

London & Scotland Private Tour

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. Each of our private tour itineraries are custom, exclusive, and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

As you make your way down the cobblestone streets, passed buildings ranging from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, one feels intrinsically European within the global city of London. However, London is not just an ‘old city’, but is constantly changing with the times visible in the avant-garde Shard and the Tate Modern extension. Within Central London, one becomes completely immersed in the hustle and bustle, yet peace and open, green expanses are not far away in Hampstead Heath or the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Scotland, home of some of the largest areas of wilderness left in Western Europe, provides a welcome contrast from the furor that can be found in London. Here, hiking opportunities abound as you cross fields that once were host to battles fought to wrestle control of this nation. Many great castles still stand, providing a look into what royal life was like in the Middle Ages. The natural beauty of the expansive Scottish landscape is most impressive with hills covered in colorful heather and bracken.

<p>ENGLAND</p> <p>Temperature Range Highs: Mid 60’s Lows: Low 40’s</p> <p>Area 81,024 SQ KM 50,346 SQ MILES</p> <p>Population 55.6 Million</p> <p>Language English</p> <p>Capital London</p> <p>Currency Pound Sterling</p>	<p>SCOTLAND</p> <p>Temperature Range Highs: High 50’s Lows: Low 40’s</p> <p>Area 49,757 SQ KM 30,918 SQ MILES</p> <p>Population 5.4 Million</p> <p>Language English, Scots & Scottish Gaelic</p> <p>Capital Edinburgh</p> <p>Currency Pound Sterling</p>
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DAY 1

Fly to London

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

DAY 2

Arrive London

Upon arrival in London, you will be privately transferred to The Goring, where the remainder of the afternoon will be free to spend at your leisure.

The Goring Hotel

Located just around the corner from Buckingham Palace and situated in one of the finest areas of central London, Belgravia, The Goring is London’s oldest and last remaining family-owned luxury hotel. With a boutique-sized

69 suites and rooms, The Goring offers a quintessentially English and impeccably individual experience. While rooms are smaller in size, the lack of space is made up by The Goring’s incomparable and timeless service. The Goring’s dining experience is first-rate with Executive Chef Shay Cooper heading the Michelin-starred restaurant and Head Sommelier, Jean-Baptiste Lemoine providing wine pairings. The Goring serves as an excellent starting point, as it is within a good strolling distance to visit London’s most prominent cathedrals, palaces, museums, shopping streets, and pubs. For families in particular, The Goring offers babysitting services, a children’s library, children’s sightseeing recommendations, and nursery items. If opting to stay in a suite, you will be assigned your own dedicated footman to fulfill any request or indulgence at any hour of the

day. While the highest standards in service and upkeep are expected at The Goring, the hotel emits a true family atmosphere rather than of pretentiousness or haughtiness.

Accommodations: The Goring Hotel

DAY 3

London Private Tour

Your private touring today will begin with a stop at the London Eye for a capsule experience including two rotations on the wheel and a delicious truffle and chocolate tasting from Hotel Chocolat. You will continue on to Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, Downing Street, the Palace of Westminster, and Buckingham Palace. Following lunch, you will get a chance to see the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London before ending the day at St. Paul's Cathedral, built atop the highest point in London.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Goring Hotel

DAY 4

Cotswolds Private Tour

South of London, Cotswolds is famous for its range of rolling hills and meadows along the upper Thames; it is quite easy to see why this place has been designated an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty". You will continue with your private guide to Bourton-on-the-Water, best known for the River Windrush that runs through it, crossed by several arched, stone bridges that have earned this town the nickname, "Venice of the Cotswolds". Your day will end at Hidcote Manor Garden, which predominately features hedges of yew, holly, and beech to create a series of outdoor "rooms" with various characters and themes.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Goring Hotel

