

Walk in the footsteps of your ancestors



Your Detailed Itinerary

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Day 1 - Edinburgh

Begin your ancestral trip through Scotland in the capital city, Edinburgh, which is home to the country's biggest archive store, the ScotlandsPeople Centre. This is a great place to start your search for your ancestors or to delve further into their background with birth, death and marriage records and much more. You can also visit the National Library of Scotland, the world's leading centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots.

While in Edinburgh, learn about the history of the country in popular attractions such as Edinburgh Castle, the National Museum of Scotland, and St Giles Cathedral.

Day 2 - Perth - Inverness

Head north from Edinburgh until you reach Perth, which sits by the banks of the River Tay. Visit the turreted Balhousie Castle, where you can learn more about the world's oldest and most elite military regiments at the Black Watch Museum. Leave Perthshire on the A9, heading north towards Inverness, and visit the Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore en

route, a free mile-long 'living' history site, reflecting social and rural life in the Highlands. Travel north up the road to Inverness and spend a night in one of the city's many hotels or guest houses.

Day 3 - Inverness - Isle of Skye

Start your day in Scotland's most northern city, Inverness, with a visit to the fantastic Highland Archive Centre which has historical records that date back to the 14th century. Continue to the award-winning visitor centre at Culloden Battlefield, where you can discover whether your clan took part in the last battle to be fought on British soil. Before the day is over, head to Kyle of Lochalsh and cross the Skye Bridge to spend a night on the breathtaking Isle of Skye.

Day 4 - Isle of Skye - Fort William

On Skye, Scotland's second largest island, take the road north west to reach Dunvegan Castle, the seat of Clan MacLeod for over 800 years. You will find another fascinating castle in the far south, sometimes known as the 'garden of Skye'. Clan Donald Skye is a 20,000 acre Highland estate which is home to a

variety of nature trails and the partially restored Armadale Castle. Amongst the Armadale Castle Gardens is the Museum of the Isles, dedicated to the history of Clan Donald.

Day 5 - Glen Coe - Stirling

Take the ferry over to Mallaig, follow the Road to the Isles, and continue east to Fort William. Drive half an hour south to Glen Coe, one of the most scenic landscapes in the country. Explore the visitor centre to learn more about the infamous massacre which took place here. Head south east next, through Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, to Stirling. Just outside of the city, lies the battlefield of Bannockburn, the site of one of the greatest and most important battles to take place in Britain.

Day 6 - Stirling - Gretna Green

Still in Stirling, visit the National Wallace Monument and climb up the steps to learn the story of national hero Sir William Wallace. In the heart of the city, visit Stirling Castle, once the home of Mary Queen of Scots. In the afternoon,

take the M80 and A74 (M) south from Stirling to the southern border of Scotland, and Gretna Green. One of Scotland's border villages, Gretna Green is known worldwide for the weddings that have taken place there. Visit the Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop to find out more.

Day 7 - Scottish Borders - Edinburgh

Travel north east to the Scottish Borders town of Hawick. Uncover your Scottish Borders ancestry by consulting the archives in the Heritage Hub in the Heart of Hawick, one of the most advanced facilities of its kind in the UK. With archives that date back 750 years, you can trace your family tree and learn about the evolution of the Scottish Borders communities, industries and people. Travel back to Edinburgh where you can visit some more of the city's top attractions including the National Galleries, Royal Yacht Britannia, and Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Extend your trip

If you've got time to explore more of your ancestry, visit the North Highlands after you arrive in Inverness on day two. Visit the

Struie Viewpoint, over the Dornoch Firth, Croick Church in Strathcarron, which offers a sad reminder of the Highlands' turbulent past, and Dunrobin Castle at Golspie, associated with the Sutherland clearances in the area.

Before travelling to Fort William on day four, you can visit the Glenfinnan Monument, an iconic memorial to the Jacobites that sits at the head of Loch Shiel. In the visitor centre, you can view displays and an audio programme which tell of Bonnie Prince Charlie's campaign from Glenfinnan to Derby and back to the final defeat at Culloden in 1746.

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.

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Cover: Dating back from 13th Century Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye is the seat of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod © MacLeod Estate



For information, inspiration and more itineraries online check out:

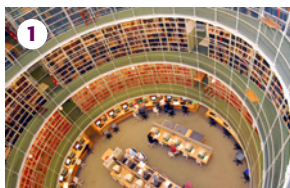
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Walk in the footsteps of your ancestors

There are 50 million people across the world able to lay claim to ancestral ties to Scotland, but not everyone has uncovered their connection yet. Why not find out if you are in good company, joining millions of others with Scottish ancestry, at www.visitscotland.com/ancestry.

There has never been a better time to explore the country of your ancestors. Follow this handy seven day itinerary around Scotland and visit some of Scotland's ancestral attractions.



SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE CENTRE

Search millions of digital records at Scotland's largest family history centre, based in the centre of Edinburgh.



BLACK WATCH MUSEUM

This recently reopened museum offers an insight into one of the British Army's most famous fighting units.



HIGHLAND ARCHIVE CENTRE

This new £10.5 million state-of-the-art facility hosts a searchroom, archive conservation unit, a dedicated family history centre and repository facilities.



CULLODEN

The impressive visitor centre and exciting interactive exhibition bring this bloody battle to life.



HIGHLAND GAMES ACROSS SCOTLAND

These events take place in towns and villages across the country during the summer with heavy events, Highland dancing, music and much more.



MUSEUM OF THE ISLES

Follow the history of the powerful Clan Donald back 1,500 years in six themed galleries.

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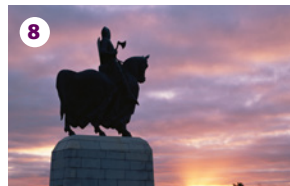


NORTHERN
IRELAND



GLEN COE

An area which is home to world-famous scenery and is a paradise for walkers, climbers, skiers and snowboarders.



BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN VISITOR CENTRE

A brand new state-of-the-art Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre is due to open in March 2014, offering detailed knowledge of the battle and the armies with a state-of-the-art 3D battle simulation.



GRETNA GREEN FAMOUS BLACKSMITHS SHOP

The cottage and workshop have remained virtually untouched since they were last in use, and contain a fascinating collection of memorabilia and artefacts.



HAWICK HERITAGE HUB

The archive material illustrates how the region developed over the centuries and contains collections that illuminate the lives of famous locals.