



Highlands and Islands

7 night driver-guided tour



Customisable itinerary
Luxury vehicles
Private driver-guide

LUXURY VACATIONS UK

SINCE 2002



The Highlands and Islands tour with a driver-guide focuses the time you have touring within Scotland's most spectacular scenery. Every day you will be travelling through mountains, along the banks of sea-lochs, stopping at castles, seeing wildlife and getting fresh air.

We can tailor this suggested tour to include the Isle of Mull, Harris and Lewis, the Orkneys Isles and the Shetlands. This Highlands and Islands tour allows you to hike classic routes in on the Isle of Skye, enjoy the wildlife on the west coast, step inside iconic Eilean Donan Castle and taste the water of life, Scotch whisky. We will provide a specialist adventure guide for challenging hiking and other activities that require professional guidance.

You will be looked after from the very start to the last moment you leave our shores. This seven-night suggested tour can be customized to match personal interests, the pace of travel, and hotel-style.

Day 1

Arrive into Glasgow and transfer to Oban area via the Trossachs National Park

Your journey begins with a drive through the Trossachs. Made up of mountains, forests, rivers and lochs, the **Trossachs National Park** is a miniature version of the Highlands with historical connections to rob Roy. The Corbetts mountains are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet, erratically break the horizon.

Drive the spectacular hilly West Coast roads, around inlets, passing Lochs and picturesque like beaches. The western coast of Scotland is genuinely beautiful; the best way to explore is by car and boat.

Overnight: North West coast near Oban.





Day 2

Sea Safari and wild west coast

Enjoy a boat trip and see some of Scotland's treasured wildlife. Expect to see dolphins, basking sharks and porpoise not to mention sea eagles, puffins and otters. The boat will circle the rocks allowing you to see the heart-warming seals lazing around. The Corryvreckan natural whirlpool is one of the most impressive in the world and feeling its pull on the vessel is a strange but enjoyable experience.

Stop for a light lunch on the coast and enjoy afternoon tea at the hotel.

Overnight: West Coast of Scotland.





Day 3

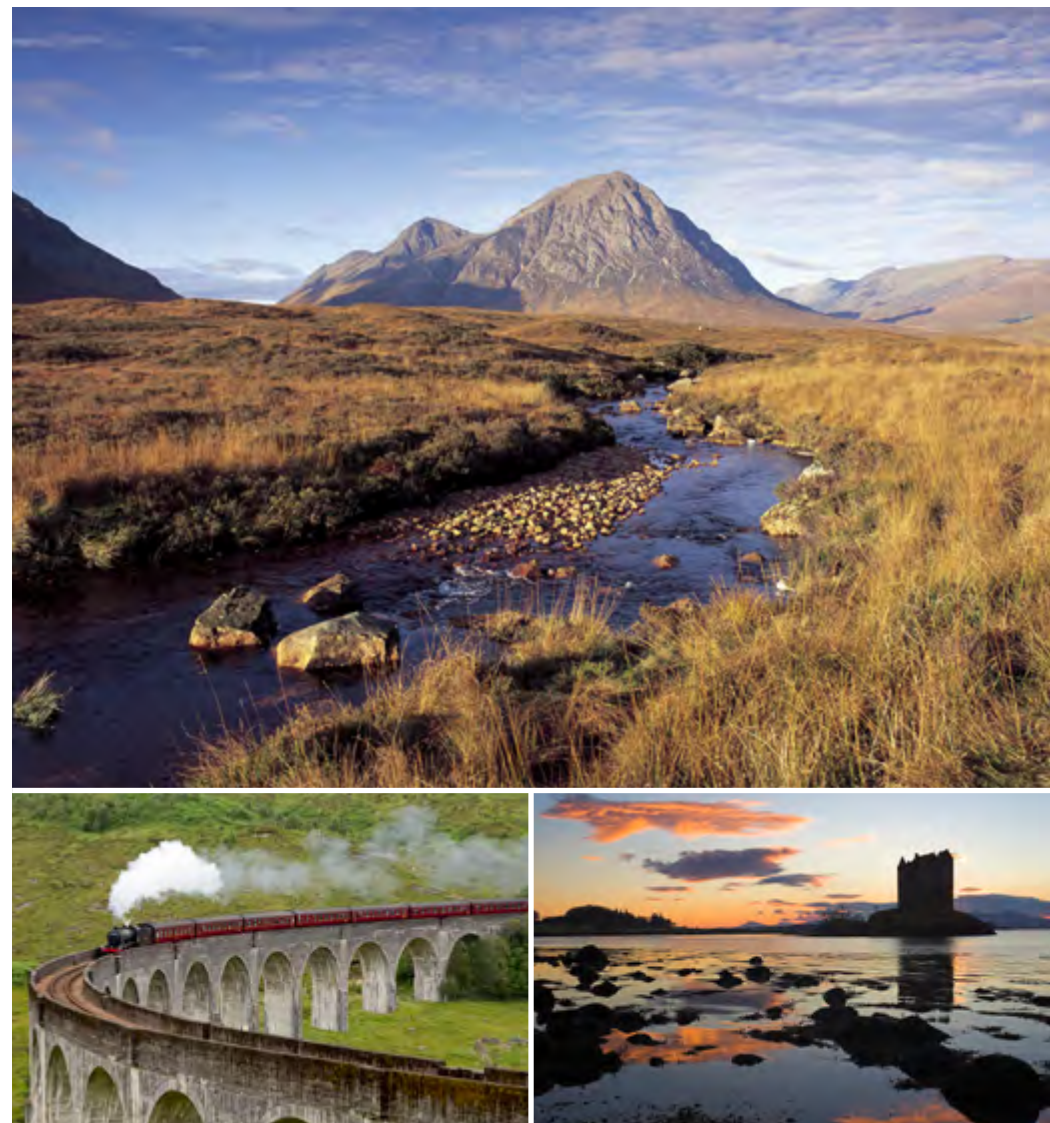
The road to the Islands via Jacobite Express steam train

