



# UK & IRELAND

2025

# SCOTLAND



Scotland's dramatic landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture make it an unforgettable destination. Whether you're exploring ancient castles, hiking in the Highlands, or enjoying the bustling city life, Scotland offers diverse experiences.

## Top Destinations in Scotland

### Edinburgh

**Known for:** Historic architecture, festivals, and cultural experiences.

**What to do:**

Explore the Royal Mile, stretching from the Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Hike up Arthur's Seat for panoramic views of the city.

Visit the Scottish National Gallery and the Museum of Edinburgh.

Experience the vibrant atmosphere during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

Discover the Scott Monument and stroll through the Princes Street Gardens.

### Glasgow

**Known for:** Art, music, and a lively atmosphere.

**What to do:**

Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Riverside Museum.





## Scottish Culture and Experiences

### Cuisine

**Haggis:** A traditional Scottish dish made from sheep's heart, liver, and lungs, mixed with oatmeal and spices, served with neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes).

**Whisky:** Scotland is famous for its whisky, with several renowned distilleries offering tours and tastings, particularly in regions like Islay, Speyside, and the Highlands.

**Seafood:** Fresh seafood, especially scallops and salmon, is a highlight of coastal cuisine. Don't miss the opportunity to try local oysters and fish and chips.

### Festivals and Traditions

**Highland Games:** Traditional Scottish events featuring athletic competitions, dancing, and music, held throughout the summer.

**Edinburgh Festivals:** Including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh International Festival, and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

**Burns Night:** Celebrated on January 25th to honor the poet Robert Burns, featuring haggis, poetry readings, and traditional Scottish music.

**St. Andrew's Day:** Celebrated on November 30th, with various cultural events and festivities across the country.



Explore the Glasgow Cathedral and the nearby Necropolis for its stunning views.

Enjoy shopping and dining in the Buchanan Street area.

Experience live music at venues like the Barrowland Ballroom.

Discover the vibrant street art scene in the East End.



## The Highlands

Known for: Dramatic landscapes, outdoor adventures, and Highland culture.

### What to do:

Explore Loch Ness and the surrounding area, including Urquhart Castle.

Hike in Glencoe or visit the Isle of Skye for stunning scenery.

Take a scenic drive along the North Coast 500, a route known for its breathtaking views.

Visit Cairngorms National Park for hiking, skiing, and wildlife watching.

Experience traditional Highland games if visiting in the summer.

## Isle of Skye

**Known for:** Dramatic landscapes and rugged beauty.

### What to do:

Visit the Fairy Pools and hike the Quiraing for stunning views.

Explore the picturesque village of Portree and enjoy fresh seafood.

Visit Dunvegan Castle, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland.

Take a boat trip to see the sea life, including dolphins and seals.

Enjoy the local whisky at one of the island's distilleries.

## Stirling

**Known for:** Historic battles and castles.

### What to do:

Visit the Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most important historic sites.

Explore the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre to learn about Scotland's history.

Climb the Wallace Monument for panoramic views of the surrounding area.

Stroll through the Old Town and visit the Church of the Holy Rude.

Discover the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum.





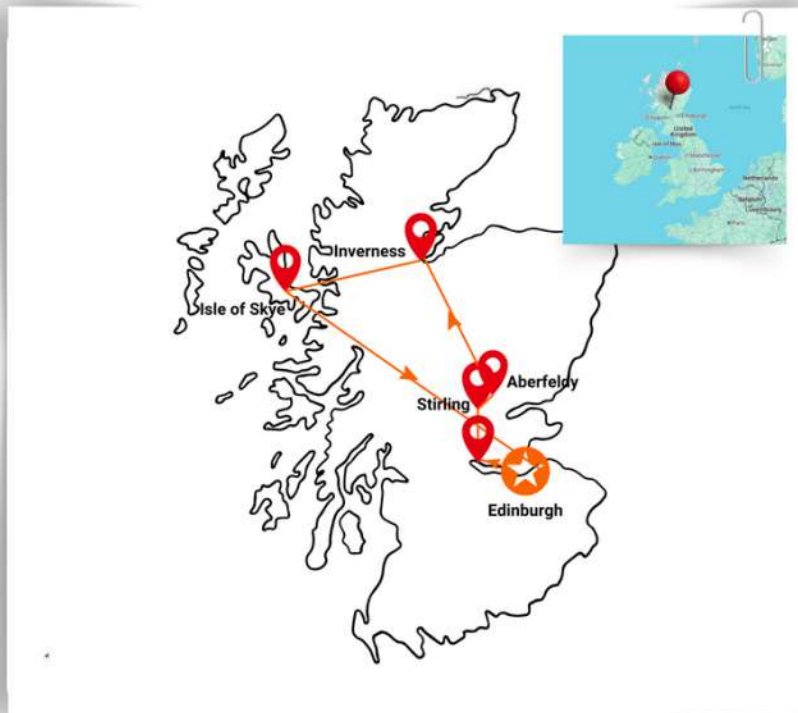
## Best Time to Visit Scotland

Spring (March to May): Mild weather and blooming flowers make it a great time for hiking and sightseeing. Ideal for avoiding large tourist crowds.

