

# 7 Night Scottish Highlands Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

**Trip style:** Walking with sightseeing

**Destination:** 📍 Scottish Highlands

**Trip code:** GLC07-WOD01

**Grades:** 1, 2

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌱 131kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-6 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Scottish Highlands with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering history of Glen Coe
- Visiting the 11th century Dunstaffnage Castle
- Riding the Nevis gondola for fabulous mountain views
- Staying in the comfort of our country house

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tickets for the Ben Nevis Gondola & Loch Shiel Cruise
- 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 walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and 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

This trip is graded Activity Level 2, Walks are up to 6 miles (10km) with up to 800 feet (250m) of ascent; walking is on field paths and hillside tracks, across open countryside and along the shoreline.

## 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.

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### **Day 2:** Clan Cameron and the Caledonian Canal

Following the shores of Loch Lochy, we walk along the Caledonian Canal, the route of the national trail - the Great Glen Way. Our route takes us into the Achnacarry Estate, the family seat of the Cameron Clan and a Second World War commando training centre. We've time to visit the Clan Cameron Museum before continuing out to the Eas Chia-aig waterfalls and Loch Arkaig where we end our walk. A scenic drive then takes us along Mile Dorcha, and to the Commando War Memorial at Spean Bridge. 4½ miles (7½km) with 500 feet (160m) of ascent.

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### **Day 3:** Glen Coe and "Hospital Lochan"

We start with an introduction to the area at the fabulous NTS Visitor Centre in Glen Coe with some excellent displays on the history of this famous valley. After a short coach ride we then walk into Glencoe village and along the scenic trails up to and around Glen Coe Lochan (also known as "Hospital Lochan"), before continuing to the well renowned walkers bar at the Clachaig Inn. For anyone with extra energy, there's the additional option of extending the walk to Signal Rock too. 4.5 miles (7.5km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent.

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### **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.

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### **Day 5:** Dunstaffnage Castle and Oban

Today begins with a visit to Dunstaffnage Castle, dating from 1220 and inextricably linked with the struggles to control the western approaches. We enjoy a coastal walk across Ganavan Hill, with views out to Lismore, Mull and Kerrera, finishing in Oban – the acclaimed 'Gateway to the Isles' – where there will be plenty of time to explore, perhaps visiting the Oban Distillery or the War & Peace Museum. 4 miles (6km) with 400 feet (120m) of ascent.

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### **Day 6:** The Mountain Gondola and Ben Nevis distillery

The Nevis Range Mountain Gondola carries us effortlessly up to the north face of Aonach Mor, the eighth highest mountain in Britain. A short walk gives us breath-taking views of the Great Glen, Ben Nevis, and out to the Inner Hebrides, before we descend again and begin our walk from the ski centre, through the forests, to our day's finale – the Ben Nevis distillery. We've time to sample a wee dram or two, or to take a tour of the distillery. 4.5 miles (7.5km) with 250 feet (80m) of ascent and 550 feet (160m) of descent.

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### **Day 7:** Glenfinnan and Loch Shiel

A photo stop at Loch Linnhe and then we're bound for Glenfinnan and its famous viaduct, featured in the Harry Potter films. After exploring the station, we follow a trail that takes us up to a fantastic viewing point, hopefully in time to see the train cross the viaduct. We then head down to the shores of Loch Shiel for a cruise to discover the history of Bonnie Prince Charlie, leaving time in the afternoon to visit the Glenfinnan Monument. 2½ miles (4km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent

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**Day 8:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## 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.

### Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## **Packing list - UK Guided Walking (Scottish Holidays)**

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip Waterproof and windproof jacket Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable) Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice Waterproof overtrousers Gloves and a warm hat Rucksack with waterproof liner Flask for hot drinks Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen UV sunglasses For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks: spare warm clothing spare high energy food head torch and spare batteries please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+ Recommended Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve) Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Camera Walking poles Midge net

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