

# WORLDCON 2024 SCOTLAND TOUR ITINERARY



#### DAY 1

Welcome to Edinburgh (4 Nights)

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 EDINBURGH - UNITED KINGDOM

Arrive in Edinburgh and make your own way to the hotel to meet everyone for the Welcome Dinner.

**MEAL(S):** Welcome Dinner

**HOTEL:** Hampton by Hilton Hotel Edinburgh West End

#### DAY 2

#### Edinburgh Sightseeing

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024 EDINBURGH - UNITED KINGDOM



Start the day picked up from your hotel after breakfast. Soak up Edinburgh's atmosphere by embarking on a walking tour through Old Town's winding cobblestone lanes, including views of view Greyfriars Bobby Statue, Prince Street, Holyrood Palace, Sir Walter Scott Monument and visits to Edinburgh Castle, Real Mary King's Close, and St. Giles Cathedral. Our last stop is at the Royal Yacht

Britannia before dinner at a local restaurant.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 3

A Day of Abbeys, Landscapes and History

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 EDINBURGH - UNITED KINGDOM

This morning we visit Floors Castle, built in the 1720s by the architect William Adam for Duke John. We then see Melrose Abbey before visiting Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, and Rosslyn Chapel. Enjoy dinner tonight at the hotel.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Hotel Dinner

#### DAY 4

**Explore Linlithgow Palace and National Museum of Flight** 

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

**EDINBURGH - UNITED KINGDOM** 



We visit the Hopetoun House, the stately home that doubled as the location for the Duke of Sandringham's house in Season 1 of Outlander. We'll also visit Linlithgow Palace, the ruins of the elegant medieval birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots. Learn about the history of aviation from the First World War to the present day and immerse yourself in interactive galleries, supersonic experiences, and historic hangars and airfield at the

National Museum of Flight, where you can board the Concorde to learn what transatlantic flight was like for its passengers and crew.

This evening, experience the best of Scottish tradition at Ghillie Dhu (subject to availability), where we'll be welcomed by a Scottish piper and enjoy a welcome drink before settling in for a delicious three-course meal and live Ceilidh music and the iconic Piping in the Haggis ceremony.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 5

#### Journey to Dundee (2 Nights)

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024 DUNDEE - UNITED KINGDOM



View Dunfermline Abbey and Palace before traversing the lush green Lowlands to the Kingdom of Fife. Arrive in Falkland, the Outlander film location for 1940s Inverness. We visit Falkland Palace and Gardens, a royal palace of the Scottish Kings. Our final stop is Dundee, where we'll see the impressive Tay Rail Bridge and visit the Discovery Point and RRS Discovery, the last traditional wooden three-masted ship built in Britain, which served as Robert Falcon

Scott's Antarctic exploration vessel. We will also visit Verdant Works, a restored mill housing interactive displays telling the story of local 19th-20th century production. Have dinner at your hotel.

#### DAY 6

### Scottish Heritage and Castles

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024 DUNDEE - UNITED KINGDOM

Shakespeare's Macbeth takes center stage as we visit Glamis Castle, once the home of the beloved Queen Mother and birthplace of Princess Margaret. We travel to visit Balmoral Castle. If the Royal Family is in residence, we will view, but not visit, the castle before returning to Dundee for dinner.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Hotel Dinner

#### **DAY 7**

# Venture into the Scottish Highlands and Inverness (2 Nights)

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024 INVERNESS - UNITED KINGDOM

Head north into the Scottish Highlands through Dunkeld, which doubled as North Carolina in Outlander. Celebrate rural Scottish heritage at the Highland



Folk Museum, with its recreated 18th-century township, once used as a location in Outlander. Gain insights into rural life in Scotland from the 18th century to the mid-20th century, admiring the extensive collection of artefacts. Visit a real Highland sheep farm and meet a shepherd and his border collies. Try your hand at feeding the lambs and discover his training techniques (weather permitting). We continue through the rugged landscapes of the Scottish Highlands to explore the cultural capital of the Highlands, Inverness, where an orientation tour will show you sights such as Inverness Castle and Abertarff House. Join us for dinner at a traditional country pub in the charming village of Cawdor, home to Shakespeare's Macbeth.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Inverness Airport (or similar)

#### DAY8

#### The Sights of Culloden and Dunrobin Castle

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024 INVERNESS - UNITED KINGDOM



We start the day with a visit to the bloody battlefield of Culloden, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was defeated in 1746. The windswept moors on which this final battle took place played a significant role in the Outlander series as the catalyst which forced Claire and Jamie to part ways. We relive the brief but brutal battle at the contemporary Visitor Center before visiting Fort George and Dunrobin Castle and Gardens to tour the grounds and watch a falconry display. Our last stop today is the Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor

Center, where you will enjoy a fascinating insight into the history, tradition, and culture of the kilt from its origins to the present day.

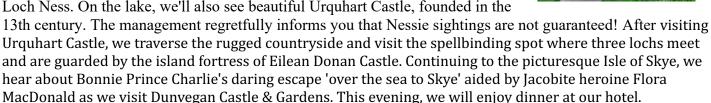
MEAL(S): Breakfast, Hotel Dinner

#### DAY 9

#### Over the Sea to Isle of Skye (2 Nights)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024
ISLE OF SKYE - UNITED KINGDOM

We'll begin the day with a scenic cruise on Scotland's most famous waterway, Loch Ness. On the lake, we'll also see beautiful Urguhart Castle, founded in the



MEAL(S): Breakfast, Hotel Dinner

**HOTEL:** Kings Arms Hotel Kyleakin (or similar)

#### **DAY 10**

#### Isle of Skye and Jacobite Steam Train

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024 ISLE OF SKYE - UNITED KINGDOM

As you travel around the Isle of Skye with your Local Specialist, you will hear about the way of life on this



remote inner Hebridean Island and discover its dramatic scenery and rock formations. Visit the Skye Museum of Island Life for unique insight into island life years ago. We leave the craggy landscape of Skye behind, boarding a ferry back to the mainland to Mallaig. Our journey continues on the Jacobite Steam Train to Fort William (subject to availability) via the magnificent Glenfinnan Viaduct, the now famous 'Harry Potter'

bridge, which the Hogwarts Express crosses on its journey across the Scottish Highlands.



