



# CASTLES & CANALS OF SCOTLAND



**SMALL GROUP**  
**HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES | LORD OF THE GLENS**  
**SEP 25 – OCT 7, 2027 | 13 DAYS | 28 MEALS**  
**JOURNEY LEADER: DEBORAH HART**

*Cruise through Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal*

Embark on a Scottish journey that begins in the heart of the country, exploring the regal past at the legendary Scone Palace and the 700-year-old Blair Castle. Then, board our intimate vessel for a remarkable cruise along the Caledonian Canal. This passage reveals the wild beauty of the Great Glen, taking us from the mysterious shores of Loch Ness through the scenic locks of Neptune's Staircase to the rugged western coast. The adventure deepens with a visit to the sacred Isle of Iona and a scenic ride on the famed West Highland Line across the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct. Our journey concludes in Scotland's vibrant cultural centres. Discover Glasgow's rich architectural heritage and its world-class Burrell Collection, then stroll along Edinburgh's Royal Mile, from the ancient battlements of Edinburgh Castle to the opulent halls of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. From tasting fine malt whisky and greeting Highland "coos" to exploring remote islands and historic cities, this itinerary offers an unforgettable, in-depth portrait of Scotland's culture, history, and natural beauty.

### **SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

**LIMITED TO ONLY 25 MEMBERS**

#### **Inclusive Features**

- 6-night cruise on the Lord of the Glens
- 5 nights first-class hotel accommodations as indicated
- 28 meals included as shown in the itinerary (B - 11 breakfasts, L - 7 lunches, D - 10 dinners)
- Services of our journey leader and local guides
- Guided shore excursions as indicated
- All gratuities and taxes for included services
- Entrances for the following attractions: Scone Palace, Blair Castle, Hairy Coo Safari, Cruise on Loch Lomond, Glengoyne Distillery, Glasgow Cathedral, Burrell Collection, Edinburgh Castle and Palace of Holyroodhouse

#### **Air-Inclusive rates also include:**

- Return economy airfare from Canada
- Transfers between airports, hotels and the ship
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value

#### **Journey Leader**

**Deborah Hart** is a recently retired United Church minister with a lifelong love of travel, photography, and sports. She has explored more than 30 countries and believes travel enriches life by broadening horizons, breaking down barriers, and fostering understanding. As a Craig Journey Leader, Deborah has guided tours to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Namibia, Costa Rica, Iceland, Norway, Germany & Oberammergau, Tuscany, and Ireland. Her interfaith and study tours have taken her across the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, India, Nepal, South America, Africa, and Europe. Every journey deepens her awe of the planet and its people. She looks forward to sharing these experiences with fellow travellers.



#### **Our Cruise Ship • Lord of the Glens**

The Lord of the Glens is a bespoke, small luxury vessel designed specifically for cruising the waterways of Scotland, most notably the Caledonian Canal and the sheltered west coast. Carrying up to 50 guests in 25 cabins, it offers a unique, luxurious atmosphere.

Its design, inspired by the Royal Yacht Britannia, features an elegant, deep blue hull and a classical, warm interior. Guests are greeted by rich mahogany finishes, fine fabrics, and Highland artwork, creating the ambiance of a stately country manor. Purpose-built for the narrow locks and canals, the Lord of the Glens can traverse routes inaccessible to larger ships. Onboard, facilities include the picture-windowed Robert Louis Stevenson restaurant, two comfortable lounges, a bar, and open Sun Decks perfect for viewing the spectacular Scottish scenery. With gourmet cuisine emphasizing local Scottish produce, and an exceptional crew, the ship provides a highly distinctive and personalized voyage through the heart of the Highlands.



**SEP 25, Saturday**

**DEPART CANADA**

Gather in Toronto for our direct flight to Edinburgh.

