

A tour on the wild side



Your Detailed Itinerary

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Day 1 - Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Travel to Tarbet in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park along the A82. Take a morning cruise on Loch Lomond and take in the area's astounding beauty, or head to the east shore to discover wildlife at the Lodge Visitor Centre before taking a guided stroll through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. For the more adventurous, climb Ben Arthur, also named 'The Cobbler', to experience magnificent views. Deeper into the Trossachs, visit Monachyle Mhòr by Loch Voil where you can enjoy a relaxing stay amid stunning scenery.

Day 2 - Glen Coe - Mallaig

Rejoin the A82 and continue north through the iconic landscapes of Glen Coe and Loch Leven. Head through Fort William, the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK', to reach the Nevis Range Mountain Gondola at Anach Mor. Ride up to the summit and enjoy spectacular elevated views of Ben Nevis and the Great Glen, then

head back to Fort William and follow the Road to the Isles. At Glenfinnan, try to spot rare Black Throated Divers at Loch Shiel or marvel at the Glenfinnan Monument and continue along this stunning route to Mallaig, a quaint fishing village.

Day 3 - Isle of Skye

Make the inspiring journey from Mallaig over the sea to the Isle of Skye. Make the most of the island's expansive outdoors and walk through the grand Trotternish Ridge on the northernmost summit to experience the natural wonder of the Quiraing, a remarkable landslip. Once you've worked up an appetite, head to Kinloch Lodge by Sleat to enjoy sumptuous fresh seafood from the west Highlands. Spend your night in the village of Broadford where you can enjoy splendid views of the magnificent mountain ranges and seascapes.

Day 4 - Isle of Skye - John O'Groats

Before you depart Skye, make time to visit Kylerhea Otter Haven where you can spy these playful, intelligent creatures. Head north

through Sutherland and visit the North West Highland Geopark at either Lochinver, Lairg or Durness and take in stunning mountains and historic settlements. Continue to John O'Groats, the most northern tip of the British mainland. This area is known for extreme landscapes of coastal stacks, cliffs and beaches, which are well worth discovering before resting for the night.

Day 5 - Orkney

Take the ferry from nearby Scrabster to Stromness, Orkney. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Heart of Neolithic Orkney, and see the ancient Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae. Don't miss visiting some of the amazing nature reserves, which include 13 RSPB reserves and 36 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. On the Isle of Sanday, you can see adorable seal pups during certain seasons with the Sanday Ranger Service before heading to Kirkwall to rest from your busy day exploring.

Day 6 - Shetland

From Kirkwall, travel by ferry to Shetland. Explore the capital, Lerwick and be sure to see the

islands' most famous residents, the Shetland ponies, at Thordale Shetland Stud Centre. Explore Unst, with its lunar-like landscape at the Keen of Hamar National Nature Reserve and visit a seabird haven at the Hermaness Nature Centre. Or head to Yell, and bring binoculars to help you spot the resident otters. You can make your trip extra special by booking a stay in a lighthouse keeper's cottage.

Day 7 - Shetland - Aberdeen

Once you have taken in the sights and sounds of Shetland's wildlife, and explored its awe-inspiring sea stacks and sheltered beaches, be sure to pick up some natural souvenirs. Treat yourself to one of the great products of the region - a woollen Fair Isle jumper - from one of the artisan shops in and around Lerwick. You can then take the overnight ferry from Shetland to Aberdeen. From Aberdeen, give yourself at least three hours to travel to either Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Extend your trip

A wonderful way to explore the great outdoors is on two wheels. Follow the West Loch Lomond Cycle

Path after day 1 and enjoy the lovely views along the way. There are train stations at both ends of this route, making train travel a sustainable way to experience the National Park. If you feel like having fun on the water, check out the superb range of water activities available to try on the loch.

If time permits, it is well worth stopping to visit the stunning sands and crystalline shores of Arisaig, located only a few miles before Mallaig on day 2.

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Cover: Loch Shiel, near Fort William, is one of Scotland's most unspoilt natural treasures and a prime location for rare wildlife watching. © VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint



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From vast, dramatic wildernesses to breathtaking mountain vistas, you'll find endless, ever-changing landscapes waiting to be explored across Scotland. Find out about amazing secluded spots which provide sanctuary for enchanting wildlife and places to sample the best of our natural larder. Explore National Parks, follow coastlines and set off on island adventures to discover Scotland's natural beauty.



1
LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK
With over 720 square miles of splendid mountains, glens and lochs, there's plenty to see and do in Scotland's first National Park.



2
NEVIS RANGE MOUNTAIN GONDOLA
This attraction is great to visit at any time of year, offering snowsports in the winter and unparalleled vantage points in the summer.



3
WILDLIFE WATCHING AT LOCH SHIEL
Stretching 17 miles, Loch Shiel is one of Scotland's largest inland freshwater lochs and is home to a variety of rare wildlife.



4
THE QUIRAING (PART OF THE TROTTERNISH RIDGE), ISLE OF SKYE
The breathtaking landscape formation, the Quiraing, is one of Scotland's geological marvels, shaped and carved by the elements.

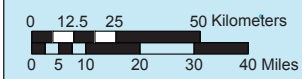


5
KYLERHEA OTTER HAVEN, ISLE OF SKYE
The easy walk to this quiet haven for otters, seals and other wildlife offers beautiful views over the strait of Kyle.



6
NORTH WEST HIGHLAND GEOPARK
In this majestic wilderness, you'll find ancient rocks and untamed landscapes of rugged coasts, dramatic ridges and rolling hills.

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7
HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY
Discover chambered tombs, ceremonial stone circles and ancient settlements that date back to Orkney's prehistoric past 5,000 years ago.



8
ORKNEY SEALS, SANDAY RANGER SERVICE (SANDAY)
A guided walk with a Sanday Ranger will give you the chance to see seals, wading birds and other marine life.



9
SHETLAND PONIES AT THE THORDALE SHETLAND STUD CENTRE, SHETLAND
At this breeding centre, you can see these delightful little ponies grazing in their herds.



10
HERMANESS NATURE CENTRE, SHETLAND
Overlooking Muckle Flugga, Britain's most northerly point, the Hermaness National Nature Reserve is home to thousands of seabirds.