DAY 5

London Private Tour

Your private touring today will begin at the British Museum, the first national public museum in the world, that now hosts many notable and historic artifacts among these halls. Here you will see the Rosetta Stone, the key to unlocking Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the Parthenon sculptures that once decorated the Athens Parthenon nearly 2,500 years ago. You will then have the opportunity for a private cruise along the River Thames before continuing to Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring worldwide flora from the 18th to 20th-centuries over 75 acres. For a casual, yet fun dining experience, we recommend Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Pub, known for the many famous patrons that have enjoyed pints here, including Mark Twain, Sir Alfred Lord Tennyson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, and P. G. Wodehouse.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Goring Hotel

DAY 6

Train London/Edinburgh

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to London's King Cross Station to board your first-class

train to Edinburgh, Scotland. Upon arrival in Edinburgh, you will be privately transferred to the Balmoral, where the remainder of your day will be free to spend at your leisure.

The Balmoral, Edinburgh

Though we have never been big fans of large 150-room hotels, we certainly make an exception with the 5-star, 188-room Balmoral. The best hotel location in all of Edinburgh (in the heart of the city at the east end of Princess Street), the property was completely renovated in 2012. Originally opened in 1902, the architecture is quintessentially Victorian. The rooms here are large, with the Deluxe Castle View Rooms being our favorite! Amenities include a five-room treatment spa, nice gym with weights, 50-foot indoor pool, and two restaurants.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Balmoral, Edinburgh

DAY 7

Edinburgh Private Tour

Your private touring will begin with the Edinburgh Castle, a historic fortress that rests atop Castle Rock, which archaeologists have found to have been inhabited since the Iron Age of the 2nd-century. You will then continue to the Royal Mile, a succession of streets forming the main thoroughfare of the Old Town, stretching from Edinburgh Castle to St. Giles' Cathedral, with Palace of Holyroodhouse at its foot.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Balmoral, Edinburgh

DAY 8

Private Transfer Edinburgh/Fort William

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred from Edinburgh to Fort William. Enroute, you will stop to see Loch Lomond, the largest inland lake in Great Britain, before continuing to The Bonnie Banks, and the Rest and Be Thankful mountain pass, offering a panoramic view of Glen Coe Valley. You will also visit the Scottish Islands including the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Mull, where you may stop at a whiskey distillery. Upon arrival at Inverlochy Castle Hotel, the remainder of your day will be free to spend at your leisure.

Inverlochy Castle Hotel

Located in the picturesque Fort Williams and built in 1863, this luxury 17-room castle/country house is set among the most beautiful grounds and scenery in all of Scotland. The lavishly designed Victorian rooms are spacious, though perhaps a bit too colorful for many of our Mies-loving friends. In addition to amazing views of the grounds and surrounding mountains, all rooms are individually designed with elaborate furnishings, many preserved as gifts from the king of Norway (plus updated amenities and 40-inch TV's for your BBC fix!). Among our favorite areas at Inverlochy are the colorful walled gardens and lovely paths for walking. Please note a jacket is required for dining at the castle's renowned Albert and Michel Roux Jr. restaurant. We enjoyed reading Queen Victoria's quote from her 1873 visit to Inverlochy: "I never saw a lovelier and more romantic spot".

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Inverlochy Castle Hotel

DAY 9

Nevis Gorge Half-Day Hike

Among the many geological wonders you will see with your private guide today, the most notable will be the slopes of Ben Nevis, the highest peak in Scotland; the 400-foot cascading Steall Waterfall; and Binnein Mòr, the highest peak in the Mamores mountain range.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Inverlochy Castle Hotel

DAY 10

Private Transfer Fort William/Sutherland

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred from Fort William to Sutherland. Upon arrival at Kinloch Lodge, the remainder of your day will be free to spend at your leisure.

