



## *Isle of Skye & Edinburgh Itinerary*

Ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, you are about to travel through some of Scotland's most sensational and alluring scenery while you visit some of our most famous landmarks and attractions. Firstly, your kilted Brack Tours/Stravaigin tour guide takes his cue from the world famous Scottish song and transports you to the bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.

We'll be stopping off in the idyllic village of Luss for a stroll through the picturesque old village leading to the pier. From the pier you can take in the simply stunning views up and down the world-famous Loch, as Ben Lomond dominates the skyline high above on the opposite bank. The Loch is the largest lake (we prefer Loch here in Scotland – it just sounds cooler!) in Great Britain and the North road to the Highlands nestles against the banks of Loch Lomond for it's full twenty-four miles.

No Highland tour is complete without Glencoe. So on we go! For sheer drama, Glencoe simply cannot be beaten. Both stunning and haunting, The Glen of Weeping as it's also known, has a bloody and tragic air of history coursing through it's unique atmosphere. The Glencoe massacre of 1692, where the government sponsored Campbell Clan attacked and murdered many of the MacDonald Clan of the Glen, is a brutal chapter in Scotland's history. The word memorable doesn't do a Glencoe visit justice.

Fancy a wee bit of movie nostalgia next? Our next stop will help with that. Glenfinnan Viaduct defies belief. Built in 1901 and instantly recognisable from four Harry Potter films, we cross our fingers that the Hogwarts Express roars across the bridge for a great photo op.

Post refreshments, it's on to the once seen and never forgotten Silver Sands of Morar. A stunning string of white sandy beaches which pepper the coastline from Arisaig to Morar, with unrivalled views of The Small Isles of Muck, Eigg, Rum and Canna, there'll be time to explore and perhaps a paddle in the sea?

And on we go to our next port of call – Skye. Look out for all manner of sea life and birds including Whales, dolphins, otters and Sea Eagles on the characterful ferry across to Skye. Utterly mesmeric and steeped in history and mystery, there's so much to do here on this island that Brack Tours & Stravaigin have chosen Skye as our two-night designated stay. So much wildlife, so many attractions and numerous activities cannot be covered in a day, so after some great food, a dram or three and a cosy first night in enchanting and picturesque Portree, the adventure continues into a second day.

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Morning! The day begins with a wonderful Scottish breakfast before we journey onwards. As Skye is positively PACKED with action and attractions, it's time to decide just what you want to do today. Fancy a wee trip to the dramatic Old Man Of Storr, a large pinnacle of rock that stands high and can be seen for miles?

The Old Man was created by a massive ancient landslide and there's a stunning walk to the top of one of the most photographed landscapes in the world. If this doesn't float your Skye boat (sorry...) perhaps Kilt Rock and Mealt Waterfall will? The rock is a sea cliff in North East Trotternish and is said to resemble a Kilt. Close by is the incredible Mealt Waterfall which free falls off the cliff for 60m into the sound of Raasay below. Sometimes when the wind is strong, the water is blown away and doesn't reach the bottom at all. If that doesn't do it for you, Brack Tours and Stravaigin are here to please, so let's take you to Staffin beach and the dinosaur footprints. Yep – Dinosaur footprints! They were left by a family of dinosaurs that walked across the sand some 165 million years ago. To be able to see and touch these ancient foot prints is a truly amazing experience.

For you history lovers, our next stop at The Museum Of Island Life lets you step back into island life 100 years ago. Award winning and unique, it's another Skye 'Must Do!'

Any visit to the Isle of Skye is incomplete without savouring the wealth of history at Dunvegan Castle & Gardens. So it's time to visit! Built on a rocky outcrop on the shores of Loch Dunvegan once entirely encircled by the sea, Dunvegan is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years.

Post tasty lunch, we move on to The Fairy Pools. At the foot of the Black Cuillins near Glenbrittle, sit these beautifully crystal-clear pools on the River Brittle. The Fairy Pools attract visitors from all over the world for some 'Wild Swimming'! For those less brave, there are fantastic photo opportunities in abundance.

Brack Tours & Stravaigin NEVER forget you Whisky lovers! Let's then take a wee jaunt to the internationally renowned Talisker distillery. The only distillery on the Isle Of Skye, set on the shores of Loch Harport, Talisker is home to the alluring, sweet, full bodied single malt whisky enjoyed in every corner of the world.

Return to your accommodation for a second night.

The time has come to bid a fond farewell to Skye. We cross the bridge to Kyle of Lochalsh and reach our first stop this morning. Recognised as one of the most recognisable and iconic images of Scotland, Eilean Donan Castle is situated on an island at the point where three great Lochs meet the sea. Surrounded by majestic and awe-inspiring scenery, we recommend that you keep the cameras handy for this one.

And what will you make of our next port of call – Loch Ness itself? Cameras at the ready again please, as you can choose a cruise on the Loch for a spot of Nessie hunting. Loch Ness at It's deepest point is a staggering 755 ft and it contains more fresh water than all the lakes in Wales and England combined, so please don't fall in! Geology and Science more your thing? Then why not visit the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition? (No real monsters we promise.) For those of you who feel safer on dry land, you can wander freely around the resplendent and historic ruins of Urquhart Castle. Fort Augustus at the end of the Loch is perfect for a relaxing stroll around the Locks of the Caledonian Canal.

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Dalwhinnie distillery is set in utterly splendid mountain scenery and is one of the highest distilleries in Scotland. The name Dalwhinnie is derived from the Gaelic word Dail-coinneamh, which means meeting place, referring to the meeting of ancient cattle drovers' routes through the mountains.

After a cheeky wee dram and a cracking lunch, we traverse our way through luscious green scenery towards picturesque Pitlochry. Clear sparkling air, dazzling scenery, rich clan history, fine food and plenty of space with lots to see and do, Pitlochry has been a tourist destination for over 150 years counting Queen Victoria amongst its earliest visitors. Pitlochry is so pretty we hate to rush through it, so fittingly our last day is spent in one of Scotland's most charming places. Nobody leaves Pitlochry in a hurry...

BUT – we must get you back home, so as we set off back through the mountains, passing bewitching backdrops and beautiful glens and lochs, you can check your camera for the amazing photos that will trigger the senses and memory for many, many years to come.

**This tour is truly one for the bucket list. Book quickly due to high demand!**

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a long trip so there may be periods where we are travelling long distances between stops. Brack Tours and Stravaigin will do our utmost to break the journey up as much as possible but Loch Ness is a long way away, so please factor this in when choosing this tour.**

### *Optional 3 Night Edinburgh City Tour Extension*

As you finish your tour of the beautiful Isle of Skye.

The next two days will be independent touring, no driver services required. Enjoy the sights of Edinburgh using the Royal Edinburgh Ticket giving you a great value way to see and enjoy the Edinburgh Royal highlights.

- 48 hour unlimited travel on board all of Edinburgh Bus Tours' city tours
- Fast track admission to **Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Yacht Britannia, and Palace of Holyrood Palace**



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