Summer (June to August): The warmest months, great for outdoor activities and festivals, but can be crowded in popular tourist areas.

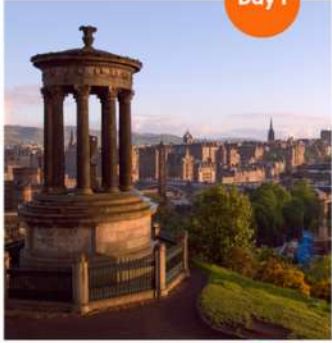
Autumn (September to November): Beautiful fall colors and fewer tourists make this a lovely time to explore. Ideal for scenic drives and hiking.

Winter (December to February): Cold and often wet, but festive with Christmas markets and winter sports in the Highlands.



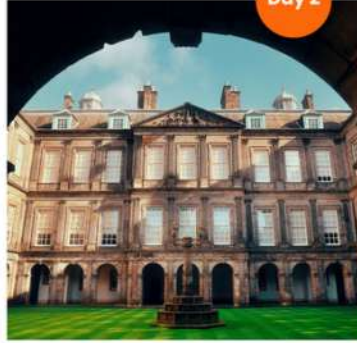
# 8 Day Sample Itinerary of Scotland

## Day 1



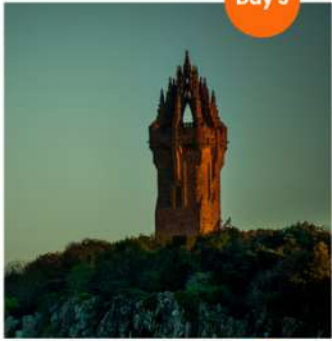
**Arrive in Edinburgh**  
Morning: Arrive in Edinburgh and check into your hotel.  
Afternoon: Explore the Royal Mile and visit Edinburgh Castle. Enjoy the stunning views and learn about Scotland's history.  
Evening: Dine in the Old Town and try traditional Scottish fare. Consider visiting a local pub for some live music.

## Day 2



**Edinburgh and Whiskey Tasting**  
Morning: Visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the monarch in Scotland. Explore the gardens and the nearby Holyrood Park.  
Afternoon: Take a guided tour of the Scotch Whisky Experience on the Royal Mile. Learn about the whiskey-making process and enjoy a tasting of various Scotches.  
Evening: Have dinner in Leith, an area known for its seafood, and perhaps visit a whiskey bar to sample more local whiskies.

## Day 3



**Edinburgh to Stirling and Castle Visits**  
Morning: Depart for Stirling (approximately 1 hour). Visit Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most important historic sites. Explore the beautiful grounds and exhibitions.  
Afternoon: Visit the Wallace Monument for panoramic views and to learn about the famous Scottish hero, William Wallace.  
Evening: Drive to Callander for dinner and overnight stay. You might consider a local pub that serves traditional Scottish food.

## Day 4



**Highlands and Whiskey Tasting**  
Morning: Drive to Aberfeldy (about 1.5 hours) and visit the Dewars Distillery for a tour and tasting.  
Afternoon: Continue to Pitlochry and explore the beautiful town. Visit the Edradour Distillery, one of Scotland's smallest distilleries, for a unique experience.  
Evening: Overnight in Pitlochry. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and perhaps sample some local whiskey.

## Day 5



**Loch Ness and Inverness**  
Morning: Depart for Loch Ness (approximately 1.5 hours). Stop at Urquhart Castle on the shores of the loch.  
Afternoon: Take a boat tour on Loch Ness and keep an eye out for the famous Loch Ness Monster! Afterwards, head to Inverness and check into your accommodation.  
Evening: Explore Inverness, visiting a local restaurant for dinner, and enjoy some traditional Scottish music at a local pub.

## Day 6



**Inverness to Isle of Skye**  
Morning: Drive to the Isle of Skye (approximately 2.5 hours), stopping at Eilean Donan Castle along the way.  
Afternoon: Arrive on Skye and explore Portree, the island's capital. Enjoy a stroll around the harbor and take in the stunning scenery.  
Evening: Dine in Portree, known for its fresh seafood, and consider trying some local whiskey.

## Day 7



**Explore Isle of Skye and Castles**  
Morning: Visit Dunvegan Castle, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland, and explore its gardens.  
Afternoon: Head to the Fairy Pools for a scenic hike and breathtaking views. Optionally, visit the Quiraing for some of the best landscapes on the island.  
Evening: Return to Portree for dinner. Consider trying a whiskey flight to sample various local distilleries.

## Day 8



**Isle of Skye to Edinburgh**  
Morning: Depart Skye and head back to Edinburgh (approximately 5 hours). Take the scenic route through the Highlands.  
Afternoon: Arrive in Edinburgh. If time permits, visit the Scottish National Gallery or Calton Hill for views of the city.  
Evening: Enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant with views of the castle or at a traditional pub. Reflect on your journey through Scotland and perhaps sample one last dram of whiskey.

