



## Scotland: Exploring the Highlands and Coast

**DURATION** | 9 Days

**TRIP LEVEL** | Active

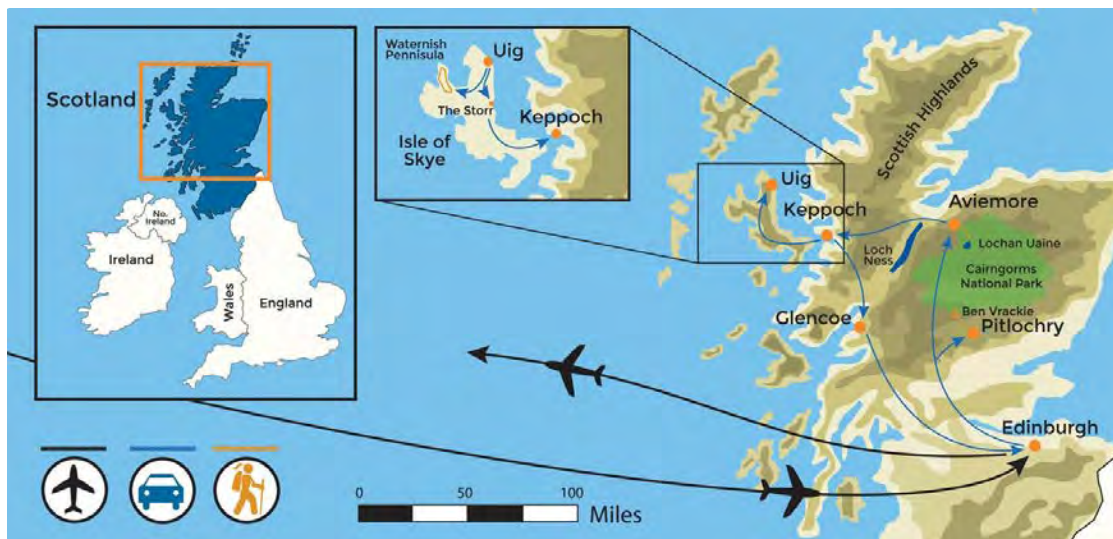
# Trip Overview

Fàilte! Welcome to Scotland and the fabled landscapes of the Highlands. Discover enchanted glens, remote bays, windswept battlefields, ancient forests, and heather-clad hills on this unparalleled women's adventure. Explore Edinburgh's historic charm before discovering Scotland's world-renowned walking routes through breathtaking scenery, including the Highlands, Cairngorms, and Isle of Skye. Savor local cuisine with a celebrated chef, visit restored crofts, and uncover Loch Ness's mysteries. From iconic landmarks like Trotternish's Old Man of Storr to Glencoe's storied trails, this journey offers hiking, walking, heritage, and camaraderie amidst Scotland's most spectacular landscapes.

## Trip Highlights

- Walk world-renowned trails through the Highlands, Cairngorms, and Isle of Skye, featuring dramatic peaks, enchanted glens, ancient forests, and the stunning Trotternish peninsula.
- Visit historic crofts, savor locally-inspired meals with an acclaimed chef, and enjoy vibrant towns like Aviemore, blending rich traditions with modern charm
- Explore Loch Ness, Glencoe, and the Old Man of Storr, uncovering Scotland's folklore, natural wonders, and fascinating history.

## Map View



Arrival: Arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland (EDI) on Day 1 by 12:00 PM.

Departure: Depart from Edinburgh, Scotland (EDI) on Day 9 after 12:00 PM.

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# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 1

### Welcome to Edinburgh!

Welcome to Edinburgh! Following your arrival and hotel check-in, enjoy a walk through the historical city of Edinburgh this afternoon. First head up Calton Hill, home to Edinburgh's acropolis, meander through the winding streets of the Old Town to the famous Royal Mile, with its Cathedral and cobblestone alleyways. After exploring, make your way back to the hotel to enjoy a lively welcome dinner at your hotel as you get to know your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and learn about why each woman on your trip is excited to explore the Scottish countryside!

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Bruntsfield Hotel



### Bruntsfield Hotel

The Bruntsfield Hotel, set in a historic townhouse overlooking Bruntsfield Links, offers stylish comfort in one of Edinburgh's liveliest neighborhoods. Its Bisque Brasserie serves modern Scottish dishes, and the city center is just a short stroll away, making it an ideal base for exploring.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, slippers, hair dryer, bathrobe, electric kettle, bottled water, flatscreen TV, cable / satellite TV, Wi-Fi

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# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 2

### Discover Cairngorms National Park

After breakfast, journey north to the Scottish Highlands, crossing the Queensferry Bridge with stunning Firth of Forth views. Visit historic Blair Castle before continuing to Aviemore. Here, enjoy a 5-mile hike (902 ft elevation) through pine forests, spotting wildlife like red squirrels and deer. Discover the ruins of 13th-century Loch an Eilein Castle on a loch island. Afterward, check in to your accommodation for a three-night stay and prepare for dinner in Aviemore, a vibrant town surrounded by natural beauty.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ravenscraig Guest House



### Ravenscraig Guest House

Ravenscraig Guest House is a warm and inviting fully restored Victorian villa, nestled in Aviemore, an adventurer's heaven, right in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. This family-run guest house blends traditional charm with modern comforts, offering beautifully appointed rooms and hearty breakfasts. Ideally located for exploring the area's outdoor adventures, it's a perfect base for hikers, skiers, and nature lovers alike.

