



GeoCultura

TAKING YOU BEYOND THE LANDSCAPE



SCOTLAND TRAVEL TOUR: 8-DAYS HIGHLANDS, SKYE & OUTER HEBRIDES

Join our Scotland travel tour from Edinburgh to discover the legends, landscapes and amazing history of the western Highlands, Isle of Skye, Harris and Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

HIGHLIGHTS

- See the Highland countryside unfurl before your eyes as you travel by train between Edinburgh and Inverness, accompanied by your Scottish tour guide, at the start and finish of your Scottish adventure.
- Travel by boat from Skye to the magical Outer Hebrides islands, staying overnight on Harris for two nights, heading across to Lewis to see the extraordinary Calanais Standing Stones.
- Hear the most dramatic stories of the western Scottish Highlands and its famous castles, as you discover the dramatic landscapes and consider the human and geological forces that created them.
- Spend two whole days exploring Skye, including Elgol and Loch Coruisk, the Old Man of Storr, and the Quiraing and a visit to Dunvegan Castle. Enjoy two nights at the Greshornish House Hotel.

- Learn all about the local history, mountain building and the dramatic Ice Age landscapes as you return via Ullapool, taking in a visit to the NW Highlands GeoPark and Corrieshalloch Gorge, one of the most spectacular box gorges in Britain.
- An 8-day guided tour of the western Highlands, the Isle of Skye, Harris and Lewis in the Outer Hebrides accompanied by an expert Scottish guide. Price includes accommodation, all breakfasts and 7 dinners, and transport. We organise everything! Group size 6 to 12.

OVERVIEW

Our 7-night tour takes you into the stories and traditions of Scotland. Travel over the sea to Skye, then to Harris and to Lewis, starting from Edinburgh. You'll explore the history, epic landscapes and traditions of Scotland as part of a small group.

This Scotland vacation package encompasses loch-fringed coastlines, towering mountain ranges and hidden-away gems, all in the company of your Scottish and expert guides, who will bring to life Scotland's history and culture.

If you're wondering about the best time to visit Scotland, this immersive tour runs during the months when the landscapes are at their most vibrant and accessible, offering optimal conditions for exploration and storytelling.

Your Scotland vacation includes castles laden with tales of conflict, clans and courage. You'll dig deep into the local landscape, marvel at the landscape's rugged beauty and uncover its deep-time origins. One highlight of the tour is Skye. This 'Misty Isle' just off the Scottish mainland holds so much history, culture and traditions that you'll be enthralled the moment you set foot on the island. Our Skye vacation takes you across the island and from hundreds of millions of years to the present, from peaceful ports to jagged mountain peaks, with all the richness of island life in between.

More sea travel to the Isles of Harris and Lewis follows. There you will walk amongst ancient standing stones and hear about the billion-year history of the rocks that form these neolithic monuments. We return via Ullapool with a night at Ceilidh Place, and a final night at Coul House Hotel, before returning to Edinburgh.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Start/finish: Your tour starts at 1pm and finishes at 3pm approx at Edinburgh Waverley station Scotland.
- Activity level: Leisurely to Moderate, with a range of optional walks and hikes across the Scottish landscape between 1.5 to 5km (1 to 3 miles) long ([view our activity level definitions](#)). This holiday also includes boarding a boat via a ramped pier.
- Transport getting there: rail travel between Edinburgh and Inverness, accompanied by your Scottish guide, with a pre-ordered taxi from Inverness station to your hotel. Getting around: comfortable minibus with air conditioning; passenger boat trip on Skye.

- Weather: the West of Scotland's weather is generally cool to warm in spring and autumn, but there can often be a risk of rain. Skye is also known as the Misty Isle, which can enhance its craggy landscape.
- Accommodation: First night's stay at the Coul House Hotel, Strathpeffer, a welcoming 18th-century Georgian mansion. Two nights at the tranquil Greshornish House Hotel on Skye, with views of the island's landscape and mountains. Two nights' stay at Harris Hotel, on the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Returning from Lewis, one night at Ceilidh Place in Ullapool, followed by final night's stay at Coul House Hotel.
- Dinner in each hotel is included in the tour price.

ITINERARY



Day 1: Welcome to Scotland! Admire the view from the train between Edinburgh and Inverness



The first part of your tour is by train from Edinburgh to Inverness accompanied by your Scottish tour guide. It's a gentle introduction to the Scottish Highlands, with views of lochs, mountains and moors. After a lunchtime departure, you will arrive in Inverness in the afternoon, transferring to your accommodation via taxi.

You'll receive a warm Scottish welcome at Coul House Hotel, an historic, family-run Georgian mansion. Get settled in, admire the countryside views and garden, and raise a glass to the start of your vacation in Scotland.

