



**Synnott Travel** *presents*

## **Scotland – Outlander, Skye & Highlands Adventure**

10 Days Edinburgh – Pitlochry – Inverness – Isle of Sky – Fort William – Glasgow

Depart September 9, 2020

**DAY 1 USA / EDINBURGH:** Fly transatlantic overnight from New York to Edinburgh, Scotland. Dinner is served and in-flight entertainment is provided.

**DAY 2 ARRIVE EDINBURGH:** Arrive at Edinburgh airport, and start your Scottish adventure! Enjoy an introduction to Edinburgh while transferring to your Edinburgh Hotel. Check-in is at 2:00pm. As you will be arriving before 2:00pm, the hotel will try to provide as many rooms as possible. If they cannot accommodate all rooms prior to 2:00pm, guests can leave luggage at the luggage room. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure. This evening enjoy dinner in your hotel. (D)

**DAY 3 EDINBURGH:** Enjoy breakfast in your hotel. Afterwards, meet with your tour guide and driver in the hotel lobby. Today, start off with a city tour of Edinburgh where you will appreciate the contrast between the 18th century Georgian "New Town" with its wide, tree lined streets and elegant squares and the medieval "Old Town". The Royal Mile is the backbone of the old quarter, running from the Palace of Holyrood House to Edinburgh Castle. You will visit Edinburgh Castle which dominates the city from its 400-foot rock where you will see the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, now back in Scotland where it belongs. You can also visit the private apartments of Mary Stuart and St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest building in the city which dates back to the 11th century. Later, visit the Palace of Holyrood House, most often called Holyrood Palace. Like its majestic companion, it's riddled with some of Scotland's most potent history. The Abbey in the grounds was founded in 1128, and the palace itself is baroque. These days Holyrood Palace is the Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth II, but it's probably best known for its association with another royal figure, Mary Queen of Scots. Later, return to your hotel and enjoy your afternoon at leisure. (B)

**DAY 4 EDINBURGH / FALKLAND / PITLOCHRY:** After breakfast, depart Edinburgh and set off towards the impressive Scottish Highlands. Along the way, and over the coming days, explore some of the filming locations for the popular Starz fantasy series – Outlander. Head to the picturesque town of Falkland, where one of *Outlander's* first scenes was filmed, which substitutes gamely for 1940s Inverness. You will visit Falkland Palace, the country residence of the Stewart kings and queens. The gardens contain the original royal tennis court, built in 1539 and the oldest in Britain. Afterwards, on to visit Scone Palace, the home of the Earl of Mansfield. Scone is a castellated palace, enlarged and embellished in 1803, incorporating the 16<sup>th</sup> century and earlier palaces. The Moot Hill at Scone, known in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, was the site of the famous Coronation Stone of Scone (The Stone of Destiny), brought there in the 9<sup>th</sup> century by Kenneth MacAlpine, King of Scots. In 1296, the Stone was seized by the English and taken to Westminster Abbey. In 1997 the Stone was returned to Scotland and is now in Edinburgh Castle. Onwards to Pitlochry for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 5 CHOLCOLATE TASTING & BLAIR CASTLE:** Enjoy breakfast. Our first stop today will be in the small village of Grandtully where you will enjoy a private Chocolate tasting and tour with Master Chocolatier Iain Burnett. Experience the unique flavor combinations and incredible texture of the international award-winning Velvet Truffles as Iain introduces you to the world of artisan gourmet truffles. Afterwards, travel north to visit Blair Castle, nestled in the dramatic landscape of Highland Perthshire and has been home to 19 generations of Stewarts and Murrays of Atholl. Unique amongst Scottish castles, the story told here will take you from a visit by Mary Queen of Scots to the Civil War and from the Jacobite cause to the disaster of Culloden following Bonnie Prince Charlie's own stay in the castle. Return to Pitlochry where you enjoy some free time before dinner this evening. (B/D)

