

Car Tour (11 nights)

Newcastle – Scottish Borders – Loch Lomond – North
West Scotland – North Coast 500 – Royal Deeside -
Edinburgh

Available for Groups and for Individuals

Can be tailored to suit individuals & groups depending on budget, interests and length of time available to explore Scotland.

It is a suggested itinerary only and accommodation is subject to availability.

Day 1 Newcastle – Scottish Borders 73 miles

Arrive into Newcastle by ferry and drive north towards Scotland

Visit **Alnwick Castle** on your way north. The origins of Alnwick Castle date back to the Norman period. Since 1309 its story has been intertwined with that of the Percy family, a family with a history as illustrious as the castle's own.

An alternative visit may be **Manderston House** in Duns, Berwickshire. Built for Sir James Miller, a nouveau riche baronet who married into the traditional aristocracy, Manderston House was designed by architect John Kinross whom when he enquired as to how much he could spend on the estate, was told '*it simply doesn't matter*'.

Arrive at the **Schloss Roxburghe Hotel** which is set in the beautiful Scottish Borders. Formerly owned by the Duke of Roxburghe, now recently refurbished to provide luxury hotel accommodation and spa.

Enjoy an Afternoon Tea on arrival.

In the evening, enjoy a dinner with a Piper piping you into Dinner.



Day 2

Explore the Scottish Borders



Full Scottish Breakfast.

The Scottish Borders area is full of history & heritage and is well-known too for sport and, in particular, rugby and also for salmon fishing on the River Tweed. The Melrose Sevens is held annually here.

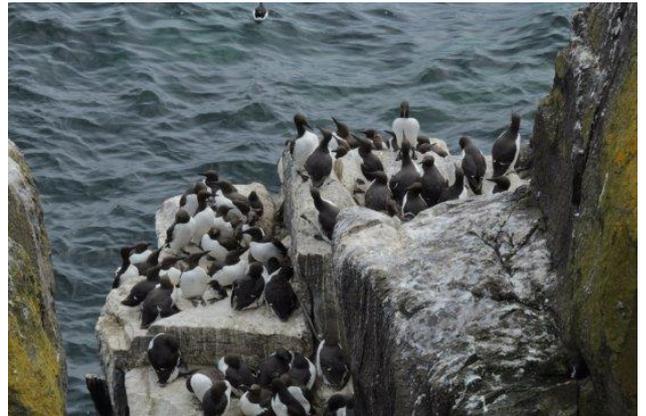
Visit the historic **Floors Castle & Gardens**, home to the Duke of Roxburghe. Or visit one of the historic **Border Abbeys** e.g. Melrose Abbey.

Abbotsford House & Gardens was home to author Sir Walter Scott and is open daily for tours.

Or if you love Cashmere, why not visit the historic Woollen Mill owned by **Johnstone's of Elgin** and see how the wool is woven.

Further afield, you could visit the **Isle of May** by taking a ferry trip from North Berwick (1 hr 15 mins from the Roxburghe Hotel)

The May Island as it is known locally is a remarkable island which lies only 5 miles off the Fife coast and is an important National Nature Reserve owned and run by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and is open for visitors from the beginning of April until the end of September. Christened the jewel of the Forth by Anstruther Pleasure Cruises many years ago for good reason, this is truly a beautiful Island, peaceful with stunning views everywhere.



Return to Roxburghe Hotel for Dinner and overnight

Choose an Ossian Option

Morning or Afternoon **Salmon Fishing** on a prestigious beat on the River Tweed with Ghillie and a riverside BBQ

Private Tour & Champagne Reception with the Owner of one of the Scottish Borders Historic Castles

Day 3 **Scottish Borders – Loch Lomond** **120 miles**

Full Scottish Breakfast.

An optional stop north could be to **Traquair House**, Scotland's oldest inhabited house. Visited by 27 Scottish Kings and Queens, Traquair dates back to 1107 and has been lived in by the Stuart family since 1491.

Continue north towards Stirling where you can enjoy a visit of the very historic **Stirling Castle** and the **Wallace Monument**.

Head across to the beautiful Loch Lomond and **Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park**.

