

Join a Special Group Departure with

# LLI Study/Travel June 19 – 30, 2017 SCOTTISH ISLES & GLENS

12 Days / 11 Nights / 20 Meals

\$2,298\* LAND ONLY per person based on double occupancy – plus Air TBD Single Room Supplement \$594

Optional Travel Protection Insurance - \$199

Travel Protection Insurance may only be purchased at the time of booking, and the non-refundable premium payment must be included with the booking deposit.

\*BOOK EARLY & SAVE 5% land only, when you book and pay your non-refundable deposit of \$250 by June 17, 2016.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Scottish Evening in Edinburgh
- Eilean Donan Castle
- Two Night Stay on Isle of Orkney
- 5,000-Year-Old Village of Skara Brae
- Whisky Tasting on Isle of Arran
- Magnificent Highland Scenic Drives

For More Information Contact:

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# AAA TRAVEL

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## This Fully Inclusive Escorted Coach Tour Features:

- Sightseeing by luxury coach
- Professional tour director
- 11 nights in hotels listed
- Full breakfast daily (B) except on day 1
- 9 dinners (D) including
  - Scottish Evening in Edinburgh
  - 8 table d'hote dinners
- Welcome get-together drink
- Tour of Edinburgh
- Loch Katrine steamboat cruise and cruise on Loch Ness
- Ferry rides to Isles of Arran and Orkney
- Isle of Arran Distillery whisky tasting and tour
- Sheepdog trials at Leault Farm
- Visits and admissions to Eilean Donan Castle, Dunvegan Castle, Inverewe Gardens, John O'Groats, Skara Brae, Ring of Brodgar, St Magnus Cathedral, Italian Chapel, Dunrobin Castle, Urquhart Castle, Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, St Andrews and Edinburgh Castle

John O'Groats

**FDINBURGH** 

0 = Overnight Stops

Start City = End City

- Headsets for walking tours
- Deluxe flight bag, ticket wallet, luggage tags & strap
- All local taxes, hotel service charges & porterage for one suitcase per person
- Free Wi-Fi on coaches and in hotel lobbies

#### Superior First Class & Highland Hotels

Winnock Hotel – Drymen, near Glasgow (2 nights)

Balmacara Hotel – near Kyle of Lochalsh (2 nights)

Royal Hotel - Ullapool (1 night)

Kirkwall, Ayre or Albert Hotel – Kirkwall (2 nights)

Columba Hotel – Inverness (2 nights)

Apex Grassmarket Hotel - Edinburgh (2 nights)

NOTE: The features, itinerary and hotels shown for this tour are based on 2016 departures, and may be subject to change for 2017 departures.

This tour is subject to CIE Tours' booking guidelines and cancellation penalties. Refer to General Conditions on website (cietours.com) or back cover of current brochure. CST# 2021285-20.



## 12 Day Scottish Isles & Glens Tour Itinerary

#### Day 1: Glasgow Arrival & Loch Katrine Cruise

Your Scottish trip starts at 2:00 pm when you meet your tour director at your hotel, located in the village of Drymen, 20 miles north of Glasgow. Set out from your hotel and take a short drive through part of the Trossachs, often called "The Highlands in Miniature". Embark on the steamboat "Sir Walter Scott" for a short cruise on Loch Katrine to admire lovely scenery. Return to your hotel and relax for a time before joining your tour director and travel companions for a welcome drink before dinner. (D)

#### Day 2: Isle of Arran & Whisky Distillery

Drive south to Ardrossan to take a ferry ride to the Isle of Arran, one of the most accessible and southerly of the Scottish islands. You will see how the northern half of the island belongs to the Highlands with rugged mountains while the south has the softer landscape of the Lowlands. Visit the Isle of Arran Distillery to see how whisky is distilled and sample some of the finished product. Stop in Blackwaterfoot for lunch on your own and spend some free time at the Home Farm Visitor Centre to sample local produce. Return to the mainland and to your hotel in time for dinner. (B, D)

#### Day 3: Loch Lomond & Eilean Donan Castle

Travel alongside the famous Loch Lomond, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty. Journey through Glen Coe, often considered one of Scotland's most spectacular and beautiful places. Drive through Fort William and stop at a woolen mill for some refreshment and shop for Scottish goods. Continue your journey north to visit the romantic Eilean Donan Castle. The first fortified castle was built in the 13th century, rebuilt several times and partially ruined in 1719. Check in to your charming family-owned hotel near Kyle of Lochalsh. (B, D)

