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SCOTTISH SOJOURN

HIKING THE HIGHLANDS

JUL 1 - 14, 2025 | 14 DAYS | 18 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: ROSS AND LUCY MCLEAN
SMALL GROUP

Incredible views, Conic Hill and Loch Lomond. Balmaha, Scotland.

Scotland, particularly its iconic Highlands region, is celebrated worldwide for its awe-inspiring scenery, characterized by majestic mountains, serene lochs, and sweeping vistas. This enchanting land beckons outdoor enthusiasts with an abundance of hiking opportunities, from the untamed landscapes of the Isle of Skye, featuring dramatic cliffs and castles, to the enigmatic depths of Loch Ness in search of the legendary Nessie. Our journey to Scotland will lead us through the iconic sites and compelling tales that define this captivating nation.

As our journey unfolds, we will explore ancient castles, visit a renowned distillery to savour the finest Scotch whiskies, and delve into the stirring history of this fine nation. The bustling streets of Edinburgh will uncover the stories of inventors and novelists who were born in this remarkable city, and let us indulge in the unique flavours of haggis and other Scottish delicacies.

Scotland's diverse landscapes provide a memorable hiking experience where history, culture, and the beauty of the land blend into an experience you'll cherish forever.



Highlights

- Visit Scotland's scenic Isle of Skye
- Explore Scotland's cultural heritage at the Luss Highland Games through traditional Highland activities
- Sample Scottish whiskey during a tour and sampling experience at Talisker Distillery
- Hiking explorations in picturesque areas such as Loch Lomond, Trossachs, Fairy Pools, and Salisbury Craigs
- Cruise in search of the legendary Loch Ness Monster

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada
- Accommodation in comfortable tourist class hotels as indicated or similar
- 18 meals (B - 13 breakfasts, L - 1, D - 4 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes, and fees for included services
- Services of our Canadian journey leader plus a professional local guide in Scotland
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

We are pleased to have **Ross and Lucy McLean** escorting this exciting hiking adventure to Scotland. They have travelled extensively through six continents, including some time living abroad. They are lucky to live in Muskoka, one of North America's premier summer vacation spots. Clean water, delightful scenery and enchanting history is kept alive today in wooden boats and cottage verandahs. Lucy is a retired educator and Ross worked for an international consultancy. One of travel's greatest appeals for them is experiencing culture and how it varies from place to place. One of the aspects they truly appreciate about Craig Travel is the friendships made while 'on the road' that continues from adventure to adventure. Now that they are entering their 10th year of leading tours and cruises, the groups they lead around the world normally include some of these friends. They are excited by undertaking itineraries to exotic and new destinations with new and old friends alike. They look forward to sharing each journey with all those who join them!



Scottish Highland bagpipes

JUL 1, Tuesday **DEPART CANADA**

Group members gather in Toronto for the direct overnight flight to Edinburgh.

JUL 2, Wednesday **ARRIVE EDINBURGH / GLASGOW**

On arrival in Edinburgh, we are met by our driver and guide and transfer to Glasgow. Immerse yourself in a city tour that involves walking, exploring street art, Charles Rennie Mackintosh locations, the Cathedral and Necropolis. Later, unwind with some free time at our hotel before gathering for a welcome dinner this evening.

Clayton Hotel Glasgow (1 night) B (Brunch) D

JUL 3, Thursday **GLASGOW / BALMAHA**

Seize the moment upon our arrival in Loch Lomond by engaging in scenic hikes, allowing you to fully appreciate and soak in the beauty of the surrounding landscapes. Enjoy some leisure time to explore and for lunch before enjoying an afternoon hike.

The Oak Tree Inn (3 nights) BD

JUL 4, Friday **LOCH LOMMOND**

Embarking on a cruise on Loch Lomond promises an unforgettable experience, where the loch's hidden gems are revealed, showcasing the natural wonders of Scotland's wild and untamed landscapes. Following this scenic voyage, we continue with a hike in the picturesque Trossachs area, offering an exquisite harmony of natural beauty and the thrill of exploration.

JUL 5, Saturday **LUSS HIGHLAND GAMES**

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Scotland's cultural heritage through the Highland games, a tradition spanning centuries. Embrace Scottish hospitality, forge new connections with locals and fellow visitors, and witness an enthralling showcase of champions featuring dance, music, and more.

