

# Mystery & Legends



Scotland.  
Welcome to our life.



## Your Detailed Itinerary

Mystery & Legends

### Day 1

over the Cairn o Mount road (the B974) for Royal Deeside.

Visit **Rosslyn Chapel**, just south of Edinburgh, then explore Scotland's capital. There are many legends associated with Edinburgh, especially the Old Town. For example, Major Weir was a warlock who lived near the Grassmarket. He used to send his walking stick out on errands! Take an organised 'ghost tour' of the Old Town, or visit Mary King's Close, where hauntings apparently still happen. **Edinburgh Castle** is also the setting for many ghostly tales.

### Day 2

Follow signs for Perth, then the A94 for **Glamis Castle**, sometimes described as the most haunted castle in Scotland. Continue north for the White and Brown Caterthuns, lonely, ruinous hill-forts north of the main A90. The White Caterthun has a magic stone, by the north rampart. Touch it by moonlight and you will come into money! Edzell Castle is also nearby, haunted by a White Lady. Continue

### Day 3

Make your way west up the valley of the River Dee. Ben Macdui lies in the Cairngorms to the west and is associated with the Grey Man of Ben Macdui. A giant figure, witnessed by many around the summit, walks in the mist and snow. Take the A939 via Tomintoul for Grantown-on-Spey.

### Day 4

Staying on the A939, continue north via Dava Moor. The moorland here is associated with the Scottish king Macbeth and his encounter with three witches in Shakespeare's play. Follow signs for Inverness to reach **Culloden**, setting for the last battle fought in Britain, when the government army defeated the Jacobite forces under Bonnie Prince Charlie.

### Day 5

From Inverness go north through the Black Isle. The A832 leads to Fortrose, where there is a memorial to the Brahan Seer, one of the most famous seers in Scotland. (He foretold, for example, the coming of the railways to the Highlands.) Unhappily, he came to a gruesome end here: burned in a tar barrel for making an indiscreet prediction! Continue to **Cromarty**, associated with a mermaid legend. Return to Inverness.

### Day 6

Go south for **Loch Ness**, where the exhibitions at Drumnadrochit let you explore the Loch Ness phenomenon. Take the A87 west at Invermoriston, continuing to Skye via the Skye Bridge at Kyle of Lochalsh. Follow signs for Portree. The main road near Sligachan has in the past been haunted by a phantom motor car – a 1934 Austin! – which approaches from behind, overtakes, then disappears!

### Day 7

From Portree, circle west for **Dunvegan Castle**, ancient seat of the Clan MacLeod, associated with the legend of the Fairy Flag of Dunvegan.

### Day 8

Leave the island by the Armadale to Mallaig ferry. From Mallaig, a short way south on the A830 brings you to **Loch Morar**, also associated with a Loch Ness-type phenomenon of unexplained sightings. Continue to Fort William. Discover the heritage of Fort William and Lochaber at the town's West Highland Museum, said to have its own ghost – a former curator who can be heard typing!

### Day 9

Go south and west for Glencoe then continue via Crianlarich and Lochearnhead for Callander and the **Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitor Centre**. Rob Roy was a real-life

Highlander but attracted many local tales and legends to him.

### Day 10

Explore 'Rob Roy Country' by heading west on the A821 via Loch Katrine and Aberfoyle. The Rev Robert Kirk, the local minister there, was an authority on fairies and often conversed with them. He was found dead on the nearby Doon Hill one night in 1692. Afterwards, he appeared in ethereal form, looking for help in escaping from the fairy world. It is said he has now been turned into the tall pine which grows on the hilltop. (A waymarked walk guides you to the top.) Turn east for **Stirling Castle**, with easy motorway connections nearby for Edinburgh or Glasgow.

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Cover: The ornate ceiling of Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin © Brendan MacNeill, VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint  
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Perhaps it's something about the ambience of old castles, the sound of the wind over lonely moors or the mystery lurking round dark woods – but there's no denying that parts of Scotland certainly have a special atmosphere. Local legends tell of fairy-folk or mysterious monsters haunting lochs, or unexplained sightings high on the Scottish hills. Best not to take it all too seriously!



**1 ROSSLYN CHAPEL** – Setting for Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*, local tales have phantom monks floating around, while strange lights around the chapel herald deaths in the Sinclair family, according to the writings of Sir Walter Scott.



**2 EDINBURGH CASTLE** – A headless drummer, a ghostly piper on the battlements, prisoners left over from the Napoleonic Wars and even a phantom dog – just some of the strange apparitions reported from here!



**3 GLAMIS CASTLE** – Lots of legends here, including the 'Grey Lady of Glamis' flitting around chapel and clock-tower, while the 4th Earl of Crawford haunts a walled-up room – where he plays cards with the Devil!



**4 CULLODEN** – A battle-worn Highlander sometimes haunts the memorial cairn. A dark-haired Highlander in Stewart tartan appears on one of the grave mounds.



**5 CROMARTY** – Old-established picturesque town associated with writer Hugh Miller. (Birthplace cottage open to view) In his 'Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland' he describes a local mermaid.



**6 LOCH NESS** – The magical kelpie, or 'water-horse' is a stock figure in Gaelic legend. The most famous water-horse, in the world, known as the Loch Ness Monster, or 'Nessie', may be seen here.



**7 DUNVEGAN CASTLE** – Remnants of a silk flag possibly dating from as early as the 4th century AD. Legend states it was woven by fairies to be used only three times by MacLeod chiefs for protection in times of trouble. It has been used twice so far.



**8 LOCH MORAR** – The deepest fresh water loch in Europe joined to the sea by the River Morar, Britain's shortest river. Legend says that 'Morag' the monster lives in the loch.



**9 ROB ROY AND TROSSACHS VISITOR CENTRE** – From his birth by Loch Katrine to his final resting place at Balquhider, discover the story and the legends of Rob Roy, the most famous Highlander of them all.



**10 STIRLING CASTLE** – Once the most strategically important of Scotland's fortresses, Stirling Castle is associated with William 'Braveheart' Wallace and his defeat of the English occupying forces at the nearby Battle of Stirling Bridge.