



# HIKING AND HISTORY IN THE HEBRIDES

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*Customize your itinerary and choose your own travel dates*



## AN TURAS HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

### **Kirsty Duncan**

Born and raised in the Highlands of Scotland, I have always loved exploring the mountains, lochs, rivers and forests of Scotland and further afield. Over the years I have become fascinated with the remote ruined villages and crofts of the Highlands and Islands and I've developed a passion for our amazing Neolithic sites (of which we have many). My love of learning about Scottish history and heritage continues to grow the more I learn and explore.

After 8 years of working for a renowned UK-based tour operator and laterally with a focus on delivering bespoke, private tours in Scotland, I have a wealth of experience in all that the country has to offer.

Favourite regions: Argyll on the West Coast, the Orkney Islands and the Inner Hebrides – each has their own character and unique landscape.

Favourite Sites: Kilmartin Glen, Maes Howe, Bosta Bay & Arichonan



## HIKING AND HISTORY IN THE HEBRIDES

### Overview

The Hebridean Islands of Skye and Mull are awash with fascinating history, especially in the abandoned villages where tenants either chose to leave or were evicted during the Highland Clearances of the 18th and 19th centuries, one of the most poignant periods in Scotland's story.

In the 12th to 15th centuries the Hebridean Islands and West Coast were ruled by the Lords of the Isles, a reign that began with Somerled, a powerful Norse-Celtic warrior lord. To understand this period in the history of the islands it is helpful to understand that the method of travel was by boat and the number of Birlinns (traditional galley ships) a lord had was a sign of their power and influence. The sea and many lochs were the highways connecting the scattered coastal communities. Battles during this period were fought at sea rather than on land.















On your private tour of Scotland you'll explore clearance villages, visit ancient clan strongholds, take to the Hebridean waters on a private boat trip where you'll see islands, remote communities, lighthouses and marine and coastal wildlife along the way. You'll have the opportunity to hike some beautiful coastal routes throughout this Hebridean adventure.

### Activity Level









Speak to your travel designer about how active you like to be on vacation. This trip can be adapted to include easy, moderate or more challenging hikes, or you can choose to do a less active version.

We will pair you up with a guide who is most suited to your activity level.

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 1	<p> Meet Your Guide</p> <p>Your private driver guide will meet you in Inverness at the airport, train station or your hotel.</p> <hr/> <p> Culloden Battlefield Tour</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at The Ness Walk Hotel</p>
Day 2	<p> Check Out from The Ness Walk Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Urquhart Castle Tour</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Cuillin Hills Hotel</p>
Day 3	<p> Highland Clearance Villages Of Skye</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Cuillin Hills Hotel</p>
Day 4	<p> Dunvegan Castle And The Coral Beaches</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Cuillin Hills Hotel</p>
Day 5	<p> Check Out from Cuillin Hills Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Armadale Castle And The Clan Donald Centre</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Roslyn House</p>
Day 6	<p> The Whisky Cave</p>

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 6	 Overnight at Roslyn House
Day 7	 Check Out from Roslyn House <hr/>  The Holy Island Of Iona <hr/>  Check In at Isle Of Eriska Hotel
Day 8	 Hebridean Island Hopping <hr/>  Overnight at Isle Of Eriska Hotel
Day 9	 Check Out from Isle Of Eriska Hotel <hr/>  Transfer departs the hotel Transfer arrives your choice of destination

## Your Accommodations

Day	Accommodation	Details	Nights
Day 1 - 2	The Ness Walk Hotel	-	1
Day 2 - 5	Cuillin Hills Hotel	-	3
Day 5 - 7	Roslyn House	-	2
Day 7 - 9	Isle Of Eriska Hotel	-	2



## Map



## Summary

- 1) Day 1 - 2: The Ness Walk Hotel, Inverness
- 2) Day 2 - 5: Cuillin Hills Hotel, Isle Of Skye
- 3) Day 5 - 7: Roslyn House, Isle of Mull
- 4) Day 7 - 9: Isle Of Eriska Hotel, Argyll



## DAY 1

### Meet Your Guide

Your private driver guide will meet you in Inverness at the airport, train station or your hotel.

### Culloden Battlefield Tour

Your first stop on your history adventure is the site of the final defeat of the Jacobites in 1746, Culloden Battlefield, the site of the last pitched battle on British soil. Walk the moor where the Jacobite Army would have lined up against the government Red Coats and visit the marked graves where the fallen clansmen were buried.