Check into **Loch Lomond Arms Hotel** (4 star) at Luss situated on the banks of Loch Lomond.

Dinner at the hotel.

Ossian Experiences, Lynedoch House, Barossa Place, Perth, PH1 5EP Telephone: 01738 451600.

www.ossianadventures.com



- in 2021, Cameron House Hotel will reopen



Day 4 Explore Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Full Scottish Breakfast

Continue to explore this beautiful area with a visit to Luss, a pretty village on the banks of Loch Lomond.

Or enjoy a trip across to the West Coast with a drive through Helensburgh and up towards Arrochar via Loch Long.

Drive the "*Rest & Be Thankful*" through the Glen across to Cairndow where you can visit the gorgeous gardens at Ardkinglas Gardens. Enjoy lunch at the famous Loch Fyne Oyster Bar overlooking the beautiful Loch Fyne before returning to your accommodation for Dinner & overnight.

Choose an Ossian Option

Seaplanes Tour of Loch Lomond (max 8)

Champagne Cruise on Loch Lomond

Evening Talk with a Clan Chief about the history of Scottish Clans

Guided Walk up the Ben Lomond for spectacular views across the Loch & region



Day 5 Loch Lomond – Glencoe – North West 189 miles

Full Scottish Breakfast.

Today's journey will take you through the spectacular **Glencoe** which has often been used in films including Harry Potter and James Bond "Skyfall".

Make a stop at the **Glencoe Visitor Centre** where you will be able to learn about the geology of this famous Glen along with the dark history around the "Massacre of Glencoe" when the Macdonald Clan were killed as they slept in their beds by the Campbells back in 1692. Glencoe is also home to 8 of Scotland's Munros – hills over 3,000ft. They form a large part of the Glen towering over you.

Choose an Ossian Option

Enjoy a Land Rover **Wildlife Safari** with a Guide to explain the geology of the area and to take you to some of the most well-known photographic spots.

Continue north towards Fort William which nestles beneath Ben Nevis which is the United Kingdom's highest mountain at over 4,000ft.

A suggested lunch stop here is at **Inverlochy Castle Hotel**, a beautiful 19th century castle surrounded by the luscious green of the evergreen trees and the sparkling blue from the nearby loch.

From here, continue towards Spean Bridge and via Dornie, head north through some spectacular scenery with beautiful mountains. If time allows, make a stop in the very pretty village of Plockton.

Arrive into **Torridon** - considered by many to embody the North Highland landscape, Torridon is an ancient and enchanting wilderness of water and rock. The rugged mountains are incredibly old – the Torridonian sandstone that forms the bulk of all the mountains dates back 750 million years. Part of the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve** is on the Torridon Estate and, along with other designations, the Estate supports an impressive variety of flora and fauna, including important plant colonies, rare mosses and lichens, and the elusive pine marten and golden eagle.

Check into the **Torridon Hotel** is set in 58 acres of parkland at the end of the magnificent sea loch.

Dinner and overnight at the Hotel. (For groups of 16+, you will have exclusive use)



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Day 6 & 7 Optional Day Trips from Torridon

Isle of Skye (approx. 310km round trip)

Return to Kyle of Lochalsh and cross the bridge to the Isle of Skye. Head to the historic **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**, home to Clan McLeod. From here you can also take a boat trip out to see the Seals.

Alternatively, climb aboard the award-winning **Bella Jane** which will transport you to one of Scotland's most isolated and breath-taking lochs - Loch Coruisk nestled beneath the Cuillin Hills.

For lunch, we highly recommend the award-winning **Three Chimneys Restaurant**. Scott Davies is the Head Chef there and his approach is to allow some of the world's freshest and most beautiful ingredients to take centre stage but all of them lovingly curated with the finest techniques of ancient Nordic and haute Scottish cuisine.

Return to Torridon for Dinner & Overnight

Applecross & Shieldaig (part of North Coast 500 route) approx. 90 km return

Famous for the spectacular drive, **Applecross** is a remote peninsula in Wester Ross. The name of Applecross is at least 1,300 years old and is not used locally to name the village. They simply call it 'the street'.

On a wild peninsula in Wester Ross, Applecross has a wonderful atmosphere, creating the impression that you are at very edge of the world; probably because of its inaccessibility.

