TOUR OVERVIEW

Immerse yourself in the unique culture, history and landscapes of the Scottish Highlands. First, though, explore Scotland’s capital city Edinburgh, with its magnificent architecture, rich history and vibrant atmosphere. Then head to the capital of the Highlands, Inverness, a grand city located at the head of the Great Glen. Here you will visit Cawdor Castle of McBeth fame, and the moody battlefield of Culloden.

Continue north to the top of the mainland, leaping-off point for the starkly beautiful Orkney Islands. There are many reminders across this archipelago of the early inhabitants, including Neolithic villages, standing stones and Viking settlements. Recent history includes the navy base at Scapa Flow, which played an important part in both world wars of the 20th century.

Back on the mainland, it’s time to board your floating home on board the Lord of the Highlands, and enjoy fine hospitality as you explore the sheltered coastal waters and inland waterways of the north. You will visit four very different islands in the Inner Hebrides. Skye is the largest, famed for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Eigg is one of the smallest, just a few kilometres across, but has its own striking beauty. Purchased by the community some 20 years ago, Eigg is now owned and managed by a trust on behalf of the population of about 100.

On Mull the picturesque town of Tobermory is famous for the brightly-painted houses lining the waterfront (and a single malt distillery of the same name). The small island of Iona is the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, and its monastery is said to have been founded by Colm Cille (St Columba) in the 6th century. The abbey, nunnery and heritage centre will bring this fascinating story alive.

As Scotland reflects on its identity and contemplates independence from an increasingly fractured United Kingdom, find out more about this unique nation that many New Zealanders have family history links with.
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise for seven nights in the Highlands aboard a luxury small ship
- Experience northern Scotland’s dramatic landscapes and traditional way of life
- Understand Scotland’s history from recent times to prehistoric
- Head north to the Orkney Islands, with dramatic remnants of Neolithic and Viking inhabitants
- Explore both Scotland’s majestic capital Edinburgh and the Highland centre of Inverness
- Enjoy local Scottish produce, and sample Highland whiskies
- Optional tour extension in vibrant Glasgow and to attend the Edinburgh Military tattoo.

THE SHIP

The Lord of the Highlands is the newest ship to provide a luxury cruise experience on the sheltered waters around Scotland’s hauntingly beautiful west coast and through the intricate waters of the Caledonian Canal. Entering service in 2020, this luxury yacht has only 21 state cabins, all facing outwards and spread over two decks. Each cabin has picture windows, hardwood joinery, carpeting, dressing table, stool, wardrobe, satellite TV, and en-suite facilities with shower, toilet and washbasin. Cabins are air conditioned and heated. All sailings are made during daylight hours, and overnight moorings are alongside wharves so no transfer to shore is needed. The cuisine is excellent, freshly prepared on board by a loyal and long serving brigade of chefs who draw on the rich bounty of locally-sourced produce.

TOUR PRICE

Ex Auckland

Share twin per person NZD$15,399
Single supplement Price on application, as limited availability

Share twin and double cabins are on the Main Deck, and single occupancy cabins are on the Lower Deck. Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single occupancy place.

GROUP SIZE
Minimum 10, maximum 18

VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL
We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class seats for the flights. Please contact us.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced Calder & Lawson Tours tour manager
- Economy class airfares
- 1 nights accommodation northbound
- 10 nights land based accommodation in Scotland
- 7 nights accommodation on board the Lord of the Highlands
- 1 nights accommodation south-bound
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- All group transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours with local guides as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and other service providers
- Port taxes on the cruise
- Pre-tour material

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airline taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel porterage

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

The tour does involve a moderate amount of walking including on uneven surfaces, climbing steps and clambering around archaeological sites, so you will need to be reasonably fit and confident with walking. Otherwise it isn’t physically very demanding. During free time in cities you can be as active or relaxed as you wish, and of course on board the Lord of the Highlands you can sit back and enjoy the luxury. The voyage is mainly on sheltered waters, but several days are spent on the ocean. The ferry crossings to and from the Orkneys, though not long, are in the northern ocean.
An evening departure from Auckland on an overnight flight to Dubai.

After an early arrival in Dubai, transfer to your central city hotel. After the remainder of the morning free, explore the old city on an afternoon half-day tour.

Transfer to Dubai airport for a non-stop flight to Edinburgh, arriving mid-afternoon. After transferring to your hotel, have free time before a welcome dinner in the hotel.

Explore Scotland’s grand capital city this morning with a knowledgeable local guide, including entry to Edinburgh Castle and St Giles Cathedral, with Thistle Chapel. The afternoon is free so you can wander around this atmospheric city on your own, and walk back to your centrally located hotel.

