



Spirit Journeys Worldwide  
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## Highlights of Scotland - East Coast

### Tour Includes

- 10 nights accommodation BB
- Entrances where mentioned
- English Speaking Guide

### EXCLUDES

- Tips
- Items of a personal nature
- Anything not mentioned in the Itinerary



## Trip Summary

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### Edinburgh

Arrival Edinburgh Airport

Aparthotel Adagio Edinburgh Royal Mile - 2 Nights

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### Scottish Borders

Rosslyn Chapel and the Scottish Borders

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### Edinburgh to Cairngorm National Park

Edinburgh to Cairngorm National Park via the Kingdom of Fife

Glencova Hotel - 1 night

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### Glencova to Aberdeen

Travel through the Cairngorms via Royal Deeside to Aberdeen

Doubletree By Hilton Aberdeen City Centre - Your home for the next two nights.

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### Castles of Aberdeenshire

Craigievar and Dunotter Castle

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### Aberdeen to Moray

Inverness to Aberdeen

Laichmoray Hotel - Elgin - 2 nights

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### Speyside

Speyside

Speyside Cooperage

Macallan - Speyside Whisky

The Glenlivet Distillery - Speyside Whisky

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### Explore the Moray Coast

Explore the Moray Coast

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### Elgin to Inverness

Elgin to Inverness

Columba hotel - 2 Nights

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### Loch Ness

Complete Loch Ness

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### Departure

## Edinburgh



### Arrival Edinburgh Airport

On arrival at Edinburgh Airport our representative will be there to meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel for check in.

Rest of day at leisure to explore Edinburgh



### Aparthotel Adagio Edinburgh Royal Mile - 2 Nights

Located in the heart of Royal Mile historic area, 10 minutes walk from Waverley station

Situated in Edinburgh, Aparthotel Adagio Edinburgh Royal Mile is 650 yards from Edinburgh Festival Theatre and 10 minute walk from Waverley station.

Each apartment includes a kitchenette with a coffee maker, kettle, crockery and kitchen utensils. There is a private bathroom and some apartments have a seating area for guests to relax in.

A Continental breakfast is available. A 24-hour reception is available at this property.

Edinburgh Playhouse is 750 yards from Aparthotel Adagio Edinburgh Royal Mile, while Edinburgh Military Tattoo is 750 yards away. Edinburgh Castle is 0.9 miles from the Aparthotel. The nearest airport is Edinburgh Airport, 6.8 miles away.

This property also has one of the best-rated locations in Edinburgh Guests are happier about it compared to other properties.



## Scottish Borders



### Rosslyn Chapel and the Scottish Borders

Your tour takes you south to the beautiful Scotts View, overlooking the Tweed Valley. You then get the opportunity to visit the nearby statue of the great Scottish patriot, William Wallace.



From here, you travel to Melrose where you can visit the ruined Melrose abbey, founded by the Cistercians in the 12th Century. The Cistercian monks had close connections with the Knights Templar, and legend tells that Melrose Abbey is the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart, brought back from the crusades in Moorish Spain.

Followed by a visit to Abbotsford House, home of Sir Walter Scott, the famous author. The House stands in fine wooded grounds and gardens by the River Tweed, near Tweedbank and Melrose

Following lunch in Melrose, you make your way to the stunning 15th century Rosslyn Chapel, made world famous in Dan Browns book, "Da Vinci Code. Here you have time to explore the chapel and find out more about the myths and legends surrounding the whereabouts of the Holy Grail.

After your visit to Rosslyn Chapel, you return to Edinburgh.



## Edinburgh to Cairngorm National Park



### Edinburgh to Cairngorm National Park via the Kingdom of Fife

You leave Edinburgh and travel north to South Queensferry.

You travel over the Queensferry Crossing, and get a great view of one of Scotland's greatest man-made landmarks, the Forth Rail Bridge.

You then enter the Kingdom of Fife and stop in the traditional fishing village of Anstruther (known as 'Ainster' locally), where you can check out the old cobbled streets and take a walk along the seafront to the harbour.

