



STORYTELLING

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Your Coach: Rabbie's Tours

Discover the real Scotland with their Highland mini coach tours. Tours depart all year from Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. One day sightseeing tours to Scotland's well known highlights such as Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, Stirling Castle and St Andrews. Alternatively, try our two to sixteen day tours to some of Scotland's hidden gems - Iona, Mull, Skye, Orkney, The Outer Hebrides, Glen Affric and the far North West.

Rabbie's Tours

Rabbie's,
6 Waterloo Place,
Edinburgh,
EH1 3EG

C: Patricia Knight
T: +44 131 226 3133
E: tours@rabbies.com
W: <https://www.ctcscotland.com/>



STGA: Scottish Tourist Guides Association

The STGA has over 400 members based in Scotland listed under different categories including Blue Badge Guides, Green Badge Guides and Yellow Badge Guides. Each guide brings a host of different skills ranging from languages to specialist areas of interest but what they all have in common is that they are great communicators.

SCOTTISH TOURIST GUIDES ASSOCIATION

Norrie's House
18b Broad Street
Stirling, FK8 1EF
T: + (0) 1786 447 784
E: info@stga.co.uk
W: www.stga.co.uk

Your Guide: Ross Tillbrook
T: 07957 919 313
E: rosstillbrook@yahoo.com
W: <https://app.stga.co.uk/guides/ross-tillbrook>



Day One

12:00 Meet your guide Ross Tillbrook at the Scottish Storytelling Centre and John Knox House.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre is a home for Scotland's Culture, creating a unique venue that incorporates contemporary design and entertainment with medieval architecture and intrigue. It is a vibrant arts venue located on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, presenting a packed programme of live storytelling, theatre, music, exhibitions, family events and workshops happening all year round. Your clients can discover Scotland's rich story heritage, find the dragon's nest, enjoy the story wall, browse the bookshop or simply relax in our Café and soak in the atmosphere.

Scottish Storytelling Centre

43 - 45 High Street,
Edinburgh,
EH1 1SR



Contact: Daniel Abercrombie

T: 0131 652 3273

E: venuehire@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

13:30 Depart for Linlithgow

14:15 Arrive at Linlithgow Palace for Mary's Meanders Tour

Mary's Meanders is an award-winning independent tour guide company specialising in fully customised escorted day tours around central Scotland and Ireland. If your clients are passionate about history, fantastic castles, scenery and amazing stories, this tour has everything you need. They specialise in Ancestry, bespoke, Outlander and Mary Queen of Scots tours. This tour will feature Linlithgow Palace and Blackness Castle, two important sites in Scottish history that have also been the inspiration and location for books, films and television.

Mary's Meanders Tours

Linlithgow,
West Lothian,
Scotland



Contact: Emma Chalmers

T: +44 781 868 7066

E: emma@marysmeanders.co.uk

W: <https://www.marysmeanders.co.uk/>

16:15 Depart for Stirling

17:00 Arrive at Stirling Highland Hotel for dinner and overnight stay

A handsome Victorian building, The Stirling Highland Hotel is in the heart of the city known as The Gateway to the Highlands. Built in 1854 as the city's High School, the hotel is within easy reach of both Glasgow and Edinburgh, and perfectly placed for exploring Stirling, the nearby castles and

battlefields, and the magnificent Scottish Highlands beyond. Offering first class accommodation, a restaurant, private function and conference suites and a luxury leisure club makes this the ideal property for business or pleasure. The hotel, uniquely, is home to a 130-year-old observatory.

Stirling Highland Hotel

29 Spittal Street,
Stirling,
FK8 1DU

Contact: Fiona Hunter

T: 01786 272722

E: Fiona.Hunter@stirlinghighlandhotel.co.uk

W: <https://www.stirlinghighlandhotel.co.uk/>

Day Two

09:00 Depart from hotel with Stirling Walking Tours, towards Stirling Castle

Led by local expert guides, our popular and entertaining walking tours are an enthralling mix of history and storytelling. Tours include Stirling Castle and The Secrets of the Old Town, Wallace and Bruce and the Wars of Independence and City Walking Tour followed by Craft Gin and Whisky tasting. They also offer tours in international languages with French, German, Spanish and Italian speaking guides. Their expert guides have appeared on a number of programmes about Stirling (including BBC1, BBC2, Channel 4, Channel 5, and the Discovery Channel). Stirling walking Tours are delighted to work with travel trade to ensure your clients enjoy the best experience in Stirling.