Another day experiencing this fascinating city, nicknamed ‘Athens of the North’ for its grand architecture. Visit Georgian House, a vivid re-creation of life in the late 18th century that gives an insight into the upstairs/downstairs life of elegant high society. You may like to discover what life was like on board Her Majesty’s floating residence, the Royal Yacht Britannia. You can follow in the footsteps of world leaders such as Sir Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Rajiv Gandhi, who have all spent time on the ship.

After checking out of your hotel, travel to see the Falkirk Wheel, a rotating boat lift that connects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. This is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world. Carry on to Pitlochry, the largest town in Highland Perthshire, for lunch and time to look around. Continue on to Inverness.

Break your journey north at the Glenmorangie Whisky Distillery in Tain for a tour and tasting. From near the northern tip of mainland Scotland, take an evening ferry from Scraubster, near Thurso, to Stromness in the Orkney Islands. Dinner is on board, before a late arrival. On Orkney, transfer the short distance to your hotel in Kirkwall for a three-night stay.

Enjoy a full day guided tour of Orkney by coach. Highlights include Orkney’s prehistoric monuments of Skara Brae, a beautifully situated small Neolithic fishing and farming village dating back to 3000BC, the Broch of Gurness on the island of Rousay (a well-preserved broch dating back to 100BC) and Maeshowe, one of the most impressive Neolithic burial chambers in Europe. Also visit the extraordinary Italian chapel, lovingly built by Italian prisoners during WW2.

This morning another tour takes you to St Magnus Cathedral, the most northerly cathedral in the British Isles and a fine example of Romanesque architecture built for the bishops of Orkney when the islands came under Norse rulers. Then on to Orkney Museum, which tells the story of Orkney from the Stone Age, to the Picts and Vikings, right through to the present day. Visit another whisky distillery, Highland Park, for a tour and tasting, before having a free afternoon in Orkney’s main town.
Return by ferry from St Margaret's Hope to Gills Bay near John O'Groats, and travel to Inverness for a three-night stay. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands.

Set out by coach to explore east of Inverness, first visiting Cawdor Castle. A superb 14th century fairy-tale castle built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor, romantically linked by Shakespeare with Macbeth, and home of the Cawdor family to this day. Continue to Fort George, positioned strategically on a promontory jutting into the Moray Firth, and built by George II as the ultimate defence against further Jacobite unrest following the 1746 defeat at Culloden of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Visits to the garrison buildings and artillery defences provide a fascinating insight into 18th century military life.

You have a free day in Inverness today, for more exploring or relaxing. The city has a great location astride the River Ness at the northern end of the Great Glen, and has Victorian-era marketplaces, cathedrals, and museums. You might even fit in a visit to another Highland whisky distillery! Try out one of the local restaurants or pubs for your evening meal.

Today cross to the west coast of the Scottish Highlands. En-route visit the impressive Corrieshalloch Gorge, where you can view, from both an observation point and a suspension bridge, the spectacular 50-metre Measach Falls. Continue on for a guided tour of Inverewe Garden, an oasis of foliage and riotously colourful flower collections, forming a vivid contrast to the wild heathery crags of the adjoining coast. Your coach then travels on to remote and rugged Kyle of Lochalsh, where you will board the Lord of the Highlands. After settling into your cabins, enjoy the captain’s welcome reception, followed by dinner on board. The vessel remains moored in Kyle overnight.

In the morning travel by coach a short distance to the famous and photogenic Eilean Donan Castle and the picturesque village of Plockton. This afternoon your ship sails via Kyle Rhea and the Sound of Sleat to Armadale on the Isle of Skye. Visit the Clan Donald Centre and Gardens, before sailing to Inverie in Loch Nevis where you will moor overnight.

This morning sail to the tiny island of Egg. After exploring Egg, sail on and around Ardnamurchan Point, the most westerly point of mainland Britain, then into the Sound of Mull, arriving in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Tobermory’s most striking feature is the gaily painted houses that line the waterfront, built for workers by the British Fisheries Company at a cost of 20 pounds each. There will be time to explore Tobermory before dinner on board. Moor overnight at Tobermory.

Sail to Craignure on the Isle of Mull this morning, from where you will then drive to Fionnphort and take a passenger ferry to the Isle of Iona. Here Saint Columba introduced Christianity to Britain, and the island is the last resting place of many Scottish kings. Your tour will include the island’s main village Baile Mor, the ruins of an Augustinian nunnery, the Iona Heritage Centre and Iona Abbey. Later, return by coach to Craignure and sail across to Oban – the seafood capital of Scotland – with a pause in front of photogenic Duart Castle, once headquarters of the McLean clan, but burnt down by the Campbells. Moor overnight in Oban.