- Hotel: Coul House Hotel, Strathpeffer
- Group dinner in the hotel

Day 2: Journey across to the 'Misty Isle' via Eilean Donan Castle



After a leisurely breakfast we set off to the Isle of Skye with a stop at a quintessentially Scottish landmark – Eilean Donan Castle . Standing where three lochs meet, the castle’s fascinating history began long before BBC branding and James Bond films made it famous!

Before checking in at Greshornish House on Skye, we’ll travel to Skye’s northern Trotternish Peninsula. We’ll stop off at the Old Man of Storr, an iconic collection of rock pinnacles that is an internationally recognisable sign of the island. Then around the north of Skye and further sights, including the spectacular Quiraing mountain landscapes and cliffs, that owe their origin to ancient volcanic activity.

We’ll check into Greshornish House, your lochside hotel for the next two nights. It was once a laird’s home. Today, it comes with a commended restaurant, inviting bedrooms, remarkable views of Loch Greshornish and plenty of old-world charm.

- Hotel: Greshornish House Hotel
- Group dinner in the hotel
- Daily Walking Details: Approx. 2 miles | Negligible ascent | Approx. 2 hours

Day 3: The hidden Loch Coruisk



After breakfast you'll embark on a real Skye vacation adventure. We'll head to a loch that's notoriously hard to reach – if you travel there by land...Luckily, you'll be travelling by water! Board a boat in the village of Elgol to reach the elusive Loch Coruisk, which has stories of its own.

At the picturesque Loch Coruisk, you'll find out about the area's geological past and hear the story of the Highland Clearances, a key chapter in Scottish history. Afterwards, there will be a picnic lunch and time to take a short or an optional longer walk along the shoreline of this hidden gem.

After getting the boat back to Elgol, we'll return to Greshornish House, with a visit to Dunvegan Castle, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland. It has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of clan MacLeod for 800 years.

- Hotel: Greshornish House
- Dinner in the hotel
- Daily Walking Details: Approx. 1.8 mile | 165ft ascent | 1.5 hours

Day 4: Over The Minch to the Outer Hebrides



After a last breakfast on Skye, we'll visit the Fairy Glen, the enchanting geographical formations hidden in the hills of Uig.

Then it's time to head off on the next leg of your Scotland vacation to the Isle of Harris. We take a car ferry from Uig, on Skye's north-western coast, to the town of Tarbert on the Isle of Harris. Before checking into your hotel on the Isle of Harris for the next two days, we'll visit Luskentyre beach and go on a short walk over the sands to see the 'runrigs' and The Coffin Road – Hebridean Way. There may be time for a visit to St Clement's Church | Historic Environment Scotland | History in the south of the island.

From here, we will travel the short distance to the Harris Hotel on the Isle of Harris, your base for the next two nights as you explore the Outer Hebrides.

- Hotel: Harris Hotel , Isle of Harris
- Group dinner in the hotel

Day 5: Calanais Standing Stones, Viking Chessman and more



Today we have a full day on Harris and Lewis exploring the historic sites. We'll head north to Uig Bay, one of the most remote and breath-taking beaches in Scotland. This expansive, horseshoe-shaped bay is known for its golden sands, turquoise waters, and dramatic mountain backdrop. We'll spend time walking along the shoreline and dunes, soaking in the solitude and spotting local birdlife. The area is also home to fascinating archaeological finds, including the site where the famous Lewis Chessmen were discovered.

The oldest rocks on Harris and Lewis, known as the Lewisian, are named after the Isle, and were formed over 3000 million years ago. They are two-thirds as old as the Earth itself! Some of the rocks are similar to rocks found in the mountains of the moon.

Afterwards, we'll visit the Bosta Iron Age House, a reconstructed roundhouse offering a vivid glimpse into island life over 1,500 years ago. Set beside a white sandy beach on Great Bernera, the site includes interpretive displays and gives insight into how early settlers lived, worked, and survived in this remote landscape.

In the afternoon, we'll drive and finish the day walking around the extraordinary Calanais Standing Stones. The stones were erected 5,000 years ago, that is even before Stonehenge! They are made of Lewisian gneiss. Learn about the intriguing deep time story of the Lewisian rocks and their journey

from depths of up to 60km, from below the continental crust, back to the surface a billion years ago, to then be placed in Neolithic Circle.

- Hotel: Harris Hotel Isle of Harris
- Group dinner in the hotel

Day 6: Carloway Broch and the Gèarrannan Black houses, Lews Castle and return to Ceilidh Place



The morning starts with a visit to the Carloway Broch, an impressive Iron Age drystone tower that has stood for over 2,000 years, offering a remarkable glimpse into ancient life in the Hebrides. From there, we move on to the Gèarrannan Blackhouse Village , a restored cluster of traditional thatched cottages where we'll learn how crofters once lived and worked on this windswept Atlantic coastline. Afterwards, we head across to Stornoway to explore Lews Castle, a grand Victorian-era building overlooking the harbour. Built in the mid-19th century by Sir James Matheson, the castle now houses a museum that tells the story of island life and features the iconic Lewis Chessmen.

