

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Scotland

Edinburgh, St. Andrews & the Highlands



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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 a shepherd with his team of collies in the Highlands. 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.



DAY 1 »

Edinburgh

- Savor a proper afternoon tea at the iconic [Signet Library](#), featured in *Outlander*
- Explore [Edinburgh Castle on a guided tour](#), culminating with spectacular rampart views

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Pass of Killiecrankie / The Highlands

- Descend through historic [Pass of Killiecrankie](#), witnessing waterfalls and Victorian-era [Coronation Bridge](#)
- Visit a [working sheep farm](#), watching skilled sheepdogs herd through stunning Highland landscapes

Go deep into the Highlands this morning on a uniquely Scottish pilgrimage. Your morning walk begins at the Pass of Killiecrankie, descending through a historic landscape where a famous Jacobite battle was fought in 1689. The trail leads you to a spectacular viewpoint overlooking the River Garry, then continues to the Linn of Tummel, featuring impressive waterfalls and rapids. Here, you'll encounter an Edwardian fish ladder built in 1910, allowing more than 5,000 salmon to journey upstream to their spawning grounds. You'll cross the Victorian-era Coronation Bridge, immersing yourself in the rich clan history and breathtaking scenery of the area. 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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Glen Affric / Loch Ness

- Trek through ancient [Caledonian pinewoods](#) in Glen Affric, spotting diverse [Scottish wildlife](#)
- Cruise [Loch Ness](#) after exploring the ruins of 13th-century [Urquhart Castle](#)

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Culloden Moor / Speyside Whisky Trail

- Walk the hallowed grounds of Culloden Moor, site of a pivotal 1746 battle
- Sample single malt whisky at a traditional Speyside distillery with local whisky-makers

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.

After exploring Culloden, you set out for Elgin and enjoy a scenic walk along the Malt Whisky Trail. Following the sparkling River Spey, you pass through peaceful woodlands, heather-clad glens, and charming villages, while the gentle soundtrack of birdsong and flowing water sets the perfect pace. Your local guide shares stories of whisky lore as you make your way to one of Speyside's most storied distilleries, where a warm welcome and a memorable tasting await.

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Cairngorms National Park / St. Andrews

- Hike Rob Roy's stomping grounds in Cairngorms National Park
- Discover St. Andrews' medieval charm, including its famous university and coastal landmarks

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.

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

OVERNIGHT: ST ANDREWS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Isle of May / Fife Coastal Path

- Explore Isle of May's diverse wildlife, including puffin colonies and grey seal populations
- Stroll along the scenic Fife Coastal Path to ancient windmill ruins

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 it's 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, dolphins and the occasional whale.

Then make your way south on the scenic Fife Coastal Path from Anstruther. Explore the tower and sea gate while your guide shares stories and anecdotes of the castle's past as a stronghold and residence for Scottish nobility. Along the footpath adorned with coastal plants like sea kale, yarrow, and wild thyme, scan the seascape for diving gannets and kittiwakes, and maybe even a majestic sea eagle soaring overhead. Along the way, you'll pause at the iconic ruins of St. Monans Windmill. The ancient windmill once powered salt production, and its weathered stones are a cinematic testament to the coastline's maritime history.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: ST. ANDREWS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Falkland Palace

- Wander Falkland Palace's stunning gardens, featured as a location in *Outlander*
- Stroll through sustainable farms and sheep meadows en route to historic Falkland village

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.

Mid-afternoon, return to Edinburgh. Part company here or choose to explore the medieval buildings and landmarks that include Parliament House and St. Giles Kirk. If you opt for some shopping, make your way to the iconic Johnston's of Elgin shop to see and feel for yourself the luxurious woven fabrics that are made in Scotland's only woolen mill where raw cashmere is dyed, teased, carded, spun and hand-finished.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: NONE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	1	2	4
Day 2	4	6	8
Day 3	2	6	8
Day 4	3	5	7
Day 5	2	4	6
Day 6	3	5	7
Day 7	2	3	4

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Inverness as well as well-maintained countryside, lochside, riverside and coastal trails; and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some limited elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: The George Hotel
CITY: Edinburgh, Scotland
TIME: 12:30 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: The George Hotel
CITY: Edinburgh, Scotland
TIME: 4:00 PM
Guests will be dropped at the George Hotel Lobby

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch 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.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.