

# Scotland: Highlands and Islands

**12 days for \$7,096 total price from Washington, DC**

**(\$6,395 air & land inclusive plus \$701 airline taxes and fees)**

*“My heart’s in the Highlands,” said Robert Burns – as will you, as we travel from city to country, mainland to island, on this sweet journey. From loch to loch and glen to glen, we encounter stunning natural beauty and welcoming clans, while city life serves up the colorful past – and cosmopolitan present.*



Eilean Donan Castle, which we visit on Day 5, stands as one of Scotland's most beautiful fortresses.



## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Well-paced journey through Scotland • Glasgow touring • Glasgow’s unique architecture • Private guided tour of Pollok House • Beautiful Scottish Highlands scenery, including Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Glencoe, Loch Ness • Evocative ruins of Urquhart Castle • Isle of Skye excursion • Historic Culloden Moor • Medieval St. Andrews • Edinburgh touring, including Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood • Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo • Pleasing mix of guided touring and time for independent exploration

Day Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Glasgow	
2-3	Glasgow Grand Central Hotel	First Class
4-5	Fort William Nevis Bank Hotel	Not rated
6-7	Inverness Macdonald Drumossie Hotel Inverness	First Class
8	St. Andrews Old Course Hotel	Deluxe
9-11	Edinburgh Tigerlily Edinburgh	Sup. First Class
12	Depart Edinburgh for U.S.	

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference. Unrated hotels may be too small, too new, or too remote to be listed.

### Day 1: Depart U.S. for Edinburgh, Scotland

**Day 2: Arrive Edinburgh/Glasgow** We arrive today in Edinburgh and transfer by coach to Glasgow, where we check in at our hotel. As guests’ arrival times may vary greatly, we have no group activities planned during the day. Late this afternoon we gather with our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director for a briefing on the journey ahead. Then we enjoy a welcome dinner at either the acclaimed National Piping Centre or the well-appointed Corinthian Club. *D*

**Day 3: Glasgow** This morning’s tour highlights “Glasgow Style,” the city’s distinct architecture of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Though Glasgow has a rich medieval history, very few structures from that time survived; it is the Victorian-era buildings of red or blond sandstone with long lines that define the city’s historic built environment. Among the stand-out buildings we see: Glasgow Central Station, the Royal Exchange, and Glasgow City Chambers. We also visit Sir John W. Simpson’s immensely popular Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, housing an excellent collection of arms and armaments, and European artwork including Salvador Dali’s *Christ of St. John on the Cross*. Following our city tour we visit Pollok House, ancestral home of the Maxwell clan and now a museum with the United Kingdom’s

greatest collection of Spanish art. We take a privately guided tour of the Edwardian country house after we enjoy lunch here. Then we return to our hotel mid-afternoon; the remainder of the day is at leisure. *B,L*

**Day 4: Glasgow/Loch Lomond/Glencoe/Fort William** We leave Glasgow this morning by motorcoach, bound for the scenic Highlands, Scotland’s sparsely populated historic northern region. We stop by the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, Great Britain’s largest lake and part of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. We tour the island-dotted loch by coach before continuing on to Glencoe, one of Scotland’s most beautiful spots with deep valleys flanked by steep-sided mountains, rushing rivers, and dramatic waterfalls. Then we travel on to Fort William, the Highlands’ second largest settlement, arriving late afternoon. *B,D*

**Day 5: Fort William/Isle of Skye** We embark on a full-day excursion to the Isle of Skye, the largest of Scotland’s Inner Hebrides, known for its vivid history, strong Gaelic influence, and stunning scenery. En route, we make a photo stop at Glenfinnan Monument honoring “Bonnie Prince Charlie” for his leadership in the Jacobite Rising of 1745. Then we board a ferry for Armadale on the southern tip of Isle of Skye, where our touring begins with a visit to Armadale Castle

and Gardens, where we have lunch. Next we set out on a scenic drive through the imposing Cuillin Hills (or “Black Cuillin”). Returning to the mainland via the Skye Bridge, we stop to visit iconic Eilean Donan Castle then dine tonight at our hotel. *B,L,D*

**Day 6: Fort William/Loch Ness/Inverness** We depart today for the Northern Highlands, stopping en route at fabled Loch Ness. We enjoy a boat ride on the 23-mile-long lake best known for the unearthly creature alleged to live in its deep waters. We also visit the ruins of lakeside Urquhart Castle, one of Scotland’s most popular attractions. Dating to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the castle sits surrounded by water on three sides, giving it a once-formidable advantage in battle. Then we travel on to the historic Culloden Moor battle site. After time on our own to tour the museum here, we tour the hallowed grounds, site of the last battle of the Jacobite Rising in 1746. Early this evening we arrive in Inverness on Scotland’s northeast coast and cultural capital of the Highlands. *B,D*



