Discovering Our Planet Together



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

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Trip Details:

Days
9 Days / Apr–Jul, Sep–Oct

Price
From $13695

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Scotland has long held a wild allure in Britain. Its heather-clad Highlands and far-flung Western Isles have drawn adventurous travelers for centuries. In summer, days stretch toward nearly perpetual light, nurturing a flurry of life in the Hebrides Isles off Scotland's northwest coast. Millions of seabirds nest in some of the largest rookeries in the world, while whales, seals and dolphins feed in clear Atlantic waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. Exploring the coves and cliffs of the Outer Hebrides, we also find remnants of ancient human presence, from Iron Age stone forts to embellished Celtic crosses. Inland, explore native Caledonian pine forest, heathered moors and silver lochs of the rugged Highlands, home to elusive wildlife including the magnificent Scottish red deer. In mystical Scotland, the wild still reigns in Europe!

Trip Highlights

Explore the Wilder Side of Scotland

Discover Scottish nature with expert naturalists—look for whales and dolphins on private boat cruises, and scout for red deer, pine marten, river otters and sea eagles

Go Deep into the Hebrides on Skye, Harris and Lewis

From the Isle of Skye, head to the Outer Hebrides on Scotland's far Atlantic edge—Harris and Lewis are a rare inclusion, where rural life is steeped in tradition

Ride the Jacobite Steam Train Through the Highlands

Enjoy a nature immersion on this stunning 42-mile rail journey through glens, lochs and Britain's highest mountains, crossing the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Itinerary

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Inverness / Contin
Day 2	Loch Ness / Loch Lochy
Day 3	Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula / Isle of Skye
Day 4	Isle of Skye
Day 5	Trotternish Ridge / Tarbert
Day 6	Isle of Harris
Day 7	Isle of Lewis / Contin
Day 8	Glen Affric
Day 9	Inverness



Day 1

Inverness / Contin

Gather in the Scottish Highlands before your island journey

- Settle into historic Coul House on a former Mackenzie clan estate
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of the adventure ahead

Our Scotland nature adventure begins in Inverness, the largest city and cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. From Inverness, a transfer is included to our historic country house hotel located just outside the village of Contin, about a 30-minute drive. Coul House, a grand stone manor house built in 1821, is the centerpiece of the Coul estate established by the Mackenzie clan in 1560. Gather for an orientation and welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader this evening.

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Day 2

Loch Ness / Loch Lochy

Cruise Loch Ness and hike beside a secluded Highland loch

- Travel by private cruise past the ruins of Urquhart Castle
- Watch for ospreys, eagles and waterfowl above the water
- Hike the forested shore of Loch Lochy beneath steep Highland peaks

It's just a short drive this morning to the Great Glen, passing dramatic vistas of Highland peaks and valleys to arrive at famous Loch Ness, one of the largest and deepest freshwater lakes in Britain. Aboard a private cruise of the silver loch, pause for a panorama of ruined Urquhart Castle on a rocky promontory above the water's edge—one of Scotland's largest medieval fortresses. Of course, we hope for a glimpse of the furtive Nessie, the water monster of legend that is the subject of more than a thousand eyewitness accounts. We're more likely, however, to spy nesting ospreys, eagles and waterfowl. Continue to Loch Lochy for an afternoon hike, exploring the shoreline and forests that blanket the steep mountains rising above the narrow lake. Then it's time to check in to our lodge, an isolated Highland retreat on the shore of Loch Lochy, offering cozy ambience and glorious views.

Day 3

Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula / Isle of Skye

Ride the Jacobite steam train into Britain's last wilderness

- Cross the Glenfinnan Viaduct aboard the Jacobite steam train
- Cruise along the Knoydart Peninsula in search of otters, seals and whales
- Enjoy lunch at The Old Forge, mainland Britain's most remote pub

Drive a short distance to Fort William this morning where we board the Jacobite steam train with passage to Mallaig. This magnificent 42-mile one-way journey begins near Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis, and crosses the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct (made famous as the route of the "Hogwarts Express" in the Harry Potter films) which overlooks Loch Shiel. Our rail trip concludes at Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe.

