest railway journey in the world, this 84 mile round trip takes you past a list of impressive extremes. Starting near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, it visits Britain's most westerly mainland railway station, Arisaig; passes close by the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar, finally arriving next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe, Loch Nevis! Free time for independent lunch in Mallaig. Travel to Glasgow. Overnight: Voco Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow (B, D)

Friday, September 5 - Following a tour of Glasgow you will visit the Cathedral District. Where you will tour the **Glasgow Cathedral**, the only medieval cathedral on the Scottish mainland to have survived the Protestant Reformation of 1560. Another visit is to **St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art**. The museum houses exhibits related to all the world's major religions including a Zen Garden. While in this area you can visit **Provand's Lordship**, the oldest house in Glasgow. It is one of four surviving medieval buildings in Glasgow. Overnight: Voco Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow (B)

Saturday, September 6 - Depart Glasgow today and journey to Edinburgh. This morning enjoy a **Cruise of Loch Lomond**. Then, continue to Stirling and visit the magnificent **Stirling Castle**. One of Scotland's grandest castles due to its imposing position and impressive architecture, Stirling Castle commands the countryside for many miles around. It towers over some of the most important battlefields of Scotland's past including Stirling Bridge, the site of William Wallace's victory over the English in 1297, and Bannockburn where Robert the Bruce defeated the same foe in the summer of 1314. Situated on a volcanic outcrop guarding the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling Castle is a great symbol of Scottish Independence and a source of enduring national pride. The castle's long, turbulent history is associated with great figures from Scotland's past, such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots. It has seen many royal dramas and witnessed the lives and deaths of almost every Scottish monarch up to the Union of the Crowns in 1603. Overnight: Apex Grassmarket Hotel, Edinburgh (B, D)

Sunday, September 7- Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for your departure flight home or extend your time in Scotland. (B)

What's included? 8 night accommodations, driver & guide, breakfast daily, 4 dinners, 3 concerts

- Visits. - Glamis Castle
 - Culloden Battlefield
 - Cawdor Castle
 - Glencoe Visitor Centre
 - Glasgow Cathedral & Provand's Lordship
 - Clava Cairnes
 - West Highlands Museum
 - Dunvegan Castle
 - Stirling Castle
- Experiences:
 - Ferry from Armadale to Mallaig, single on day 6
 - Ride on the Jacobite Steam Train (Standard Class) on day 6
 - Loch Lomond Cruise from Balloch on day 8



What's not included?

Airfare, transfer to/from the airport & Edinburgh, meals not mentioned in itinerary, gratuity for driver & guide, personal expenses, travel protection. We highly recommend purchasing travel protection!!