**SEP 26, Sunday ARRIVE EDINBURGH / PITLOCHRY**

Our Scottish adventure begins upon arrival at Edinburgh Airport, where we meet our guide and coach. We then journey into the heart of the country for a welcome lunch at Loch Leven's Larder, a family-run farm shop with views over the loch. This afternoon, step into Scotland's regal past at Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish kings, including Macbeth and Robert the Bruce. Explore its opulent halls, view the site of the famed Stone of Destiny, and stroll through the landscaped gardens. If we're lucky, we might even catch a glimpse of the resident white peacock. Later, we continue to Pitlochry, a Victorian town in the Perthshire Highlands, where we gather for dinner. **Westlands of Pitlochry (1 night)** LD

**SEP 27, Monday                    INVERNESS / EMBARKATION**

This morning, step into Blair Castle, ancestral home of the Atholl family for over 700 years. Wander through magnificent rooms, from the weapons-filled Entrance Hall to the historic Tapestry Room, showcasing intricate wall hangings. If time allows, explore the grounds, from the walled Hercules Garden to the towering trees of Diana's Grove. Next, traverse the breathtaking Cairngorms National Park, pausing for lunch at The Rothiemurchus Centre. Here, a ranger introduces us to the region's famous Highland cattle on a Hairy Coo Safari, set against the stunning Spey Valley. We end the day by boarding our ship in Invergordon. Tonight, we gather for a welcome reception and dinner as our cruise begins.

**Lord of the Glens** (6 nights)                    BLD



*Cruise past Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. Credit Hebridean Island Cruises.*

**SEP 28, Tuesday                    INVERNESS / FORT AUGUSTUS**

Feel history come alive this morning at Culloden, the infamous battlefield where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite forces met their final defeat in 1746. Nearby, the ancient stones of Clava Cairns whisper secrets from a much earlier time. From there, we trade land for water, setting sail along the famous Caledonian Canal, an engineering marvel carved through the Great Glen in the early 1800s. Our cruise glides into the legendary waters of Loch Ness, where the ruins of Urquhart Castle rise dramatically on its shore. As the day unfolds, we ascend a series of locks into the charming village of Fort Augustus, a place rich in history and Highland spirit, where we will rest for the night.                    BLD



*A perfect photo op—picturesque Tobermory. Credit Hebridean Island Cruises.*

**SEP 29, Wednesday                    FORT AUGUSTUS / CORPACH**

We sail into Loch Oich, the highest point of the canal, embraced by tranquil Highland scenery, before drifting through the tree-lined splendour of Laggan Avenue — often hailed as one of the most picturesque stretches of the journey. From there, we cross Loch Lochy and continue on to Banavie, where Ben Nevis towers above us in all its glory. Here comes a true highlight as we descend Neptune's Staircase, eight perfectly engineered locks that carry us gracefully down to sea level at Corpach. In the afternoon, our journey continues by rail aboard the West Highland Line. The train winds through misty glens and across the magnificent Glenfinnan Viaduct, its curve soaring above Loch Shiel, a scene every Harry Potter fan will recognize in an instant.                    BLD



*Adventure unfolds aboard the Lord of the Glens. Credit Hebridean Island Cruises.*

**SEP 30, Thursday                    CORPACH / TOBERMORY**

The day unfolds on tranquil waters as we sail into Loch Linnhe, where Castle Stalker stands proudly on its tiny island—a scene straight out of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Our voyage then winds through the Sound of Mull towards Tobermory, the island's postcard-perfect capital. Its rainbow of Georgian facades greets us warmly, each one adding to the town's storybook charm. The afternoon is ours to explore its cheerful streets, cozy shops, and welcoming cafés at your own pace.                    BLD

**OCT 1, Friday                    CRAIGNURE / ISLE OF IONA**

Our journey carries us to Craignure on the Isle of Mull, and from there, across shimmering waters to the sacred Isle of Iona. Known as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, it was here that St. Columba's mission took root, and generations of kings were laid to rest. Take time to soak in the island's quiet beauty and explore the beautifully restored Benedictine Abbey, a timeless symbol of faith and tranquillity.                    BLD

**OCT 2, Saturday                    DUART CASTLE / OBAN**

Today we visit Duart Castle, the historic home of Clan Maclean, loyal supporters of the Jacobite cause. Discover its commanding position on a high crag at the end of the peninsula, a location chosen to control the Sound of Mull



*Journey aboard the West Highland Line across the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct.*

and the channel to the mainland. Finally, we sail to Oban, the 'Gateway to the Isles'. Enjoy a walking tour of the town and the impressive McCaig's Folly, which dominates the skyline. Tonight, we gather for our dinner onboard. BLD

**OCT 3, Sunday DISEMBARK / LOCH LOMOND**

After breakfast, we disembark in Oban and travel toward the beautiful banks of Loch Lomond. There, we'll board a one-hour cruise across the tranquil waters surrounded by awe-inspiring mountains. Admire sweeping views of Ben Lomond and the stately homes that grace the shoreline. Our journey also takes us to the intriguing Inchmurrin Island, the largest on the loch and once a refuge for Robert the Bruce before he became King of Scotland. Afterwards, we continue to our hotel for the night.

