




INSPIRING  
VACATIONS



Edinburgh,  
The Highlands  
& Islands



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## Get Ready to Be Inspired

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Travelling with Inspiring Vacations allows you to explore the wonders of the world in a variety of different ways. We have partnered with a worldwide network of local travel experts to bring you culturally unique and delightfully unforgettable travel experiences. Whether it is meandering through narrow canyons by rail, cruising the idyllic waters of the Mediterranean or touring through t...

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**TOUR ITINERARY**

The information provided in this document is subject to change and may be affected by unforeseen events outside the control of Inspiring Vacations. Where changes to your itinerary or bookings occur, appropriate advice or instructions will be sent to your email address.



## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Destination    | Edinburgh |
| Meals included | Dinner    |
| Accommodation  | N/A       |

Today you will arrive in Scotland's much-loved capital, Edinburgh. Discover its fascinating history, unsurpassed beauty and warm, friendly locals. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel, situated close to the station.

### DAY 2

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Destination    | Edinburgh 🚆 Ballachulish |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner        |
| Accommodation  | N/A                      |

All aboard for Glasgow this morning, before changing trains for a journey on one of the world's most incredible railway lines, the West Highland Line. Travel along a hillside ledge overlooking Gare Loch before entering the spectacular Highlands, an idyllic, remote and untouched landscape. The incredible route skirts the western banks of Loch Lomond and climbs quickly from Crianlarich to Upper Tyndrum and wild Rannoch Moor, a dramatic region of peat bogs, streams and ancient forests that are only visible from the comfort of your train. On arrival at Fort William, transfer to your hotel.

### DAY 3

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Destination    | Ballachulish 🚆 Oban [Ferry] Isle Of Mull [Ferry] Oban 🚆<br>Ballachulish |
| Meals included | Breakfast, Dinner   |
| Accommodation  | N/A   |

### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Venture to the town of Oban where you'll board a ferry and cruise to Craignure on the Isle of Mull.

Heading through the small islands and across to Mull, the incredible picture-postcard views are truly awe-inspiring. Think rugged coastline; hills rising sharply from the water's edge; endless greens, purples and browns of the moorland; and jagged, exposed rock faces. On approach to the island, you'll notice a lonely castle above the sea cliffs. This is Duart Castle, ancestral home of the Maclean Clan. Visit the castle, taking in its eclectic rooms and stunning views. Later, return to your hotel for the evening.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 4

Destination Ballachulish 🚗 Neptune's Staircase 🚗 Ballachulish

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Travel to Neptune's Staircase, an impressive set of eight locks operated by a team of at least three lock keepers. Situated on the Caledonian Canal, the 22-ton lock gates were originally hand-powered, but are now operated by hydraulics.

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Discover the picturesque waters of Loch Linnhe and set off on a cruise.

Today you'll travel by coach to Neptune's Staircase. It takes approximately one-and-a-half hours to pass from one end of the staircase to the other, where water overcomes gravity and nature to climb the hillside. From here, pass the stunning mountain landscapes of Glencoe before returning to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Scottish dinner.

### DAY 5

Destination Ballachulish 🚗 Fort William 🚗 Mallaig 🚗 Fort William 🚗  
Inverness

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Join the Jacobite Steam Train for a journey to Mallaig on the final leg of the West Highland Line.

Departing from Fort William, join the Jacobite Steam Train. Your train will steam past Ben Nevis before climbing into the mountains around Glenfinnan, a town famous as the rallying point for Bonnie Prince Charlie's assault on the British throne. At Glenfinnan, reach the line's most picturesque section and one of Britain's most iconic engineering works – the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct. A magical experience, it's no wonder this train was featured as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter films. As you head towards Mallaig, we drop down to the sea's edge and the landscape opens up with the first views of the rugged 'Small Isles' – Rum, Eigg and Muck – which hang close offshore and tease in and out of view near the journey's end. After a lunch stop, it's time to return to Fort William. From there, you'll then continue by coach through the picturesque countryside to the city of Inverness, capital of the Highlands.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 6

Destination Inverness 🚗 Loch Ness 🚗 Inverness

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

During a cruise, soak up the myth and mystery of Loch Ness and its monster before disembarking at the picturesque 13th-century ruins of Urquhart Castle.

This morning, you'll travel to the tranquil waters of Loch Ness, as famous for the elusive 'monster' that allegedly swims in its depths as for its natural beauty. Later, return by coach to Inverness, and enjoy some time at leisure.

### DAY 7

Destination Inverness 🚗 Kyle of Lochalsh 🚗 Inverness

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

Enjoy one of the most breathtaking railway journeys in Europe, the Kyle Line.

Today, experience a picturesque rail journey. Enjoy countless photo opportunities as you wind through wooded hillsides and over sparse moors, climbing over the highlands and past charming loch-side and seaside towns. Arrive at Kyle of Lochalsh, the end of the line, located across a short stretch of water from the Isle of Skye. Afterwards, make a visit to Eilean Donan Castle, situated on a tiny island in Loch Duich.

### DAY 8

Destination Inverness 🚗 Edinburgh

Meals included Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation N/A

#### INSIDER EXPERIENCE

This evening, enjoy the opportunity to try some traditional Scottish fare. You'll also listen to a chorus of bagpipes and drums during a Scottish-themed evening to mark the end of your journey.

Leaving Inverness behind this morning, you'll travel south by rail through the Cairngorms and via the towns of Aviemore and Kingussie, as well as the burgh of Pitlochry, before arriving back in Edinburgh. Transfer from the railway station to your hotel.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 9

Destination      Edinburgh

Meals included    Breakfast

Accommodation   N/A

Your journey ends with a transfer to the airport today.

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### Inclusions

#### WHATS INCLUDED

Eight nights in premium accommodation  
Services of a Great Rail Journeys Tour Escort and expert local guides  
16 meals - 8 breakfasts and 8 dinners  
Airport transfers and tipping  
Superior twin share accommodation  
Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary

### Fine Print

#### HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

##### Deposit & Payments

Book now and secure your package with only a \$200 deposit per person.  
Pay a 2nd instalment of \$740 per person within 28 days.  
You will then be invoiced for final payment 100 days prior to departure.  
Booking Process

Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)  
Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected  
Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests  
Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab  
Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)  
Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking  
Your position on the tour will be confirmed within 48 hours of completing your order. If your place cannot be confirmed, a full refund of the deposit will occur

#### OPTIONAL TOURS

None

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## TOUR ITINERARY

### EXCLUSIONS

Airfares  
 Personal Expenses  
 Travel Insurance  
 Optional activities  
 Anything not mentioned in the itinerary or optional

### CABIN BEDDING AND UPGRADES

None

### HOTEL LIST

Edinburgh - Apex Hotel Waterloo Place  
 Ballachulish - Ballachulish Hotel (or similar)  
 Inverness - Inverness Palace Hotel and Spa (or similar)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Accommodation**  
 The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

**Single Supplement**  
 A single supplement is available on all nights of this trip from an extra AUD \$1900 subject to availability.

**Triple Share**  
 Not available.

**Children**  
 Children must be 5 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

**Tour Documentation**  
 Final documentation will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

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