



STERLING

TOURS LTD

Presents

Family Scotland June 2024

Booking Reference: 12294



Your Itinerary in Detail

10 June: Coach and driver to Dunfermline via Stirling Castle and Wallace Monument

All guests will be met on arrival at Edinburgh Airport off flight **DL#208 ETA 10.05AM** by a local driver and assisted to a waiting mid-size coach. Depart Edinburgh and travel to Dunfermline. As you travel, we include a stop with included entrance fees at Stirling Castle (**e-tickets enclosed for timed entry from 12.30 - 1PM**) followed by a visit to The Wallace Monument (**2.30 - 3.00PM approximately. Entry prepaid**). Late afternoon arrival at your hotel where you will check in for an evening at leisure.

Stirling Castle

There is more than ever to see and do at Stirling Castle. Enter the world of Scotland's Renaissance kings and queens and discover a world of colour, splendour, and glorious craftsmanship. Stirling Castle was the key to the kingdom of Scotland, dominating a vast volcanic rock above the river Forth at the meeting point between Lowlands and Highlands. Its origins are ancient and over the centuries it grew into a great royal residence and a powerful stronghold.



The National Wallace Monument



Stirling's famous landmark stands above the fields where William Wallace led his troops to victory at The Battle of Stirling Bridge and tells the story of the patriot and martyr who became Scotland's National Hero. The National Wallace Monument is a 67-metre tower on the shoulder of the Abbey Craig, a hilltop overlooking Stirling in Scotland. It commemorates Sir William Wallace, a 13th- and 14th-century Scottish hero.

Dunfermline

Dunfermline, a historic town nestled in Fife, Scotland, boasts a rich tapestry of heritage and contemporary charm. With roots dating back to ancient times, Dunfermline is famously known as the birthplace of King Robert the Bruce and the final resting place of the medieval monarch, King Robert I. The town's skyline is dominated by the majestic Dunfermline Abbey, a venerable structure that echoes centuries of Scottish history.



Beyond its historic allure, Dunfermline offers a blend of traditional and modern elements, with its vibrant town center, cultural venues, and green spaces, making it a captivating destination for both history enthusiasts and those seeking a taste of Scotland's dynamic present.

2 nights at Garvock House Hotel in 1 Family Suite, 3 Deluxe Suites, 4 Standard Twin Rooms & 1 Standard Double Room for Single Use inclusive of breakfast

11 June: Private Day Tour to St Andrews

After breakfast this morning, meet with your driver and local step on guide in the hotel lobby at **9.00AM**. Travel to St Andrews where you will spend a few hours walking around the town with your guide. You will see the Castle and the University and of course the Old Course. Later, travel to Crail before continuing to Anstruther and Elie (small local fishing villages). In the afternoon, return to your hotel and bid your local guide farewell.

12 June: Transfer to Inverness via Cairngorms, Castle, and Tomatin Distillery

Check out of your hotel this morning after breakfast and meet your driver at **9.00AM** and depart your hotel. Travel through the Cairngorms and enjoy an included visit at Blair Castle & Gardens (**no timed entry - e-tickets included**). Afterwards, you will travel to the Tomatin distillery for an included Legacy Tour at **3.00PM (booked and prepaid for 14 adults)**. In the late afternoon, you will arrive on the outskirts of Forres where you will check in to your hotel for a 2-night stay. The evening is at leisure, and you may wish to take a cab into the town (3 miles) to dine in one of the local family restaurants recommended.

Cairngorms National Park: The largest National Park in Britain situated in Aberdeenshire and where countryside and nature come together. Here you will find impressive and untouched Scottish beauty.



Blair Castle & Gardens has been the home of the Atholl family for over seven centuries. The castle has had a diverse history, witnessing both turbulent and peaceful times, enlarged and adapted over 750 years. Home to politicians, soldiers, agriculturalists and entrepreneurs, the family history is brought to life against a backdrop of fine 18th century interiors and Scots Baronial architecture, in 30 rooms.

