



SCOTLAND - WEST HIGHLAND HERITAGE TRAIL

Customize your itinerary and choose your own travel dates



AN TURAS HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

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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



WEST HIGHLAND HERITAGE TRAIL

Overview

The region of Argyll in the South West of Scotland is a true treasure trove of historic gems, the likes of which are not to be found in any other part of the country. With your knowledgeable driver guide you'll visit an array of key sites across the West Coast region of Argyll, Isle of Arran, The Holy Isle and the Slate Islands.

One of the quieter areas of the country, South Argyll is tucked away from the main tourist routes so you'll really have the chance to get up close to some of Scotland's most important sites and often feel like you are the only ones there.















From villages affected by the tragic Highland Clearances to castle ruins, from neolithic structures to remnants of the industrial revolution – on this private tour of Scotland you'll uncover a tapestry of intense human history spanning many centuries.

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> Transfer departs Glasgow or Edinburgh airport Transfer arrives at your hotel</p> <p>Arrive at Glasgow Airport where you'll be met by a private driver and transferred to your accommodation in Glasgow.</p> <hr/> <p> Welcome to Glasgow</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa</p>
Day 2	<p> Check Out from Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa</p> <hr/> <p> The Isle Of Arran</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Lamlash Bay Hotel</p>
Day 3	<p> The Holy Isle</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Lamlash Bay Hotel</p>
Day 4	<p> Brodick Castle, Glenrosa Or Goat Fell</p> <hr/> <p> Overnight at Lamlash Bay Hotel</p>
Day 5	<p> Check Out from Lamlash Bay Hotel</p> <hr/> <p> Dunadd Fort</p> <hr/> <p> Arichonan Village</p> <hr/> <p> Check In at Loch Melfort Hotel</p>

Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 6	 Kilmartin Glen <hr/>  Overnight at Loch Melfort Hotel
Day 7	 The Slate Islands <hr/>  Overnight at Loch Melfort Hotel
Day 8	 Check Out from Loch Melfort Hotel <hr/>  St Conan's Kirk And Kilchurn Castle <hr/>  Check In at Loch Lomond Arms Hotel
Day 9	 Check Out from Loch Lomond Arms Hotel <hr/>  Transfer departs from your hotel Transfer arrives at Glasgow or Edinburgh Your driver guide will transfer you back to Glasgow where your West of Scotland adventure ends.

Your Accommodations

Day	Accommodation	Details	Nights
Day 1 - 2	Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa	-	1
Day 2 - 5	Lamlash Bay Hotel	-	3
Day 5 - 8	Loch Melfort Hotel	-	3
Day 8 - 9	Loch Lomond Arms Hotel	-	1



Map



Summary

- 1) Day 1 - 2: Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa, Glasgow
- 2) Day 2 - 5: Lamlash Bay Hotel, Isle Of Arran & The Holy Isle
- 3) Day 5 - 8: Loch Melfort Hotel, Argyll
- 4) Day 8 - 9: Loch Lomond Arms Hotel, Argyll



DAY 1

Transfer to at your hotel

- Depart Glasgow or Edinburgh airport
- Arrive at your hotel

Arrive at Glasgow Airport where you'll be met by a private driver and transferred to your accommodation in Glasgow.

Welcome to Glasgow

The rest of the day is free to explore the city at your own pace.

Meals included: None

Check in at Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa

1 Night

Property Overview

From the moment you pull up to the stately Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel, with its picturesque private gardens and classic Georgian townhouses, you'll sense that you're in for an unforgettable experience. Once home to wealthy merchants, the site later became headquarters for the Royal Scottish Automobile Club.

After a multimillion-pound restoration, it's now a 21st-century stunner that hasn't lost any of its original charm. Known for rooms that exude elegance, above-and-beyond service, and a spa that's widely considered the "it" place to be in Glasgow, the Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel continues to live up to the prestigious address its held since the early 19th century.



DAY 1

Spa

Welcome to a wellness experience like no other. Where your senses are not just nourished, but totally immersed, and every moment is meaningful.

Reconnect to yourself and nature with authentic, down-to-earth experiences and treatments inspired by the unfiltered splendour of the Scottish Hebrides. Our years of expertise, warm atmosphere, locally-sourced products, and innovative wellness techniques ensure your time with us will be, above all else, enriching.

