

# The Highland Road By Public Transport



## Your Detailed Itinerary

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by public transport

### Day 1

From Edinburgh there are frequent bus and train departures for Stirling – around an hour away. **Stirling Castle** dominates the town's skyline, the town grew up around this once strategically important fortress. Walk up to it by way of the busy shopping streets to reach the atmospheric Old Town, then the Esplanade with its magical views. Overnight in Stirling.

### Day 2

Stirling lies within sight of the A9, the Highland Road, and your journey continues northwards via Perth for Newtonmore and Aviemore. (There are bus and rail services. Journey times just over two hours.) En route, Perthshire's woods gradually give way to the open moorland and heathery hillslopes of the central Highlands, with the Pass of Drumochter, the highest point reached by rail in the UK, leading down to the valley of the River Spey, with superb views of the Cairngorm Mountains to the

southeast. Break your journey at the **Highland Folk Museum** at Newtonmore, before continuing for overnight at Aviemore.

### Day 3

Aviemore is a gateway for the **Cairngorms National Park** with a huge choice of leisure activities. Regular bus services throughout the day, year round link the resort to Cairn Gorm Mountain (that is, the base station for the funicular railway). The linking buses run as a 'hail and ride system' from Inverdrue, so you can also get off anywhere and explore the network of paths and walks around, for example, Loch Morlich. Overnight in Aviemore.

### Day 4

Inverness is about 40 minutes by train or bus from Aviemore, with pinewood and moorland views and a fine panorama over the inner Moray Firth on the approaches to Inverness. The Highland capital has great shopping, restaurants, pubs

and nightlife and also offers the option of visiting **Loch Ness** and the spectacular lochside ruins of **Urquhart Castle**. Combined bus and boat cruises leave from the city centre. Overnight in Inverness.

### Day 5

Fascinating places easily reached from Inverness also include Fort George, Europe's best preserved 18th-century fortress, or Culloden battlefield, or spectacularly scenic Glen Affric, all available on a day tour by bus. Alternatively, discover the **Moray Firth** resort town of Nairn (frequent bus or train services) with its beautiful beaches – with a chance of seeing **dolphins** from the shore. Boat cruises also operate from Inverness and Nairn. Overnight in Inverness.

### Day 6

Leave Inverness to journey back over the high Grampian hills en route for Perth. Break your journey at the little resort town of Pitlochry, to visit the **Blair Athol Distillery** at the southern edge of the town. (About 20 minutes' walk from train station. Most bus services stop close to the distillery). Then re-join the southbound services for Perth, an attractive town by the banks of the River Tay. Its easy-to-navigate central grid of streets is worth exploring, with plenty of shops, cafes and pubs, as well as a museum and galleries. Overnight in Perth.

### Day 7

Depart Perth for Edinburgh (bus or train – journey times vary but around 80 minutes). Edinburgh is one of Europe's great capitals, with a huge range of places to see and things to do and a vibrant cultural life. Compact enough to discover on foot. Visit the iconic **Edinburgh Castle** and the Royal Mile, there is also a good choice of historical and **Ghost walks**.

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Cover: Looking across to the mountains of Glen Coe  
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Sit back and let someone else do the driving, enjoying a journey that takes in the grandeur of the central Highlands and the high Cairngorm Mountains. With Inverness, the bustling Highland capital, as your most northerly point, you can also explore on the way some of Scotland's most spectacular castles.



**STIRLING CASTLE** – Superb atmospheric fortress with commanding views all round and many associations with the Scottish monarchy. A really rewarding Scottish castle experience!



**HIGHLAND FOLK MUSEUM, NEWTONMORE** – Fascinating reconstructions of real buildings – including school, farm and old crofter's 'blackhouse' – give real insight into life in the Highlands from the early 1700s to mid 1900s.



**STRATHSPEY STEAM RAILWAY** – Sometimes described as offering the best views of any preserved railway, this one and a half hour round trip from Aviemore offers wide vistas of the high Cairngorms.



**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK** Scotland's largest national park offers landscapes from pinewood to high tundra, plus a range of outdoor and wildlife activities. Take the funicular railway for a glimpse of the high tops.



**LOCH NESS** – Scotland's most famous loch is around 23 miles (36 km) long and the largest loch in the UK by water volume. Associated since the 1930s with sightings of an unidentified creature popularly called 'Nessie'. Boat cruises available.



**URQUHART CASTLE** – Ruins of one of Scotland's largest castles, mostly dating from 16th century. Blown up in 1692 to prevent its capture by rebel Jacobites. Spectacular lochside setting.



**THE MORAY FIRTH DOLPHINS** The famous bottle-nose dolphins here are the most northerly resident population in the world. Several Moray Firth communities offer dolphin cruises, but they are often seen from the shore.



**BLAIR ATHOL DISTILLERY** – One of the oldest distilleries in Scotland, producing a mellow single malt whisky. It uses the clear waters of the 'Allt Dour' – in Gaelic, the burn (stream) of the otter – that flows off the peak of Ben Vrackie behind the town.



**EDINBURGH CASTLE** – An icon of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline of Scotland's capital. Lots to see here, from the Norman period St Margaret's Chapel to the Scottish National War Memorial and Scotland's Crown Jewels.



**EDINBURGH GHOST WALK** – A choice of tour operators offer ghost walks in some of the most atmospheric parts of the Old Town. Entertaining and informative – but not for the nervous!

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[www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

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