Tomatin Distillery Legacy Tour

This distillery is a single malt Scotch whisky distillery in the village of Tomatin. Its whisky is classified as being from the Highland region, as it is 25 minutes south of Inverness. The Legacy Tour: explore our whisky distillery and learn how we produce our award-winning whiskies.

You will be taken on a walk-through time, from the beginnings in 1897 through the height of production in the 1970's, to the present day. Finish with a tutored tasting of three of our single malts, Tomatin Legacy, Tomatin 12-year-old and our lightly peated sister brand, Cú Bócan Signature.

Inverness is the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands and attracts visitors from across the world for its natural landscapes, quaint towns, medieval ruins, and prehistoric sites.



2 nights at Blervie House in a 2 x 2-bedroom Family Rooms, Deluxe Twin, Standard Single (Private bathroom), Standard Double Single Use, Deluxe Twin Room, Superior Double Single Use, Deluxe Double Single Use, Superior Double with Cot - all-inclusive of breakfast

13 June: Coach and driver for Touring locally including Culloden and Cawdor Castle

At **9.00AM** this morning, you will meet with a local expert guide in the hotel lobby who will tour on your Midicoach for the day. Depart your hotel and travel to the Culloden Moor Visitor Centre where we include entrance for the self-guided tour for arrival between **10 - 10.30AM entrance prepaid**. You may wish to enjoy a tea/coffee snack in the café here before you continue to the nearby Cawdor Castle for arrival at **12.15PM (Prepaid)** On arrival, you will enjoy an introductory talk with a castle guide before you take the self-guided castle tour. Afterwards, you may wish to enjoy an optional lunch in the castle café. The rest of the afternoon is free for other local sightseeing before you return to your hotel in the late afternoon and your local guide will depart.

Culloden Moor

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. Visit the powerfully moving site of the final Jacobite Rising – the last and most harrowing pitched battle to be fought on British soil. Explore the interactive visitor centre, view fascinating artefacts from both sides of the confrontation, and experience the battle in our immersive surround cinema. On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head. Jacobite supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British thrones, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops.

It was the last pitched battle on British soil and, in less than an hour, around 1,500 men were slain –



more than 1,000 of them Jacobites. The richly researched, stimulating and sensitive Culloden Visitor Centre, which stands beside the battlefield, features artefacts from both sides of the battle and interactive displays that reveal the background to the conflict. It stands as a monument and a guide to a pivotal day in history. Discover how a bloody fight that lasted only an hour changed life in the Highlands forever.

A visit to Culloden is a poignant experience. Headstones mark the graves of hundreds of clansmen who gave their lives for the Jacobite cause; a 6m-high memorial cairn honours the fallen; and an eerie silence often falls across wild Drum Mossie Moor – there is no escaping the emotions Culloden evokes.

Cawdor Castle

A traditional Scottish Castle built and inhabited by the Cawdor family for over 600 years. An ancient medieval tower constructed around the legendary holly tree. Uniquely for a Scottish Castle, Cawdor boasts three quite different gardens. Each with their own history that generations of owners have, transformed, and extended.



14 June: Coach and driver Inverness to the Isle of Skye via Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, and Eilean Donan

Check out and meet your driver for a **9.00AM** departure from Forres. Travel via Loch Ness where we include a timed entrance to Urquhart Castle from **10.30 - 11.00AM (e-tickets enclosed)**. Afterwards, continue along Loch Ness and you will pass the most photographed castle in the world, Eilean Donan. Travel to the Island of Skye, connected to Scotland's northwest coast by bridge, is known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, it has an indented coastline of peninsulas and narrow lochs, radiating out from a mountainous interior. Spend the afternoon exploring the wonderful Island and the spectacular scenery. **Dinner is included at your hotel on both evenings (for all adults and children aged 10 years and over - younger children's dinner will be payable direct) and a reservation has been made for 6.30PM on both nights.**



Loch Ness is a 3-mile freshwater lake in the highlands, best known for its namesake mythical monster, "Nessie." Extending for approximately 37 kilometres southwest of Inverness, it takes its name from the river Ness.

