

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Scotland

Edinburgh, St. Andrews & the Highlands



CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Wild Beauty, Warm Hospitality

We love the wide-screen scale of the Scottish Highlands. Great heather-covered moors roll into a broad, blue horizon. Ruined castles stand watch over silvery lochs. There's a wonderful wildness to it all. But for all of that sweep and solitude, it's the close-ups of local life that we remember best. You'll meet the shepherd whose choreographed collies steer a flock with fluid grace. We walk with a naturalist along a windswept North Sea estuary famous for its salmon runs. And we'll also introduce you to fascinating folks like the cashmere weavers of Elgin...the whisky aficionados at an artisanal distillery...and the groundskeepers who manicure a 600-year-old golf course to within a micron of perfection. Throughout, you'll spend your nights in lovely country house hotels, and enjoy a wide range of walks from canal towpaths to Edinburgh's lively High Street.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths

DAY 1 »

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh is the historic capital of Scotland and is a beautiful blend of medieval Old Town, Georgian New Town and Victorian lanes, all resting under the gaze of ancient Edinburgh Castle. The city is layered with history and culture, and you'll experience that firsthand on a guided walk that first leads to the iconic Signet Library for an 'only with Classic Journeys' proper afternoon tea time. You'll be forgiven if you think you've time traveled as you settle in among the colonnades and historic books. The library was actually turned into the Governor's mansion in Jamaica for the Outlander series.

Later, join your guide to stroll the Royal Mile, the city's main thoroughfare. At one end sits the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland. At the top: Edinburgh Castle, where you'll enjoy a specially guided tour that culminates with spectacular views from the ramparts.

MEALS: L OVERNIGHT: EDINBURGH

DAY 2 »

LOCH FASKALLY / THE HIGHLANDS

Go deep into the Highlands this morning on a uniquely Scottish pilgrimage. Your morning walk crosses a scenic suspension bridge and follows a salmon ladder. Each year, more than 5,000 fish make their way upstream into the peaceful waters of Loch Faskally. In addition to the wildlife viewing, this landscape is full of rich clan history. Beautiful year round, its colors range from all kinds of lush greens in the spring and summer to fiery reds and yellows in the fall.

This afternoon, walk through landscapes that will remind you of Glenfinnan Viaduct of Harry Potter fame to a working sheep farm. The steep green pastures here have long been the grazing lands of massive herds of sheep. Visiting with our friend, Neil, you have the 'Only with Classic Journeys' opportunity to see an incredible team of sheepdogs go through their paces and get a personal window into life on the farm from the shepherd himself.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS

DAY 3 »

GLEN AFFRIC / LOCH NESS

A glen is long deep valley. And one of the longest, deepest and most scenic is Glen Affric. To walk here is to step back in time, which is what you'll do on a walk this morning. The Caledonian pinewoods are the largest and most ancient in Scotland. On the trail, you'll really appreciate the quiet of the woods and how they open unexpectedly to views of moorland and mountains. You'll also have opportunities to spot wildlife that includes red deer, golden eagle, badger, pine marten, otter and more.

This afternoon, enjoy a guided visit of Urquhart Castle. Even if the name isn't familiar, you'll recognize the distinctive profile of this magnificent ruin on the shores of Loch Ness. Built in the early 13th Century, it sits on a fine headland near the stretch of the loch where many of the reputed Nessie sightings occurred. Board a launch for a cruise on the loch's waters. At 23 miles in length, Loch Ness actually fills a deep glacial valley and contains more fresh water than all of the lakes in England and Wales combined.

MEALS: B, D OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS

DAY 4 »

CULLODEN MOOR / ELGIN

The one-hour battle that occurred on Culloden Moor in 1746 changed Highland life forever. Your walk lasts longer than the battle itself that took place on this hallowed ground where the forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie fell to the Duke of Cumberland. In the battle's aftermath, tartans and kilts were banned as part of the effort to break the Gaelic culture.

From the epic to the everyday, you'll journey to Elgin to visit Scotland's only woolen mill where raw cashmere is dyed, teased, carded, spun and hand-finished into luxurious woven fabrics. It's a rare look at one of the country's most storied crafts - not to mention a chance to meet with the makers themselves and to do some shopping.

