

# Ghosts and Monsters



Scotland.  
Welcome to our life.



## Your Detailed Itinerary

Ghosts and Monsters

### Day 1

Start your spooky encounter in Edinburgh in **The Real Mary King's Close**. Your tour guide will show you where some of the apparitions have appeared in this atmospheric old setting. Then head north via the Forth Bridge and Dundee, for the A92 and **Montrose**.

At the north end of the town, the old aerodrome was the scene of a fatal accident involving a pilot who fell out of a plane (without a parachute), precipitating the first of several ghost stories involving airmen here. Visit the heritage museum in one of the original buildings for more information.

### Day 2

Continue north along the coast for Aberdeen and 'Castle Country'. A signposted castle trail will point you to some of its finest castles, including **Fyvie Castle**. Part fortress, part stately home, it is also the setting for a number of hauntings, including a phantom

trumpeter. From Fyvie, take rural roads cross-country north-east to reach Fraserburgh, home of the unique Museum of Scottish Lighthouses. Adjacent is the 16th century **Wine Tower**, from where, according to local legend the love-struck daughter of the local laird jumped to her death. However, it is the piper she fell in love with who is said to play below the tower – but only on dark and stormy nights!

### Day 3

Head west along the coast of the Moray Firth, taking the A95 west of Banff for Speyside via Keith and Grantown-on-Spey. This leads on to the edge of the Cairngorms by Aviemore. Overnight here for a closer view of Ben Macdui, second-highest mountain in Scotland, and the haunt of the tall and fearful Grey Man of Ben Macdui.

### Day 4

Take the A9 north via Inverness for Golspie and visit Dunrobin Castle, which resembles a French chateâu

with its fairytale turrets. The castle's Seamstress's Room is thought to be haunted by the ghost of a girl who fell to her death trying to escape out of the tower window. It is said that you can still hear her weeping and wailing.

### Day 5/6

Return to the A9, continuing north for Scrabster, ferry port for Orkney. **Skail House**, by Skara Brae, on the main island is a handsome 17th century mansion house with notable ghostly goings-on. Overnight on Orkney with the option of staying an extra night to explore the island.

### Day 7

Return to Scrabster and head west, turning south at Durness, enjoying the wild landscapes. Look for signs for Kinlochbervie, taking the road beyond to park near Sheigra. Walk to **Sandwood Bay**, 8 miles (13km), which some say is haunted but is certainly one of the most enchanted and beautiful stretches

of coast on the north-west seaboard. Rejoin the main road, continuing south and over the handsome Kylesku Bridge on the A837. You will pass the ruin of **Ardreck Castle** on the shores of wild Loch Assynt. This old fortress is also haunted.

### Day 8

Continue south via Ullapool, taking the A832 round the coast past Little Loch Broom and Gruinard Bay. At Laide, look for a sign for Mellon Udrigle. Follow this sign and a few minutes drive brings you to a small loch (left). In the mid-19th century, local people began to see a dark shape like an upturned boat rise out of the loch on several occasions. Their landlord tried to drain the loch – but after two years gave up! By coincidence, the stretch of water was called Loch na Beiste (loch of the monster) – a name it had been given long before the sightings and still carries today.

### Day 9

There are many other tales of strange events along this west coast and even another monster or two! If you return to Inverness, take the road down the Great Glen watching out for the Loch Ness Monster as you pass, then go west from Fort William. On the way to Mallaig you will pass dark and mysterious **Loch Morar**, where in the 1960s a very curious large creature in the loch is said to have bumped into an angler's boat!

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Old streets, ruined castles, empty moors and dark and silent lochs – no wonder the mind can play strange tricks sometimes, as you may find while exploring some of Scotland's more atmospheric settings. The imagination of the Celts long ago populated this landscape with all kinds of other-worldly beings, from fairies to full-scale monsters. Take this tour to discover places where tales are still told which defy explanation!



**1 THE REAL MARY KING'S CLOSE**  
Below Edinburgh's Royal Mile, a long-abandoned street or 'close' with its own selection of ghostly presences, most notably the ghost of a little girl called Annie.



**2 MONTROSE AIR STATION** – Now with an on-site Heritage Museum, this aerodrome was haunted by the ghost of Lt. Desmond Arthur whose World War I biplane had a botched repair and crashed. Apparitions of other airmen have also been reported.



**3 FYVIE CASTLE** – Plenty of ghostly activity at this 13th century castle, including a green lady who has been seen gliding along the corridors!



**4 THE WINE TOWER** – A local laird locked up his daughter after she fell in love with a piper – an unsuitable match. He murdered the piper and his daughter jumped to her death. A ghostly piper still plays on stormy nights!



**5 URQUHART CASTLE** – Historically important castle, also famous as a monster spotting vantage point, overlooking the deepest part of Loch Ness.



**6 SKAILL HOUSE** – 17th century mansion house, complete with a ghost which terrifies dogs, footsteps heard in empty rooms and reports from guests that, while in bed, a presence joins them and sits on the bed!



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0 12.5 25 50 Kilometers  
0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

## Ghosts and Monsters



**7 SANDWOOD BAY** – Beautiful and remote beach in the north-west Highlands, accessible only on foot. A great day's walk – but watch out for the ghost of an old sailor, as well as a mermaid.



**8 ARDVRECK CASTLE** – Picturesquely-ruined 15th century castle said to be haunted by a weeping figure, daughter of a Maeldeid chieftain who tried to marry her off to the Devil!



**9 LOCH MORAR** – This is home for a monster called Morar. There is plenty of room for her as Loch Morar, at 101.7ft (310m), is the deepest fresh water loch in Europe.



**10 ABERFOYLE** – A marked trail leads to the top of the Doon Hill near Aberfoyle. The local minister, the Rev Robert Kirk, was taken into Fairyland from here.