



Discover the Spirit of the Highlands Itinerary

Getting Started

Event App

The VisitScotland Connect 2023 mobile app is a great way to get you started with the workshop. It has all the important information you'll need and features to enhance your experience. A handy tool for you to use throughout the event

Using the app, you will be able to:

- View a snapshot of your workshop programme, timings and workshop floorplan
- Connect with other attendees, network, and take notes during the workshop
- Check out buyers' profiles and information
- Have access to important event updates and reminders all from your mobile phone

[Apple App](#)

[Google App Store](#)

The app content is being prepared and will be ready soon. You will receive an email from EventsAir the week before the event with instructions on how to set it up.

Social Media

We would love for you to share your time at VisitScotland Connect via social media. Please use **#VisitScotlandConnect** and tag any of the following accounts and we will re-share where we can:

[@VisitScotNews](#) on Twitter

[@VisitScotland](#) on LinkedIn

[@VisitScotland Travel Trade](#) on LinkedIn

Driver Guide on Fam Trip

Rabbie's

Award winning operator of both scheduled tours and group packages. Rabbie's have a unique program of guaranteed departure tours for FITs from 1 to 16 days in length. Maximum group size is 16 people, for a more personal and friendly experience. They also offer custom-made tours and transfers for groups.

- Rabbie's Trail Burners, 6 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG : www.rabbies.com
- +44 (0)131 226 3133 : tours@rabbies.com



1 - Rabbie's Tours



Your VisitScotland contact on fam trip

Chiara Bortolini

Intermediary Partnerships Executive

Market Development & Intermediary Marketing

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Thursday 20th April 2023

Meeting point

Location: P&J Live

[Google Maps Direction](#)

Meeting time: 1615hrs

Depart: 1630hrs



P&J LIVE

Stotfield Hotel

1800hrs - Arrive at Stotfield Hotel for dinner and overnight stay

The Stotfield Hotel is a 47 bedroom hotel, centrally located in the seaside town of Lossiemouth on the beautiful Moray Coast which is an ideal base for day trips in Moray, Grampian, Aberdeen City & Shire, The Highlands, Loch Ness and beyond. The hotel offers a warm welcome from a friendly and professional team. They have a well stocked bar, their restaurant serves excellent quality food and their rooms offer comfort and calm surroundings to relax after an active day.

- Stotfield Road, Lossiemouth, Moray, IV31 6QS : <https://stotfieldhotel.com/>
- Contact: Billy Roche : +44 (0) 1343 812011 : billy@stotfieldhotel.com



2 - Stotfield Hotel

Friday 21st April 2023

Meeting Point

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- *Location: Stotfield Hotel Reception*
 - *Meeting Time: 0845hrs*
 - *Depart: 0900hrs*
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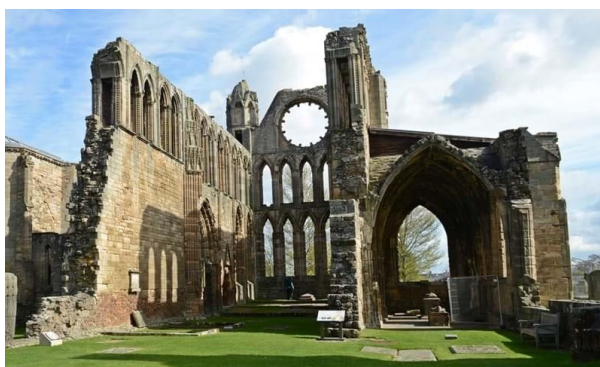
0915hrs - Photo stop at Elgin Cathedral

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and suitable footwear (wear a waterproof jacket in case of rain, but no open toed shoes or sandals).

Elgin Cathedral, also known as the 'Lantern of the North' is a majestic, historic ruin situated in Elgin. It is one of Scotland's most beautiful medieval buildings, dating back to the 13th century. Begun in 1224, Elgin was the principal church of the bishops of Moray. It lost its roof shortly after the Protestant Reformation of 1560, and later its central tower fell. But the cathedral's fortunes began to change when it became a visitor attraction in the early 1800s.