Sail via the Sound of Mull and Loch Linne to Corpach, near Fort William. This afternoon take the West Highland railway over the GIENTINNAN VAUDICT - as featured in Harry Potter films - and travel through a daunting landscape of mountains, steep-sided lochs and heather moors. Keep an eye out for red deer, silhouetted on a skyline or half-hidden in the heather. Moor at Corpach tonight.
Set sail on the spectacular Caledonian Canal. Constructed in the early 1800s by Scottish engineer Thomas Telford, the canal pierces the Scottish mainland through the Great Glen and enables ships to pass between the North Sea and the Atlantic without having to navigate Scotland’s treacherous northern coast. Near the entrance at Corpach is a famous piece of canal engineering: Neptune’s Staircase. The ship will ascend the staircase, which lifts the ship 20 metres via eight inter-connected locks, and then travel along the Caledonian Canal via Loch Lochy, Laggan Avenue and Loch Oich to Fort Augustus where it will moor for the night.

This morning descend the locks at Fort Augustus and cross the famous Loch Ness. Keep a good lookout for Nessie! After pausing in front of Urquart Castle for photos, cross Loch Dochfour and arrive at Inverness. There will be an off-ship excursion this afternoon; firstly to the Culloden battle site where Bonnie Prince Charlie’s Jacobite forces were defeated in 1746, then on to view the Clava Cairns, an impressive collection of prehistoric burial chambers clustered around the south bank of the River Nairn. Back on board, the evening will feature the captain’s reception and a farewell dinner. Moor overnight at Inverness.

After breakfast on board you will be transferred to Glasgow airport for an Emirates flight to Dubai. Spend the night at a hotel within Dubai airport.

Depart Dubai this morning on an overnight Emirates flight to Auckland.

Arrive back in Auckland in the morning.
An evening departure from Auckland on an overnight flight to Dubai.

Check in to your day room at a hotel within the Dubai Airport before travelling on to Glasgow, arriving in the evening. Transfer from the airport to your centrally located hotel for your three night stay.

Today take a mixed tour by coach and on foot to start exploring the city.

A free day to further explore Glasgow, before your late afternoon transfer to Edinburgh for dinner and then the Tattoo experience. You will have dinner in Edinburgh before the Tattoo.

A full day guided tour by coach today. Visit Benmore Botanic Gardens, a 120 acre mountainside garden that features a world-famous collection of plants from all over the world including the Orient, Himalayas, North and South America. Loch Lomond is a freshwater lake that crosses the Highland Boundary fault, often thought to be the boundary between the Lowlands of central Scotland and the Highlands.

Visit New Lanark which showcases the story of the cotton mill village which was founded in the 18th century. New Lanark became known under the management of social pioneer, Robert Owen, who provided decent homes, fair wages, free health care, a new education system for villagers and the first workplace nursery school in the world. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, New Lanark has been restored as a living community. Later in the day transfer to Edinburgh to join your tour group at the hotel for a three night stay, with your welcome dinner being held tonight.

**PRE TOUR EXTENSION** - Glasgow and the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Leaving before the ‘main tour’, this pre-tour add on will take you via Dubai to Glasgow where you will be based for 4 nights before joining the rest of the tour group in Edinburgh.

As a hub of contemporary culture, home to 20 museums and art galleries and a UNESCO heritage city of music, Glasgow is fast growing as an international tourist destination. In 2014 Glasgow was voted the friendliest city in the world by Rough Guide, and it seems that Glaswegians are a friendly bunch with a wicked sense of humour. Why not stop off for a few days prior to the tour and enjoy this vibrant city. This will also give you a chance to take an afternoon transfer (about an hour’s journey) to attend Scotland’s famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Set against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the Tattoo is always a sell-out and has been watched by millions over its 65-year history. Featuring a cast of over 1000 performers, witness this magnificent spectacle of music, dance and precision display. The traditional Celtic Massed Pipes and Drums, Military Bands and Highland Dancers are joined by a selection of the best cultural and military performers from around the world.

**TOUR PRICE** Ex Auckland

The price per person is dependent on the number of people who choose to add the Glasgow extension to the tour.

As an indication, if 8 people took the extension, the price pp share twin would be $2190 with a single supplement of $425.

If there were 10 people, the price would be $1990.
HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of $1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a ‘confirmed departure’. At that point we will advise when the tour payment will be due.

- Click here to complete the online registration form, pay the $1,000 deposit and your place on this tour is secured.
- Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from the website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz, or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on the website www.calderandlawsontours.co.nz, on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

VARIATIONS

This itinerary is Version 1 dated 11/07/19 and is subject to change. Exchange rate fluctuations may result in a change to the tour price.