You'll start in the visitor centre where you'll find out more about the Jacobites and the clans that fought the last pitched battle that happened on British soil.

With your guide head out on to the battlefield where you'll see where the battle lines were, marked by red and blue flags. Walk out to the marked graves that name the clans that fought in the battle. Learn more about how the battle unfolded, how the Jacobites encountered such a brutal defeat and the effect on the Scottish culture in the aftermath of the battle.

Later, visit the Neolithic stone burial mounds of Clava Cairns, a mysterious site that dates back thousands of years.





## DAY 1

### **Included meals:** Lunch

### **Check in at The Ness Walk Hotel**

1 Night

### **Property Overview**

Nestled on the leafy banks of the River Ness, lies Ness Walk. An idyllic 5-star retreat hotel in Inverness, just 10 minutes from Loch Ness. Surrounded by a dramatic canopy of impressive trees, Ness Walk allows guests to experience a secluded atmosphere in the heart of the vibrant city centre. Originally a 19th century house, this lovingly restored Grade B listed building still retains many of its period features. But unified with modern design and architecture, providing a flawless balance between past and present.

Exceptional service is at the core of the Ness Walk experience. The concierge will announce guests arrival and arrange valet parking. Luggage will then be delivered to guest's room, complete with garden or river views. So, guests can relax by the fire in the lounge with a welcoming glass of chilled champagne, as the staff organises the check in details. The property is designed as one of the leading luxury hotels Scotland has to offer.

### **Fast Facts**

#### **Highlights**

Located in Inverness, only 10 minutes from Loch Ness

One of the leading luxury hotels in Scotland

The Scottish Highlands is the idyllic setting for many outdoor pursuits



## DAY 1

Experience some of the most iconic golf courses in the world

### Quick facts

47 rooms

5 star concierge service

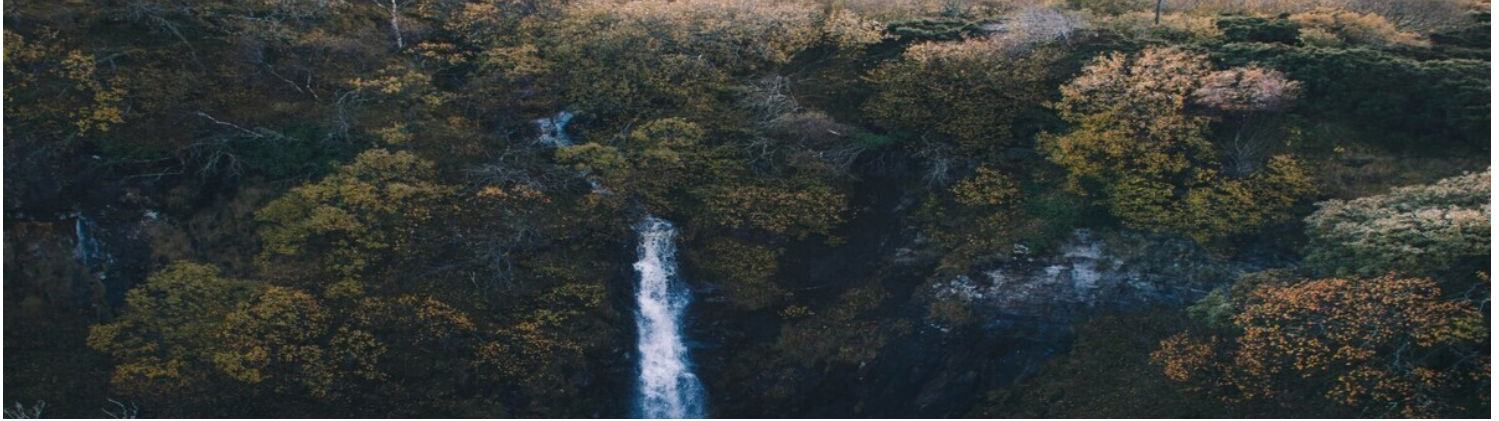
Beautiful gardens

Torrish restaurant

Outdoor bistro and booze Bruach

Wedding facilities

Parking available



## DAY 2

### Check out from The Ness Walk Hotel

### Urquhart Castle Tour

Today you'll travel through the Great Glen on the way to the Isle of Skye.

On the banks of Loch Ness visit the sprawling ruins of Urquhart Castle, a fortress that has seen much action throughout the centuries. During the Jacobite uprisings the British Government forces blew up the castle's gatehouse so it could not be effectively occupied by the rebels again. Despite the castle's ruinous condition it's played an incredibly important role in Scottish history and boasts a wonderful location overlooking the dark waters of Loch Ness.