- Elgin, Moray, IV30 1HU : www.historicenvironment.scot
- Contact: Historic Environment Scotland trade team : +44 (0) 131 668 8640 : trade@hes.scot

0930hrs - Depart for Johnstons of Elgin



3 - Elgin Cathedral - Credit: www.historicenvironment.scot

Johnstons of Elgin

0935hrs - Arrive at Johnstons of Elgin for a private tour

Johnstons of Elgin is a unique five star visitor centre at our original 220 year old mill on the banks of the River Lossie in Elgin. One of the world's leaders in luxury cashmere and fine woollens, your clients will take a guided tour around the mill to discover outstanding quality in the making. They can browse the clothing & accessories range in their millshop before heading to the courtyard to experience their homewares and fabrics. They will also be able to visit their Taste Our Best accredited coffee shop to enjoy breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea.

- Newmill, Elgin, Moray, IV30 4AF : <https://www.johnstonscashmere.com/retail/>
- Contact: Stewart Marshall : +44 (0) 1343 554095 : guestexperience@johnstonsofelgin.com

1045hrs - Depart for Blervie House



4 - Johnstons of Elgin



Blervie House

1115hrs - Arrive at Blervie House for a show round and lunch

Blervie House located just 30 minutes from Inverness is a 5 Star venue in an amazing setting offering 11 double rooms and 1 single room. All within in a completely renovated Historic Scotland listed house that now has all the modern conveniences required today but provides the feel of a bygone era. Luxury furnishings abound, private grounds give seclusion, guests have access to the whole house. Perfect for FIT travellers, small groups and exclusive use. An ideal base for exploring the many attractions this area offers. This is the ideal place to relax and unwind.

- Blervie House Estate, Rafford, Forres, Moray, IV36 2RU : <http://www.blervie.com/>
- Contact: Sheena Thompson : +44 (0) 1309 674629 : Sheena@blervie.com

1300hrs - Depart for Dolphin Spirit



5 - The Sitting Room - Credit: <http://www.blervie.com/>



Dolphin Spirit

1400hrs - Arrive at Dolphin Spirit for a cruise

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and suitable footwear (wear a waterproof jacket in case of rain, but no open toed shoes or sandals).

Dolphin Spirit offer 2 wildlife watching boat trips from Inverness into the Moray Firth in search of seals, dolphins, otters and other sea creatures. They run from April to October, 7 days a week. Your clients can enjoy a leisurely trip onboard the 65-seat Dolphin Spirit with a guide, or a fast RIB experience.

- Inverness Marina, Stadium Road, Inverness, IV1 1FF : <https://dolphinspirit.co.uk/>
- Contact: Yvette Hogan : +44 (0) 754 480 0620 : admin@dolphinspirit.co.uk

1500hrs - Depart for Inverness Town House



6 - Dolphin Spirit



Inverness Castle Experience

1515hrs - Arrive at Inverness Town House

The Inverness Castle Experience is a project that will create a must-see visitor attraction in Inverness, celebrating the spirit of the Highlands past, present and future. The creativity, well-being, culture, heritage, natural environment and language of this unique part of Scotland will all form part of the story told. The attraction will bring new and returning visitors to the area and inspire people to visit all parts of the Highlands.

Inverness Castle is being transformed to become a gateway for Highland tourism, supporting economic growth throughout the Highland area and extending the benefits beyond the castle walls. It aims to raise awareness of the Highlands internationally, extend visitor stay and increase visitor spend in the area, whilst also providing opportunity to link historic, cultural and natural attractions across the Highlands to everyone's benefit.

- High Life Highland, Inverness Castle & Events, Head Office, Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SS : <https://www.spiritofthehighlands.com>
- Contact: Rachel Cunningham : +44 (0) 1349 781700 : info@spiritofthehighlands.com

1615hrs - Depart for The Royal Marine Hotel Brora



7 - Credit: Mather & Co for the Artist impression of the Inverness Castle Experience and Gardens

Royal Marine Hotel Brora

1735hrs - Arrive at The Royal Marine Hotel Brora for dinner and overnight stay

Highland Coast Hotels are proud to bring together a collection of unique hotels on the NC500. The Royal Marine Hotel Brora is located only an hour from Inverness. Your clients can stay in this charming Highland hotel to unwind and explore the golden east coast of Scotland. The hotel can also arrange various experiences for your clients to explore the wild west coast with their authentic experience days in Scotland.