Stirling Walking Tours

49 St John St,
Stirling
FK8 1ED

Contact: Jason Clark

T: +44 1786 842 349

E: info@stirlingwalkingtours.com

W: <https://stirlingwalkingtours.com/>



11:00 Depart for Crieff Hydro

11:45 Arrive at Crieff Hydro for lunch

900 acres, 215 rooms, seven restaurants and 60 onsite activities: Crieff Hydro is one of Scotland's leading four-star hotels. Right in the heart of scenic Perthshire, the Hydro is popular with groups large and small – and there are activities to suit every taste. Couples can enjoy a relaxing break with a trip to the adult-only Victorian Spa, BABOR and Aromatherapy Associates spa treatments and a round of golf, or you can always tear up their sand and gravel quarry on a quad biking experience.

Crieff Hydro

Ferntower Rd, Crieff, PH7 3LQ

Contact: Terri McAllister

T: +44 1764 651 837

E: terri.mcallister@crieffhydro.com

W: <https://www.crieffhydro.com/>



13:30 Depart for Innerpeffray Library

13:45 Arrive at Innerpeffray Library

Small, special and a heritage treasure trove: Scotland's first lending library is a museum with a difference. The elegant 18th century building, beside the River Earn in gorgeous rural Perthshire lets you step back in time. In the utterly unique Borrowers' Register, visitors from all over the world find their ancestors. The library offer bespoke, personal tours for lovers of history, culture and of course, books. Perfect for small tours, study trips and people looking for 'something different'.

The Library of Innerpeffray

Innerpeffray,

Crieff,

Perthshire,

PH7 3RF

Contact: Lara Haggerty

T: +44 1764 652 819

E: info@innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk

W: <http://www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk/>



14:45 Depart for Falkland Palace

15:45 Arrive at Falkland Palace

Cared by the National Trust for Scotland, your clients can visit one of Scotland's finest Renaissance palaces, a place adored by Mary, Queen of Scots. Explore this treasure trove of fascinating 17th-century artefacts, see the magnificent Chapel Royal, and walk in the colourful and diverse grounds, home to the world's oldest surviving real tennis court. Meet Mary herself as she tours you around one of the most unique and significant sites in Scotland.

Falkland Palace

East Port,

Falkland,

Cupar

KY15 7DA



Contact: Peter Stewart

T: +44 131 458 0204

E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk

W: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/falkland-palace



16:45 Depart for Balbirnie House

17:00 Arrive at Balbirnie House for dinner and overnight stay

Balbirnie House is a delightful 18th century Georgian mansion nestled amidst 400 acres of rolling parkland in the heart of Fife. A small luxury award-winning country house hotel which combines fine food, lovely surroundings and above all a real sense of friendly Scottish hospitality, creating a quite unique setting for today's house guests to enjoy. With 31 bedrooms, a 3-bedroom Triplex apartment, 2 restaurants (The Orangery with speciality grill section and Balbirnie Bistro), 8 different private rooms seating from 4 to 250 and beautifully landscaped gardens, Balbirnie House offers a wonderful experience, whatever the occasion of your visit.

Balbirnie House

Markinch

KY7 6NE

Contact: Sarah Rees

T: +44 1592 610 066

E: sarah@balbirnie.co.uk

W: <https://balbirnie.co.uk/>



Day Three

09:00 Depart for JM Barrie's Birthplace

10:15 Arrive at JM Barrie's Birthplace

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, your clients can explore the birthplace and childhood home of Peter Pan creator, J M Barrie, see how his early life inspired his work and visit the exhibition, complete with original theatrical costumes and manuscripts. Visitors can also stop by the wash-house where the young author performed his first play at the age of seven.

JM Barrie's Birthplace

9 Brechin Rd,

Kirriemuir

DD8 4BX



Contact: Peter Stewart

T: +44 131 458 0204

E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk

W: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/j-m-barries-birthplace

11:15 Depart for Glamis Castle

11:30 Arrive at Glamis Castle for visit and lunch

Glamis Castle is a living, breathing monument to Scottish heritage, hospitality and enjoyment for all. The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen

Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret. Your clients can dine also, with fresh Scottish food served in the charming Victorian Castle Kitchen.

Glamis Castle

Forfar
DD8 1RJ

Contact: Doreen Stout
T: +44 1307 840 393
E: doreen@glamis-castle.co.uk
W: <https://www.glamis-castle.co.uk/>



14:00 Depart for Arbikie Highland Distillery

15:00 Arrive at Arbikie Highland Distillery

Arbikie Distillery draws from four centuries of farming experience within the Stirling Family. Developing from a dairy farm, to crops and then innovating to become one of the world's few field-to-bottle distilleries. Perched by the scenic views of Lunan Bay, all ingredients for Arbikie spirits are planted, sown, grown and harvested in the surrounding 2,000 acres that make up the estate. The ingenious distilling duo- Kirsty Black and Christian Perez- are there to ensure that the history, tradition and provenance of Scottish distilling is built into the DNA of each terroir-based spirit. Arbikie will begin distillery tours from Spring 2020.

