

NEW FOR '09!

# SCOTTISH ISLES & GLENS

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE COACH TOUR 2009

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Explore Orkney Isle  
with Local Guide

Full day on Isle of Skye

Visit Eilean Donan Castle

Inverewe Gardens

Whisky Distillery & Tasting

Culloden Moor & Battlefield

Loch Ness

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Glasgow Arrival & Tour

Arrive in Glasgow Airport where your CIE Tours driver/guide or representative will greet you. Complimentary group transfers depart Glasgow Airport at 8:00 am, 10:00 am or 12:00 noon. Passengers arriving later will transfer to the hotel at their own expense. Your hotel is located on George Square in the heart of the city. At 3:00 pm take a coach tour to see the main attractions of Glasgow including red sandstone Victorian buildings, delightful parks, Glasgow Cathedral and the River Clyde, once famous for shipbuilding. Back at your hotel, chat with your driver/guide and fellow travellers over a welcome drink before dinner. (D)

#### Day 2: Loch Lomond & Eilean Donan

Travel into the Highlands as you view the shores of Loch Lomond and drive alongside this lovely body of water. Continue across the bleak Rannoch Moor and through the towering peaks of Glen Coe, a spectacular glen made famous by the Campbells' massacre of the Clan Macdonald in 1692. Continue north through Fort William and past Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain. Stop at Spean Bridge Woollen Mills for some shopping. Continue your drive through the Highlands on the way to visit Eilean Donan Castle, a picturesque fortress perched on a rock in Loch Duich. Drive to Lochalsh and check into your hotel. Take a walk before dinner to admire the scenery. (B, D)

#### Day 3: Isle of Skye Tour

Cross to the Isle of Skye to discover the beauty of the majestic Cuillin mountain range and the history of this famous isle, associated with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Take a boat ride from Elgol to admire the majestic mountains and lochs from the water. Visit a seal colony and see a variety

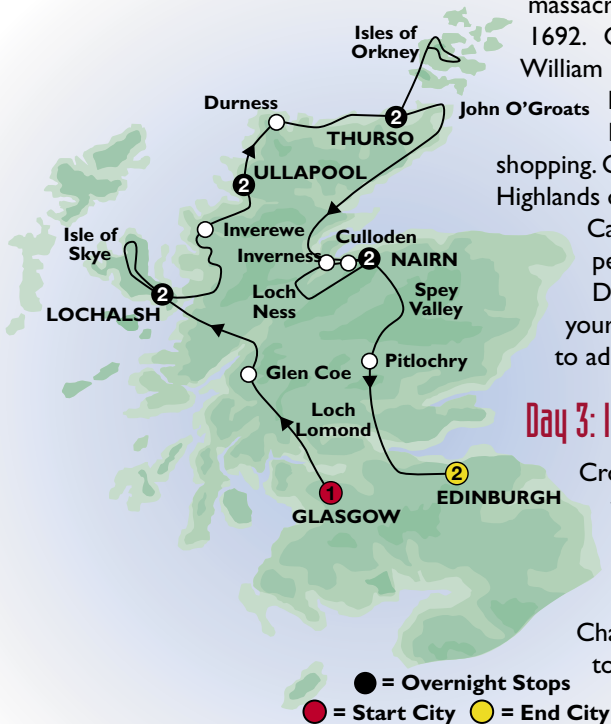
of seabirds and possibly dolphins, whales or other marine life before disembarking in Elgol. Drive to Portree, the capital of the island, and view colourful houses grouped around the large natural harbour. Tour the Trotternish Peninsula, where every bend in the road opens up new views of mountains, moors, lochs and sea. Return to your hotel for some free time before dinner. (B, D)

#### Day 4: Inverewe Gardens

Today enjoy more Highland scenery as you drive past dramatic scenery near Loch Maree. Visit Inverewe Gardens, the most famous in Scotland. In 1862 Osgood Mackenzie bought the estate and converted 50 acres of bleak headland into a haven of trees and shrubs. The varied and exotic plantings thrive due to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream and there is always something in flower. Travel past more dramatic scenery as you drive by lochs and Gruinard Bay on the way to Ullapool, an active fishing and ferry port that was built in 1788 by the British Fisheries Society. Drive through the town before checking into your hotel in Ullapool. (B, D)

#### Day 5: Highland Scenery

Explore one of Scotland's most remote Highland areas to see a variety of scenery. The landscape varies from huge tracts of bogland to rugged Rocky Mountains and coastline. Pass Loch Broom and the romantic ruins of 16<sup>th</sup> century Ardreck Castle. Stop in the village of Durness, one of Scotland's most remote hamlets. Learn about the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Highland Clearances which left these areas devoid of people. Stop in Bettyhill, a village built in 1814 to replace crofts destroyed by the Clearances. Continue to your hotel in Thurso, located in the centre of this picturesque town. (B, D)



