GeoCultura

TAKING YOU BEYOND THE LANDSCAPE

Outer Hebrides, Skye & Highlands 8-day Premium Tour



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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 7 nights accommodation, 7 breakfasts, 7 dinners, and all transport. We organise everything! Group size 8 – 12.



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

Scenic Train Journey to Inverness and Warm Welcome

Train from Edinburgh to Inverness

Departure: Edinburgh | Destination: 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.

Coul House Hotel, Strathpeffer

Strathpeffer

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.

Group dinner in the hotel



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

Explore Eilean Donan Castle and Skye's Dramatic Landscapes

Visit 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!

Explore Old Man of Storr and Quiraing

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.

Greshornish House Hotel

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.

Group dinner in the hotel



Boat Adventure to Loch Coruisk and Dunvegan Castle

Boat trip to Loch Coruisk from Elgol

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.

Walk along Loch Coruisk shoreline

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.

Visit Dunvegan Castle

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.

Greshornish House

Return to Greshornish House after the day's adventures.

Dinner in the hotel



Day 4 - Over The Minch to the Outer Hebrides

Ferry to Harris, Fairy Glen and Luskentyre Beach

Visit the Fairy Glen, Uig

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

Ferry from Uig (Skye) to Tarbert (Harris)

Departure: **Uig, Isle of Skye** | Destination: **Tarbert, 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.

Walk on Luskentyre Beach and Coffin Road

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.

Optional visit to St Clement's Church

There may be time for a visit to St Clement's Church in the south of the island.

Harris Hotel, Isle of Harris

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

Royal Hotel, Stornoway

Alternative accommodation for July tour: The Royal Hotel, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Group dinner in the hotel



Day 5 - Calanais Standing Stones, Viking Chessman and more

Explore Calanais Stones and Lewis Chessmen

Walk at Uig Bay and Lewis Chessmen Site

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.

Visit Bosta Iron Age House

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.

Walk around Calanais Standing Stones

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.

Harris Hotel, Isle of Harris

Harris Hotel or The Royal Hotel, Stornoway

Group dinner in the hotel



Day 6 - Carloway Broch, Gearrannan Blackhouses, Lews Castle and Return to Ceilidh Place

Ancient Brochs, Blackhouses, Lews Castle and Ullapool

Visit Carloway Broch

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.

Explore Gearrannan Blackhouse Village

Move on to the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a restored cluster of traditional thatched cottages where we'll learn how crofters once lived and worked on this windswept Atlantic coastline.

Visit Lews Castle and Museum

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.

Ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool

Departure: Stornoway | Destination: Ullapool

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.

Ceilidh Place, Ullapool

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

Group dinner in the hotel



Day 7 - UNESCO GeoPark Knockan Crag and Corrieshalloch Gorge

Explore Knockan Crag, Corrieshalloch Gorge, and Highland Scenery

Visit UNESCO Geopark visitor centre at Knockan Crag

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).

Drive around Loch Broom landscapes via Corrieshalloch Gorge

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.

Coul House Hotel

Group dinner in the hotel



Day 8 - Return to Edinburgh by train

Return Journey to Edinburgh by Train

Train from Inverness to Edinburgh

Departure: **Inverness railway station** | Destination: **Edinburgh Waverley station**

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.