

Scotland Itinerary:-

Our Scotland itinerary includes a variety of hiking options, some of which we describe below. The final choices depend on weather, the group's needs, etc.

Day One:

Pick up 11 a.m. Glasgow Airport. This is an arrival day when hikers can just relax after their journey or explore Glasgow on foot. There is a get-together at 6:30 and our first night's dinner at 7 p.m. at the stylish, urban Malmaison Hotel, Dinner and Lodging: Malmaison Hotel

Day Two:

Starting out from the heart of Glasgow, we head for the magnificent scenery of the highlands and islands and visit the famed banks of Loch Lomond. High above stands Ben Lomond, one of the many Scottish "monroes" (peaks that are over 3000', which often begin around sea level). Our first walk is usually together, on a well-known trail which affords panoramic views to the north and south. Later, we drive the whole length of Loch Lomond across to Loch Awe, where one can choose walks of variable length down the picturesque country lane and along trails that lead right up to the door of the gracious Ardanaiseig Hotel on the banks of the loch.

Dinner and Lodging for 2 nights: Ardanaiseig Hotel

Day Three:

Ardanaiseig is a magnificent country house in a spectacular setting and is an ideal base for our hiking adventures. Nearby are trails that lead around Loch Awe or, for the more adventurous, a hike up Ben Cruachan, for some of the finest views in the whole region. You may also choose to visit Oban, a picturesque seaport, once a small fishing and trading village, and now the main point of departure for ferries heading out to the Western Isles.

Day Four:

The next day we head north for the shores of Loch Linhe on the threshold of historic Glen Coe. A short ferry ride across Loch Linhe takes us to the ancient island of Lismore and its Celtic "pictish broch" or "old castle." The inn for our Glencoe explorations is The Pierhouse, an intimate family-run hotel on the shores of Loch Linnhe with a renowned Scottish seafood restaurant.

Dinner and Lodging for 3 nights: The Pierhouse Hotel

Day Five and Six:

This region is the best-known hiking and climbing area in the whole of Scotland and there is a wealth of choice, from sheltered woods and gentle waterside rambles to challenging peaks and passes and wild, remote glens. For an all-day, challenging option, one can hike up to the Heights of Kinlocheven and then follow the route down to Glen Etive, for a total of 13 miles. The length and difficulty of this all day hike can be adjusted according to weather and desires of

the group. In general the hikes are between 5 and 10 miles with the exception of the above option.

Another option is to walk in the morning around Glencoe (there are shorter and easier walks in the Glencoe area) and then take the afternoon to visit Fort William, the largest town in the area, with its many shops, including a clan tartan highland-historical shop and the highland museum. Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak looms above the town.

Day Seven:

The last morning we leave the lodge after breakfast and **return to Glasgow by around noon on the last day of the trip.**

SCOTLAND TRIP NOTES - ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:-

We will have a pick up at The Glasgow Airport at 11 a.m. on the first day of the trip. We will meet at The Tourist Information Desk in the International Arrivals Hall at the street level, not on the upper floor. Our guides will be wearing NEHH T-shirts.

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR FLIGHT NUMBER AND ARRIVAL TIME.

We will return to the Glasgow airport by noon on the last day of the trip.

We are not able to make a pick up from the Glasgow train station, however, the Malmaison Hotel is in downtown Glasgow and it is very easy to take a taxi from the station to the hotel (note: Glasgow Central Station is for trains to London, Glasgow's Queen St. Sta. is for trains to Edinburgh).

You can also, of course, take a taxi from the airport to the hotel should you be arriving at a time very different from our pick up time. Also, there are frequent buses from the airport to central Glasgow if you arrive before or after our pick up time.

TRAVEL - The most reasonable fares are available if you purchase your ticket in advance and do not change the dates. As many advance purchase tickets are non refundable, we strongly recommend taking out trip insurance (see the general information sheet). Our travel service, Better Travel can help you with your travel plans. They can be reached at (800) 331 6996. Glasgow is naturally the closest airport, but you may prefer to fly to London and take the express train up from there.

PRE AND POST TRIP LODGINGS - If you need somewhere to stay in Glasgow

before or after the trip, we recommend our first hotel, The Malmaison (see attached details).

For less expensive lodging you could also try the Glasgow Tourist Board at 011 44 141 221 0049 or fax them at: 011 44 141 221 3524.

We also recommend The Holiday Inn near the airport: 011 44 141 221.

PASSPORTS - If you don't already have a current passport please remember to allow enough time to be processed for one.

CURRENCY - The unit of currency is the Scottish pound which is completely interchangeable with the English pound. We recommend you always check recent exchange rates with your bank before traveling, as well as, calling your credit card company to see if any additional fees are incurred on transactions while traveling out of the states.

PAYMENT - We do require full payment 60 days in advance of the trip departure date. After that time there can be no refund of monies paid unless we are able to fill your space on the trip. Again, we recommend trip cancellation insurance.

CLOTHING - The beauty and distinctive nature of the Highland and Island landscape depends in part on its being frequently hydrated! Be ready for some rain, which can be enjoyable in itself if you are properly dressed with waterproof clothing and layers. Hiking in Scotland can also be rugged with wet conditions underfoot on some trails. Sturdy, waterproof hiking boots are recommended.

SCOTLAND - THE INNS:-

Note: for all calls to Scotland dial 011 44 then:-

DAY ONE

MALMAISON HOTEL,
Two Hundred Seventy Eight
West George St
GLASGOW G2 4LL
Tel: 141 572 1000
Fax: 141 572 1002
www.malmaison.com

DAY TWO and THREE

ARDANAISEIG HOTEL
Kilchrenan by Taynuilt, by Loch Awe
Argyll, Scotland PA35 1HE

Tel: 1866 833333
Fax: 1866 833222
www.ardanaiseig-hotel.com

DAY FOUR, FIVE & SIX
PIERHOUSE HOTEL
Port Appin,
Argyll, Scotland
PA38 4DE
Tel: 1631 730302
www.pierhousehotel.com

If you are interested in additional information about the inns and hotels we will be staying with, we invite you to visit their web sites, or call and request a brochure.