From Anstruther, we continue north to the medieval town of St Andrews. St Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, and according to legend his remains were washed up on the Fife coast. St Andrews is also home to the third oldest university in Britain and a beautiful ruined castle perched on a cliff. You will have some time to explore this fascinating town.

After St Andrews, we take a pleasant drive through the rolling countryside of central Fife to Falkland. Falkland Palace dominates this old village, and was one of the main residences of the old Royal family of Scotland, the Stewarts (Stuarts). Aside from the palace the village is simply one of the most beautiful in Scotland with an array of old cottages and narrow winding streets.

Leaving Falkland we carry onto Royal Deeside, where we will visit Glamis Castle. Glamis Castle is a living, breathing monument to Scottish heritage, hospitality and enjoyment for all.

The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth, the childhood home of HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of Princess Margaret.

As soon as you enter the Queen Mother Gates at Glamis and see the Castle's turrets and towers nestled at the end of the mile-long drive, you can't fail to be impressed by its majesty.



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### Glencova Hotel - 1 night

A warm welcome awaits you at this boutique 18 bedroomed hotel situated at the foot of beautiful Glen Doll in the Cairngorm National Park . This hotel offers a warm welcome, lovely, tasty, fresh food prepared lovingly and best of all, genuine hospitality.

Set in Millton of Clova, Glen Clova Hotel features a bar, terrace and free WiFi. There is a restaurant serving British cuisine, and free private parking is available.

At the hotel, all rooms come with a wardrobe, a TV and a private bathroom.

Guests at Glen Clova Hotel can enjoy a Full English/Irish breakfast.



## Glencova to Aberdeen

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### Travel through the Cairngorms via Royal Deeside to Aberdeen

Today we will travel through Royal Deeside to Aberdeen.

Queen Victoria is a key figure in the history of Royal Deeside because her decision to buy and develop Balmoral Castle had such a profound effect on the development of the area. In each of Banchory, Aboyne, Ballater and Braemar most of the important buildings were built in the Victorian era. Her influence can still be directly felt in the Victorian Heritage trail, the old station at Ballater and the interest inspired by the recent film 'Mrs Brown'.

However, the history of Royal Deeside stretches far beyond the Royal Connection. Thus, for example, it is possible to trace a thread leading from the defeat of Macbeth at Lumphanan, near Aboyne, through to today's popular Braemar Gathering and Highland Games. A key battle in the fight to retain Scottish independence was fought at Culblean on what is now the Muir of Dinnet Nature Reserve. The ghostly ruins of Knock Castle tell of clashes between the Forbes and Gordons. The very existence of nearby Ballater was the result of the foresight of the brave Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie, so nearly executed after the battle of Culloden. And, of a generation or so earlier, the exploits of Farquharson of Inverey make exciting reading even today.

Hear all about Royal Deeside from your guide.





## Doubletree By Hilton Aberdeen City Centre - Your home for the next two nights.

With views across Aberdeen Seafront, this Doubletree by Hilton is just 900 yards from Aberdeen centre. The modern hotel has a restaurant and bar, and free parking.

The 4-star bedrooms at Doubletree by Hilton Aberdeen City Centre have complimentary WiFi and a large work desk. All rooms feature satellite TV and tea/coffee facilities, and some have sea views.

Footdee's Restaurant serves a creative modern menu using quality local produce. The Conservatory offers hearty breakfasts and evening meals based on Scottish cuisine, and The Atrium serves a traditional pub-style menu.

Opposite Aberdeen's sandy beach, Doubletree by Hilton Aberdeen is a 10-minute walk from Union Street. There are 5 golf clubs within 3 miles, including Royal Aberdeen. The property is 12 minutes' walk from Codonas Amusement Park.



## Castles of Aberdeenshire

### Craigievar and Dunotter Castle

Today we visit another two of Aberdeen-shire castles

#### Craigievar

A fairytale setting for a Scottish castle packed with history, armour and art.

- Discover the beautiful pink castle said to be the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle.
- Admire an impressive collection of artefacts and art, including Raeburns, armour and weapons.
- Experience an authentic tour of the castle, with no artificial lighting beyond the ground floor.
- Explore the gardens and woodland trails, keeping an eye out for the rare pine marten.
- Enjoy a peaceful break in one of our holiday cottages with lovely views of the castle.