Urquhart Castle. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. The power struggles continued, as the Lords of the Isles regularly raided both castle and glen up until the 1500s. The last of the government troops garrisoned here during the Jacobite Risings blew up the castle when they left. Urquhart's iconic ruins remain, offering glimpses into medieval times and the lives of its noble residents.



Eilean Donan Castle is recognised as one of the most iconic images of Scotland. Situated on an island



at the point where three great sea lochs meet, and surrounded by some majestic scenery, it is little wonder that the castle is now one of the most visited and important attractions in the Scottish Highlands. Although first inhabited around the 6th century, the first fortified castle was built in the mid-13th century and stood guard over the lands of Kintail. Since then, at least four different versions of the castle have been built and re-built as the feudal history of Scotland unfolded

through the centuries. Partially destroyed in a Jacobite uprising in 1719, The castle lay in ruins for the best part of 200 years until Lieutenant Colonel John MacRae-Gilstrap bought the island in 1911 and proceeded to restore the castle to its former glory. After 20 years of toil and labour the castle was re-opened in 1932. There are four generations of the MacRae family past, present and future who are still the Constables of Eilean Donan Castle today. You can explore every part of the castle and enjoy a journey through the history of the area. Some people say it is the most beautiful castle in Scotland.

2 nights at Duisdale House Hotel in 1 Master Suite (King & sofa bed), 1 Standard Twin, 2 x Standard Rooms (Reid family of 4), Deluxe room with cot, 2 x Seaview Rooms (Billings family of 4), Standard Twin Room & Cosy Double for Single Use, All inclusive of dinner (for those 10 years upwards) and breakfast

15 June: Coach and Driver at Disposal for Touring Skye

Breakfast will be between 7.30 - 8.00AM today. At 9.00AM, you will meet your driver in the lobby who is at your disposal until 5.00PM today. We have also included the services of 2 local walking/hiking guides for those who would like to do some walking/hiking. Your guides will meet you at the entrance to the car park at the Fairy Pools (by the hut) at 10.00AM. Today's walk will be a low level walk at the fair pools, walking up the river that meets a small path before traversing under the hill side and meeting back at the road (2-3 hour walk). You can discuss with your guide on the day and if any of the party do not want to take the guided walk, they can do some local touring after dropping the walkers off and then return to pick them up. The driver will co-ordinate with the guides today.

16 June: Coach and driver for Transfer to Oban

This morning, breakfast will be between 7.30 - 8.00AM before you will check out of the hotel and meet your driver in the hotel lobby at 9.00AM for a transfer to Oban. Take the road bridge back to the mainland and direct drive time is 4 hours approximately. You may wish to make some photo stops and your driver will suggest somewhere to stop for an optional lunch along the way. Check in to your hotel in the afternoon.

2 nights at Loch Melfort in 3 Standard Twin Rooms, 2 Family Rooms (with king and 2 rollaway beds), 1 Standard King with cot, 2 Standard King Rooms for single use inclusive of breakfast

17 June: Coach and driver for Isle of Mull

Today you will make a trip to the Isle of Mull. Your step on guide will meet you in the hotel lobby this morning at **8.30AM** and you will depart to Oban to catch the **9.55AM** ferry to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Your driver will have the necessary tickets for the ferry crossing. You will have the day to explore the island and you can discuss options with your guide, with optional visit to Iona weather permitting. Suggestions would include Duart Caste and Tobermory (from the children's programme 'Balamory'). Return on the **5.00PM** ferry back to Oban and transfer back to the hotel.

18 June: Coach and Driver for Transfer to Crossbasket Castle

Depart the hotel with your driver at **10.00AM** this morning for a transfer via the west of Loch Lomond and through part of the Trossachs National Park. In the afternoon, you will arrive at your hotel and check in for the evening. Dinner is included at your hotel on both evenings and reservations have been made for **6.30PM**.