Once we disembark at Mallaig, board a private boat for a cruise along the Knoydart Peninsula among some of the wildest landscapes in Scotland. Sandwiched between Loch Nevis and Loch Hourn in the West Highlands, the peninsula forms the northern part of what is traditionally known as "The Rough Bounds," due to the region's harsh terrain and remote nature. Knoydart is also known as "Britain's Last Wilderness," renowned for its rugged grandeur and tranquility. As we follow the craggy coast, often wreathed in clouds, keep an eye out for abundant sea life—we may see otters, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, gray and common seals basking on rocks, and seabirds, including the majestic sea eagle. We break for lunch at the most remote pub on mainland Britain—The Old Forge, in the small village of Inverie on the south shore of the Knoydart peninsula. The building was originally built as a cottage in the 1770s, later becoming a smiddy's forge, then today a beloved community-owned pub. Our skipper then whisks us across Loch Hourn, the most fjord-like of Scotland's sea lochs, to Armadale on the Isle of Skye where we transfer to our hotel on the Sleat Peninsula, the southernmost section of the island.

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Day 4

Isle of Skye

Explore Skye's wild lochs, volcanic peaks and Gaelic traditions

- Ferry to remote Loch Coruisk beneath the Black Cuillin
- Hike the Sleat Peninsula in search of sea eagles, otters and seals
- Visit one of Skye's strongest Gaelic-speaking communities

More wild Scottish scenery is in store as we explore Isle of Skye. The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, Skye is known for its dramatic mountains, narrow lochs, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Weather permitting, this morning we'll take a short ferry ride to Loch Coruisk—a jewel of fresh water that sits within a ring of dark volcanic peaks. Our focus turns next to the Sleat Peninsula, a lesser-known part of the island often called "the garden of Skye" for its soft, green landscape. In contrast to more stark and rocky terrain elsewhere, here, lush vegetation meets the rugged shoreline and white sand beaches. Several hiking options await, all of which invite us to keep one eye on the sky in search of white-tailed sea eagles and the other on the sea, as we look for marine life including otters, seals, whales and dolphins. The peninsula is also one of the strongest Gaelic-speaking areas on the isle, with more than a third of residents using the ancient Celtic language.

Day 5

Trotternish Ridge / Tarbert

Discover Skye's legendary landscapes before sailing to Harris

- Walk beneath the Cuillin Mountains and explore colorful Portree
- Visit the Old Man of Storr, Kilt Rock and the Quiraing
- Sail from Skye to the Isle of Harris

Today we make our way north across the Isle of Skye and on to Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Stop for scenic vistas of the jagged Cuillins Mountains and take a walk in the hills before breaking for lunch in Portree, the capital of Skye. Overlooking a sheltered bay, this picturesque village is famous among photographers for its row of pastel-colored houses lining the harbor. Continuing north, we stop to admire several geological landmarks on the Trotternish Ridge, a rugged high escarpment. The Old Man of Storr, visible for miles, is a prominent rock pinnacle overlooking the sea from a steep mountainside. Kilt Rock is a 300-foot-high wall of towering columnar basalt, its multi-coloured hexagonal pillars resembling the pleats of a tartan kilt. The Quiraing may be grandest of all, formed by a massive landslide on the ridge that created high cliffs, terraced plateaus and sharp rock outcrops. At the port town of Uig, board the ferry to Tarbert on the Isle of Harris, cruising in the gleaming light of evening. We'll have dinner onboard the ferry before arriving at our hotel in the heart of this small harborside town.

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Day 6

Isle of Harris

Cruise to seabird cliffs and walk Harris's white-sand beaches

- Travel by private boat to the Shiant Isles, home to thousands of nesting seabirds*
- Walk white-sand beaches beside turquoise North Atlantic waters
- Follow the Golden Road through Harris's remote coastal landscapes

Lying on the far northwest edge of Scotland in the Outer Hebrides, the Isle of Harris is a windswept landscape of mountains and moorlands, crofts, lochs, meadows and white sand beaches fronting the turquoise North Atlantic. Its craggy coast, defined by cliffs and secret coves, offers nesting habitat for myriad seabirds. In high summer, discover the wildflower meadows that burst into color on the machair, a sparse veneer of green atop the sand. The single-lane "Golden Road" winds along the east coast of Harris among miniature fjords and tiny hamlets with Viking and Gaelic names. A highlight today is a private boat trip to the Shiant Isles, one of the world's most famous seabird colonies. Located between Skye and Lewis, these columnar basalt islands are known in Gaelic as Na h-Eileanan Seunta, or the "Enchanted Isles." Though this tiny island group is uninhabited by humans, it is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including a quarter-million puffins—2% of the entire global population. Some 7% of all razorbills in the U.K. also breed here, along with colonies of guillemots, cormorants, shags and great skuas. We often see seals lounging on the rocks, too.