See **Castle Stalker**: In Gaelic, Stalker is 'stalcaire', which means hunter or falconer! On an island, surrounded by the water of Loch Laich, with a backdrop of the snow-capped Scottish hills, the castle is only reachable by foot at low tide. Otherwise, you need a boat! The four-storey castle is a real fortress, with 9 ft thick walls. No one has lived at the castle since the 18th-century, but the castle is still privately owned and as such runs limited tours, by appointment, throughout the year.

Take the scenic route to Fort William, stopping at **Glen Coe**, an iconic beauty spot, take a stroll to see the 'meeting of the three waters' a massive waterfall at the base of the Three Sister mountain, truly spectacular. Your driver-guide will transfer you to the railway Station and race the train to the next stop. Experience one of the greatest railway journeys in the world! The railway route boasts views of mighty Ben Nevis, the King of Britain's mountains. For the Harry Potter fans and muggles among us, crossing 21-arched **Glenfinnan viaduct** is simply the closest you can get to travelling on the Hogwarts Express back to school. You certainly do not need to be a Harry Potter fan to enjoy this railway journey. The Jacobite Express has always been a much loved piece of Scottish heritage and cherished by enthusiasts since the re-introduction of the steam-hauled service in 1984.

We highly recommend purchasing the the First Class tickets for this scenic railway journey. We will make all arrangements for you. From Mallaig, we take the ferry to Skye. Part of the Scottish Highlands, Isle of Skye has it all – ancient structures, natural miracles, unspoiled countryside and magnificent coastlines broken by lochs.

Overnight: Skye.





Day 4

The Fairy Pool and the Quiraing

The **Quaraing Rocks and Fairy Glen** are genuinely enchanting, a series of landslides has exposed the inner volcanic bones of the mountain, revealing spikes and outlandish crags of stone. Walkers must see the thunderous Rha Waterfall and at low tide visit Spar Cave – a natural wonder made up of limestone. If you are stealthy, see Red deer, sea-eagles, seals, whales and dolphins.

Find the Fairy Pools at the base of the infamous **Cuillin Mountains**, a series of jagged peaks. See the crystal clear mountain waters; you are welcome to take the plunge (wetsuit provided) into the icy waters for a truly refreshing experience. The short walk from the main road to the pools makes you feel like you drawn to the water and then enveloped by the mysterious Cuillin mountains.

The Quiraing is a sublime fantasy world beauty spot. The name Quiraing comes from Old Norse, which means 'Round Fold'. Within the fold in the hills, there is a hidden plateau. This concealed location used to keep cattle safe and to hide from attack.

Overnight: Skye.



Day 5

Walk the Old Man of Storr

Part of the Scottish Highlands, **Isle of Skye** has it all – ancient structures, natural miracles, unspoiled countryside and magnificent coastlines broken by lochs. Portree is the main town on Skye and a working harbour, a great place to sit and eat fish and chips.

