

SCOTLAND 8 DAYS TOUR INCLUDING THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Day 1 Arrival Edinburgh

Arrive at Edinburgh/Glasgow Airport and transfer to your hotel in Glasgow area for overnight.

Day 2 Isle of Arran



Depart Glasgow for day trip to the Isle of Arran. You can see the spectacular mountainous outline of Arran as you drive down the coast of Ayrshire to take the ferry across from Ardrossan to Brodick. The **Isle of Arran** is "Scotland in miniature" and has something different around every corner. Spend time to explore the mountains, forests and coastline of Arran before crossing back to the mainland.

You will visit **Brodick Castle**, the former seat of the Dukes of Hamilton situated in its own country park overlooking Brodick bay, on the slopes of Goatfell. There are superb silver, porcelain and paintings on display as well as a beautiful walled garden to visit. Return to the mainland and back to Glasgow area for overnight.

Day 3 Glencoe – Loch Ness - Inverness

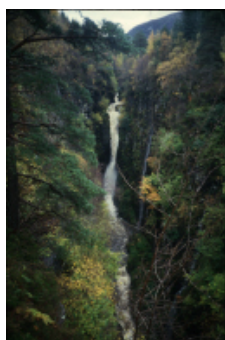
Depart Glasgow for Inverness Area travelling via the West Coast and Loch Ness. You will enjoy a short stop at **Loch Lomond**, the largest stretch of inland water in Britain, and framed by lovely mountain scenery. The landscape of this area has played a significant part in the history and literature of Scotland.

You will also drive through **Glencoe**, the dramatic and historic glen (valley), and scene of the 1692 massacre of part of the MacDonald clan by soldiers of King William. Its steep sided mountains offer superb walking and climbing. Red deer, wildcat, golden eagle and rare arctic plants can be seen among the breathtaking peaks and spectacular waterfalls.

Continue to **Loch Ness** a striking 38.5 km long loch in the Great Glen (Southwest of Inverness) and forms part of the Caledonian Canal, which links Inverness with Fort William. Up to 213 m deep, the loch contains the largest volume of fresh water of any lake in the British Isles. Famous worldwide for its mysterious inhabitant, the Loch Ness Monster, it is also ideal for cruising and sailing. On the banks of the Loch you will visit **Urquhart Castle** is one of the largest castles in Scotland that fell into decay after 1689 and was blown up in 1692 to prevent it being occupied by Jacobites. Most of the existing remains date from the 16th century and include a tower. Continue to your hotel in the Inverness area for overnight.



Day 4 Wester Ross - Inverness Area



Depart Inverness Area for Wester Ross day trip. You will stop at **Corrieshalloch Gorge**, one of Britain's finest examples of a box canyon. This dramatic mile-long gorge is 200 feet deep. The river, which carved out the gorge, descends 150 feet at the **Falls of Measach**. A suspension bridge a short way downstream from the falls was erected by John Fowler (1817-98), best known as joint designer of the Forth Railway Bridge.

You will visit **Inverewe Gardens**, the world-famous garden created from once-barren peninsula on the shore of Loch Ewe by Victorian gardener Osgood Mackenzie. Exotic plants from many countries flourish here from the mild climate created by the North Atlantic Drift. You will enjoy the spectacular lochside setting among pinewoods and superb views. Return to the Inverness area for overnight.

Rates valid from 1st April to 31st October 2009

Day 5

Speyside - Aberdeen



Depart Inverness Area for Aberdeen. Today your journey will take you through the Speyside region of Scotland, famous worldwide for its whisky distilleries. You will visit one of the many **whisky distilleries** which Speyside is famous for. You will enjoy an informative tour, which describes the traditional whisky making process, from malting the barley to storing the final product in oak casks. You will also enjoy a taste of the final product! You will visit **Fyvie Castle**, the grandest example of Scottish baronial architecture. The five towers of Fyvie Castle enshrine 5 centuries of Scottish history, each being named after one of the five families who owned the castle. The oldest part dates from the 13th century. The grounds and Fyvie Loch were designed around the beginning of the 18th century. Continue to Aberdeen area for overnight.

Day 6

East Coast – St Andrews – Edinburgh

Depart Aberdeen for Edinburgh, via the coastal road. You will visit Stonehaven, a former fishing village with a picturesque harbour, and be given a photostop opportunity at **Dunnottar Castle**, a spectacular ruin 50 metres above the sea and an impregnable fortress to the Earls Marischals of Scotland. The castle was the site for the successful protection of the Scottish Crown Jewels against the might of Oliver Cromwell's army. The castle was also the scene of Zeffirelli's *Hamlet*. You will visit **House of Dun**, a beautiful Georgian house overlooking Montrose basin, designed in 1730 by William Adam and with superb contemporary plasterwork. Home in the 19th century to Lady Augusta Kennedy-Erskine, daughter of William IV and the actress Mrs Jordan. Many of her belongings remain, as well as her wool work and embroidery. There is an impressive restored Victorian walled garden and attractive woodland walks.



Continue to St. Andrews, home of Golf. You will visit **St Andrews Castle** a 13th century castle overlooking the North Sea, where, during the Reformation, many evil deeds took place in the "Bottle Dungeon". Continue to Edinburgh area for overnight.

Day 7

Edinburgh



Depart for a Panoramic city tour of **Edinburgh** where you will appreciate the contrast between the 18th century Georgian "New Town" with its wide, tree lined streets and elegant squares and the medieval "Old Town". The Royal Mile is the backbone of the old quarter, running from the Palace of Holyrood House to Edinburgh Castle. You will visit **Edinburgh Castle**, one of the most famous castles in the world, housing the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Destiny. You can also visit the private apartments of Mary Stuart; St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest building in the city, which dates back to the 11th century and the 15th century gun Mons Meg.

The afternoon is free for you to explore Edinburgh at your leisure. You can visit one of the many art galleries or museums in the city centre or take advantage of the cosmopolitan shops in Princes Street and the more traditional shops on the Royal Mile. Overnight in Edinburgh Area.

Day 8

Departure

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

For bookings contact groups@jacscotland.com
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