Amenities: Complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, coffee / tea maker, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi

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## Day 3

### Savor Scottish Cuisine

Following breakfast at your hotel this morning, journey deep into the wilderness to the home of an acclaimed chef who will share the secrets of combining local spices and spirits while preparing your lunch. Reflect on your memorable day of local cuisine and shared storytelling as you make your way back to the hotel where you'll have some time to relax before dinner on your own.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Ravenscraig Guest House



# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 4

### Crofts and the Cairngorms

Start with a visit to a restored croft, learning traditional farming methods for grazing and pasture rotation. Hike roughly 6 miles with 472 ft of gain through Glenmore Forest Park's ancient pines to Lochan Uaine, a secluded loch steeped in folklore, surrounded by rare wildflowers and birdlife. After lunch, visit a small, remarkable farm managed by two pioneering women. Later, enjoy leisure time back at the hotel before a group dinner.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Ravenscraig Guest House



# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 5

### Loch Ness Exploration

Leaving the National Park behind this morning you will head along the shores of Loch Ness keeping eyes peeled for the elusive monster that swims in its depths. Crossing the bridge to the Isle of Skye, enjoy a short hike (4 miles, 728 ft elevation gain) in Glen Sligachan, offering a breathtaking vista. Here, the striking Red and Black Cuillin rise on either side, creating a scene of dramatic beauty that captures the heart of Skye. Later today, arrive at your hotel located in the northern port of Uig with incredible views across the bay.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Uig Hotel



### Uig Hotel

The Uig Hotel, a charming family-run establishment on the Isle of Skye, is steeped in history as a former coaching inn dating back to 1831. Perched on a hillside overlooking Uig Bay, it offers stunning views, cozy rooms, a traditional bar, and a restaurant serving locally inspired cuisine. Ideally located for exploring Skye's dramatic landscapes and catching the ferry to the Outer Hebrides, it's a perfect base for a memorable Highland escape.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, tea / coffee maker, Wi-Fi

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# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 6

### Exploring Waternish Peninsula

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll start out on a full-day 8-mile hike to the Waternish peninsula. Departing from old church ruins, head towards a remote headland with spectacular views. Keep your eyes out for sea birds, whales, and dolphins, which may be visible just over the sea cliffs. Your guide will choose the best route, weather dependent. Return to the hotel while you hear the legends of the famous MacLeod clan, whose ancestral seat is at the nearby Dunvegan Castle. Enjoy dinner this evening in the hotel restaurant.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Uig Hotel



# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 7

### Trotternish Discoveries

Begin with an early start today to journey 3 miles on one of Skye's most iconic landmarks, Trotternish, offering some of Scotland's most awe-inspiring landscapes, including 'The Old Man of Storr'. You may also admire other striking rock formations such as The Prison and The Needle. In the afternoon, a ferry takes you back to the mainland, followed by a scenic drive along one of Scotland's most picturesque roads headed toward Glencoe. Arriving at the hotel late this afternoon, check in and have some time before enjoying dinner with your traveling companions in the hotel restaurant.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Clachaig Inn



### Clachaig Inn

Nestled in the heart of Glencoe, Clachaig Inn has welcomed travelers for over 300 years. It offers modern en suite rooms, hearty breakfasts, and two lively bars serving local dishes, cask ales, and over 260 whiskies. With live music, beer festivals, and stunning mountain views, it's a true Highland gem. Daily included meals (located at the bottom left of each page) and the accompanying meal descriptions and locations within the text.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, tea and coffee making facilities, flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi

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# Trip Itinerary

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## Day 8

### Glencoe and Farewell Dinner

Enjoy your last walk of the trip (2 miles with 298 ft of elevation gain) at the site of the Glencoe Massacre. After your hike, visit the eco-friendly visitor center, which features engaging displays that explore Glencoe's rich natural and cultural heritage. From here, continue our journey to Edinburgh, arriving in the early evening. Celebrate your great Scotland hiking adventure with your fellow travelers during a farewell dinner at your hotel.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Bruntsfield Hotel



### Bruntsfield Hotel

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## Day 9

### Farewell to Scotland!

All great adventures must one day come to an end. Bid your new friends "Bidh mi 'gad fhaicinn" when you arrive at the airport. It's your final morning in this remarkable city and breathtaking country. After breakfast, a group transfer will depart for Edinburgh Airport at 10:30 AM to connect with your onward travel. You may depart Edinburgh International Airport (EDI) any time after 12 PM today.

# What's Included

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## What's Included

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- An alcoholic drink at the Welcome and Farewell dinner
- All ground transportation
- Entrance fees

## Not Included

- International flights
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Gratuities for main driver guide

*Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.*