Sept/Oct departures only: Fall trips typically will not visit the Shiant Islands, since the seabirds will have departed by this time. Instead, a private boat cruise will offer an alternate route, tracing the rugged Harris coastline east of Tarbert Marina, passing several remote and deserted villages, with views of the Shiant Isles offshore. As we cruise, scour the waves in hopes of seeing dolphins and whales from the boat before returning to our hotel for teatime.

Day 7

Isle of Lewis / Contin

Ancient standing stones and living traditions of the Outer Hebrides

- Stand among the 5,000-year-old Callanish Standing Stones
- Meet a local artisan weaving traditional Harris tweed
- Watch for dolphins and whales on the ferry back to the mainland

This morning we head north to explore Lewis, which is actually connected by land to Harris, with the two island portions divided by a mountain range. Along the way, we pass through traditional rural settlements and stop at a weaving shop where world-famous Harris tweed is produced. We have an exclusive opportunity to chat with a local artisan who weaves the renowned woolen fabric, which has been made by individual weavers in their homes on Harris and Lewis since 1846.

Next, we visit one of Scotland's most intriguing archaeological sites, the Callanish Standing Stones. This 5,000-year-old ring of 13 gneiss pillars is arranged in a cruciform pattern around a 14-foot central monolith. Erected on the west coast of Lewis in the late Neolithic era, predating Stonehenge, the stones were a focus for ritual activity during the Bronze Age. Several other stone circles, arcs and alignments are also visible from the main site. Historians estimate the site was abandoned around 1,000 B.C. and ultimately buried beneath a thick layer of peat turf, not unearthed until 1857. We also visit a museum dedicated to historic crofting life in the Hebrides—small-scale farming and food production—before continuing to Stornoway, where we board the ferry back to the mainland. The 2.5-hour crossing is an opportunity to look for dolphins and whales from the observation deck. On arrival in Ullapool, return to Coul House Hotel where our journey began.

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Day 8

Glen Affric

Paddle through Scotland's ancient Caledonian pine forest

- Canoe Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin in Glen Affric National Nature Reserve
- Look for red deer, golden eagles, pine martens and red squirrels
- Celebrate your journey at a traditional Gaelic ceilidh

Within the serene depths of Glen Affric National Nature Reserve this morning, enjoy a canoeing excursion offering an intimate perspective on the rugged beauty of the Central Highlands. On a gentle paddle in Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin, we are surrounded by native Caledonian pinewoods, a portion of the Affric Highlands rewilding project that is restoring a huge sector of this globally unique forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. The region is home to the majestic Scottish red deer, pine marten and red squirrels, plus golden eagles and osprey, which we may spy flying overhead. This afternoon, gather with the group for a festive farewell event. Afterward, return to Coul House to prepare for early morning departures.

Day 9

Inverness

Depart Scotland after your Highland and island adventure

- Transfer to Inverness for homeward flights

Our Scottish sojourn comes to a close after breakfast this morning as we transfer to Inverness for onward travels.