Kinloch Lodge

Located in the far northwest highlands of Scotland, Kinloch Lodge is a remote and markedly peaceful private lodge near the village of Tongue. Originally owned by the Duke of Sutherland, the property was sold in the 20th-century and bought by Anders Holch Povlsen, a Danish environmentalist and currently the largest landowner in Scotland. With very little cell phone service in the area, it is a place for enjoying the scenery of the open nature. The rooms are cozy and spacious, with a warm and homey design. We particularly love the property's conservatory! With a staff, chef, and outdoor guide, the Kinloch takes care of every detail so that guests may make themselves at home and fully enjoy time to themselves or with loved ones. Activities you may enjoy here include guided hikes, early-morning deer watching, biking, and picnicking on an island near the Kyle of Sutherland.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Kinloch Lodge

DAY 11

Full-Day in Sutherland

Enjoy your full-day at Kinloch Lodge in Sutherland. Activities here include guided hikes, early-morning deer watching, biking, and picnicking on an island near the Kyle of Sutherland.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: Kinloch Lodge

DAY 12

Private Transfer Sutherland/Perth

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the luxury golf resort of your choice, near the city of Perth. The route from Fort William to Perth runs right through the heart of the Scottish Highlands, passing Loch Laggan and Ardverikie House, the setting for the BBC series, 'Monarch of the Glen'. As you continue south into the heart of the Grampian Mountains, you come upon the romantic site of the white-turreted Blair Castle, which you have the chance to tour, learning the history of the major Highland clans. You will follow the River Tay downstream toward the quaint town of Dunkeld, before ending your day at your luxury hotel/golf resort. Our favorite options are Greywalls Hotel & Chez Roux, The Gleneagles Hotel, and the Old Course Hotel.

Greywalls Hotel & Chez Roux

Only a 30-minute drive east of Edinburgh, this 1901 stone manor house was designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. The structure was later converted to a 23-room luxury inn overlooking the ninth and 18th greens of the championship Muirfield Golf Course. Most of the notably Edwardian-style decorated rooms offer uninterrupted views over the golf course or the lush four-acre Gertrude Jekyll-designed gardens and rolling farmland. Amenities include fine dining, tennis courts, a croquet lawn, and a nice spa with massage services.

The Gleneagles Hotel

Just an hour from Edinburgh Airport, we feel the 5-star, luxury Gleneagles Estate is a fitting end to your London & Scotland private tour. Despite its 232-room size, the Gleneagle's service and attention to detail are truly remarkable. While staying here, past clients have given special praise to the resort's Estate Rooms. Just below the Suite level, Estate Rooms are spacious with updated amenities and offer spectacular views of the gardens, grounds, and the Perth countryside. In addition to several restaurant choices, amenities include a 2014 renovated ESPA spa, two indoor pools, and a well-equipped gym. The wellness areas offer several fitness classes including pilates, yoga, and cardio. Outside activities include falconry, cycling, hiking, horseback riding, tennis, and more.

Old Course Hotel

Overlooking the Royal & Ancient Clubhouse and the 17th fairway of the iconic Old Course at St Andrews, your stay here may be your trip highlight. The 144-room Old Course Hotel is decorated in a contemporary style, with room options featuring modern interior design or classic elegance. There are several bars and restaurants, with the Road Hole Restaurant being the favorite among clients who have stayed here (great views!). We are excited to mention that the hotel's Kohler Waters Spa has been relaunched, following an expansive renovation. The 25,000 sq. foot spa includes 13 treatment rooms, a 65-foot indoor swimming pool, steam room, ice fountain, and a cold plunge pool. Enjoy this special place!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Greywalls Hotel & Chez Roux, The Gleneagles Hotel & Old Course Hotel

DAY 13

Golf Resort Free-Day

Enjoy the golfing and amenities at your luxury golf resort!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Greywalls Hotel & Chez Roux, The Gleneagles Hotel & Old Course Hotel

DAY 14

Private Transfer to Edinburgh + Fly Edinburgh/Home

Following breakfast at your luxury golf resort, you will be privately transferred to Edinburgh for your onward flight home.

Meals: Breakfast