

7 Night Scottish Highlands Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Scottish Highlands

Trip code: GLC07-HCR05

Carbon Footprint: 🌿 133kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Set against a stunning backdrop of Scottish Highland scenery, this tour combines a wealth of classic sightseeing opportunities with plenty of memorable moments. Admire the world-famous Glenfinnan Viaduct as we cruise across Loch Shiel, and keep your eyes peeled for rare wildlife including red deer and mighty white-tailed eagles. Watch traditional highland wool spinners at work with a visit to Ariundle Experience Centre and explore the impossibly pretty village of Plockton for wow-worthy views over Loch Carron. There's also a trip to the iconic castle-crowned tidal island of Eilean Donan and a chance to sample catch-of-the-day delights in Oban – gateway to the Hebridean Islands and Scotland's seafood capital.

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

- Tickets for the Loch Shiel Cruise & Easedale Ferry
- 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 Info 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: Glen Nevis & Glen Coe

Our holiday starts with a short walk in the atmospheric glens of Glen Nevis, formed after the last ice age. After lunch we visit the Glencoe Visitor Centre, set in historic Glen Coe with information and an exhibition on the geological history of the glen and, of course, the massacre of Glencoe.

Day 3: Eilean Donan & Plockton

Today, our trip takes north to Spean Bridge before continuing on to Glengarry and then to the iconic Eilean Donan castle, set at the intersection of three great sea lochs. Both Eilean Donan and our next stop, Plockton, are stars of the silver screen, with the latter being our final stop of the day before returning to the country house for a well-deserved dinner.

Day 4: Free Day - Scottish Highlands

Discover more about Alltshellach and the local area for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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.