

9 DAYS A SCOTTISH LOVE AFFAIR



Day 1. Glasgow – Tour of Glasgow & National Piping Centre

Arrive in Glasgow. Tour of Glasgow: Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow Cathedral, the extraordinary Mackintosh architecture, Buchanan Street and the George Square civic center. National Piping Centre – the home of Scottish piping tradition. Evening: Glasgow music scene and restaurants. Overnight in Glasgow.

Day 2. Glasgow to Oban – Loch Lomond & Inverary Castle

Drive north via Loch Lomond – the most beautiful loch in Scotland. Inverary Castle – the extraordinary Gothic castle of the Dukes of Argyll, ancestral home of the Clan Campbell, with extraordinary state rooms and armoury. Arrive Oban – the extraordinary "Gateway to the Isles," with its extraordinary 19th-century Colosseum-like McCaig's Tower above the bay. Whale watching experience off the Oban coast. Overnight in Oban.

Day 3. Oban to Tobermory – Ferry to Mull & Scenic Drive

Ferry from Oban to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Scenic drive north through the extraordinary island: Duart Castle – the extraordinary medieval Maclean stronghold on a cliff above the Sound of Mull. Arrive Tobermory – the extraordinary multi-coloured harbour town on the north of Mull, one of the most photographed harbour scenes in Scotland. Overnight in Tobermory.

Day 4. Tobermory to Ballachulish – Jacobite Steam Train & Mallaig

Ferry from Tobermory to Kilchoan. Scenic drive to Fort William via Salen and the extraordinary west coast. Board the Jacobite Steam Train (the "Hogwarts Express") over the extraordinary Glenfinnan Viaduct, past Loch Shiel, to Mallaig. Return drive through Glencoe – the extraordinary valley of towering mountains and the site of the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe. Arrive Ballachulish. Overnight in Ballachulish.

Day 5. Ballachulish to Pitlochry – Glencoe, Loch Leven & Grampians

Morning: Mountains of Glencoe – the extraordinary Three Sisters ridgeline. Loch Leven Castle – the island fortress where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. Culloden Battlefield. Scenic drive through the extraordinary Grampian Mountains to Pitlochry. Overnight in Pitlochry.

Day 6. Pitlochry – Blair Athol Distillery, Town & Royal Deeside

Morning: Blair Athol Distillery in Pitlochry – one of Scotland's most beautiful distilleries, producing the exceptional Bell's Whisky blend malt. Tour of Pitlochry and its extraordinary Victorian architecture, the Festival Theatre and the extraordinary Fish Ladder (salmon pass). Scenic drive through Royal Deeside to Balmoral. Overnight in Deeside.

Day 7. Deeside to St Andrews – Balmoral Castle & Glamis Castle

Tour of Balmoral Castle – the Scottish residence of the British Royal Family, in the extraordinary Deeside valley beneath the Grampian Mountains. Continue to Glamis Castle – the most romantic and haunted castle in Scotland, ancestral home of the Queen Mother and birthplace of Princess Margaret. Drive to St Andrews. Overnight in St Andrews.

Day 8. St Andrews to Edinburgh – Cathedral, Links & Tour

St Andrews Cathedral ruins – the once-greatest cathedral in Scotland, built 1158, destroyed in the Reformation. St Andrews Links – the extraordinary golf courses where the game has been played continuously since the 15th century. Princess Street. Drive to Edinburgh. Tour of Edinburgh: Edinburgh Castle, Royal Mile, Greyfriars Bobby, Holyrood Palace and Arthur's Peak. Overnight in Edinburgh.

Day 9. Edinburgh – Departure

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for onward travel.

Must see ATTRACTIONS



The Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow



Loch Lomond



Inverary Castle, Argyll



Isle of Mull



Mountains of Glencoe



Loch Leven Castle, Perth and Kinross



The Grampian Mountains



Pitlochry



St Andrews Cathedral

ACCOMMODATION

Options

Glasgow

- ★★★★★ Blythswood Square Hotel Glasgow
Kimpton Blythswood Square Glasgow
Grand Central Hotel Glasgow
- ★★★★★ Radisson Blu Hotel Glasgow
AC Hotel by Marriott Glasgow
Hotel Indigo Glasgow
- ★★★ ibis Glasgow City Centre
Premier Inn Glasgow City Centre
Travelodge Glasgow Central

Edinburgh

- ★★★★★ The Balmoral Hotel Edinburgh
Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh The Caledonian
Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa Edinburgh
- ★★★★★ Radisson Blu Hotel Edinburgh
Marriott Edinburgh
Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh
- ★★★ ibis Edinburgh Centre Royal Mile
Travelodge Edinburgh Central
Premier Inn Edinburgh City Centre



Must try FOOD



Scotch Broth

A soup originating in Scotland with principal ingredients of barley, stewing or braising cuts of lamb, mutton or beef, root vegetables, and dried pulses; cabbage and leeks are often added shortly before serving to preserve texture, colour and flavours.



Lorne Sausage

Also known as square sausage or slice sausage, this traditional Scottish dish is made from minced meat, rusk and spices; although termed a sausage, no casing is used to hold the meat in shape, hence it is usually served as square slices from a formed block; it is a common component of the traditional Scottish breakfast.



Cranachan

Originally a celebration of harvest, made following the raspberry harvest in August, this traditional Scottish dessert combines cream and fresh seasonal raspberries, bolstered by Scottish oats and whisky; it has been called “the uncontested king of Scottish desserts”.

RESTAURANT

Options

Halal Certified

Glasgow

1. Shimla Pinks – Award-winning Indian halal restaurant in Glasgow's West End, innovative cuisine
2. Mother India's Café – Halal Indian food, West End, famous for unique thali-style sharing plates
3. Al Salam Glasgow – Lebanese halal restaurant, mezze and grills, popular with Muslim community
4. Istanbul Glasgow – Turkish halal grill in Glasgow city centre, doner and pide
5. Basmati Glasgow – Pakistani halal cuisine, highly rated, generous biryani and karahi dishes

Edinburgh

1. Mosque Kitchen Edinburgh – Beloved halal canteen next to Edinburgh Central Mosque, legendary value
2. Kismot – Award-winning Sri Lankan-Indian halal restaurant, Newington, unique regional curries
3. Khushboo Indian Restaurant – Indian halal restaurant in Haymarket, popular with Muslim visitors
4. Istanbul Edinburgh – Turkish halal restaurant near the Old Town, grills and meze
5. Al-Baraka Edinburgh – Middle Eastern halal food near the university, generous portions