In the afternoon we leave the outer Isles and travel back across the Minch to Ullapool. Approaching the mainland again we pass the Summer Isles with their colonies of seabirds and seals and take in the view of the majestic mountains that define the west coast of Scotland. We will hear about a geological

history that involves continental collision and is home to the early theories of mountain building. These theories created some of the most intense Victorian scientific controversies.

Check in to Ceilidh Place in Ullapool for group dinner and overnight stay.

- Hotel: Ceilidh Place
- Group dinner in the hotel

Day 7: UNESCO GeoPark Knockan Crag and Corrieshalloch Gorge



Visit the UNESCO Geopark visitor centre at Knockan Crag, just north of Ullapool, and see the wild terrains surveyed by early pioneer geologists. See the world-famous Moine Thrust (a fault that has moved rocks tens of kilometres from the east).

Then the tour will drive around the landscapes of Loch Broom, via Corrieshalloch Gorge, one of the most spectacular gorges of its type in Britain which provides striking evidence of how glacial meltwater can create deep gorges to Gruinard Bay to see classic highland scenery and meet Britain's oldest rocks. Called the Lewisian, these rocks are 3200 million years old – so around 70% of planet's history has happened after their formation!

- Hotel: Coul House

- Group dinner in the hotel

Day 8: Return to Edinburgh by train

The tour will finish after breakfast, dropping the group at Inverness railway station to catch a train back to Edinburgh, arriving at Edinburgh Waverley station by early afternoon.

Note: If required for reasons beyond our control, GeoCultura reserves the right to substitute alternative accommodation of equal or higher quality or adapt the itinerary if required.

EXPERT GUIDES & TOUR LEADERS

Ali Motion - Scottish Tourist Guide

With a lifetime of working in the great outdoors and an enviable knowledge of the best places to visit in Scotland, Ali Motion understands her homeland like few others do.

She's a Blue Badge-accredited guide with the Scottish Tourist Guides Association and the holder of a Hill and Moorland Leader qualification, so she's as at home leading you along remote Highland moors and beneath Shetland's salt-sprayed cliffs as she is through Edinburgh's ancient doorways.

Before guiding, Ali's worked as Education Manager for the Royal Highland Education Trust, and ran the Discovery Centre at the Royal Highland Show, Scotland's biggest annual agricultural show, welcoming thousands of visitors eager to learn about rural life.

Ali brings boundless enthusiasm, down-to-earth charm and a knack for knowing just where to go to uncover Scotland's natural beauty, rich history and warm hospitality. Whether it's spotting seabirds in Shetland or sipping whisky on Skye, you're in very good hands.

Phoebe Sleath - Geology expert

Phoebe Sleath is a Geology researcher and artist living in Aberdeen, studying how rocks deform as faults and folds in mountain belts. During her research she has developed a personal methodology of watercolour sketching in the field, inspired by the connection between geology and creativity that Scottish Victorian geologists, such as Hugh Miller, Ben Peach and Archibald Geikie, practiced in the 1700s and 1800s. Sketching helps us to observe better and feel a deep understanding with the landscape around us.

A published Creative with the Scottish Mountaineering Press, Phoebe Sleath took part in a panel discussion at the first Creatives Live event at the Fort William Mountain Festival in 2024. She has won grants to support her work from the John Muir Trust, the History of Geology Group and the Geologist's Association.

Artist-in-Residence at the Dundee Mountain Film Festival 2023, Phoebe has been featured by The Great Outdoors Magazine, Walk Highlands – Common Ground Series, and the Scottish Geology Trust.

Often found up in the hills and on the rocks of Scotland with her sketchbook and watercolour palette, she is a qualified Mountain Leader and training to be a rock-climbing instructor. Phoebe is looking forward to sharing her creative perspective and love of geology and landscape!

REVIEWS

Ali was a great guide and organiser, but more importantly, really friendly and felt a genuine part of the group. Phoebe is great fun and very enthusiastic and although joining the tour midway instantly felt she had been there all the time; also she pitched the geology at just the right level for interested amateurs rather than geology students.

8 Day Highlands, Skye & Outer Hebrides, Stephen Y, June 2026

I am delighted to return the form and cannot honestly say enough good things about this wonderfully amazing tour. Ali and Phoebe were the best tour guides I've ever travelled with – they are both gems. Knockan Crag was absolutely the best site, also Calanais and the Old Man of Storr. Having Phoebe and Ali to explain the geology and history made it doubly amazing.

8 Day Scotland travel tour | Linda D, May 2025

We had the absolutely best trip to the Highlands! We have been on many tours, and our guide, Ali, was one of the best ever! We would highly recommend this adventure!

Scottish Highlands, Scotland | Lisa H, September 2023

CONTACT US

Want to contact GeoCultura? Our friendly team is here to answer your questions. You can complete [our contact form](#), or use the contact details below.

+44 2081 451011

+1 713 400 6326

info@geoculturatours.com