2 nights at Crossbasket Castle in 1 Castle Suite (Billings family), Castle Large Double with cot, 1 Gate Lodge (Reid family of 4) Castle Room (triple use), 3-bedroom East Lodge & Superior Double single use inclusive of breakfast and dinner on both evenings.

19 June: Full day with local driver and vehicle (possible tour in Glasgow city with free time)

Please be ready in the hotel lobby at **9.30AM** this morning to meet with your driver. You will enjoy a day of local touring and you can discuss options with him. Return to your hotel in the afternoon and dinner is included in your hotel again this evening at **6.30PM**.

20 June: Transfer to Edinburgh

Please be ready in the hotel lobby at **10.00AM** this morning to meet with your driver. You will be transferred to your independently booked hotel in Edinburgh, Voco Edinburgh Haymarket Hotel. If your room is not ready, the hotel will store your luggage. Time for an optional lunch before you will be met in the hotel lobby at **2.00PM** by 2 guides and depart on a private afternoon walking tour of the city. You will need to split into 2 groups for the main tour and all will meet at Edinburgh Castle where entrance has been booked for **3.30 - 4.00PM** arrival (e-tickets enclosed). The guide service will end at Edinburgh Castle, and you can make your way back to your hotel at your leisure.

Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It boasts a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. A visit to Edinburgh would not be complete without visiting Edinburgh Castle which looms over the city, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers.



Private Half Day Edinburgh Walking Tour

Your tour, with an expert local guide, will explore the city's main attractions on or around the Royal Mile including The Palace of Holyroodhouse, The Scottish Parliament and of course Edinburgh Castle. Entrances are included to Edinburgh Castle only to allow for flexibility.

Edinburgh Castle is one of the most exciting historic sites in Western Europe, set in the heart of Scotland's dynamic capital city it is sure to capture your imagination. The scenery will take your breath away. Standing on its great rock, Edinburgh Castle dominates Scotland's capital. Great events



have taken place within its walls, and it has witnessed many sieges. To control the castle was to hold the keys to the kingdom. Iron Age warriors understood the rock's military potential and built a hill fort here. The castle is now a world-famous visitor attraction and a key element of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

3 nights at The Balmoral Hotel in a variety of rooms per the separate rooming list including breakfast and tax

21 June: 2 Free Days in Edinburgh

A free day to enjoy Scotland's Capital, Edinburgh. Lots of options for you including a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, or just enjoy this charming city.

22 June: Private 3 Hour Harry Potter Walking Tour 4 - 7PM

Your guide will meet you in the hotel lobby at **4.00PM**. Depart on a private 3-hour walking tour with a Harry Potter theme to see the main sites in the city with links to Harry Potter movies and author. Your tour will end by **7.00PM** or earlier if you wish and you have a final evening at leisure in the city.

23 June: Private Departure Transfer Edinburgh Airport

Barbara will be met in the hotel lobby at **8.30AM** for a private transfer to Edinburgh airport to catch flight DL 9405 to Amsterdam departing at **11.25AM**. The rest of the group will be transferred from the hotel at **9.15AM** to catch flight **DL 9653** departing at **1.15PM** to Amsterdam.

WHERE YOU ARE STAYING

HOTEL SELECTIONS



[GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL](#) - EDINBURGH

This Georgian manor house turned upscale hotel is a 3-minute walk from leafy Sinclair Gardens and a 15-minute walk from Dunfermline Town train station.



[BLERVIE HOUSE](#) - INVERNESS

Blervie House is a historic Scottish Country House set in a delightful rural area of Scotland known as Moray Speyside just a short drive from Inverness.



[DUISDALE HOUSE HOTEL](#) - ISLE OF SKYE

Enjoy a unique highland getaway at the chic and elegant Duisdale House Hotel on the Isle of Skye. Situated on the Sleat peninsula at the South tip of Skye, you will be rewarded with breathtaking views and peaceful, picturesque gardens at this luxurious, contemporary retreat.