See the ***Cuillin mountains** which visitors are welcome to climb. The Trotternish peninsula is a ridge of hills which includes '**The Old Man of Storr**' a spectacular rock formation, walking to the base of the 160 ft monolith takes approximately 1 hours, depending on your fitness levels. It is a spooky, but rewarding experience. the views from the Old Old Man of Storr take your breath away.

Skye locations appear in films such as Stardust, Highlander and Maid of Honour. Within fiction, the 'Pride of Portree' Quidditch team in Harry Potter come from the Isle of Skye.

*We advise using a local mountain guide when hiking the *Cuillin Mountains.*

Overnight: Skye.





Day 6

Eilean Donan Castle and the Highlands

We cross the Skye bridge back to the mainland. One of Scotland's iconic and therefore most photographed castles! The construction you see today is enchantingly deceptive, appearing every bit the medieval Castle, built in the 1920s and 30s! If you were to 'google' pictures of **Eilean Donan** in the 19th-century, you would see a ruin. A view of the Castle that had been blown to smithereens by the British Navy during the Jacobite uprising. There has been a castle here, at the point where three sea lochs meet, since the 13th-century – built to defend the lands of Kintail, a sea-kingdom from foes, including the Vikings.

The finding of the Castle is shrouded in highland legend in the form of a mysterious warrior who could speak to birds, yes; you read that correctly. If you are to drink from the skull of a raven, be blessed with magical ability. Unearth the mysteries with your guide and create beautiful memories of one of the most romantic views in Scotland!

The final drive is truly spectacular, through the very heart of the Highlands, stop for photographs, and take in the views before arriving at Pitlochry.

Overnight: Pitlochry.





Day 7

Whisky and Loch Ness

Back in 1933, the first photograph of a mysterious creature astounded the world. Thousands of sightings and unexplained evidence has intrigued visitors. See for yourself, take a boat trip and go Nessie spotting.

The **Loch Ness** is a stunning location, deep and dark, surrounded by foreboding peaks.

We take a drive-through along the Whisky trail, stopping for tastings and shopping. We can take a tour of your favourite distillery, along with stopping for lunch. Then it's off to the 19th-century town of Pitlochry, the heart of Scotland. The warming drink of whisky is the best way to warm the heart, and **Edradour Distillery**, with its handmade single malt whisky, is up to the task. Discover the smallest traditional distillery in Scotland, and the last surviving farmhouse distillery, it has been handcrafting single malt since 1825.

Overnight: Glasgow or Edinburgh.