JUL 6, Sunday **ISLE OF SKYE**

Set off for the Glencoe Visitor Centre, where we can relish a leisurely walk amidst the captivating trails. Proceed to Mallaig, with a memorable pause at the Glenfinnan Viaduct viewpoint to admire the majestic scenery. We hop on a ferry bound for Armadale, Isle of Skye, and make our way to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

Broadford Hotel (3 nights) BD

JUL 7, Monday **FAIRY POOLS**

We begin our day travelling to the Fairy Pools for an invigorating hike through the enchanting beauty of this area. Treat your senses to a delightful tour and sampling experience at Talisker Distillery followed by a leisurely stroll to the nearby Carbost Burn waterfall, the very source that nourishes the distillery. We wrap up our days adventures and return to the hotel with memories of a fulfilling day.

JUL 8, Tuesday **NEIST POINT**

Take in the stunning scenery at Neist Point as we hike to one of the most famous lighthouses in Scotland, on the most westerly tip of Skye. Enjoy impressive views of the surrounding cliffs and wonderful views of the lighthouse, built in 1900 when it was a manned lighthouse. Our day also includes a visit to Dunvegan Castle, ancestral home of the Chiefs of clan MacLeod for 800 years.

JUL 9, Wednesday **FORT AUGUSTUS / LOCH NESS**

Take a moment to capture the beauty of Eilean Donan Castle against the stunning backdrop of a picturesque lake



Eilean Donan castle



Scottish Highland cow amidst breathtaking scenery



Enjoy majestic views at Neist Point, Isle of Skye



Stunning scenery at Conic Hill and Loch Lomond

and mountains. Following a brief stop to explore the charming town of Fort Augustus, our journey proceeds to Dochgarroch before continuing to the shores of Loch Ness. We will explore the historic ruins of Urquhart Castle then conclude the day by diving into the mystique of a Loch Ness cruise, where the quest for Nessie adds an element of mystery to the journey.

MacDonald Aviemore Highland Resort (2 night) BD

JUL 10, Thursday CAIRNGORM MOUNTAIN

We visit Cairngorm Mountain and travel on Scotland's only funicular. Walk to the summit of Carin Gorm mountain, offering spectacular views of the Scottish Highlands from it's highest point at 3,500 feet. Enjoy a walk in the Loch an Eilein area, in the heart of the Rothiemurchus Forest where it's a true delight strolling along the water. BL

JUL 11, Friday HERMITAGE TRAIL / EDINBURGH

Visit Pitlochry for some leisure time and a visit to Blair Atholl distillery. Next we will experience The Hermitage Trail and enjoy a picnic. En route to Edinburgh, we pause for picturesque moments at the three bridges, the Old Rail bridge, the Forth Bridge and the newly constructed Queensferry Crossing. B

Haymarket Hotel (3 nights) B

JUL 12, Saturday EDINBURGH



On our city tour, we'll be introduced to Edinburgh's 200-year-old "New Town," where you'll hear fascinating tales of some of the world's most renowned scientists, inventors, and novelists born in this remarkable city. In the "Old Town," we'll ascend the narrow Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle and marvel at Scotland's Crown Jewels. As the afternoon unfolds and we ascend Salisbury Crags, marvelling at their majestic cliffs, the finest vistas of Edinburgh await, notably its Old Town. B

JUL 13, Sunday EDINBURGH

We've set aside a full free day for your personal enjoyment. You may opt to spend time exploring historic landmarks like Holyrood Palace, or simply wander the charming streets of the Old Town and New Town. B

JUL 14, Monday EDINBURGH / CANADA

We transfer to the airport for our return flight to Canada, taking with us wonderful memories of our adventure. B

 **Book by December 18, 2024 and save \$200 per person** 

CT Rating 4.5 / 5 - Extremely Challenging: This journey involves hikes on hilly, uneven surfaces, a relatively fast-paced itinerary with a good deal of coach travel and visits to some remote parts of Scotland. Hiking distances, elevation change, and times listed are estimated and refer to the total time spent hiking throughout a full day. Travellers must be in excellent physical condition and able to maintain the group pace. Depending on weather and location conditions, daily activities may have to be altered or adjusted. Accommodations will be in comfortable traditional Scottish hotels with atmosphere and character. Trail conditions may vary and are subject to change. Porters may not be available at all hotels and members should be prepared to move their own luggage when required.



Views of the beautiful Edinburgh Castle

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join/ Leave Hotel).....	\$6,655
Toronto.....	\$8,085
Ottawa / Montreal	\$8,245
Halifax	\$8,325
St. John's / Winnipeg	\$8,365
Saskatoon / Regina / Victoria	\$8,395
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$8,355
Single Supplement.....	\$1,765

*Land only price is based on joining the group at the hotel in Glasgow and leaving at the last hotel in Edinburgh. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective January 2024, and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Small group size for a more intimate experience. Maximum 24 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due on March 31, 2025
Deposit is \$700 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, please complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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