

# Scottish Clans & Castles

Starting at \$2,765\*

# Find your castle in the sky

Revisit the past on this leisurely Scottish tour filled with castle ruins, ancient battlefields, and colorful stories from the country's rich history.

# Trip details

of \$1,070





# **Trip Highlights:**

- Palace of Holyroodhouse
- Culloden Battlefield
- Dunvegan Castle
- Brodie Castle
- Stirling Castle
- Isle of Skye
- Eilean Donan Castle
- Scottish Sheepdog Demonstration Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

# Hotels:

- Sandman Signature Glasgow Hotel
- Balmacara Hotel · Glen Mhor Hotel
- DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh Queensferry
- Crossing

# 2023 Scottish Clans & Castles - 10 Days/9 **Nights**

# **Trip Itinerary**

#### Dav 1 Glasgow Panoramic Tour | Welcome Drink

Your tour departs at 2:30 PM from your hotel. Take a panoramic tour of Glasgow, seeing sights like George Square, Kelvingrove Park, the cathedral and the university, all featured in the popular TV series "Outlander". Enjoy a welcome drink with your group before dining at your hotel. (D)

#### Day 3 Glencoe | Eilean Donan Castle

Head into the majestic Highlands and journey by Loch Lomond, across Rannoch Moor and through Glencoe, one of Scotland's most spectacular and beautiful places. Stop for photo opportunities along the route as you continue your journey to the romantic Eilean Donan Castle, before arriving at your hotel on the shore of Loch Alsh. (B, D)

#### Day 5 Strathpeffer | Hugh Miller's Birthplace | Inverness

Begin a scenic drive across the beautiful mountainous landscape of the Highlands, stopping off for photos in Lochcarron, a pretty lakeside village of whitewashed cottages. Visit Strathpeffer for some free time to explore this leafy Victorian spa town with its distinctive architecture. Proceed to Hugh Miller's Birthplace in Cromarty to discover one of Scotland's most fascinating 19th-century figures; Miller was a fossil hunter, folklorist, stonemason, geologist, and newspaper editor. Arrive in Inverness, and dine in your hotel. (B, D)

#### Day 2 Stirling Castle | Whisky Distillery

Visit Stirling Castle, a magnificent stronghold that was the childhood home of many Scottish kings and queens, including Mary, Queen of Scots. Next, head to Glengoyne Distillery to learn about its two centuries of whisky-making and sample a dram. Return to Glasgow, where you will be free to explore and dine as you wish. (B)

#### Day 4 Isle of Skye | Dunvegan Castle | Portree, Kilt Rock | **Kilmuir Graveyard**

Explore the Isle of Skye and learn the history of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Travel to Dunvegan Castle, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland. Admire the Trotternish Peninsula as you travel to Kilt Rock, a 200-foot-high sea cliff with huge, vertical basalt columns. Visit Flora MacDonald's grave in Kilmuir Graveyard and stop in Portree for free time. (B. D)

#### Urquhart Castle | Loch Ness Cruise | Inverness Day 6

Photo opportunities await as you visit the picturesque ruins of Urguhart Castle, once Scotland's largest castle, and embark on a cruise of Loch Ness. Head to Inverness for a walking tour of this small, charming city. Enjoy dinner with your group in your hotel in the heart of the city. (B, D)

# Day 7 Cullodden Battlefield Visitor Centre | Elgin | Brodie Castle

Visit the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre to discover how British Government forces defeated the army of Bonnie Prince Charlie, ending the Jacobite rising. Proceed to Elgin, a picturesque town with cobblestone streets, rich in medieval heritage. Head on to explore 16th-century Brodie Castle, with its fairytale towers and turrets set on spacious grounds. The house contains fine furnishings, a collection of paintings, and a library with over 6,000 volumes. Return to Inverness and enjoy a free evening and dinner on your own. (B)

### Day 9 Panoramic Tour | Holyroodhouse | Edinburgh Castle | Scottish Evening\*

In Edinburgh, see how the medieval townhouses along the Royal Mile in the heart of the Old Town stand in stark contrast to the Georgian mansions of the 200-year-old New Town. Tour the impressive Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the King, and walk through the majestically furnished chambers. Next, visit Edinburgh Castle to see the Scottish Crown Jewels and great views of the city. Enjoy a Scottish evening with a farewell dinner and traditional entertainment. July 27 - August 17 departures attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (B, D\*)

# Day 8 Sheepdog Demonstration | Culross Walking Tour

Immerse yourself in farm life and enjoy a demonstration of dogs obeying commands to round up sheep. In Pitlochry, explore and have lunch independently. Continue to Culross for a walking tour around the charming 16th-century town, recently used as a filming location for "Outlander." Highlights include the Town House, Culross Palace, and the remains of Culross Abbey. Enjoy free time in Culross before going to your hotel near Edinburgh. Enjoy a free evening with time to explore and dine independently. (B)

# Day 10 Tour ends in Edinburgh

Your tour ends after breakfast (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner \*Meal counts vary on Tattoo departures, as the Scottish Evening is replaced with the Tattoo and an independent dinner.>



Please see <u>www.cietours.com</u> for the most up-to-date itinerary and pricing