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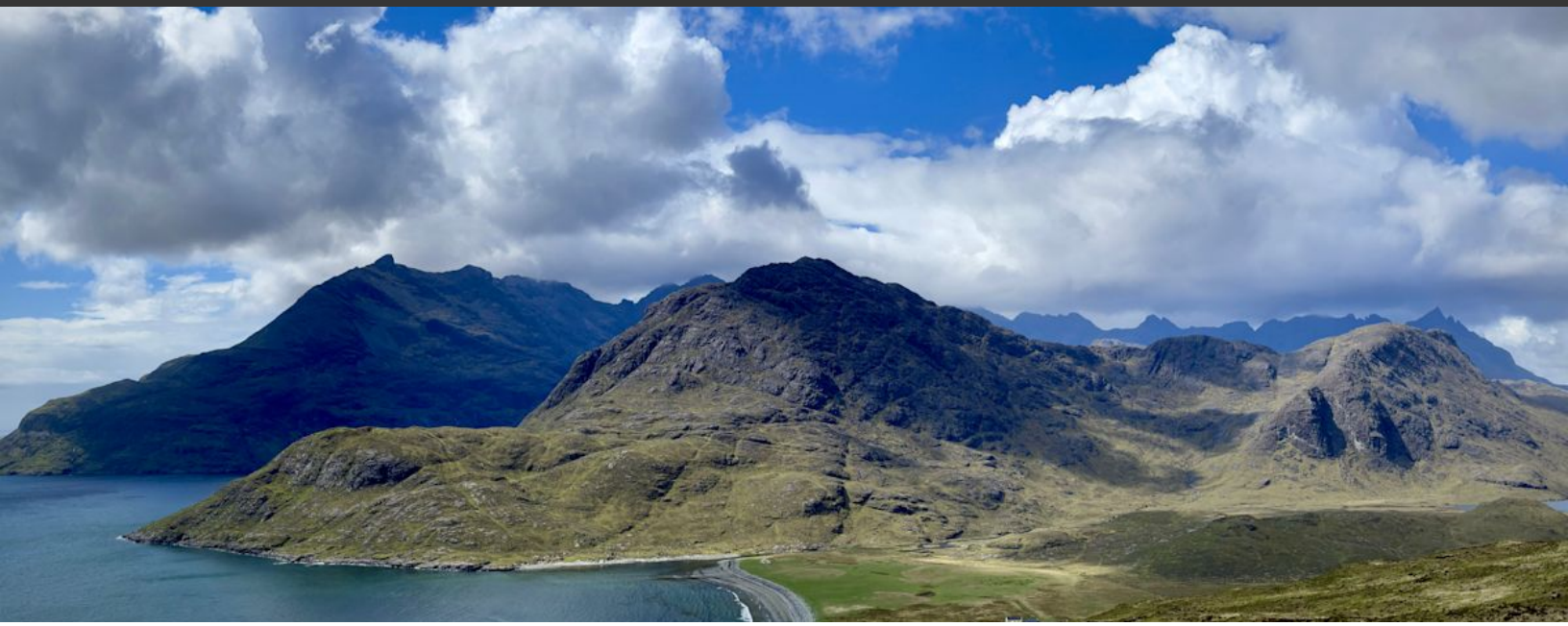
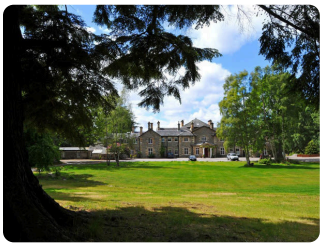


Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Accommodations

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



Coul House Hotel

Built in 1821 by the aristocratic Mackenzie family, this elegant stone manor house in a secluded rural setting offers intimate accommodations and fine locally sourced Scottish cuisine.



Hotel Hebrides

An ideal base from which to explore the Hebrides, this boutique hotel in Tarbert on the Isle of Harris features contemporary guest rooms with paintings by an acclaimed local artist.



The Whispering Pine Lodge

Originally a hunting lodge in the 1800s, this restored boutique hotel enjoys an isolated Highland setting with lake access and woodland trails, warm rooms with dark woods and tartan accents, plus locally sourced fine dining.



Duisdale House Hotel

Originally an 1865 hunting lodge built for Clan Macdonald, this restored mansion is a contemporary boutique hotel with elegant rooms and stunning sea and garden views.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/europe/scotland-adventure/accommodations.

See Scottish Nature as Only Nat Hab Will Show You!

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

While Scotland's cultural heritage and most famous natural sites have long been popular tourism destinations, our focus is on Scotland less discovered, less known, less crowded and more remote—the Nat Hab way!

1 **Experience Scotland off the Crowded Tourist Track**

Our itinerary takes you to remote wild places few experience, from Europe's largest seabird rookeries to vast tracts of Highland forest that shelter elusive wildlife including red deer, pine marten and the endangered Scottish wildcat (virtually never seen). Two highlights feature spots accessible only via private boat or on foot: the town of Inverie on the Knoydart Peninsula, including lunch at the Old Forge, Britain's oldest mainland pub, and scenic Loch Coruisk. You won't find these destinations on standard Scottish tour routes!

2 **Two Private Wildlife Cruises**

Two private chartered boat excursions provide opportunities to look for abundant marine life amid the rugged scenery of the Knoydart Peninsula in the West Highlands, and in the Outer Hebrides. Weather permitting, from Lewis we visit the uninhabited Shiant Isles, known for their spectacular puffin colonies. (Note, however, that September departures do not visit the Shiants, as the seabirds have moved on—instead, we'll cruise along the intricate coast of Harris.)

3 **Ride the Jacobite Steam Train**

Our journey through the Western Highlands includes this famous rail line from the heights of Ben Nevis down to sea level at Loch Nevis—featuring the stunning 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films.

4 **Explore the UK's Largest Native Forest Restoration Project**

On a canoeing excursion through Glen Affric National Nature Reserve, you are immersed in a portion of the Affric Highlands rewilding project restoring a huge sector of the globally unique Caledonian forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. Ultimately, the aim is to restore native landscapes across a half-million acres of the Central Highlands.