Fought over for centuries due to its strategic location, the castle gatehouse was eventually blown up by government soldiers in 1692 during the Jacobite Risings to prevent the Jacobites using it as a stronghold.

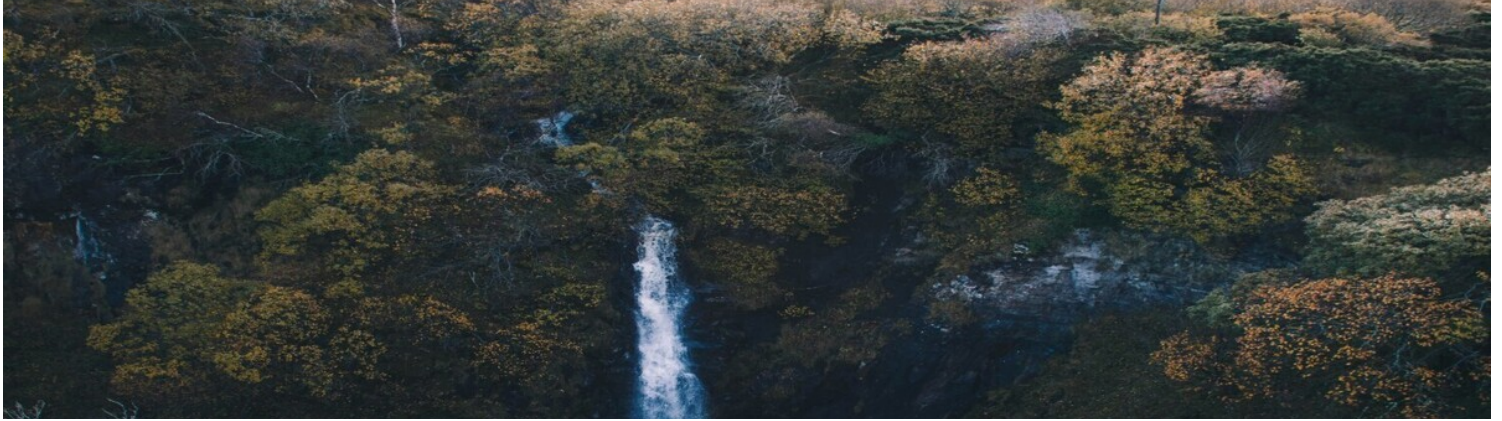
With your guide you'll visit the castle ruins including the gatehouse, the Grant Tower and the reconstruction of a full-sized trebuchet. The visitor centre will give you more insight into the history of this important castle.

Enjoy lunch in the canal-side village of Fort Augustus before continuing west and over the Skye Bridge.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

Check in at Cuillin Hills Hotel





## DAY 2

3 Nights

### Property Overview

This stunning hotel in Portree, on the famous Isle of Skye, enjoys some of the finest and most spectacular views from any hotel in Scotland.

From the moment you arrive, you cannot fail to appreciate the Highland setting of this hotel; set within fifteen acres of mature private grounds overlooking Portree Bay, we have magnificent views over the Sound of Raasay to the Cuillin mountain range.

The town of Portree is a mere 10-minute walk away, with its colourful harbour and genuine village character where you can find the perfect hand-crafted souvenir for loved ones, or enjoy boat trips out from the harbour across the Sound.

Our restaurant offers our diners one of the best views on Skye while enjoying high quality local Scottish produce, including an extensive selection of seafood dishes. We pride ourselves on offering our customers a friendly, relaxed, and excellent value dining experience.