Day 8

Chauffeur-driven transfer to Edinburgh airport

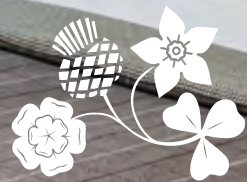
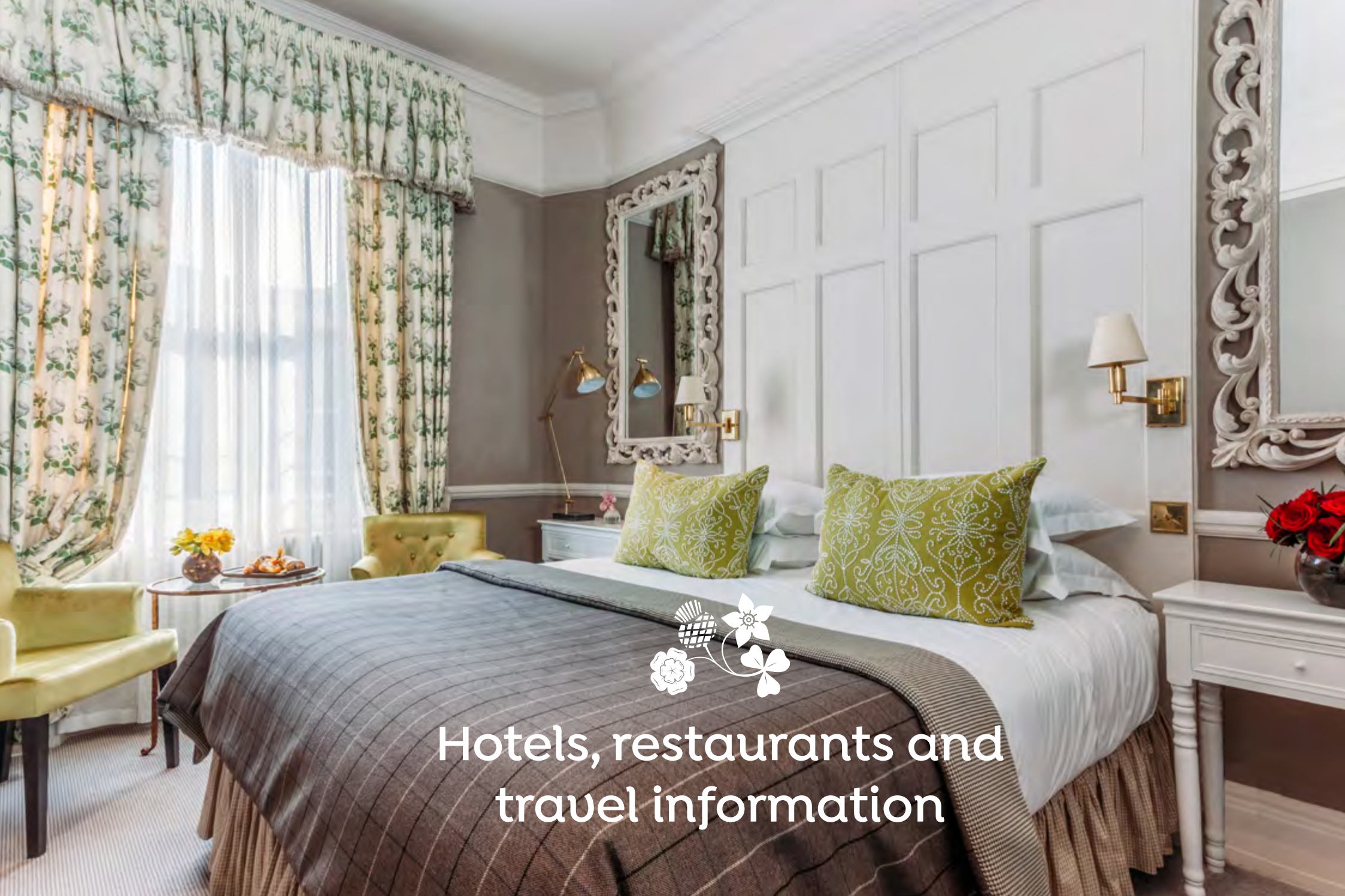
Your chauffeur will be with you 15 minutes before you need to depart. He or she will assist with luggage and listen for any final requests.



"I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all your help in making our trip to London a "once in a lifetime" trip. The itinerary was superb and the accommodations were perfect. I would not change a single thing."

ORIHIL, T.





Hotels, restaurants and
travel information



Guest Houses and historic places



Guesthouses and B&B's have come a long way in the past 20 years. High-end bedding, luxurious surroundings, and refined touches are now much more common.

You get a massive bang for your buck with this category of accommodation. Stay in a private castle, gatehouse, folly, fort, lighthouse or historic country cottage is the way the British enjoy Britain. Be surrounded by glorious countryside, walking distance to a genuine village pub, and be intrigued by living if but for a short time somewhere special.

Castles & Manor House Hotels



There's nothing quite like arriving at an authentic medieval castle or manor house and knowing you are staying the night. Every portrait, grand staircase and corridor has a tale to tell.

Each chamber will be unique, have quirks and exciting features. This style of hotel will have historic landscaped grounds, gardens, and produce grown onsite. Some have golf courses and other leisure facilities such as spas.

Town House & Boutique Hotels



Location, location, location, your traditional townhouse hotel will be centrally situated right in town. Walk out the door and be surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants and historical landmarks.

The boutique versions of these town centre locations will have a contemporary feel with designer bars and lounges. There is a choice of out of town boutique hotels too.

Contemporary & Designer Hotels



Cutting edge design with elegance, setting new standards of luxury. Contemporary British hotels embody comfort, style and tech. Britain's designer hotels are just that.

Every last detail created for that place to stay and that place only. Door handles, keyholes, wine glasses and spa have seamless themes and motifs, generating the feeling of being inside a work of art.

Classic & Britain's finest Hotels



Start and end your day in a refined and grand hotel with the best service. Known as Britain's finest Hotels, enjoy the grandeur, history, architecture along with high-end facilities.

The Classic British, five-star hotel, has world-class restaurants, up to date spas, and beautifully designed golf courses. These hotels will have manicured gardens and extensive grounds to explore. Rooms tend to have antiques and valuable works of art.



Virtuoso on-site | Visit Britain Partner | European Tour Operator Association Member | UK-Inbound Member



We look forward to seeing you soon!