[LOCH MELFORT](#) - OBAN

Set on 17 acres of landscaped gardens and beach overlooking Loch Melfort, this family-run hotel with a lodge-style annexe dates from the 19th century and is a 3-minute walk from Arduaine Garden.



[CROSSBASKET CASTLE](#) - GLASGOW

Set on landscaped grounds with a river and waterfalls, this genteel hotel in a 17th-century castle is 5 miles from the M74 and 3 miles from the East Kilbride Golf Club.



[THE BALMORAL](#) - EDINBURGH

This historic luxury hotel located in the heart of Scotland's capital city, offering deluxe accommodation and wonderful facilities.

What's Included?

Accommodation is included for 13 nights at the following hotels including breakfast and tax.

Date	Nts	City	Hotel	Accommodation
Mon10 Jun 24	2	Edinburgh	Garvock House Hotel	As per the itinerary
Wed12 Jun 24	2	Inverness	Blervie House	As per the itinerary
Fri 14 Jun 24	2	Isle of Sky	Duisdale House Hotel	As per the itinerary
Sun 16 Jun 24	2	Oban	Loch Melfort	As per the itinerary
Tue 18 Jun 24	2	Glasgow	Crossbasket Castle	As per the itinerary
Thu 20 Jun 24	3	Edinburgh	The Balmoral Hotel	As per separated rooming list

Transport

Date	City	Service	
Mon10 Jun 24	Edinburgh	Edinburgh to Dunfermline	Private Driver
Tue 11 Jun 24	Edinburgh	Private Day Tour to St Andrews	Private Driver
Wed12 Jun 24	Edinburgh	Transfer to Inverness	Private Driver
Thu 13 Jun 24	Inverness	Touring locally	Private Driver
Fri 14 Jun 24	Inverness	Inverness to the Isle of Skye	Private Driver
Sat 15 Jun 24	Isle of Skye	Touring Skye (Hiking guide)	Private Driver
Sun 16 Jun 24	Isle of Skye	Coach and driver for Transfer to Oban	Private Driver
Mon17 Jun 24	Oban	Coach and driver for Isle of Mull	Private Driver
Tue 18 Jun 24	Oban	Loch Melfort to Crossbasket Castle	Private Driver
Wed19 Jun 24	Glasgow	Full day local touring	Private Driver
Thu 20 Jun 24	Edinburgh	Transfer to Edinburgh	Private Driver
Sun 23 Jun 24	Edinburgh	Transfer Edinburgh Airport (Barbara)	Private Driver
Sun 23 Jun 24	Glasgow	Transfer to Edinburgh Airport	Private Driver

Services

Date	Service	
Mon10 Jun 24	Stirling Castle	Entrance Fee
Mon10 Jun 24	The National Wallace Monument	Shared Service
Tue 11 Jun 24	Step On Guide St Andrews	Private Service
Wed12 Jun 24	Blair Castle & Gardens	Entrance Fee
Wed12 Jun 24	Tomatin Distillery Legacy Tour	Shared Service
Thu 13 Jun 24	Step on Guide Inverness	Private Service
Thu 13 Jun 24	Culloden Moor	Entrance Fee
Thu 13 Jun 24	Cawdor Castle	Entrance Fee
Fri 14 Jun 24	Urquhart Castle	Entrance Fee
Sat 15 Jun 24	Local Guide for Walk/Hike	Private Service
Mon17 Jun 24	Ferry Oban to Craignure	Ticket
Mon17 Jun 24	Step on Guide for Isle of Mull/Iona	Private Service
Thu 20 Jun 24	Private Half Day Edinburgh Walking Tour	Private Service
Thu 20 Jun 24	Edinburgh Castle	Entrance Fee
Sat 22 Jun 24	Harry Potter Edinburgh Walking Tour	Private Service

All communications costs, hotels taxes and fees are also included and the services of our professional travel experts on the ground are available to you 24/7 days a week throughout your trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Flights, tips to your driver/guide and guides and anything not mentioned above.