### Fast Facts

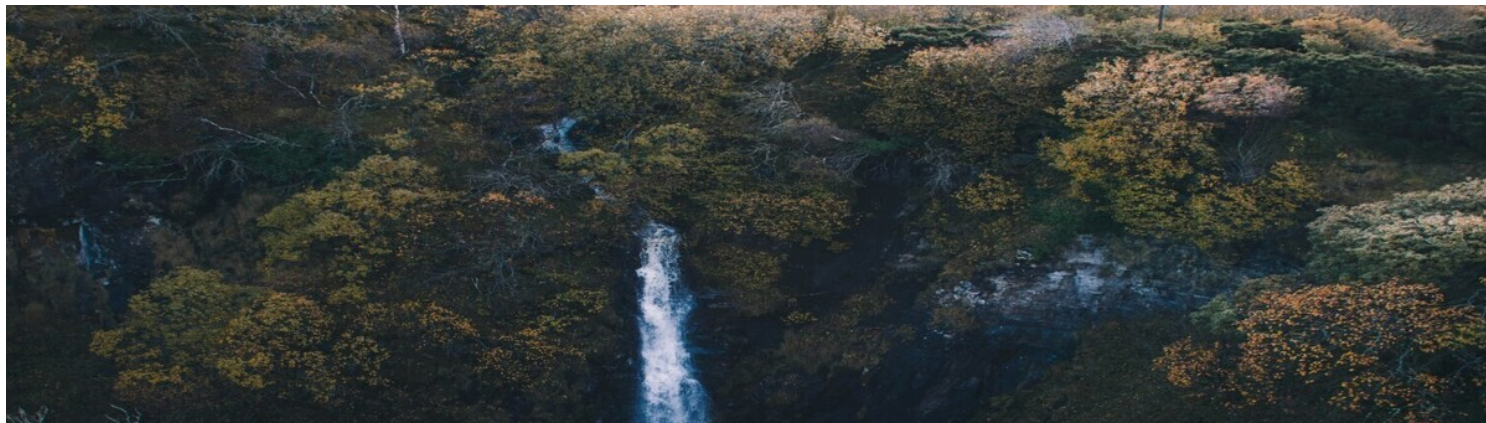
#### Highlights

Located a 10 minute walk away from the town of Portree

Stunning sea views

Family run business

Relaxed and welcoming feel



## DAY 2

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### **Quick facts**

39 bedrooms

Excellent on site restaurant

Garden seating

Lounge area

Free Wi-Fi



## DAY 3

### Highland Clearance Villages Of Skye

In the 18th & 19th centuries the Highlands and islands of Scotland went through dramatic economic and cultural changes. Throughout this period many inhabitants moved away from their traditional villages, sometimes they were forcibly removed so the land owners could make better profits by raising sheep.

Starting at the ruined church of Cill Chriosd you'll embark on a stunning coastal hike with your guide to the shores of Loch Eishort and the ruins of the old settlements of Borerraig and Suisnish. Once comprising of 22 households the village of Borerraig was cleared by the agents of Lord MacDonald in the 1850s and many of the evicted tenants emigrated to 'The New World' on long and dangerous voyages.

An alternative for today is take the short ferry ride to the neighbouring Isle of Raasay and hike to the ruins of Hallaig, another village that fell victim to the Highland Clearances and made famous by Gaelic poet and Raasay native, Sorley Maclean.

### ***Site of Historic Interest***

The Highland Clearances happened from the mid 18th century up until the mid 19th century. Many people were displaced to the coastal fringes or cities, then later many were moved off the land altogether.

This huge change in the local economy, driven by industrial revolution and capitalist ideals of landowners, saw many Scots emigrating to the US and Canada.





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### DAY 3

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

**Overnight at Cuillin Hills Hotel**



## DAY 4

### **Dunvegan Castle And The Coral Beaches**

Travel to the north of Skye today to Dunvegan Castle, the only Highland fortress to be continuously occupied by the same family for over 400 years. Walk the grand halls and rooms of this stately castle, with castle staff on hand to provide interpretation of the many artefacts and antiques.

Later in the day join your guide for a short hike to the white sands and clear blue waters of the Coral Beaches, arguably one of the most spectacular spots on the island.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

**Overnight at Cuillin Hills Hotel**



## DAY 5

### Check out from Cuillin Hills Hotel

### Armadale Castle And The Clan Donald Centre

This morning travel to the Sleat Peninsula in the south of Skye where the seat of Clan Donald awaits you. Not only will you see the ruins of the grand house that was the pride of the clan but you'll have the opportunity to wander through the manicured gardens. A museum hidden in a corner of the garden tells the history of this once powerful clan and their links to the Lords of the Isles dynasty.

#### ***Site of Historic Interest***

Clan Donald can trace their ancestry back to Somerled, a powerful Norse-Celtic sea lord. They were *Lords of the Isles* for hundreds of years, ruling much of Scotland's west coast and islands before the Scottish Kings had control over the whole country.