## Dunotter Castle

This dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland. Steeped in history, this romantic and haunting ruin is a photographer's paradise, a history lover's dream and an iconic tourist destination for visitors the world over. Visit Dunnottar Castle for your own unforgettable experience and discover the importance of Dunnottar – an impregnable fortress that holds many rich secrets of Scotland's colourful past.



## Aberdeen to Moray



### Inverness to Aberdeen

Travel along the coast road from Aberdeen. This route is also known as the NC250

The North East 250 explores everything for which Scotland is famous in a unique Scottish road trip taking you through the whisky distilleries of Speyside, the spectacular mountain passes of the Cairngorms National Park, the famous castles of Royal Deeside, the Granite City of Aberdeen, the rugged North Sea coastline to the east, and the picturesque seaside villages of the Moray Firth Coast.

#### Highlights

- Peterhead Prison
- Museum of Scottish Lighthouses
- Time to explore many of the small fishing villages on the Moray Coastline



### Laichmoray Hotel - Elgin - 2 nights

Laichmoray Hotel is conveniently situated on the periphery of Elgin town centre, less than 350 yards from the Elgin Rail Station. Guests can benefit from free Wi-Fi as well as the free parking in the ample car park.

The Laichmoray Hotel features individually styled rooms, which are equipped with wooden furnishings and neutral decor. They all include a flat-screen TV and an en suite bathroom; some rooms also feature four-poster beds.

In the restaurant and garden room conservatory, the menus offer traditional favourites and modern classics, cooked to order and using only the best local produce. It also features an extensive wine list and a choice of 160 malt whiskies. Guests can enjoy hot drinks and lunchtime snacks in the lounge.





## Speyside



### Speyside

Today we will explore the famous Speyside region. Starting with a visit to the Speyside Cooperage following by a couple of visit to 2 of their famous distilleries



### Speyside Cooperage

No visit to Speyside would be complete without a visit to the Speyside Cooperage, the only cooperage in Britain with a visitor centre.

In the heart of Scotland's rolling hills lies Speyside Cooperage, the only working cooperage in the UK where you can experience the ancient art of coopering.

Since 1947, the family owned Speyside Cooperage has produced the finest casks from the best American Oak. Today the cooperage continues to work and produce the age-old product, still using traditional methods and tools. Although shipped across the world, many of the casks remain in Scotland, providing a vital ingredient in Scotland's whisky making process.

Enjoy a journey through the lifecycle of the cask, see the highly skilled coopers at work, try it for yourself with the mini casks or simply relax and enjoy the gift and coffee shop. After your tour, explore the grounds or take lunch in the all weather picnic area.



### Macallan - Speyside Whisky

Inside The Macallan

NESTLED ABOVE THE RIVER SPEY

An obsession with quality has been the hallmark of The Macallan since its founding by Alexander Reid on a plateau above the river Spey in north-east Scotland. The distillery is surrounded by a 150 hectare estate with Easter Elchies House at its heart.

FOUNDED IN 1824



The Macallan was one of the first distillers in Scotland to be legally licensed. Since then they have built a reputation as one of the world's leading single malt whiskies. The creation of The Macallan draws on the vital contributing influences of Spain, North America and Scotland - and of their respective natural raw materials, combined with traditional methods and craftsmanship.



### The Glenlivet Distillery - Speyside Whisky

The remote and isolated Livet valley made it ideal for illicit distillation. This is where their founder George Smith learned his craft. Hidden away from the Customs Officers and soldiers amongst the hills and abundant springs, George had time to distil slowly making a whisky that would soon become world renowned. In August 1822, King George IV arrived in Scotland for a state visit and asked to try a drop of the infamous Glenlivet whisky. An illegal dram it was, but even that didn't stop the King.

To this day, The Glenlivet remains the benchmark that all other Speyside single malts are measured against. It's the definitive whisky that brings us together. And it must be said, they take great pride in setting that standard. To quote Captain Bill Smith Grant, "If we can't make good whisky, then we shouldn't make any whisky". We'll raise a glass to that.