This is your journey, your way. This is Spa at Blythwood Square.

Highlights

- Classic Georgian Townhouse
- Amazing central location
- Luxurious spa
- Fitness Centre
- Private Gardens



DAY 2

Check out from Blythswood Square Hotel & Spa

Meet Your Guide

Your driver guide will collect you from your hotel this morning and following a welcome coffee and briefing you'll head off to catch the ferry to the Isle of Arran.

The Isle Of Arran

Known fondly as 'Scotland in Miniature', this small island has a lot to offer with its beautiful coastline, mountain peaks and rich history.

On arrival on the island your guide will lead you on a hike to Glenashdale Falls, a trail that offers a great viewpoint over Lamlash Bay and the Holy Isle, 2 impressive ancient burial chambers can also be found along the trail.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at Lamlash Bay Hotel

3 Nights

Property Overview

The Lamlash Bay Hotel is a shore-front, family-run, dog-friendly hotel, centrally located in the village of Lamlash on one of Scotland's most beautiful and easily accessed islands, The Isle of Arran.



DAY 2

Only a 7-minute drive from Brodick Ferry Terminal, the hotel is situated just 150 yards from the beach and has unique panoramic views over the bay to the Holy Isle.

All rooms are en-suite and free wifi is available throughout the hotel. Our bar lounge stocks a wide range of beers, ales, and malts and an impressive collection of gins and vodkas too. We have a bistro-style restaurant serving delicious freshly cooked meals and mouth-watering pizzas from our stone-based oven.



DAY 3

The Holy Isle

Taking a short ferry crossing, you'll step foot on one of the most iconic holy sites in the UK. The Holy Isle's sacred history spans back to the 6th century when it is believed that the monk St Molaise lived here in a cave. The island is now home to a Tibetan Buddhist retreat centre and a community of nuns who spend 3 year stints living in the remote community.

You'll have the option to hike a 4 mile loop around the island, visiting the lighthouse on the east shores and looking out for the local wildlife.

Alternatively you may wish to stay on mainland Arran and visit the ruins of Kilbride Chapel and churchyard.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at Lamlash Bay Hotel



DAY 4

Brodick Castle, Glenrosa Or Goat Fell

There are a few options for today, depending on how active you like to be.

For a relaxing day you'll visit the baronial grandeur of Brodick Castle and gardens followed by an insight into island life at Arran Heritage Museum and perhaps a stop at the local brewery for a sample of craft ale.

If you'd like a more active day your guide will accompany you on a hike to the Glenrosa waterfalls, or for a full day hike you can summit the island's highest peak, Goatfell.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at Lamlash Bay Hotel



DAY 5

Check out from Lamlash Bay Hotel

Dunadd Fort

Crossing to the western Scottish mainland, you'll reach South Argyll today, a region that boasts a vast array of sites representing thousands of years of history.

The first site today is Dunadd Fort, once the power centre for the old Kingdom of Dàl Riata between 500 and 800 BC. Not much remains of the fort, but a short, steep climb will give you a real sense why this small hill made such a good fortress, as the views span over the Moine Mhor "the big moss", an expanse of flat bog land.

Climb to the rugged outcrop of Dunadd overlooking the flat bogs of the Moine Mor and imagine back to the middle ages when the Kings of the ancient Celtic Kingdom of Dalriada would stand on this mount to be crowned.

On the top of the off the ancient fort a footprint can be found carved into a large flat rock. It is thought that the Celtic Kings would place their foot inside the indentation to show that they were of the land, and the land was to be protected by them.

Arichonan Village

Later, visit a site that brings Scotland's story of land clearance and emigration to the forefront. In the 1840s the residents of Arichonan were forcibly evicted by the landowner's agents to make way for more profitable, sheep farming. A 20 minute walk up a grassy trail provides beautiful views over a nearby sea loch, before continuing to the ruins of the village.



DAY 5

Walking between the houses, barns and livestock quarters you'll find old bed frames and a large cauldron giving you a real sense of a community that once was. The folk of Arichonan did not take their eviction lightly, as you will find out.

In the 18th & 19th centuries the Highlands 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.