- Golf Road, Brora, Sutherland, KW9 6QS : www.royalmarinebrora.com
- Contact: Stephanie Reith : +44 (0) 1408 621252 : info@royalmarinebrora.com



8 - Royal Marine Hotel Brora

Saturday 22nd April 2023

Meeting Point

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- *Location: Royal Marine Hotel Brora Reception*
 - *Meeting Time: 0915hrs*
 - *Depart: 0930hrs*
-

Dunrobin Castle

1000hrs - Arrive at Dunrobin Castle for a visit

Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands with 189 rooms. It's the family seat of the Earl of Sutherland and the Clan Sutherland. Tours of Dunrobin Castle are self guided. This allows your clients to spend as much time as they would like in each room. Their castle guides in the main rooms are available to answer questions. They can also include birds of prey flying demonstrations during April, May, June, July, August and September. Onsite they have The castle tea room as well as a gift shop as well as ample free parking for coaches.

- Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SF : <https://www.dunrobincastle.co.uk/>
- Contact: Scott Morrison : +44 (0) 1408 633177 : info@dunrobincastle.co.uk

1100hrs - Depart for Downright Gabbler



9 - Dunrobin Castle

Downright Gabbler

1215hrs - Arrive at Downright Gabbler for a show round and lunch

Good food and drink, great company and interesting stories in a former coaching Inn in a charming Highland village. At Downright Gabbler they explore history using the finest local produce. How beer played a key role in the creation of an empire; the humble grocer made Scotch whisky a global icon; or coffee, chocolate and tea helped drive social change. They can tailor events to suit your clients' needs for small groups up to 12 and they have four luxury self-catering suites upstairs.

- High Street, Beaulie, IV4 7BT : <https://downrightgabbler.co.uk/>
- Contact: Jane Cumming: +44 (0) 1463 782800 : info@downrightgabbler.co.uk

1400hrs - Depart for Highland Wildlife Park



10 - Downright Gabbler





Highland Wildlife Park

1515hrs - Arrive at Highland Wildlife Park

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and suitable footwear (wear a waterproof jacket in case of rain, but no open toed shoes or sandals).

Your clients can experience Scottish wildlife and see endangered animals of the world's mountain and tundra regions in the spectacular setting of the Highland Wildlife Park. Based at Kinraig, 7 miles south of Aviemore, the Highland Wildlife Park is a great day out for all ages. Discover the amazing variety of wildlife found in present day Scotland, such as the pine marten, wildcat and red deer - then step back in time and meet the creatures of Scotland's past - wolves, lynx, beavers and wild horses.

- Kinraig, Kingussie, PH21 1NL : <https://www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk/>
- Contact: Lisa Robshaw : +44 (0) 1540 651270 : wildlife@rzss.org.uk

1615hrs - Depart for Kinrara Distillery



11 - Amur Tiger or Siberian Tiger (Panthera tigris altaica) at the Highland Wildlife Park, Kinraig, by Kingussie - Credit: VisitScotland / Paul Tomkins



Kinrara Distillery

1635hrs - Arrive at Kinrara Distillery for a private tour

Kinrara Distillery is a Scottish craft gin producer set within the adventurous landscape of The Cairngorms, just outside the town of Aviemore. Your clients can experience Kinrara Distillery, up close and personal. With one of the distillery tours, a member of the distillery team will take your clients through the story of the distillery and show you the wonders of the wee farm steading.

- Lynwilg Farm Steading, Aviemore, PH22 1PZ : <https://www.kinraradistillery.com/>
- Contact: Lorna Calder : +44 (0) 1479 816362 : lorna@kinraradistillery.com

1720hrs - Depart for The Boat Country Inn And Restaurant



12 - Rose & Cardamon Gin - Credit: Kinrara Distillery

The Boat Country Inn And Restaurant

1740hrs - Arrive at The Boat Country Inn And Restaurant for dinner and overnight stay

Located in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, only 5 mins from Aviemore and 40 mins from Inverness Airport, the Boat Country Inn is a country pub & restaurant with 34 bedrooms. Boat Country Inn can accommodate groups of up to 60 for lunches and bespoke tours are also catered for. FITs and groups are welcome. Your clients will enjoy seasonal pub-food, craft beers, and Scottish gins.

