



# LOCHS, CASTLES AND NATURE

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

## Day One

### Cruise Loch Lomond

Cruise Loch Lomond is the largest private passenger cruise boat operator in Scotland offering flexibility & reliability to travel trade guaranteeing exclusive use of a vessel that suits groups times and itineraries. The company operates cruises from Tarbet & Inveruglas on the A82 road at the dramatic fjord end of Loch Lomond, both sites have ample free coach parking, toilets & coffee shops. The award-winning family business continues to invest in the fleet of 8 vessels enhancing the visitor experience with live commentary on every cruise.

Cruise Loch Lomond  
The Boatyard,  
Tarbet,  
Argyll and Bute,  
G83 7DG

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



### The Scottish Crannog Centre

Join the 21st Century Crannog Community where your clients will be guaranteed a warm welcome and taken on a fascinating journey into Scotland's prehistory. Walk in the footsteps of the original Crannog dwellers and immerse yourself in village life with original artefacts; demonstrations of textiles, cooking and ancient crafts & technologies; paddle into prehistory in one of our replica longboats and take in the atmosphere inside the Crannog Roundhouse.

Scottish Crannog Centre  
Kenmore,  
South Loch Tay,  
Perthshire,  
PH15 2HY

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



### Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier

Artisan Gourmet Chocolates handmade by Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier. Enjoy a Chocolate Tour & Tasting, relax in the Chocolate Lounge and browse the magical Chocolate Shop. Discover the Scottish Chocolate Centre; a multimedia exhibition which gives you an insight into the history of chocolate, the cocoa journey from bean to bar, the differences between mass-produced and couverture chocolates plus some little-known facts about chocolate.

Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier  
Grandtully,  
Perthshire,  
PH9 0PL

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



For all your travel trade needs: [www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com](http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com)

## Day Two

### Ballindalloch Castle

**Known as 'The Pearl of the North', Ballindalloch Castle is one of the most romantic and renowned castles in Scotland. Located in the heart of Speyside, Scotland's most prolific whisky region, Ballindalloch Castle is one of the few private castles in Scotland that has been lived in continuously by the family which founded it, the Macpherson-Grants.**

Ballindalloch Castle  
Ballindalloch,  
Banffshire,  
AB37 9AX

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



### Crathie Kirk

Crathie Kirk is a small Church of Scotland parish church in the Scottish village of Crathie, best known for being the regular place of worship of the British Royal Family when they are in residence at the nearby Balmoral Castle.

Crathie Kirk  
2 Fergach Cottages,  
Crathie,  
Ballater,  
AB35 5UL

W: <http://braemarandcrathieparish.org.uk/crathie-kirk/>



### Braemar Experience

**Braemar Highland Experience shows you the landscape through a local's eye**, sharing with you our passion for the history, culture and wildlife of Scotland. We can search for an elusive monster or a forgotten glen, take you to hand-picked artisan shops or share fabulous photographic opportunities. This could be combined with an off-road safari or guided walking. Whatever your interests, we guarantee unforgettable memories and personal service based on our wide knowledge of the area. Starting at the Gathering Ground as it will be relatively quiet and a rather interesting spot, Journey down to Linn of dee where Braemar experience will tell you a bit about the history, flora and fauna of the area.

Braemar Experience  
Crathie,  
Ballater,  
AB35 5TP

W: <https://www.bhe.scot/>



## Mar Lodge Estate

Mar Lodge Estate is situated six miles from Braemar in the heart of Royal Deeside. It forms part of the core area of the Cairngorms National Park, internationally recognised as the most important nature conservation landscape in the British Isles. The estate contains four of the five highest mountains in Britain and the upper watershed of the River Dee and remnant Caledonian pine forest of national importance. The outstanding wildlife and birdlife on this prime example of a Highland estate are characteristic of the northern mountainous area of Britain.

Mar Lodge Estate  
Braemar,  
Aberdeenshire,  
AB35 5YJ

W: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/mar-lodge-estate>



## Day Three

## Palace of Holyroodhouse

Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of Her Majesty The Queen in Scotland, stands at the **end of Edinburgh's Royal Mile**. They offer group, special and private morning or evening visits. With free coach parking, discounted group rates, a group-friendly café and shop, the Palace is a magnificent visit for groups all year round.

Palace of Holyroodhouse  
Canongate,  
Edinburgh,  
EH8 8DX

W: <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse>



## Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle is one of the oldest fortified places in Europe. With a long rich history as a royal residence, military garrison, prison and fortress, it is alive with many exciting tales. When you climb Castle Hill, you will walk in the footsteps of soldiers, kings and queens – and even the odd pirate or two. Though parts of it remain in military use, the castle is now a world-famous visitor **attraction. It's also an iconic** part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

Edinburgh Castle  
Castlehill,  
Edinburgh,  
EH1 2NG

W: <https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/>





## **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](http://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](http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com)

Destination Education Programme [www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent](http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent)

VisitScotland consumer site [www.visitscotland.com](http://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	<a href="http://www.britrail.com">www.britrail.com</a>
News & Weather information	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather">www.bbc.co.uk/weather</a>
British Train information	<a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a>
Scottish Train information	<a href="http://www.scotrail.co.uk">www.scotrail.co.uk</a>
Bus information	<a href="http://www.citylink.co.uk">www.citylink.co.uk</a>
Historic Environment Scotland	<a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk">www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</a>
National Trust for Scotland	<a href="http://www.nts.org.uk">www.nts.org.uk</a>
Scottish Tourist Guides Association	<a href="http://www.stga.co.uk">www.stga.co.uk</a>