Scotland's first whisky distilleries show up in the tax records from the 1490s. After 5+ centuries, it remains one of the most characteristic crafts in the country. Use your palate to gain a true immersion into the history and culture of Scotland. Waiting for you with a dram or two of their famed single malt are friends at a traditional Speyside distillery. The family of whisky-lovers makes the finest handmade whisky matured in casks with a subtly smoky character and just four ingredients - barley, water, yeast and their own distinctly human touch. Join these passionate makers as they walk you through their traditional distillery, learn their secrets, and sit down with them for a "nosing" and tasting session.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: INVERNESS

DAY 5 »

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK / ST. ANDREWS

It's a good morning to fuel up on a traditional Scottish breakfast - eggs, bacon, grilled tomato, mushrooms, baked beans and maybe a slice of black pudding or even a kipper. You're off to follow in the footsteps of Rob Roy, one of Scotland's favorite outlaws and folk heroes. Your walk is in the crystal-clear air in the Cairngorms National Park on land where the Grant family of Rothiemurchus has lived for 18 centuries. Loch an Eilein is, for many Scots, one of their favorite walks in the country. There are terrific birding opportunities that include wrens, jays and treecreepers. The footpath crosses little bridges and idyllic whitewashed cottages, and offers enchanting views of a ruined 13th-century castle on a tiny island in the middle of the loch.

Your lunch location is an 'Only with Classic Journeys' dining experience, as you arrive to a picnic waiting for you at a 'bothy'. Basic shelters, usually for gardeners or other workers on an estate, bothies are found in remote mountainous areas of Scotland, Northern England and Wales.

This afternoon, journey through the Scottish countryside to St. Andrews, a medieval harbor town, and Scotland's oldest university. After time to relax, rejoin your guide early this evening for a guided walking exploration around St. Andrews that includes the cathedral, castle ruins, the university and the west sands made famous in Chariots of Fire.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS

DAY 6 »

ISLE OF MAY / ST. ANDREWS

Just a short boat ride from St. Andrews is the Isle of May. Owned by Scottish Natural Heritage and a national nature reserve, the island is just over a mile long and less than half a mile wide. But its size belies its fascinating history. Vikings, monks and smugglers, as well as an abundance of wildlife, have all made home on the island. Humans have occupied the island since 2,000 BC and its also home to Scotland's oldest lighthouse. Connecting it all are scenic footpaths that trace the coast and contours of the island. Fields of wildflowers bloom in the spring and summer, and rugged cliffs are lined with ledges and crevices that make ideal nesting sites for thousands of seabirds, including 90,000 puffins that nest from April to August. Spend the main part of the day exploring the island, picnicking and watching the wildlife that also includes the largest colony of grey seals in Scotland as well as porpoise, dolphin and the occasional whale.

Even if you've never held a golf club, you'll know that St. Andrews is the home of the world's most fabled links. Get an up close look at the aptly named Old Course, the world's oldest golf course on lands where the game was first played around the year 1400. The course is a dramatic study in rugged landscape that's immaculately manicured. On your walk, see Granny Clark's Wynd, the Seven Sisters, and Hell, the bunker to end all bunkers. You'll cross Swilcan Bridge, and pass through the Valley of Sin, before ending up at the majestic Royal & Ancient clubhouse.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS

DAY 7 »

FALKLAND PALACE

The Forest of Falkland was a favorite hunting ground of the Stuart monarchs from 1437 to 1602. Follow in their footsteps on scenic paths that lead from the forest through sustainable farms, past sheep meadows and waterfalls. Your destination is the home of one of Scotland's most famous monarchs. Mary Queen of Scots loved to hunt and go hawking at Falkland Palace and today you'll see why. After falling into ruin, the palace was restored in the early 20th Century. The gardens are some of the best anywhere, full of vivid flower plants with a wildflower meadow that carpets the estate's orchard. The village where the palace is located is so cinematic that the makers of Outlander chose it as the location for Frank and Claire's honeymoon.

Midafternoon, return to Edinburgh. Part company here or choose to explore the fine shops, medieval buildings and landmarks that include Parliament House and St. Giles Kirk.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

Tour Hotels



[The George Intercontinental Edinburgh](#)

The InterContinental Edinburgh The George has been welcoming guests since 1881. These unique Georgian townhouses offer a luxurious stay in the heart of the Scottish capital. Enjoy modern amenities and the nearby cobbled streets of the Royal Mile.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[Loch Ness Country House Hotel](#)

Built in 1710, this country-house property is a haven of tranquility, elegant comfort and excellent food. The striking Georgian building is surrounded by six acres of beautiful gardens, and its main drawing room is a great setting for afternoon tea.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[Rufflets Country House](#)

One of the oldest and highest quality country house hotels in Scotland, this idyllic turreted mansion house is set in 10 acres of gardens. Rufflets has been in the same family ownership since 1952 and won Scottish Hotel of the Year in 2015.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **The George Hotel**
START CITY: **Edinburgh**
START TIME: **1:00 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **The George Hotel**
END CITY: **Edinburgh**
END TIME: **4:00 PM**