The village of Arichonan is one such settlement who's residents were forcibly evicted by the landlord. The villagers revolted and refused to leave, eventually the police had to assist with the eviction and some of those who protested were charged and jailed in the town of Inveraray.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at Loch Melfort Hotel

3 Nights

Property Overview

Welcome to Loch Melfort, a unique retreat, set in 17 acres of gardens and beach on the romantic coast of Argyll in the Scottish Highlands, Loch Melfort Hotel is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

We offer a range of comfortable and luxury rooms, most with fantastic sea views – roaring log fires and spectacular coastal scenery to explore.



DAY 5

Highlights

- Sunset views
- Wonderful food
- Scenic location
- Highland cows!



DAY 6

Kilmartin Glen

Kilmartin Glen is one of the key ancient historic sites in the British Isles. The valley is home to one of the highest concentrations of Neolithic artefacts in the whole of Europe. There are several sites to explore and you'll discover a wealth of burial chambers, standing stones and ancient 'cup and ring' rock art.

A visit to Kilmartin Museum is also a must, and the neighbouring church and graveyard that houses some impressive carved Pictish stones.

The final stop today is Carnasserie Castle, a 16th century tower house that is now ruined, but still provides access through its great halls and narrow spiral stone staircases. It's worth the climb up to the battlements for views over the glen.

Site of historic interest

Kilmartin Glen has is home to one of most important concentrations of Neolithic sites in Europe.

Within a 6 miles radius of the village there are around 350 ancient monuments, around 150 of which are prehistoric.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at Loch Melfort Hotel



DAY 7

The Slate Islands

Today you'll join a local skipper on a private Zodiac trip to discover a unique group of islands off the west coast of Argyll.

The deep scars of the Slate Islands tell the story of their not too distant industrial past. As the name suggests, the islands were heavily quarried for slate and became known as the '*islands that roofed the world*', a hint as to how productive the quarries once were. It is thought that mining began as early as the 12th century, and continued right up until the mid 1900s. The slate is no longer mined here but the deep, flooded quarries remain as a constant reminder.

You'll have the chance to go ashore on one or two of the islands to get up close to some of the old quarries to feel for what it would have been like to live and work here during the industrial era.

Back on the boat, if the tides are right, you may get the chance to experience the fierce Corryvreckan, a tidal whirlpool that runs between the islands.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Overnight at Loch Melfort Hotel



DAY 8

Check out from Loch Melfort Hotel

St Conan's Kirk And Kilchurn Castle

On the transfer this morning you'll pass through the busy harbour town of Oban, a key port for the ferries that service many of the Hebridean Islands.

We continue further inland to the shores of Loch Awe where you'll visit the Gothic grandeur of St Conan's Kirk (church) and the ruins of Kilchurn Castle.

The day ends on the banks of Loch Lomond in the quaint village of Luss.

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch

Check in at Loch Lomond Arms Hotel

1 Night

Property Overview

Welcome to the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, where you will find one of Scotland's finest coaching inns.



DAY 8

The Loch Lomond Arms opened its doors in 2012 after an extensive renovation to restore it to its former glory as a luxurious 17th century coaching inn. The hotel sits at the entrance to the beautiful Scottish Highlands, yet is easily accessed from Glasgow and Edinburgh. It is this balance that gives us our unique position as a luxurious hotel, bar and restaurant accessible to many, but enjoyed by the lucky few.

Nestled in the foothills of the Scottish Highlands, the Loch Lomond Arms focuses on the finest produce sourced from our estate. Our Head Chef brings together a fusion of Scottish ingredients whilst retaining our coaching inn roots.

Highlights

- Quaint village location
- Walking distance to the shore of Loch Lomond
- Cosy country house
- Classic period style



DAY 9

Check out from Loch Lomond Arms Hotel

Transfer to at Glasgow or Edinburgh

- Depart from your hotel
- Arrive at Glasgow or Edinburgh

Your driver guide will transfer you back to Glasgow where your West of Scotland adventure ends.



COSTS

Prices start at £8,150 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.

This cost includes:

- 8 nights accommodation based on 2 people sharing a room
- Private airport transfer on Day 1
- Private driver guide from Day 2 to Day 9 inclusive
- Private vehicles from Day 2 to Day 9 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

COSTS

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



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