## Explore the Moray Coast



### Explore the Moray Coast

An enjoyable day exploring the small fishing settlements along the Moray coast.

Spent an enjoyable day exploring the string of small fishing villages along the Moray coast. Many of the settlements were established in the 18thC when crofting families cleared from inland estates to make way for their landlord's sheep, were moved to the coast. It is a hostile and rocky coastline and settlement grew up around the mouths of streams where a small harbour could be built. Families fished from boats owned by the landlord. They used lines to catch haddock, whiting and mackerel. By the end of the 19thC some fishermen had managed to save enough money to build their own boats. However larger boats appearing in the first half of the 20thC were unable to operate out of many of the small harbours and fishing declined rapidly. Now there is little fishing from many of the settlements apart from some crab and lobster and harbours are full of small pleasure boats.



## Elgin to Inverness



### Elgin to Inverness

Today we leave the Moray area and travel to Inverness Capital of the Highlands.

Following the Jacobite route you will hear all about the Jacobites and the last battle on British Soil.

#### Highlights

- Culloden Battlefield
- Fort George



### Columba hotel - 2 Nights

This grand hotel has a great location in the heart of Inverness, yet in a quiet area with splendid views of the River Ness and Inverness Castle.

Inside its historic exterior, the Columba Hotel houses bright, airy rooms. Each has a TV with satellite channels and facilities for making tea and coffee.

The hotel's decor combines traditional comfort with contemporary style and amenities. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the building.

There is also the property's Victoria restaurant offering a Table D'Hote Menu, consisting of a 3-course, 4-option menu that changes daily. Guests can also dine at John Macnab's Bar & Bistro, which specialises in fresh dishes, and has live music every Saturday in the summer months! Columba Hotel also offers al fresco dining on its river and castle view terrace.

In the summer, guests can look out over the floral decorations that surround Inverness Castle. In the winter, the trees that line Ness Walk are decked with fairy lights.





## Loch Ness



### Complete Loch Ness

Your ultimate Loch Ness adventure. Travel the full length of the loch, explore wonderful waterfalls, and visit cosy villages.

No one can resist the mythical Loch Ness: its beauty evokes a sense of wonder, while its monstrous depths are legendary.

And on this tour, you explore all of it. You can enjoy incredible views from a cruise, learn about the historic ruins of Urquhart Castle, and explore the less frequented south roads of the loch.

Even if the monster doesn't show up, we can assure you that your guide will bring this loch to life with intriguing tales and history.

This short-day tour lets you discover all the marvellous views and secrets of Loch Ness.

You leave Inverness and follow the Caledonian Canal to the source at Loch Ness.

After arriving at Loch Ness, you have the choice to either go on a one-hour cruise around the loch or a 30-minute cruise to Urquhart Castle, where you can disembark and explore the ancient ramparts.

You travel a short distance to Drumnadrochit, a popular destination for keen monster hunters! You have time here to look around for gifts and sit down for a spot of lunch.

Next, you venture to Invermoriston, where you can take a short walk to an old summerhouse with views of the river Moriston.

Your journey continues South West along the lochside to the furthestmost point of the tour at Fort Augustus. Here you can take a picture of the boats coming in through the Caledonian Canal.

The slower roads take you through the less-travelled side of Loch Ness. Driving on single-track roads and using passing places is a typical Highland experience. You may stop for a photo and view looking east towards Loch Ness and Inverness. After a twisty drive through forested landscape, you arrive at the forest community of Foyers.

At this stop, you can walk downhill through native pine trees to see the hidden-away Falls of Foyers. This stunning waterfall was a favourite spot for Robert Burns, and if you're lucky, you may spot a dashing red squirrel.

From here, you continue back along the Lochside and to Dores at the eastern end of the Loch.

This final viewpoint is the most striking vista of Loch Ness and the Great Glen rift valley.

From here, you return to Inverness and arrive in the early evening.



## Departure



The time has gone and the tour is finished. We hope you had a fantastic time and looking forward to welcoming you to Scotland again. Why not stay for an optional night(s) to explore our Highland capital City on your own before returning home.

(Please [contact us](#) for a quote to extend your stay)

Turas math dhuibh! (Have a Good Journey)