#### **DAY11**

#### Continue to Glencoe and Pitlochry (1 Night)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024
PITLOCHRY - UNITED KINGDOM

Impressive in their own right are the exquisite views of Britain's highest

mountain, Ben Nevis, which you'll get to admire before traveling past the precipitous mountains of Glencoe to see the 'Glen of Weeping'. Despite the tragedy that befell the Clan MacDonald here in 1692, the irresistible beauty of this place cannot be denied. We continue to Drummond Castle Gardens. It doubled as Versailles in Outlander Season 2, and the local area was used for filming for Season 4. We stop for a taste of Highland Chocolate from the award-winning master chocolatier Iain Burnett. Our final stop today is Pitlochry on the banks of the Tummel, a quaint little town best known for its natural beauty, fresh air, and rich Victorian heritage.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Hotel Dinner **HOTEL:** Fishers Hotel Pitlochry

#### **DAY 12**

## Experience the Local Whisky and Edinburgh Military Tattoo (2 Nights)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024 PEEBLES - UNITED KINGDOM



This morning, we'll head to Loch Tay where we'll have an opportunity to visit The Scottish Crannog Centre, a museum featuring interpretations and demonstrations in its Iron Aged Village. Dive Into Culture at one of the oldest distilleries in Scotland. Head to your hotel to freshen up for dinner and an exciting evening. Edinburgh Military Tattoo tickets are included this evening (subject to availability).

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Macdonald Cardrona Hotel Peebles

#### **DAY 13**

Castles and Ghosts
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024
PEEBLES - UNITED KINGDOM

Head to Doune Castle, which served as the film location for Castle Leoch in Outlander. We see the site where Clan Mackenzie



welcomed and hosted Claire upon her arrival in 18th-century Scotland, then head to Stirling and its magnificent castle, a symbol of Scottish national pride and once home to Scottish royals including Mary, Queen of Scots. Explore its halls, chapels and bedrooms, see the famous 'Stirling Heads' and admire the poignant Wallace Monument and battlefield of Stirling Bridge from its 16th-century walls. View the site of the Battle of Bannockburn, before arriving in Edinburgh for dinner at a local restaurant and a ghost tour this evening.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 14**

#### Continue to Glasgow (2 Nights)

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024 GLASGOW - UNITED KINGDOM

Your day starts with a visit to Lauriston Castle before heading west to Glasgow. We'll enjoy an orientation tour of the city, including views of Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow Central Station, the Glasgow Tower, the River Clyde, and a visit to Glasgow Cathedral. Later, visit the Riverside Museum & Tall Ship and Tenement House before dinner. After dinner, consider a night on the town via a pub crawl.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Hotel Dinner

**HOTEL:** Holiday Inn Hotel Glasgow Airport

#### **DAY 15**

#### Day Trip to Isle of Arran

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 GLASGOW - UNITED KINGDOM

Spend the day on Isle of Arran, whose rugged mountains and rolling hills encapsulates the Scottish landscape's beauty. There are so many quaint sights to see along the way, you may spot the beaches or Machrie Moor Standing Stones. After your visit to Brodick Castle, perhaps try some local cheese or traditional Scottish ice cream before heading back to Glasgow for the farewell dinner.

MEAL(S): Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

#### **DAY 16**

#### Glasgow Sightseeing and Farewell

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 GLASGOW - UNITED KINGDOM



Start your day at the Museum of Piping at The National Piping Centre, which holds 300 years of piping heritage. Continue to the Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre for a show. Visit Paisley Abbey, founded around 1163 by Walter FitzAlan. Venture to the beautiful Loch Lomond to enjoy the scenic views before returning to Glasgow, where we'll be dropped off at our convention hotels.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

# WHAT'S INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE

- 15 Breakfasts, including on August 7
- 15 Dinners, including on July 23
- All hotel tips, charges, and local taxes
- All restaurant gratuities
- An expert Travel Director and professional Driver
- Audio headsets for flexible sightseeing
- Daily breakfast and evening meals
- Cherry-picked hotels

- Luxury air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- Tickets for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (subject to availability)
- Explore in Edinburgh with a Local Specialist

# WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- AIR FARE (including any taxes and baggage fees)
- Lunches (time will be provided)
- No early check in/late checkout included.
- Travel insurance, visas, and personal items
- Souvenirs
- Gratuities to Travel Director, Coach Drivers, and Local Experts
- Hotel porterage

#### **DISCLAIMER**

Adjustments to the itinerary may become necessary due to availability, schedule changes, etc. Pricing is based on current rates and could change based on the number of people that go, price changes, and other factors. We will need a minimum of 25 people to run the tour.

#### **CONTACT US**

If you are interested in taking our tour or have any questions, please call (858) 292-4363 or email us at <a href="mailto:val-ron@ontell.org">val-ron@ontell.org</a>. Please include the following:

- Names of everyone in your party (please indicate any children)
- Address(es)
- Phone number(s)
- Email address(es)

We will add you to our email list for the most up to date information as it becomes available.