

Homelands of the Clans



Your Detailed Itinerary

Homelands of the Clans

Day 1

Perth, the starting point of this itinerary, is also home of the Regimental Museum to the **Black Watch**, the oldest Highland regiment and a reminder that, as the old clan ways were swept aside, the Highland clans became a pool of men for the armies of imperial Britain. Go north for **Killiecrankie**, scene of a famous battle in 1689 when the clans on the Jacobite side (who wanted to restore the exiled Stuart King of Scotland) defeated the government opposition.

Continue on the A9 for Newtonmore and the **Clan Macpherson Museum** with its ancient clan relics. Nearby, and highly visible from the main road, are the Ruthven Barracks, destroyed by the Jacobite clans, Bonnie Prince Charlie's supporters, during the final Jacobite rebellion in 1745-6.

Day 2

The most important site connected with the ending of the old clan way of life can be found by continuing on the A9 and following signs for **Culloden**, near Inverness. After the defeat of the mostly Highland army of Bonnie Prince Charlie (though more Scots actually fought on the government side), severe measures were put in place to ensure that the clans could no longer act as 'private armies'. A huge military fortification was built at **Fort George**, near Culloden. Both sites should be visited – but allow enough time to appreciate the sheer scale of Fort George.

Day 3

Head west for Inverness and continue northwards, taking the A9, then the B9176 for the Struie Viewpoint over the Dornoch Firth and the old clanlands of the north. Drop down to the A836, turning west at Ardgay for Croick Church where, in 1845, 80 local people who had been cleared from their

lands in the glen took shelter in the churchyard and are said to have scratched messages on the glass of the church's east window which can still be seen today.

Return to Ardgay and circle north to take in the scenic Falls of Shin with its visitor centre and then east to **Dunrobin Castle** at Golspie. The castle, the largest house in the north of Scotland, is associated with the Sutherland clearances in the area and there is a Clan Sutherland room within the castle, with genealogical material.

Day 4

Return south via Strathpeffer to take the A832 at Garve for the west, reaching the coast at Loch Carron. Further south, **Eilean Donan Castle** stands on Loch Duich by the A87. Briefly retrace the route to cross to Skye by the Skye Bridge at Kyle of Lochalsh. Head for the north-west of the island to see Dunvegan Castle, the seat of the Clan MacLeod.

Day 5

Go south on the island, and, beyond Broadford, take the road for Sleat, the southernmost part of the island, sometimes known as the 'Garden of Skye'. Visit the Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles, with its comprehensive displays and story of the Lords of the Isles. From Armadale cross to the mainland at Mallaig by ferry.

Day 6

Take the 'Road to the Isles' back to Fort William, its name recalling the fort built here to control clan activities in the Great Glen. On the way, take in Glenfinnan where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied the local clans to his cause in 1745. Continue south to take the A82 to visit the National Trust for Scotland's visitor centre in **Glencoe**. Return to the shores of Loch Linnhe to head south for Oban, departure point for Mull, where the seat of the Macleans is at **Duart Castle**. Alternatively, stay on the mainland, continuing south for Tarbert and

Kennacraig, ferryport for the island of Islay, where the story of the Clan Donald can be discovered at **Finlaggan**.

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: Tartan scarves, Edinburgh © Paul Dodds/
VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint
Additional photography: Historic Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Viewpoint



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

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



Homelands of the Clans

In times long ago, the Highlands were the strongholds of the Gaelic-speaking clans – a race apart from Lowland Scotland. The clan system, with its emphasis on loyalty and kinship to the clan chief, began to break down during the 18th century, as Scotland changed with the modern age. Eventually, leaving their homelands voluntarily or otherwise, clansfolk were scattered across the world, though many to this day still feel the call of Scotland.



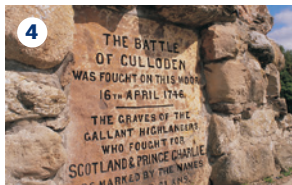
1 BLACK WATCH MUSEUM – The story of the oldest Highland regiment from its original raising as six independent companies in 1725 to the present day.



2 KILLIECRANKIE – This National Trust for Scotland visitor centre tells the story of the 1689 battle. Excellent local riverside walks, including the famous 'Soldier's Leap'.



3 CLAN MACPHERSON MUSEUM
In Newtonmore, this museum developed by enthusiasts of the Clan MacPherson has a wealth of clan relics, including chanters and swords, as well as genealogical material.



4 CULLODEN – The National Trust for Scotland look after this atmospheric battlesite, the last battle fought on mainland Britain. Vivid and poignant audio-visual displays bring it alive.



5 FORT GEORGE – Described as the finest surviving complete military fortification in Europe, built to control the Highlands and has never fired a shot in anger.



6 DUNROBIN CASTLE – Associated with the Sutherland clearances in the area, there is a Clan Sutherland room within the castle, with genealogical material.



7 EILEAN DONAN CASTLE
Much photographed icon of Scotland, destroyed by naval guns during the 1719 Jacobite uprising, and rebuilt in the 1930s.



8 GLENCOE – Visitor centre tells the story of the infamous Massacre of Glencoe! A party of Campbell soldiers took shelter with local Macdonalds, then betrayed their hospitality by attempting to murder them all.



9 DUART CASTLE – Home of the Clan Maclean, set in a prominent position overlooking the Sound of Mull. Originally built in the 14th century, with 20th century restoration.



10 FINLAGGAN, ISLAY – Headquarters for generations of Macdonald chiefs, on an island stronghold on a loch. Nearby interpretative centre tells their story.