Arbikie Highland Distillery

Inverkeilor,
Arbroath
DD11 4UZ

Contact: Rachel Thomson
T: +44 1241 830 770
E: rachel.thomson@arbikie.com
W: <https://www.arbikie.com/>

16:15 Depart for Glen Clova Hotel

17:15 Arrive at Glen Clova Hotel for dinner and overnight stay

Glen Clova Hotel is a small family run country hotel situated at the foot of beautiful Glen Doll in the Angus Glens. Your clients will find genuinely warm hospitality at this hotel which can accommodate up to 84 guests across the hotel, lodges and steadings rooms. Whether your clients are here to enjoy the stunning views and scenery, have a blissful lodge escape, a relaxing hotel break or some delicious food Glen Clova offers it all. Located on the edge of the Cairngorm National Park this hotel also offers a selection of outdoor activities nearby from walking and biking to fishing and shooting.

Glen Clova Hotel

Glenclova, Angus DD8 4QS

Contact: Mhairi Preston
T: +44 157 555 0350



E: marketing@clova.com
W: <https://www.clova.com/>

Day Four

09:00 Depart for Stonehaven

09:45 Arrive at Stonehaven Sea Safari

Your clients can experience the thrill of a specially built Sea Safari boat as we get visitors up close and personal to some of the world's most popular sea and wildlife. Whether it's beautiful and highly intelligent dolphins or the unmistakable colours of the Puffin to the secret caves and waterfalls that cannot be seen from land, your clients are guaranteed to have an amazing experience for the whole family to enjoy. Whether they are looking for a short trip to Dunnottar Castle, a full sea safari taking in the bird sanctuary & seals or a private charter to watch the sunrise, the crew and boat are here to make this a truly memorable experience for you.

Stonehaven Sea Safari

Stonehaven Harbour,
Stonehaven,
Scotland

Contact: Lorna Craddock
T: +44 1569 766 340
E: lorna@stonehavenseasafari.co.uk
W: <https://stonehavenseasafari.co.uk/>



11:15 Depart for Aberdeen Art Gallery

12:30 Arrive at Aberdeen Art Gallery for lunch and visit

Re-imagined, re-born, ready to be re-discovered. Aberdeen Art Gallery is now open, following a once-in-a-lifetime transformation. A world-class destination with an extensive collection of Scottish and international art.

Aberdeen Art Gallery

Schoolhill
Aberdeen
AB10 1FQ

Tel: 03000 200 293
Fax: +44 (0) 1224 523666
Email: info@aagm.co.uk



VisitScotland's Themed Years

Year of Scotland's Coasts and Waters 2020

In 2020, Scotland celebrates its Coasts and Waters with a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

From our beautiful natural features including coasts, lochs and rivers to our industrial heritage such as our canals, mills and the creation of our national drink – whisky, Scotland's Coasts and Waters have shaped our culture, our stories and our way of life.

So, whether you want to navigate your way around distant isles or canals, experience Scotland's maritime heritage at a visitor attraction, enjoy Scotland's abundant natural larder or discover Scotland's wildlife on a local boat trip - Scotland's coasts and waters are perfect for get-away-from-it-all adventures.

For more info www.visitscotland.com/ycw2020 and join the conversation using #YCW2020



Year of Scotland's Stories 2022

Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 will shine a spotlight on the richness of our stories, past and present; celebrating our literary Icons and heroes, diverse voices, stories that have leapt from page to screen and stage, the richness of our myths, legends and local tales - and the places that have inspired them.

The words of Robert Burns are known and celebrated across the world, as are works by Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, while stories by modern Scottish authors, such as JK Rowling's Harry Potter tales, are inspiring today's generation.

The story of real life legends such as King Robert the Bruce, Sir William Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots have inspired poems, books and even Oscar winning movies.

Stories of magic, ghosts, witches, haunted castles and tales of mystical figures such as Kelpies abound, and there are the oral traditions handed down through generations in Scotland's many diverse communities. We invite visitors to join us in exploring the rich history of Scotland's stories in 2022, including a programme of events which will take place across the year



VisitScotland Websites

Our travel trade website offers the travel industry a one-stop-shop for **Scotland information, inspiration and tool kit**. The site is designed to assist tour operators and agents to sell destination Scotland more effectively to their clients.

Travel trade website www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com

Destination Education Programme www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent

VisitScotland consumer site www.visitscotland.com

Information on travel trade website

- Inspirational itineraries
- Downloadable e-brochures and maps
- Link to multimedia library for images and videos
- Online destination education programme
- Opt-in to receive our monthly travel trade e-newsletter.
- A comprehensive directory of Scottish companies who have committed to special rates, discounts and commissions exclusively available for the travel trade.

General websites

Britrail	www.britrail.com
News & Weather information	www.bbc.co.uk/weather
British Train information	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Scottish Train information	www.scotrail.co.uk
Bus information	www.citylink.co.uk
Historic Environment Scotland	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
National Trust for Scotland	www.nts.org.uk