## Day 6: Isle of Orkney

Take a ferry ride to the port of Stromness where a local guide will escort you around the main island of Orkney. Visit Skara Brae, a 5,000-year-old village, where you can see the layout of houses, some with hearths and cupboards. View the Ring of Brodgar, a circle of prehistoric standing stones and stop in Kirkwall to see the 12<sup>th</sup> century St. Magnus Cathedral. Drive across the Churchill Barriers, created during World War II to prevent German submarines from sheltering in Scapa Flow. See the Italian Chapel, a tiny church built from two Nissan huts with elaborate triomphe l'oeil paintings before driving to Stromness for the return ferry ride. (B, D)

## Day 7: John O' Groats & Dunrobin Castle

Drive along the coast of the North Sea to John O' Groats, the most northerly village on the British mainland. Near Golspie visit Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland and the largest mansion in northern Scotland with 189 rooms. Take a guided tour around some of the impressive chambers of the castle, which dates to 1275 but was remodelled in the mid-1800's. Watch a demonstration of falconry in the castle gardens to see trained birds of prey of many species. Continue south to your hotel in Nairn, located on the Moray Firth. (B, D)

## Day 8: Urquhart Castle & Culloden Moor

Drive through Inverness and along the shores of Loch Ness to the substantial ruins of Urquhart Castle for a photo stop. Drive to Inverness for a look around the town. Stop at the Culloden Visitor Centre to learn about Bonnie Prince Charlie's political aspirations which ended in disaster at Culloden; walk around the moor where the Battle took place in 1746, explore Fort George before returning to your hotel in Nairn. (B, D)

## Day 9: Glenfiddich Distillery & Scottish Cabaret

Drive through the Spey Valley to visit Glenfiddich Distillery. Take a tour to learn how whisky is distilled and sample a "wee dram." Continue past the majestic peaks of the Grampian Mountains and stop in the town of Pitlochry to take a look around. Head south to Edinburgh and enjoy a pub dinner followed by a night tour of Edinburgh (B, D)

### DEPARTURE DATES & SELLING PRICE FOR 2009 SEASON

May 3, 17, 31	1594
June 14, 28	1599
July 12, 26	1599
August 2, 9, 16	1719
September 6, 13, 20, 27	1599
Oct 4, 11, 18	1594

Single Room Supplement €299.00.  
All Rates in €

## Day 10: Edinburgh Castle & City Tour

This morning discover Edinburgh on a sightseeing tour with a local guide. Drive along Princes Street, the main shopping thoroughfare. Compare the wide streets and elegant mansions of the 200-year-old Georgian "New Town" with the narrow lanes and medieval townhouses along the Royal Mile, the oldest part of the city. Finish your tour at the imposing Edinburgh Castle to see historic buildings and enjoy a splendid view of Edinburgh. The afternoon and evening are free for independent activities. On August 02, 09 and 16 departures enjoy the Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. (B)

## Day 11: Depart Edinburgh for Home

Your tour ends with a group transfer to arrive at Edinburgh Airport by 6:30 or 9:00 am. This will allow you plenty of time for check-in procedures and duty-free shopping before boarding the aircraft for your return home. A transfer to Glasgow Airport will be provided on request at a cost of €50 per person. (B)

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- ❖ Group transfers on arrival and departure
- ❖ Sightseeing by luxury coach throughout
- ❖ Services of a professional driver/guide
- ❖ Superior & first class hotels with private bath/shower for 10 nights
- ❖ 10 Full Scottish breakfasts (B)
- ❖ 9 dinners (D) including
  - Scottish cabaret with dinner
  - 8 table d'hote dinners
- ❖ Welcome get-together drink
- ❖ Ferry trip to Orkney and services of a local guide
- ❖ Sightseeing cruise on Isle of Skye
- ❖ Whisky tasting and tour at Glenfiddich Distillery
- ❖ Tour of Edinburgh with a local guide
- ❖ Reserved seats for Edinburgh Military Tattoo on August 02, 09 and 16 departures
- ❖ Visits and admissions to Spean Bridge Woollen Mills, Eilean Donan Castle, Inverewe Gardens, Skara Brae, Ring of Brodgar, St. Magnus Cathedral, Italian Chapel, Dunrobin Castle, Culloden Visitor Centre and Edinburgh Castle
- ❖ All local taxes, hotel service charges & portorage for one suitcase per person

### YOUR HOTELS:

- Stay at the following (or similar):
- ❖ Millennium Hotel, Glasgow (1 night)
  - ❖ MacKinnon Hotel (2 nights)
  - ❖ Royal Hotel, Ullapool (1 night)
  - ❖ Pentland Hotel, Thurso (2 nights)
  - ❖ Newton Hotel, Nairn (2 nights)
  - ❖ Apex International Hotel, Edinburgh (2 nights)

NOTE: Hotels in the north of Scotland are of the best the remote Highlands offer; however, they are not up to the usual CIE Tours standard.