A ferry crossing will take you back to mainland Scotland where you'll transfer to the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. A second ferry takes you to the Isle of Mull and the colourful harbour town of Tobermory.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

### Check in at Roslyn House

2 Nights





## DAY 5

### **Property Overview**

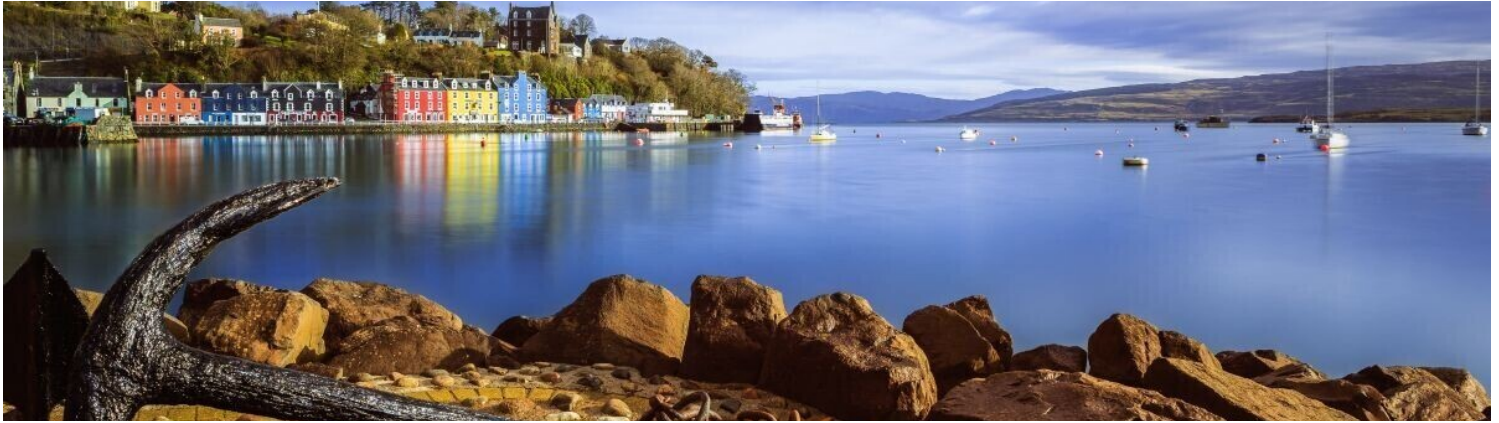
Relax and enjoy luxury on your terms in the stunning Roslyn House Tobermory on the beautiful Isle of Mull.

Located in the heart of Tobermory, Roslyn House is an adults only luxury 'smart' guest house which has been carefully refurbished to offer eight individually-designed guest rooms and a cosy guest lounge with honesty bar.

Beautiful House of Hackney wallpaper, statement Pooky lighting, Silkwood 100% wool carpets and handmade curtains have been paired with stunning antique furniture, sumptuous fabrics and elegant en suites to create the unique luxurious yet relaxed feel at Roslyn House.

Roslyn House offers the flexibility to enjoy luxury on your terms - from seamless self check-in to breakfast hampers featuring a range of products - allowing you to enjoy a relaxing breakfast in the comfort of your own room. And each room is equipped with everything you need to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible - from a Nespresso Vertuo coffee machine to a Roberts Revival iStream 3 smart radio and speaker.

Relax and unwind in our cosy guest lounge; curl up with a good book or play one of the many board games we have; and you can enjoy a drink from our honesty bar, which is available between 11am and 11pm and is stocked with a fantastic range of local craft spirits and malt whiskies, and a great selection of wines, as well as beer, cider, soft drinks and premium mixers.



## DAY 5

Each boutique room is a sanctuary of comfort and style, designed with meticulous attention to detail. Imagine unwinding in a space where every corner, from the plush in-room marble dining table to the sumptuous velvet chairs, is crafted for your relaxation and pleasure. The tranquillity of your room is complemented by modern luxuries, including a personal fridge stocked with refreshments and an in-room welcome drink that greets you upon arrival, setting the tone for a stay that's as refreshing as it is memorable.

### **Fast Facts**

### **Highlights**

8 bedrooms

Free Wi-Fi

Lounge

Honesty bar

Breakfast in the room



## DAY 6

### The Whisky Cave

For centuries whisky was distilled in secret locations throughout Scotland in an attempt to avoid the excise man, today you visit one such site on the west coast of Mull. Hike along the rugged cliffs where a short steep section between the cliffs will bring you to a cave. Here sits the remains of an old whisky still, hidden away from prying eyes!

