

FAWCO

Pre-Conference Tour

Scottish Highlands & the Isle of Skye 5 Day Tour

14th – 18th March 2019

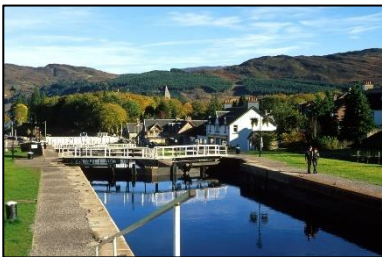


DAY 1 – 14th March**Edinburgh – Fort Augustus**

Stirling Castle



Glencoe



Fort Augustus

Your guide will meet you this morning at the Dalmahoy, where our tour will begin at 8.30am.

We head north to Stirling, the ‘gateway to the highlands’. Take the chance to discover impressive **Stirling Castle**, one of Scotland’s most important structures both historically and architecturally. Many royals have been crowned at Stirling Castle, including Mary Queen of Scots, and it was central to William Wallace’s fight in the Wars of Independence.

Our route then takes us through the stunning rugged landscape of Glencoe, once used as a backdrop in James Bond Skyfall and the Harry Potter movies and the scene for 1692 massacre of the MacDonald Clan. Journey through one of the last remaining wildernesses in Europe when we cross the Rannoch Moor, a vast stretch of land that will show you yet again another side of Scotland.

We will make our home tonight in Fort Augustus, a beautiful village on the banks of Loch Ness.

Dinner

ACCOMMODATION**The Lovat Hotel**

DAY 2 – 15th March**Fort Augustus – Portree**

Trees for Life



Eilean Donan Castle



Sligachan

We start our morning with a relaxing **cruise** on Loch Ness. This informative cruise will tell you everything you need to know about the loch and the elusive monster.

Our journey then takes us to the Dundreggan Estate to meet with **Trees for Life**. The core purpose and vision of Trees for Life is to restore the Caledonian Forest and all its constituent species of flora and fauna to the Scottish Highlands. We have been working in partnership with Trees for Life for many years to provide hands on conservation experience for tour guests. We donate to Trees for Life for each tour that stops at Dundreggan Estate in Glen Moriston and plants a tree or two, and we would love to share this with you too.

We will then make our way along the road to the isles, with our final destination being the Isle of Skye. Before we take our first step on to the island, we will stop at **Eilean Donan Castle**, arguably the most photographed castle in the country.

As we wind our way north through the island, take your time to soak up the other worldly landscapes and join us for a traditional face dip in the Sligachan river – said to bestow eternal beauty!

We will spend the next two nights in the ‘capital’ of the island, Portree.

Breakfast, Dinner

ACCOMMODATION**Cuillin Hills Hotel**

DAY 3 – 16th March**Isle of Skye**

Neist Point



Old Man of Storr



Kilt Rock

Our whole day is dedicated to this wonderful Island!

Home to two spectacular mountain ranges and geological features galore, as well as fascinating history and mythology. This is also the land of the legendary MacLeod and MacDonald Clans and your Guide will recount Celtic myths and Viking legends from the past millennia.

There will be plenty of opportunities for walks today. Places we may visit include the Old Man of Storr, Lealt Falls, Kilt Rock, Duntulm Castle, Kilmuir Graveyard (burial place of Flora MacDonald) and Black House Village, Dun Beag Broch, and Neist Point.

Breakfast, Dinner

ACCOMMODATION**Cuillin Hills Hotel**

DAY 4 – 17th March**Portree - Inverness**

Five Sisters – Glen Shiel



Urquhart Castle



Glen Ord

We explore more of the magical Isle of Skye with its awe-inspiring mountains, stunning coastline, myths and legends before returning to the mainland.

Our journey takes us back through the beautiful Glen Shiel and north through the Great Glen where we begin to hug the banks of Loch Ness once more.

This afternoon we visit **Urquhart Castle**, the beautiful ruin at the edge of the loch. 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 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.

It is then on to **Glen Ord** distillery for a tour and a taste of the 'water of life'. Nestled on the outskirts of Muir of Ord, this distillery is one of the Highland's hidden treasures producing liquid gold all year round.

We will then make our way to Inverness, the 'Capital of the Highlands'. There is a lot of history here, with the first settlers being the pict, but do not discount the modern flourishes as well. You will have the evening to explore as we will be spending the night here.

Breakfast, Dinner

ACCOMMODATION**Kingsmills Hotel**

DAY 5 – 18th March

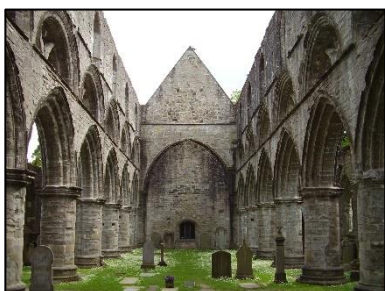
Inverness - Edinburgh



Culloden

Our final day on tour begins with a visit to **Culloden Battlefield**. The final battle of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising took place here on the 16th of April 1746, which was also the last battle to be held on British soil. Stand on the windswept moor where the Jacobites made their final stand while your guide regales you with the tales of this tragic day.

You'll continue the history trail onto the mysterious **Clava Cairns**, a prehistoric burial site that inspired the Craigh na Dun standing stones seen in Outlander.



Dunkeld Cathedral

We will then start our journey south through the Cairngorms National Park. Whilst here we will visit **Leult Farm** to see some working sheepdogs in action. During a demonstration amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, you will see up to eight dogs working as a team maneuvering sheep and ducks through various obstacles.

After this we will continue south to the beautiful town of Dunkeld to visit its ruined cathedral, right in the centre of the woods spoken of in Macbeth – Birnam. Your guide will then lead you through the enchanting and beautiful woodlands and waterfalls of the Hermitage. Savour the sound of the tumbling falls from a quaint wee folly.



Forth Bridge

On our journey back to Edinburgh, we pass the famous UNESCO listed Forth Bridge, arriving back in the capital at approximately 6pm.

Breakfast

Quote	What's Included	Not Included
<p>£1650 per person</p> <p><i>Based on a maximum of 26 paying passengers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your own private Mercedes midi-coach • Highland Explorer Guide • Highland Explorer Driver • 4 Nights 4* Hotel Accommodation – own rooms • 4 Breakfasts • 4 Dinners • Entry Fees and Activities (highlighted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunches • Entry fees not listed • Gratuities
<p>Two to Share</p> <p>If a passenger would like to bring someone along with them on the tour and share a room, we can offer the 2nd passenger a 20% discount - £1320</p>		<p>We would advise carrying £50-£70 extra per day to cover items not included. Also for any souvenirs!</p>

Notes:

* Please note all routes and attractions are subject to availability.

This is only a proposed itinerary and as such none of the above is confirmed.

** Bookings Procedure:

Upon confirmation, availability will be confirmed and a booking confirmation will be sent out.

- 25% Deposit required upon confirmation to secure booking
- Balance to be paid by 1st January 2019

**** We require passengers' full names, dates of birth and nationalities, no later than the 1st January 2019, as well as the group leader's contact mobile no.