

4 Night Scottish Highlands Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Scottish Highlands

Trip code: GLC04-HCR05



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Relax on the shore of sparkling Loch Leven, overlooked by the high peaks of Glen Coe, before travelling further afield to enjoy the area's famous sights like Ben Nevis and Eilean Donan Castle, situated on an island where three great sea lochs converge. Journey to the Glenfinnan Monument at the head of Loch Shiel, a place of inspiration for Bonnie Prince Charlie, explore the castle and jail of historic Inveraray and try some freshly-caught seafood in Oban, the seafood capital of Scotland.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the history of Glen Coe
- Visiting the castle-crowned tidal island of Eilean Donan
- Spending time in the charming village of Plockton
- Outstanding views of the Scottish Highlands
- Staying in our country house on the shores of Loch Leven

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: Ardgour & Glenfinnan

Today we take the Corran ferry to Ardgour and walk in the ancient Ariundle oakwoods, stopping for coffee at the Ariundle Centre. In early afternoon we travel to the village of Acharacle from where we cruise the length of Loch Shiel with a chance to see both Golden and White-tailed eagles. Disembarking at Glenfinnan, where in 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard, we take a short journey to Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal, our final destination of the day.

Day 3: Inveraray Castle & Loch Awe

We travel through historic Glencoe and over Rannoch Moor to Bridge of Orchy for a short easy walk along the banks of Abhainn Shira. Our afternoon sees us visiting scenic Inveraray with free time to explore the castle, old jailhouse or shops. Our return journey takes us by Loch Awe, atmospheric Kilchurn castle, with a stop at St Conan's Kirk for coffee.

Day 4: Oban and West Coast Islands

We travel south and cross the Clachan Bridge to the Isle of Seil where a short boat trip takes us to the old slate isle of Easedale. We've time to explore and visit the community owned folk museum, home to a wonderful and eclectic collection of objects from Island life over the years. If you're not keen on boat trips, take time out of the itinerary and visit the glorious 1930's An-Cala gardens on Seil. Later in the afternoon, the pretty harbour town of Oban welcomes us and we have free time to explore. There's plenty to see, with two cathedrals, a Distillery, and many charming shops to choose from. Or take time out and climb to McCaig's Folly for fantastic views.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Alltshellach

For a combination of mountain views, olde-worlde charm, and somewhere comfortable to sleep, this stately Scottish house in North Ballachulish has an enviable setting right on the shores of Loch Leven. The walking opportunities here are as every bit rugged and romantic as you'd expect, especially around Glen Coe, the Mamores, Kinlochleven, Bidean nam Bian, and Ben Nevis – the 1,345-metre-high peak towering above glistening lochans and glacial valleys in the north-west Highlands. You can also spend time in Fort William and ride the Hogwarts-esque Jacobite steam train as it makes its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan, and Arisaig to the fishing port of Mallaig.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.