Scene from the Royal Military Tattoo

**Day 7: Highlands** Our exploration of the Highlands continues on today’s excursion along the Pictish Trail, sites connected with the late Iron Age/early Medieval Celtic people who once lived here. We visit striking Dunrobin Castle & Gardens, where we see a falconry demonstration then embark on a tour and tasting at a small local distillery that has been producing hand-crafted single malt whisky for generations. We continue our drive along the scenic coastal road flanked by small farms with sheep, cows, and Shetland ponies before returning to our hotel, where we enjoy dinner together tonight. *B,D*

**Day 8: Inverness/Kincraig/Pitlochry/St. Andrews** Today’s first stop is Kincraig, where we watch a sheepdog demonstration with working border collies, known for their herding abilities. We travel on to the holiday town of Pitlochry in the heart of Scotland, where we enjoy some free time before



WHEREVER WE ARE,  
IT IS BUT A STAGE ON THE  
WAY TO SOMEWHERE ELSE ...”

– ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

continuing on to legendary St. Andrews late this afternoon; dinner tonight is on our own in this charming town. *B*

**Day 9: St. Andrews/Edinburgh** Home of Scotland’s oldest university (St. Andrews) and renowned as the home of golf, where the game has been played for some 600 years, delightful – and compact – St. Andrews measures just one mile across. This morning we embark on a walking tour of the medieval seaside town, followed by lunch together then free time to explore on our own. Later this afternoon we continue on our way to Edinburgh. Dinner tonight is on our own in the Scottish capital, which boasts a robust culinary scene. *B,L*

**Day 10: Edinburgh** Our morning tour of this stately city built on seven hills features both the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian “New Town” and the medieval “Old Town” – together, the districts form a UNESCO site. In the Old Town, we pay an inside visit to Edinburgh Castle, symbolic heart of the country. We also travel the Royal Mile, the warren of medieval streets that form the thoroughfare stretching from the castle to Holyrood Palace, official residence of the Queen when in Scotland. This afternoon is at leisure to discover Edinburgh as we wish; museums, galleries, and shops abound. Tonight we enjoy an evening performance of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. *B*

**Day 11: Edinburgh** This morning we again encounter the Royal Mile, with its mix of attractions, shops, and

### Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

This special departure includes reserved seating at the annual Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, an entertainment extravaganza set against the evocative backdrop of flood-lit Edinburgh Castle. Highlights include performances by the British Armed Forces’ Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, and display teams and dancers from around the world – some 1,000 musicians, pipers, drummers, singers, and dancers.

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, First Class, and unrated hotels
- 19 meals: 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Edinburgh skyline, from Calton Hill

restaurants. We tour Holyrood, as it is called, and see where British royalty schemed and slept as we tour the State Apartments. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Tonight we celebrate our Scotland sojourn over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*

**Day 12: Depart for U.S.** We transfer this morning to the Edinburgh airport for our return flights to the U.S. *B*

### Tour Departs: August 12, 2024

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Newark	\$6,796
Boston, Philadelphia	\$6,996
Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Washington, DC	\$7,096
Charlotte, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	\$7,196
Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$7,296
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,895

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$701, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,595. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: \$3,995 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).



## *Important Information About Your Tour*

# General Terms and Conditions

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### Tour Prices

Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2024, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

### Gratuities

Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on "On Your Own" optional extensions.

### Not Included in Your Tour Price

Airfare from your hometown to your departure

city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

### Registration and Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

### Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

*For all tours (except as noted)*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	25% of tour price
64-45 days:	50% of tour price
44-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

*For Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Machu Picchu to the Galapagos*

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Charge</u>
95 days or more:	\$200
94-65 days:	50% of tour price
64-30 days:	75% of tour price
29-0 days:	No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

### Pre-Departure

Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

### Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

### Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a

\$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.**

### Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)), as well as for our international travel partners: **your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender.** In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

### Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 7, 2025, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit [www.dhs.gov/real-id](http://www.dhs.gov/real-id) or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy

or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

## Health and Medical Issues

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

## Air Transportation

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates,

upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

## Responsibility

The liability of VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.

**VMFA Member Travel reserves the right to use photos that might include you in marketing materials and for other purposes unless you specify otherwise.**



### RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, **please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

*If you prefer*, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**  
**Attn: Special Interest Groups**  
**One Newton Place**  
**275 Washington Street, Suite 300**  
**Newton, MA 02458**

Tour Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up

I/We would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/We request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category \_\_\_\_\_ (for Patagonian Frontiers only)

I/We request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos only)