**Macdonald Forest Hills Hotel & Spa (2 nights) B**

**OCT 4, Monday HIGHLANDS**

Explore the art of whisky making at Glengoyne Distillery. Renowned for its unhurried process, see how this fine single malt Scotch whisky has been crafted since 1833, from slow distillation to careful maturation in hand-selected oak casks. To complete the experience, we enjoy a tasting of their rich, complex whiskies. This afternoon, enjoy a guided 4x4 excursion above Loch Lomond. Journey through the ancient forest and take in spectacular views over Loch Lomond, Loch Long, and the surrounding Highland landscape. BD

**OCT 5, Tuesday GLASGOW**

Our day in Glasgow begins at Glasgow Cathedral. Explore its sacred crypt, the pristine Blackadder Aisle, and see its extraordinary stained glass windows. Following our visit, a panoramic tour introduces us to more of the city. Drive by the Victorian Necropolis, a fascinating hillside cemetery, and continue to George Square, the grand civic centre. The tour also highlights the University of Glasgow, founded in the 15th century, where we can see the historic cloisters that once welcomed scholars like Adam Smith. This afternoon, we visit the world-renowned Burrell Collection, a gift from shipping magnate Sir William Burrell to the people of Glasgow, featuring over 9,000 works of art.

**Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa (2 nights) BD**

**OCT 6, Wednesday EDINBURGH**

Today is dedicated to Scotland's capital, starting at the iconic Edinburgh Castle. Crowning the city atop a volcanic crag, this breathtaking fortress was once home to Mary Queen of Scots and King James VI. A walking tour of the Old Town takes us to The Vennel for the dramatic castle shots, the Royal Mile, the historic charm of White Horse Close, and the opulent Palace of Holyroodhouse. This evening, we travel to the historic town of Linlithgow for a special farewell dinner at Mason Belles Kitchen, a charming, family-run restaurant celebrated for its creative, locally inspired Scottish cuisine. BD

**OCT 7, Thursday EDINBURGH / CANADA**

All too soon, our Scottish journey comes to an end. Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for our flight home. B

**CT Rating 3/5 - Challenging:** This journey involves a moderate amount of walking, often over varied terrain such as the cobblestone streets found in Europe's historic cities. On board and during shore excursions, you may need to navigate stairs and occasional steep steps. To fully enjoy all that this tour has to offer, participants should be in good physical condition and comfortable walking several kilometres at a time, sometimes on uneven surfaces. Some activities will include 4x4 rides over rough country roads.

**Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Cruise / Tour Only .....	\$10,555
Toronto .....	\$12,275
Ottawa / Montreal .....	\$12,425
Halifax / St. John's / Fredericton .....	\$12,525
Winnipeg / Thunder Bay .....	\$12,525
Saskatoon / Regina .....	\$12,595
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver .....	\$12,495
Victoria.....	\$12,595
Single Supplement for <i>Cat One, inquire for others</i> .....	\$3,625

Rates are per person based on sharing a category one cabin (twin portholes) on James Watt Deck. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

**Supplement to Upgrade to Higher Category**

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
<b>Cat Two</b> (Picture Window, David Roberts Deck).....	\$875
<b>Cat Three</b> (Picture Window, David Roberts Deck) .....	\$1,695
<b>Cat Three</b> (Picture Window, Alexander G. Bell Deck)...	\$1,695

Stateroom categories are subject to availability at the time of booking - book early for best choice. See deck plan for more information on available staterooms. Singles are extremely limited and on request. Prices are based on taxes, surcharges, airfares and exchange rates effective May 2026 and are subject to change. This cruise will be escorted with a minimum of 15 travellers.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended, contact our staff to receive a quote. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information, and for terms and conditions.

**The first deposit of \$1,000 per person is due at booking**  
**The second \$1,500 deposit is due on March 30, 2027**  
**Final payment is due on June 29, 2027**

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

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**Important Travel Information: U.K. ETA**

Canadian citizens travelling to Scotland will be required to obtain a U.K. Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before departure. This is not a visa, but a pre-travel security screening required for visa-exempt visitors entering the United Kingdom. The ETA currently costs £20 and is each traveller's responsibility. For details and to apply, visit the official U.K. government website ([www.gov.uk/eta](http://www.gov.uk/eta)) well before departure.