There are two ways of getting to Applecross: a winding coast road from Shielding, to the north on Loch Torridon, with great views all the way; and the **Bealach na Ba** (Pass of the Cattle). The road is one of the highest in Britain, reaching 2,053 ft, and heads into the clouds on Alpine hairpin bends, then drops down to the quiet street, from where there are incredible views out across the bay to Raasay and Skye.

The area around Applecross is believed to be one of the earliest settled parts of Scotland. The coastal settlement of Sand, just to the north of Applecross, is the location of a major archaeological site.

On your tour around the Applecross peninsula, don't forget to savour the delights of the **Applecross Inn** or buy some locally smoked fish from the **Applecross Smokehouse**.

Return to Torridon for Dinner & Overnight

Handa Island approx. 348 km return

Drive north through Ullapool and heading into Sutherland following the North Coast 500 driving route. **Handa Island** is a small island off the West Coast and in the summer is home to nearly 100,000 seabirds breed here, including internationally important numbers of guillemots, razorbills and great skuas. These dramatic cliffs provide stunning ocean panoramas. Highlights include:

- Internationally important for seabirds
- Amazing sight of a live seabird colony
- Spectacular views
- Fascinating history

Return to Torridon Hotel for Dinner & overnight.



Loch Carron, Attadale Gardens & the Arts/Crafts Trail

For garden-lovers, the award-winning **Attadale Gardens** offer a unique attraction – over 20 acres filled with beautiful water features, an impressive collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, a geodesic dome full of ferns, a kitchen garden and a Japanese garden – plus giant sundial and amazing collection of sculptures.

Choose an Ossian Option

Enjoy a private tour of the Garden with the Head Gardener

If you enjoy Arts & Crafts, South West Ross is a stunning area of natural beauty and the landscape provides inspiration for artists and craft makers. You can visit many of the studios and galleries.

The **Arts and Eats Trail** was created by local businesses working together to promote the wonderful area.

Choose an Ossian Option

Wildlife Tour of Torridon with Guide

Climb a Munro with a Mountain Guide (intermediate – experience required)

Canoeing with a Guide



Day 8 North West – Inverewe Gardens – Dornoch

Full Scottish Breakfast

Leave Torridon and head north on the North Coast 500. **Gairloch** is a pretty Highland village. From here you can take marine wildlife boat trips including Whale watching.

Choose an Ossian Option

Marine Wildlife Watching Cruise (3 hours)

This cruise goes directly to the Shiant Islands to have a tour around them to see predominantly the 240,000 Puffins, White-tailed Eagles (Sea Eagles) and 500+ Common/Grey Seals.

Continue north on the North Coast 500 to the outstanding **Inverewe Gardens**. These Gardens designed by Osgood McKenzie is home to a wide range of rare species which thrive in this heritage garden as the effects of the Gulf Stream meet the Highlands.

Choose an Ossian Option

Guided Tour with Head Gardener with lunch in the Gardens Cafe

Continue north to Ullapool and if time allows go further north towards **Knockan Crag** to find out how the spectacular landscape of the North-west Highlands came into being. Start your journey across to the East via Ledbeg travelling through this stunning glen.

Arrive into the pretty town of **Dornoch** which is famous for its historic Golf Links and also where Madonna famously married her first husband in the C12th Cathedral.

Check into **Royal Golf Hotel** for Dinner and overnight.

Choose an Ossian Option

Dinner and Tutored Whisky Tasting with a Brand Ambassador from one the local Distilleries

*available for groups of 6 or more

Day 9

Dornoch – Royal Deeside

118 miles

Full Scottish Breakfast

Possible slight side trip to Loch Ness. Visit the historic **Urquhart Castle** on the banks of the Loch. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. The power struggles continued, as the Lords of the Isles regularly raided both castle and glen up until the 1500s.

Choose an Ossian Option

Take a private cruise of Loch Ness – see if you can spot the famous monster, Nessie. And if you are an **Outlander** fan, the cruise will take you to some of the locations used on Loch Ness for the TV series.