**DAY 6 CULLODEN / LOCH NESS / INVERNESS:** Today, we travel into the Scottish Highlands. Your first stop is to visit The Clava Cairns, the exceptional remains of an ancient cemetery, set on a terrace above the River Nairn and the inspiration for the mysterious Craigh na Dun in *Outlander*. See the “Split Stone”, through which Claire Randall might have tumbled, into 1743. Onwards to visit Culloden Battlefield. Just 5 miles from Inverness, the historic Culloden Battlefield is one of Scotland’s most significant battle sites, commemorated by the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre and protected by the Scottish National Trust. It was here, on the Culloden Moor that Bonnie Prince Charlie and an army of 5000 Jacobite Highlanders faced off against the Duke of Cumberland and his 9000 Hanoverian Government troops on April 16, 1746. It was one of Britain’s most important battles and the last to be fought on British soil. Travel on to Clansman Harbor where we board a Jacobite Cruise to Urquhart Castle. Loch Ness is a striking 38.5 km long loch in the Great Glen (Southwest of Inverness) and forms part of the Caledonian Canal, which links Inverness with Fort William. Up to 213 m deep, the loch contains the largest volume of freshwater of any lake in the British Isles. Famous worldwide for its mysterious inhabitant, the Loch Ness Monster, it is also ideal for cruising and sailing. On the loch banks, you will visit the ruins of Urquhart Castle, one of the largest castles in Scotland which fell into decay after 1689 and was blown up in 1692 to prevent it being occupied by Jacobites. Later, head to Inverness for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 7 ISLE OF SKYE / FORT WILLIAM AREA:** Enjoy breakfast. Today, depart from Inverness and make your way towards the Isle of Skye. Visit Armadale Castle and discover the history of the Highlands and Islands through the story of Clan Donald, its most powerful clan. The Estate’s principal focal points are the restored historic gardens, and the beautiful walking trails threading through the 40 acres of woodland around Armadale Castle. Part of the Castle has been restored and the striking ruined remains sensitively re-designed, to create an attractive landscape within the gardens. A short ferry ride from Armadale to the mainland brings you to Mallaig. Travel on and return to Fort William area for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

**DAY 8 FORT WILLIAM / DOUNE / GLASGOW:** After breakfast, depart for Glasgow. Your first stop today will be in Scotland’s historic heartlands to visit Doune Castle. Both Robert the Bruce and William “Braveheart” Wallace made a name for themselves here – and plays a starring role in *Outlander*. This rugged fortress stands in for the fictional Castle Leoch, home to Colum MacKenzie and his clan in the episodes set in the eighteenth century. Afterwards, continue to Glengoyne Distillery. The distillery was first licensed in 1833 and is Scotland’s most southerly Highland distillery and the closest to Glasgow. Nestling in the Campsie Hills, it draws water from a waterfall. The distillery produces Scotland’s only unpeated whisky. The tour includes a tasting. Afterwards, head to Glasgow. This evening you are free to explore Glasgow. (B)

**DAY 9 GLASGOW:** After breakfast, enjoy a full day at leisure in Glasgow. (B)

**DAY 10 GLASGOW / USA:** After breakfast, transfer to Glasgow airport for your return flight home to the US. (B)

### Package Includes

- Round-trip air from New York JFK on Delta Airlines
- Edinburgh – 2 nights, 4-Star Apex Edinburgh City
- Pitlochry – 2 nights, 4-Star Atholl Palace Hotel
- Inverness – 1 night, 4-Star Columba Hotel
- Crianlarich – 1 night, 3-Star Muthu Tyndrum Hotel
- Glasgow – 2 nights, 4-Star Fraser Suites Glasgow
- Breakfast each morning, except day of arrival.
- 5, three-course dinners
- Luxury motorcoach with professional driver for transfers and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary
- Full time tour director throughout
- Half-day local guide in Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Castle
- Palace of Holyrood House
- Falkland Palace

- Scone Palace
- Blair Castle
- Visit Culloden Battlefield
- Clava Cairn
- Jacobite Cruise on Loch Ness
- Urquhart Castle
- Chocolate Tasting with master chocolatier
- Blair Castle
- Armadale Castle and Gardens
- Ferry crossing from Armadale to Mallaig
- Doune Castle
- Visit Glengoyne Distillery
- Porterage of one suitcase per person
- Portfolio of documents
- 24-hour emergency customer service while in Scotland