#### Day 4: Isle of Skye & Dunvegan Castle

Today explore the Isle of Skye and its Bonnie Prince Charlie associations. He fled to the island after his defeat at Culloden Moor. Travel to Dunvegan Castle, stronghold of the Chiefs of MacLeod for nearly 800 years, making it the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland. View priceless family heirlooms and stroll through formal gardens. Stop in Portree for a look at brightly-painted houses that cluster around the bay. Return to your hotel for free time before dinner. (B, D)

#### Day 5: Inverewe Gardens & Ullapool

Enjoy Highland scenery as you drive north along the west coast to visit Inverewe Gardens, where a haven of trees and shrubs was created from 50 acres of bleak headland in 1862. The varied plantings thrive due to the warmth of the Gulf Stream. Continue to Ullapool, an active fishing and ferry port that was built in 1788 to provide a living for the people in this region. Take a brief drive around the town and check in to your hotel. (B, D)

#### Day 6: Highland Scenery & Isle of Orkney

Today explore the northernmost section of the Highlands which is sparsely populated with remote hamlets. See huge tracts of bogland, rugged mountains, coastline and vast areas of open land. Learn about the Highland Clearances, a tragic period of history when many peasants were forced off the land and emigrated to the United States, Australia and other countries. Continue to John O'Groats, the most northern place on the British mainland and take a nearby ferry to the Isle of Orkney, enjoying dinner on board. Check in to your hotel in central Kirkwall. (B, D)

#### Day 7: Isles of Orkney & Skara Brae

Today explore the Isles of Orkney. Drive across the Churchill Barriers, created during World War II to deter German submarines and see the Italian Chapel, built from two Nissen huts with elaborate paintings. View the Ring of Brodgar, a circle of tall, prehistoric standing stones. Visit Skara Brae, a 5,000-year-old village, to see remains of dwellings and then return to Kirkwall to see 12th century St. Magnus Cathedral. Enjoy leisure time in the afternoon and evening to browse around the city center and dine independently. (B)

#### Day 8: Dunrobin Castle & Inverness

Return by ferry to the mainland and drive down the east coast to visit Dunrobin Castle, dating to 1275 but renovated in the mid-1800s. With 189 rooms this is the largest mansion in northern Scotland. Visit chambers containing priceless artifacts, including the dining room, music room and library with over 10,000 volumes. Take a walk through the well-tended castle gardens. Continue south to your hotel in the center of Inverness, the principal town in the Highlands. (B, D)

#### Day 9: Urquhart Castle & Culloden Battlefield

Cruise into Loch Ness to visit the picturesque ruins of Urquhart Castle, once Scotland's largest castle which was destroyed in Jacobite wars. Stop at the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre to learn about the conflict where Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated in 1746. Walk around the moor and see monuments to the various regiments who lost men. Stop for photos at Clava Cairns, a prehistoric burial place with a circle of standing stones that inspired the "Outlander" books. Return to Inverness in time to relax, shop or walk alongside the River Ness in front of your hotel. (B, D)

#### Day 10: Sheepdog Trials & St Andrews

Drive past the majestic scenery of the Cairngorm Mountains to visit Leault Farm where skilled dogs obey commands to round up sheep. Continue south to St Andrews, located on the east coast. This town is renowned as the "Home of Golf" and for its university, Scotland's oldest, where Prince William and Kate Middleton studied. Spend some time exploring on your own. Drive south to Edinburgh and head straight to a Scottish Evening where you'll dine on excellent Scottish cuisine followed by a lively show. Check in to your hotel afterwards. (B, D)

#### Day 11: Edinburgh Castle & City Tour

This morning discover Edinburgh on a sightseeing tour. See the wide streets and elegant mansions of the 200-year-old Georgian "New Town" and walk along a section of the Royal Mile, the oldest part of the city where some houses reach 11 stories tall. Tour the imposing Edinburgh Castle to see historic buildings, the Stone of Scone and the Scottish Crown Jewels. Also appreciate great panoramic views over the city from the ramparts. The afternoon and evening are free. On July 29 to August 14 departures enjoy the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. (B)

### Day 12: Tour Ends in Edinburgh

Your tour ends after breakfast. (B)

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

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 $For \ reservations \ and \ information, \ contact:$ 

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