

Classic Scotland



Scotland.
Welcome to our life.

Visit
Scotland™
Official Tourist Board

Your Detailed Itinerary

Classic
Scotland

Day 1

From Jedburgh, with its abbey visitor centre, continue northbound to experience the special Borders landscape of rolling hills and wooded river valley. Then continue to Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, with its choice of cultural and historic attractions. Explore the **Old Town**, the city's historic heart, with its quaint alleys, called 'closes', leading off the Royal Mile. Sample some **traditional music** in one of the many venues in the city.

Day 2

Head for Fife, across the Forth Bridge. The fishing villages of the East Neuk are photogenic, the seafood restaurants tempting, but if golf is your sport, then you have to play at **St Andrews**.

Day 3

Take the Tay Bridge for Dundee and continue north-west on A923 for Blairgowrie, then north on A93 for the whisky and castles of Grampian. On the way you can pass through the eastern section of "**Cairngorms National Park**". A choice of routes

will bring you to the A96 to the north-east. At Keith, you can enjoy a typical distillery of the area, **Strathisla**.

Day 4/5

Go west to join the A9 at Inverness for the journey north to Scrabster, ferryport for Orkney. From Stromness, the Stone Age site of Skara Brae lies north, on the island's west coast. Take time to explore the many other prehistoric sites on these fascinating islands, for example, Maes Howe. (Option here to stay for an extra day to explore the island.)

Day 6

Return to Scrabster to take the coast road west to explore the northern coastline, turning south at Durness, crossing the Kylesku Bridge, turning west for Lochinver and taking the minor road through Inverpolly. Rejoin the main road and continue south for Ullapool.

Day 7/8

The ferry from Ullapool will take you to Stornoway on the Outer Hebrides. Famous for spectacular beaches, Lewis in particular is also notable for

its prehistory, including the Standing Stones at **Calanais**, a setting of great presence and mystery which draws many to puzzle over its meaning. (Option here to stay for an extra day to explore the island.) Travel south to Tarbert in Harris for the ferry to Uig in Skye.

Day 9/10

Skye, the Misty Isle, represents all that's dramatic about Scottish Highland scenery. Some rate the view of the Cuillins on the way to Glen Brittle as the finest hill view in Scotland; others argue it's the same range of peaks, but looking at them from Elgol! Choose for yourself by travelling south from Uig, continuing through Portree, the island's 'capital', then taking the A863 at Sligachan. A minor road leads into Glen Brittle. Retrace your steps and (next day) continue south. Near Broadford, take the B8063 to Elgol.

Day 11

Leave Skye by the Skye bridge, admiring the Five Sisters of Kintail, the peaks which frame Glen Shiel, then follow the main road (A87) east to the Great Glen at Invergarry, turning south for Fort William (A82).

This is the 'outdoor capital' of the UK. Nearby Nevis Range, for example, is a ski centre in winter, while, without snow, it has Britain's longest downhill mountain bike track, from 2150 ft (655m), dropping 2000ft (610m) over almost 2 miles (3km). It's fierce and demanding but there are plenty of other gentler forest trails nearby. Fort William also offers what is arguably Scotland's most scenic **rail journey**, to Mallaig.

Day 12

Continue south and east, through Glencoe for Crianlarich, Lochearnhead and the northern boundaries of the Trossachs, now in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Take the A84/A821 west at Kilmahog, stop at the carpark for a walk to the summit of Ben A'an by Loch Achray*. Continue over the Duke's Pass in the heart of the Trossachs, taking the A821 south. Beyond Aberfoyle, turn west to reach Drymen – superb view of Loch Lomond from a little park in the centre. Continue to Glasgow.

* Until Autumn 2015 you may need to use alternative parking and route at Ben Venue.

Day 13

Glasgow, as Scotland's largest city, offers Scotland's largest shopping choice, as well as museums, galleries, culture, nightlife, pubs and friendly locals.

Day 14

Head south-west, down the Clyde coast for Ayr, south of which is **Culzean Castle**, one of the most magnificent castles in Scotland.

To search over 7,000 quality assured accommodations, from bed and breakfasts to castles go to: www.visitscotland.com

For information, inspiration and more itineraries online check out: www.visitscotland.com

The information contained in this publication is as supplied to VisitScotland and to the best of VisitScotland's knowledge is correct at the time of going to press. VisitScotland can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. April 2015.

VisitScotland is committed to ensuring that our natural environment and built heritage, upon which tourism is so dependent, is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.

Cover: Sligachan and the Cuillin Hills, Isle of Skye
© Paul Tomkins, VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint



Visit
Scotland™
Official Tourist Board

Classic Scotland

What should you see and what should you do when you visit, so you can say you experienced the essence of Scotland? Naturally it depends on your own taste and interests – but here are a few suggestions. Breathtaking views, special food and drink, historic sites, culture, heritage and activities, too. Choose from the Scottish menu knowing that so many great experiences await you!



1 THE BORDER ABBEYS – The four great abbeys of Melrose, Kelso, Dryburgh and Jedburgh stand today as powerful reminders of troubled times in the 16th century between Scotland and England.



2 EDINBURGH'S OLD TOWN – Between castle above and palace below, the Old Town grew to become one of the most exciting city environments in Scotland – and helped make Edinburgh a World Heritage city.



3 TRADITIONAL MUSIC – Relax and let your hair down, join in some Scottish dancing and enjoy the traditional music at one of the regular sessions in pubs, clubs and venues and at festivals throughout Scotland.



4 GOLF AT ST ANDREWS – Classic links golf courses where it all began. Lots to do in St Andrews for the non-golfers in the party – great shopping, restaurants, castle and historic sites.



5 CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK – The largest national park in Scotland, it also holds the largest continuous stretch of wild and near-natural habitat – a superb area of mountain, moor and pinewood.



6 STRATHISLA DISTILLERY – The oldest working distillery in the Highlands, established in 1786. Not just a fine malt typical of the area, but a picturesque frontage in the town of Keith.



7 CALAN AIS STANDING STONES – Intriguing arrangement of stones, forming an avenue and a circle with outliers. Visitor centre on site.



8 FORT WILLIAM TO MALLAIG BY TRAIN – Superb views of the Small Islands and the White Sands of Morar. Steam-hauled services in summer, for extra atmosphere.



9 BEN A'AN – By the west end of Loch Achray, the steep walk to the top of Ben A'an (only 1520ft/454m!) gives a view out of all proportion to its size.



10 CULZEAN CASTLE – Completed in 1792, this masterpiece by the Scottish architect Robert Adam stands on the edge of a dramatic cliff overlooking the Clyde estuary.