

Scotland Highlands & Royal Deeside

11th June – 1st July 2023



Relaxed touring, wonderful scenery and a Royal Connection

The Highlands of Scotland offer some of the best scenery to be found in the British Isles and throughout this tour you will experience this. Enjoy the long days and light nights of being this far north in early Summer.

The major population centres of Scotland are Glasgow and Edinburgh, this tour starts and finishes north of these, directly in the Highlands. The tour focuses on the rural areas of the North and Deeside, or as it is often referred to as Royal Deeside.

Throughout the tour take the opportunity to make visits to Loch Lomond, Ben Nevis, Neptune's Staircase, Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Dunrobin Castle, Inverness city & its botanic gardens, Balmoral Castle and Braemar Highlands Games arena; all are on our route. Throughout the tour, each journey has been kept short, allowing you plenty of time for making stops on route and visits to attractions.

This tour offers wonderful travel in your own motorhome, through stunning Scottish scenery in sparsely populated locations, and all in a relaxed manner.

20 Nights

Day One – Sunday 11th June

We meet at a well-appointed campsite on Loch Lomond. Late afternoon the Tour Directors will host a welcome get together and for the evening we will all go out for a group dinner. A chance to meet fellow travelling companions and to learn a little more about the adventure ahead.

Day Two – Monday 12th June

A free day and an opportunity to visit your first 'Loch' of the tour. The waterside of Loch Lomond is a 10 minute-walk from our campsite where you can enjoy a taster of some of the great scenery to come throughout the tour.

Day Three – Tuesday 13th June

Move on today. Starting with a drive along the waterside of Loch Lomond we head towards the beautiful west coast town of Oban. On route make a stop at Inveraray for a view of its castle and prison. **80 miles**

Day Four – Wednesday 14th June

A free day. From our campsite there are views across the straights to Kerrara island and Oban centre is a 2.5 mile coastal cycle or walk away. Oban is a picturesque town with many shops, cafes and restaurants to enjoy.



Day Five - Thursday 15th June

Continue our journey north today as we travel to the base of Ben Nevis. On route stop off in Fort William. This evening we have a group dinner in the campsite's own well-appointed restaurant. **55 miles**

Day Six - Friday 16th June

A free day. Maybe you will want to tackle Ben Nevis, a hike of around 7 hours! If not, the scenery of the UK's highest mountain can be enjoyed directly from our campsite or whilst taking more pleasant flat walks alongside the river.

Day Seven – Saturday 17th June

Just a short drive today but it will take time. On route visit the Neptune Staircase (a series of 8 locks cut into the Caledonian Canal), make a stop at Spean Bridge, then as we run alongside Loch Ness keep an eye out for Nessie. Lastly make a stop at Urquhart castle before arriving to our campsite which is around 15 minutes walk from the shore of Loch Ness. **50 miles**

Day Eight – Sunday 18th June

We continue north today for a stay on the coast at Dornoch. On route we recommend a visit to the 'Falls of Shin', one of the best places to view salmon jumping upstream as they return to their birth place for laying their own eggs. This evening we walk into Dornoch for a group meal. **75 miles**

Day Nine and Ten – Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th June

Two free days and an opportunity to explore Dornoch (or to give the town its official title, Royal Dornoch) along with its world-famous golf course and beach. Also, just a short drive from the campsite is Dunrobin Castle which is worth a visit, including its impressive Falconry display.



Eleven – Wednesday 21st June

A short journey today to the Highlands picturesque city of Inverness. The Caledonian Canal runs right next to our campsite, offering lovely walking and cycling opportunities. **50 miles**

Day Twelve – Thursday 22nd June

An opportunity to visit Inverness today. The city is a pleasant 2km riverside walk from our campsite or alternatively, the hop on/hop off bus departs 500m from our campsite and provides full commentary to all the attractions.

Day Thirteen – Friday 23rd June

We start today with a group breakfast in a pub restaurant located next to our campsite, the remainder of the day is free. Inverness botanic gardens are 500m walk from the campsite or maybe, take a walk/cycle along the Caledonian Canal.

Day Fourteen – Saturday 24th June

Move on today to the Georgian town of Grantown-on-Spey, and a stay at a well-appointed campsite. On route visit Culloden, location of the last battle to take place in Britain. The newly created visitor centre with 4 screen battle recreation is a must see. Our Grantown-on-Spey campsite is very close to the town and you are now in serious whiskey country, Speyside being home to many distilleries. **35 miles**

Day Fifteen – Sunday 25th June

Today we have a group Sunday lunch in a local restaurant.

Day Sixteen – Monday 26th June

We swap Speyside for Deeside today as we arrive in Ballater, located on the river Dee and in the heart of the 'Royal' region. **40 miles**

Day Seventeen – Tuesday 27th June

A free day. Take a walk around Ballater and see the many Royal Crescents presented to the local shops that supply the Royals at Balmoral. Also don't miss the old train station, the point of Queen Victoria's first arrival in the area, and the start of its long-standing Royal connections.

Day Eighteen – Wednesday 28th June

We continue to follow the river Dee today as we make our way south along the snow road to arrive at Pitlochry. Don't worry, it's the wrong time of year for snow and the ski resorts to be in full swing. On route make a visit to Balmoral Castle, the royal family's Scottish residence since the mid 1800's. **60 miles**



Day Nineteen – Thursday 29th June

Pitlochry is a lovely place to explore along with its 'Salmon Ladder', both of which are walkable from our campsite. This afternoon we go out for 'afternoon tea'.

Day Twenty – Friday 30th June

A free day to explore Pitlochry further or just take it easy. This evening we walk into town for a 'Farewell dinner' and a chance to reflect on some of the wonderful scenery passed through over 20 days that has been Scotland's Highlands and Royal Deeside.

Day Twenty-one – Saturday 1st July

Today our tour comes to an end. Edinburgh is just 70 miles south if you wish to extend your time in Scotland with a visit to its capital.

VISITS TO PLACES OF INTEREST

- This tour is arranged to allow tour participants to decide which attractions they wish to visit. All visits are left for individuals to choose and are not arranged/included in the tour. Throughout the

time away the Tour Directors will be on hand to assist with any booking of attractions. Note some attractions may require online pre-paying.

PRICE

TOUR DEPOSIT £250 Balance 10 weeks prior to start of tour

Motorhome with 2 people = £1,149 per person

Motorhome with 1 person = £1,899

INCLUDED IN PRICE

- 20 Campsite nights with electric hook-ups
- Welcome to Scotland drinks reception
- 1 group breakfast
- 1 group lunch
- 1 group afternoon tea
- 4 group dinners with wine
- Tour information pack with suggested routes and GPS Co-ordinates
- Services of Tour Directors travelling in their own motorhome throughout the tour