On the return route you'll discover the ruins of the village of Craikaig, the ruined homes are punctuated by a solitary rowan tree, these hardy trees were planted near villages to ward away evil spirits.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

**Overnight at Roslyn House**





## DAY 7

### Check out from Roslyn House

### The Holy Island Of Iona

Transferring to the south west point of Mull, you'll take the short ferry crossing to the Holy Island of Iona. At only 3 miles long and 1.5 miles wide, Iona is known as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland due to the important monastery founded here by St Columbus in the early middle ages.

A visit to the monastery ruins is of course a must, but you'll also hike to the north of the island to climb to the top of the site of the ancient hill fort Dun Í, then on to the pristine white sands of Traigh an t-Suidh.

Back on Mull the ferry will take you to Oban on the mainland. Your accommodation for tonight is located on its own private island a short transfer from Oban.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

### Check in at Isle Of Eriska Hotel

2 Nights

### Property Overview

The only five-star Scottish hotel that comes with its own private island, the Isle of Eriska stands apart – quite literally - as a truly self-contained escape.



## DAY 7

Feel it as soon as you drive over the bridge; a physical break between the mainland and peninsula that signals that sense of space you've been searching for. Space to experience the island's majestic wildlife and nature. Space to try your hand at something new, like axe-throwing, beekeeping or fishing. Space to rest, relax, and empty your mind completely with a hike, bike ride or spa day. Space to just... be.

And although it may feel a world away, you needn't go to the ends of the earth to reach it. Forget ferries and boats: just a short drive over a little bridge will do the trick.

A true escape, that encapsulates the wildness of the West - a wonderfully preserved and rural landscape where local wildlife thrive. Along with the breathtaking natural beauty, our luxurious retreat offers you all the opulent and modern amenities you need for a relaxed and restful stay.

From Afternoon Tea and Brasserie Classics, to Light Lunches and Fine Dining, The Isle of Eriska is a culinary destination to savour the highest quality of local seasonal produce from handpicked local suppliers.

Our beautifully restored restaurant sits within the Main House on the estate and is the perfect place to enjoy sophisticated yet casual dining experience in a relaxed atmosphere. Combining traditional architecture within historic setting, it is a place to admire our tranquil parkland setting.

Perched on the edge of our private island oasis, The Deck boasts panoramic vistas of rolling mountains, tranquil waters, and stunning sunsets that paint the sky in hues of orange and pink. Whether you're dining al fresco on our outdoor terrace or cozying up indoors with floor-to-ceiling windows, every table offers a front-row seat to nature's grandeur.



## DAY 7

### Highlights

- 34 bedrooms and suites
- 2 restaurants
- Cosy bar
- Gardens
- Swimming Pool
- Spa
- Free W-Fi



## DAY 8

### Hebridean Island Hopping

Today you'll meet up with your own private skipper and board a covered Zodiac to head off an island hopping adventure. The route we will take is dependent on the weather but whatever way we go it is sure to be full of stunning landscapes, Hebridean islands and hopefully a lot of wildlife!

It might be that we seek out puffins on the Treshnish Isles and visit the Isle of Staffa and Fingal's Cave. Or perhaps the winds will take you to the Slate Islands, a grouping of tiny islands with a unique heritage and industrial past.

### Weather

Boat trips are weather dependent. The itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions.

**Included meals:** Breakfast and lunch

**Overnight at Isle Of Eriska Hotel**



## DAY 9

### Check out from Isle Of Eriska Hotel

#### Transfer to your choice of destination

- Depart the hotel
- Arrive your choice of destination

Here your Hebridean adventure ends and you can either catch the train from Oban south to Glasgow or Edinburgh, or we will arrange a private transfer by road.

**Included meals:** Breakfast



## COSTS

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Prices start at £8,900 per person based on 2 people traveling together on a private basis.

Pricing is in GBP

Pricing varies depending on your group size, travel dates and any amendments to the itinerary and accommodations.

This tour is an example of what we offer, all tours are tailored to suit your own interests.

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### **This cost includes:**

- 8 nights accommodation based on 2 people sharing a room
- Private driver guide from Day 1 to Day 8 inclusive
- Private vehicles from Day 1 to Day 8 inclusive
- Meals as listed in the above itinerary (lunches are a mixture of bagged and cafe)
- All entry fees, activities and hikes mentioned in the itinerary
- All ferry travel throughout this itinerary
- Snacks throughout the trip
- 24/7 in-country support
- Gratuities for local services and experiences

### **This cost does not include:**

- Travel insurance
- Flights
- Any meals not mentioned in the inclusions



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## COSTS

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- Any activities, entry fees and attractions not mentioned in the inclusions
- Gratuities for your main Driver Guide



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