- Deshar Rd, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire, Highlands, PH24 3BH : <https://www.boathotel.co.uk/>
- Contact: Magdalena Mazurkiewicz : +44 (0) 1479 831258 : info@boathotel.co.uk



13 - The Boat Country Inn

Sunday 23rd April 2023

Meeting Point

- *Location: The Boat Country Inn Reception*
 - *Meeting Time: 0845hrs*
 - *Depart: 0900hrs*
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Dunkeld House Hotel

1030hrs - Arrive at Dunkeld House Hotel for a show round and lunch

Dunkeld House Hotel is a beautiful Scottish 4 star country hotel boasting 98 bedrooms. From the mile long drive opening up onto the main hotel, to the many walks around their authentic Scottish estate, your clients will experience a stay that brings them the exuberance and freedom of Perthshire's wide open countryside and all the luxury and splendour of a traditional Scottish country house.

- Blairgowrie Road, Dunkeld, PH8 0HX : <https://dunkeldhousehotel.co.uk/>
- Contact: Jess White : +44 (0) 1350 727771 : reservations@dunkeldhousehotel.co.uk

1230hrs - Depart for Edinburgh



14 - Dunkeld House Hotel - Credit: <https://dunkeldhousehotel.co.uk/>

1400hrs Arrive in Edinburgh

Drop off at Edinburgh Airport is available for this trip, then Edinburgh Waverley Station

Spirit of the Highlands and Islands

The Spirit of the Highlands and Islands project is a partnership project between The Highland Council and High Life Highland, which will be delivered in collaboration with VisitScotland

With thanks to our funders: Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, European Regional Development Fund, Scottish Government, NatureScot and Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Our aim is to encourage visitors to explore and experience all the parts of the Highlands and Islands, from Arran and Cumbrae to Shetland, and to showcase the unique natural and cultural heritage of the region.

Ultimately, we wish to achieve a better seasonal and geographical spread, by growing capacity in more rural and off the beaten track areas and in the shoulder season

In addition, the project will encourage deeper engagement with our distinctive heritage and authentic connections with rural communities by influencing visitors to enjoy slow and immersive travel, maximising the benefits and contributing to the sustainable recovery of the tourism sector post-pandemic. The diversity of the Highlands and Islands – its spirit – is at the heart of the project, with places, people and their stories being key themes.



Travel tips

Luggage

Please limit this to two pieces per person (one checked and one carry- on).

Climate

Scotland's weather is changeable, and it is not uncommon to experience all four seasons in one day! We suggest you dress in layers and always bring rainwear and / or windproof jacket and comfortable shoes.

Health & Travel Insurance

Please ensure that you have sufficient health and accident insurance for the entire period of your travel. Check with your insurance provider on your coverage. When travelling, bring any basic medical supplies you may require, pain killers for example. Also ensure you bring a sufficient supply of any prescription medicine.

Money

ATM machines are widely available to obtain cash for payment in restaurants and shops for example. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted (Visa and MasterCard are more common than American Express).

Personal Extras

You will be responsible for settling all personal incidentals during the trip (i.e. telephone, minibar, room service, laundry etc.). You must settle these expenses upon checkout.

Tipping

Service can be included in your hotel or restaurant bill, but if not, a tip of around 10% is customary, this also applies to taxi rides. A higher tip for exceptional service is at your own discretion.

Electricity

The electrical voltage in Britain is 230v, 50-60 cycles. A three-square pronged adapter plug and/or an electric converter for your appliances is required.

VisitScotland Travel Trade Toolkit

VisitScotland websites

Our travel trade website is a one-stop shop for Scotland information, inspiration, resources and assets. This site is specifically dedicated to supporting our travel trade partners with product information and inspiration.

- Travel trade website : www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com
- 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
- Sign-up for the 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.

Follow Us

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Contact VisitScotland Travel Trade Team

traveltrade@visitscotland.com

Toolkit

Once you have learned about all that Scotland has to offer your clients, why not utilise our selection of trade exclusive tools? We have a range of promotional items from an extensive free use image library to over 30 individually designed itineraries to help you promote your Scotland product. Included in this toolkit are downloadable videos, maps and local and national guides.