5 **A Small Group for Intimate Nature Encounters**

Unlike typical coach tours, our nature adventure is limited to *just 12 guests.* Our small group size allows exclusive access to secluded hikes and walks, privately chartered small boats, watching wildlife without disturbing it, and true serenity in nature. With our high guide-to-guest ratio, we can tailor daily activities to travelers' personal interests and physical ability levels, impossible to do with a larger group.

6 **Distinctive Boutique Accommodations with Local Character**

Our small group size allows us to stay at authentic inns noted for their history, atmosphere and special locations near small villages and close to nature. No large, impersonal chain hotels for us!

7 **The World's Finest Naturalist Guides**

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have years of experience and training, including resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides than those who work with us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

8 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Scotland Experience**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

9 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10 **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $13695

Group Size
Limited to 12 Travelers

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Apr 25 - May 3, 2027	$14095	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
May 2 - May 10, 2027	$14095	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
May 9 - May 17, 2027	$14095	
May 16 - May 24, 2027	$14095	
May 30 - Jun 7, 2027	$14095	
Jun 6 - Jun 14, 2027	$13695	
Jun 13 - Jun 21, 2027	$14095	
Jun 20 - Jun 28, 2027	$13695	
Jul 4 - Jul 12, 2027	$14095	
Jul 18 - Jul 26, 2027	$13695	
Sep 5 - Sep 13, 2027	$14095	Fall Foliage Season
Sep 12 - Sep 20, 2027	$13695	Fall Foliage Season
Sep 19 - Sep 27, 2027	$14095	Fall Foliage Season

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Sep 24 - Oct 3, 2027	$14995	Photo Expedition
Sep 26 - Oct 4, 2027	$13695	Fall Foliage Season
Oct 1 - Oct 10, 2027	$15395	Photo Expedition
Oct 3 - Oct 11, 2027	$14095	Fall Foliage Season
Oct 8 - Oct 17, 2027	$14995	Photo Expedition
Oct 15 - Oct 24, 2027	$15395	Photo Expedition

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Apr 23 - May 1, 2028	$14695	
Apr 28 - May 7, 2028	$15995	Photo Expedition
Apr 30 - May 8, 2028	$15095	
May 5 - May 14, 2028	$16495	Photo Expedition
May 7 - May 15, 2028	$14695	
May 21 - May 29, 2028	$14695	
May 28 - Jun 5, 2028	$14695	
Jun 4 - Jun 12, 2028	$14695	
Jun 11 - Jun 19, 2028	$14695	
Jun 18 - Jun 26, 2028	$14695	
Jun 25 - Jul 3, 2028	$14695	
Jul 2 - Jul 10, 2028	$14695	
Jul 9 - Jul 17, 2028	$14695	
Jul 16 - Jul 24, 2028	$14695	
Sep 3 - Sep 11, 2028	$14695	Fall Foliage Season
Sep 10 - Sep 18, 2028	$14695	Fall Foliage Season
Sep 17 - Sep 25, 2028	$14695	Fall Foliage Season
Sep 22 - Oct 1, 2028	$15995	Photo Expedition
Oct 6 - Oct 15, 2028	$15995	Photo Expedition
Oct 8 - Oct 16, 2028	$14695	Fall Foliage Season
Oct 13 - Oct 22, 2028	$15995	Photo Expedition

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Oct 15 - Oct 23, 2028	**$14695**	Fall Foliage Season
Oct 20 - Oct 29, 2028	**$15995**	Photo Expedition

See https://www.nathab.com/europe/scotland-adventure/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, one-way journey aboard the Jacobite Steam Train, private charter cruises to Loch Ness, Knoydart Peninsula, and the Shiant Isles, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, most gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

Our Scotland journey is different from most, deliberately taking you away from more crowded areas and into wilder locales that unveil Scotland's rich natural history and cultural traditions. Accordingly, we stay in authentic, smaller-scale accommodations in less-traveled locations. While they are very comfortable, rooms are often a bit less spacious than those typically found in North America. But whatever we may forsake in space, we more than make up for in setting, surrounded by nature amid Scotland’s most awe-inspiring sights. Please be prepared to spend time outdoors in unpredictable weather, which may include heavy rain and wind—or perfect sunshine.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Inverness. **You must arrive in Inverness by 2 pm on Day 1** in order to attend a welcome orientation and dinner. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

You may depart Inverness at any time on the final day.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Extensions

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside

Wander ancient beech forests and wildflower meadows, follow hedgerows and trout-filled streams, tour private gardens and meet artisan food producers, in an idyllic landscape with a focus on native habitats and conservation.

$11695

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.