Continue to **Culloden Moor**. Culloden was the last battle fought on British soil between the Jacobites, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie and the British Army led by the “butcher” of Cumberland (Duke of Cumberland). Culloden now has a fantastic, interactive exhibition telling the story that leads to this final battle in April 1746 and which ultimately led to the Highland Clearances.



From here, you will take the spectacular drive over the hills via Tomintoul, Scotland’s highest village, over the Lecht and down into Royal Deeside and arriving in Braemar.

Here you will be staying in the recently refurbished **Fife Arms Hotel**. Described as Scotland’s Hottest hotel, the brainchild of Iwan and Manuela Wirth, the Fife Arms now brings together Scottish heritage, craftsmanship and culture with world-class contemporary art and a strong sense of community.

Day 10

Speyside Whisky Trail

100 miles

Drive north and discover historic distilleries and world-renowned brands. Meet the masters who are guardians of generations of know-how on the world's only malt whisky trail.

Enjoy a distillery tour at **Glenfiddich Distillery**, one of the remaining independent distilleries. You'll discover tall copper tuns, great wooden washbacks and stone-walled warehouses filled with earthy, aged aromas.

Choose an Ossian Option

Private tour and lunch at **Ballindalloch Castle & Gardens**. Ballindalloch Castle has been the home of the Macpherson-Grants since the Sixteenth Century and today is one of the finest surviving examples of a classic Scottish baronial castle.

Tour a working **Scottish Estate** to learn about the wildlife of the area and about the management of the Estate & the environmentally friendly practices they have been using for a long time.

Alternatively, enjoy a visit to **Balmoral Castle & Estate**, home to the Royal Family whilst they are staying in Scotland on their holidays.

Or head across to Aberdeen and enjoy a visit to **Crathes Castle & Gardens**. Standing against a backdrop of rolling hills and set within its own glorious gardens, Crathes Castle is every inch the classic Scottish tower. The Burnett family, who lived in the castle for over 350 years, had roots in the area dating back to 1323 when Robert the Bruce granted them nearby land. Alexander Burnett built the castle in the 16th century, an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and painted ceilings, many of which survive beautifully to this day.

Return to Fife Arms Hotel for dinner and overnight.

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Day 11

Royal Deeside – Edinburgh

104 miles

Full Scottish Breakfast

Start your journey back south. Drive the beautiful road over one of Scotland's ski resorts, Glenshee and down towards Blairgowrie.

From here, you have a couple of options – you can either journey to Edinburgh via the historic town of **St Andrews** in the Kingdom of Fife. Visit the **British Golf Museum** and learn about the history of golf. Take a walk around the historic Old Course and watch golfers tee-off the first or come up the 18th. In 2021 it will once again host the world-famous Open Golf Championship. Wander through the historic streets of this bustling University Town.



A suggested lunch stop here is the Michelin starred **Peat Inn**.

Continue south to Edinburgh travelling through the Fishing villages of the East Neuk of Fife.

OR

From Blairgowrie, you can travel directly to Edinburgh via Perth and **Scone Palace**. Scone Palace has an exciting and colourful history as one of Scotland's most important stately homes. Fifteen hundred years ago it was the capital of the Picts. In the intervening centuries, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of the Kings of Scots, including Macbeth and Robert The Bruce. The Palace houses an outstanding collection of antiques, paintings and rare artifacts and the grounds are renowned throughout the world.

Suggested lunch stop at **63 Tay Street Perth**

Continue to Edinburgh.

Check-in to the **Prestonfield House Hotel** for your final night in Scotland

Prestonfield House is Edinburgh's most luxurious and charming 5 star hotels, in one of Edinburgh's finest historic buildings, offering the privacy & seclusion of a country estate right in the heart of the city of Edinburgh.

Situated within 20 acres of gardens and located below the stunning and iconic Arthur's Seat, only 5 minutes from the bustling life of Edinburgh's city centre.

Choose an Ossian Option

Dinner at the Witchery, by Edinburgh Castle

Drinks reception on the Royal Yacht Britannia*

Dinner at Edinburgh Castle*

Guided Tour of Edinburgh

*for groups only

Day 12 Depart Edinburgh

Full Scottish Breakfast.

Return to Newcastle for your return ferry.

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