# Scotland by Road: Castles, Coasts & Lochs

### Day 1: Travel to Scotland

Depart from the US on an overnight flight to Edinburgh. Settle in, relax, and get ready for a road trip through one of the most breathtaking countries in the world. Castles, dramatic coastlines, and legendary lochs await.

## Day 2: Arrive in Edinburgh

Welcome to Scotland! After landing in Edinburgh, you'll be picked up at the airport and taken to your accommodations. Once you're settled, we'll explore Edinburgh's Old Town on foot, walking the Royal Mile and soaking in views from Calton Hill. You'll experience the layers of history in every stone street, from gothic spires to medieval alleyways.

#### **Optional Activities:**

- Entry to Edinburgh Castle
- Guided underground tour of the Edinburgh Vaults
- · National Museum of Scotland highlights tour

# Day 3: Edinburgh to Aberdeen (via Fife and Dunnottar Castle)

Today we'll hit the road. First stop is the charming seaside villages of Fife like Anstruther or Crail, perfect for stretching your legs and grabbing a snack with a view. Then we'll continue along the coast to Dunnottar Castle, a jaw-dropping ruin perched on a cliff above the North Sea. From there, we'll head to Aberdeen, known for its silvery granite buildings and maritime history.

#### **Optional Activities:**

- Entry to Dunnottar Castle
- · Maritime Museum in Aberdeen

# Day 4: Inverness and Loch Ness Region

Leaving Aberdeen, we'll drive through the stunning landscapes of Cairngorms National Park on our way to the Highlands. In the afternoon, we'll explore Inverness, capital of the Highlands, and

make a scenic stop at Loch Ness. Keep your eyes peeled for Nessie and enjoy the quiet beauty of the water and surrounding hills.

### **Optional Activities:**

- Visit to Urquhart Castle ruins on Loch Ness
- · Loch Ness boat tour

## Day 5: The Highland Drive to Glasgow

This is one of the most scenic stretches of road in all of Scotland. We'll drive through Glencoe, a hauntingly beautiful valley carved by glaciers, and pass shimmering lochs and towering peaks as we make our way south. Arrive in Glasgow and settle into Scotland's largest city, known for its grit, charm, and legendary music scene.

#### **Optional Activities:**

- Visit to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
- · Riverside walk along the River Clyde

## Day 6: Explore Glasgow

Spend the day exploring Glasgow's free galleries, bold street art, lively neighborhoods, and green spaces. You might wander through the West End, enjoy the stunning architecture of Glasgow Cathedral, or pop into the Gallery of Modern Art. It's a city full of surprises and stories.

#### **Optional Activities:**

- Entry to Glasgow Cathedral's crypt and tower
- Evening live music experience at a local pub

# Day 7: Return to Edinburgh

This morning we'll drive back to Edinburgh. Depending on timing, there may be a short stop in Stirling to view the Wallace Monument from the outside or simply enjoy the final scenic views before arriving back in the city for drop-offs or an airport transfer.