



Outline Itinerary

| | A Customer | Distance/ approx. time travelling |
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| Day 1 - 3 | <p>London</p> <p>You do not need a car in London as it is easy to get round by foot, taxi or tube. We will send you a 'walk/tube' map which makes it simple.</p> <p>London is the largest city in Europe. There is so much to see and do; where to start! There are many famous buildings that are a 'must see': The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral (climb to the very top if you dare and see out over the city and the river), Buckingham Place, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, but there are also many others less famous which are steeped in history. It is easy to pass them without knowing so a guided tour walking tour is a great idea.</p> <p>A fun way to see London is to take an open top 'hop on hop off' bus, which will take you around the main sites and tell you about the history of London as you go. Visit www.bigbus.co.uk</p> <p>There are of course many museums and galleries in London. Our favourites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The British Museum • Natural History Museum • Madame Tussauds wax work museum • The National Gallery • Science Museum • Cabinet War Rooms at the Imperial War Museum <p>You can also see London from a very different perspective when you take a trip on the London Eye www.londoneye.com.</p> <p>The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace happens at 11.30 am every day in Summer. A great free spectacle!</p> <p>Fancy some shopping? Then try Harrods, one of the major department stores in the world, or Hamleys, one of the biggest toy shops with toys for all ages!</p> <p>If you wish to take in a show we can book tickets for you (subject to availability for the more popular shows).</p> | |
| Day 4 -5 | <p>Edinburgh</p> <p>Take a cab to King's Cross station and your journey up to Edinburgh. The journey takes 4.5 hours. Advanced booking fare is approx £45. Take a cab to your accommodation and then explore. (Taking the train avoids the long trek up England, allowing you more time to explore.)</p> | 4.5 hours |

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| | <p>Edinburgh is a lovely city with a compact centre. Again, we would suggest you don't need a hire car until you leave for the rest of your trip.</p> <p>Explore the famous castle. Stroll along the Royal Mile (the 'High Street' of the medieval city), past the new controversial Scottish parliament building, to Holyrood Palace, home to past Scottish monarchs and now the Queen's official residence in Scotland. There is so much hidden history in this relatively small area it is worth having a guided walking tour to get the most out of it.</p> <p>Edinburgh has many museums and galleries. For something more unusual, visit the Royal Yacht Britannia to see how the Royal family lived on board.</p> <p>Edinburgh is of course renowned for its Arts festival. This will not be on when you are there (which is probably a blessing as the city gets very crowded). However there are many theatres and entertainment venues, including bars with live music which are free or very cheap to enter. You may even be able to find a traditional Ceilidh! Check out what is on closer to the time on www.edinburgh.org/events</p> | |
| <p>Day 6 - 8</p> | <p>Glencoe and the West coast</p> <p>Pick up your hire car – try www.auto-europe.com or www.avis.co.uk.</p> <p>Drive across the heart of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, land of Rob Roy – outlaw, cattle thief, murderer or Scottish hero depending on your point of view.</p> <p>This is a picturesque part of Scotland where the Highlands meet the Lowlands. It is like a Scotland in miniature. Continue on through the beautiful National Park towards the west coast. Just before you reach Ballachulish you will drive through the imposing Glencoe.</p> <p>Glencoe is an amazing place - internationally famous for its amazing landscape, its natural and cultural heritage. It's a place of towering, spectacular, brooding hills, diverse and rare wildlife and of a famous yet tragic event in Scotland's history.</p> <p>Visit the Glencoe Visitor Centre which provides an interesting introduction to the area, including the story of the infamous massacre of the MacDonald family in 1692! Then take your time to explore the beautiful countryside along the shores of the lochs and the coast.</p> <p>Explore the lovely west coast around Oban and the rugged mountains and lochs inland.</p> <p>Take a day take a day trip to the island of Mull. We can book the car ferry for you.</p> <p>Decide which of the wonderful places to visit in and around this lovely island: The island of Iona, birthplace of Christianity in Scotland A boat trip to Fingal's Cave (on Staffa) which inspired Mendelssohn to write his Hebridean Overture</p> | <p>130 miles 3 hours</p> |

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| | Try the amazing sea food on the tiny island of Ulva The quaint seaside town of Tobermory | |
| Day 9 | <p>Pitlochry</p> <p>Drive east through the beautiful Grampian Mountains to Pitlochry on the banks of the Tay. Stop at the rambling, turreted Blair Castle in Blair Athol and the Pass of Killiecrankie, site of the famous battle in 1689.</p> <p>If you haven't visited a distillery yet or fancy sampling some more of the uisge beatha (pronounced 'oosh-ga beh-huh'), meaning 'water of life', visit Edradour Distillery, Scotland's smallest, where the whisky is hand made today as it was over 150 years ago,</p> <p>In Pitlochry itself there is a salmon leap to help these tremendous fish reach their spawning grounds further upriver.</p> | 90 miles 2.25 hours |
| Day 10 - 11 | <p>Northumbria</p> <p>Take the drive across the lowlands of Scotland and across the border into the heart of the Northumberland National Park.</p> <p>Being so close to the marauding Scots, and the Viking invaders, Northumberland has more than its fair share of castles.</p> <p>Northumbria also has some of the best unspoilt coastline in Britain, including some lovely sandy beaches. The coast and the rolling sand dunes by Bamburgh Castle provide some wonderful walking opportunities. We can provide a walk books if required.</p> <p>Holy Island, or Lindisfarne, is one of the most important sites in the history of Christianity in Britain. It was here in AD635 that St Aidan founded a monastery. Access is via a causeway that floods at high tide so time your visit carefully!</p> <p>Or take a 90 minute return ferry trip from Seahouses to the Farne islands. The puffins and other sea birds will be in season, and the colony of grey seals makes this a lovely, tranquil trip!</p> | 145 miles 3 hours |
| Day 12 -13 | <p>York and The Moors</p> <p>On your way to York visit Hadrian's Wall which lies along the southern edge of the National Park. Housesteads is one of the best preserved forts from the Roman times and our favourite spot on the wall. Vindolanda, where there are ruins of several forts currently being excavated, is also close by.</p> <p>Drive down from Northumberland into Yorkshire, into the beautiful area of the North Yorkshire Moors. On the coast is Whitby, divided into two by the estuary of the river Esk. The old town has pretty cobbled streets and pastel coloured houses, with the Abbey ruins above. The other part is a traditional seas side resort.</p> | 125miles 2.5 hours |

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| | <p>The North Yorkshire steam railway, running from Pickering to Goathland and Grosmont, is well worth a visit and is a great way to see some glorious countryside. Stop off and stroll down through memory lane in Goathland which was the setting for the TV series 'Heartbeat'.</p> <p>There are many ruined abbeys in the area, dating back to the 12th century. Two of the most beautiful are Fountains and Rievaulx, with extensive grounds and gardens.</p> <p>North of York is the impressive Castle Howard, used as the location for the television version of Brideshead Revisited. It is still owned by the Howard family who commissioned it in 1699.</p> <p>Visit York itself and take time to stroll through the narrow cobbled streets of the medieval old city of York and along the city walls. Marvel at the magnificent 13th century Minster cathedral.</p> <p>York was once a major Viking trading settlement so a visit to Jorvik, the Viking city (www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk) would be of interest.</p> <p>York is also home to the National Railway Museum www.nrm.org.uk</p> | |
| Day 14 | <p>West London</p> <p>We will base you west of London, near Heathrow, for your last night in the UK. If you have time, visit Windsor castle, the oldest continuously inhabited royal residence in Britain. The castle is located in the centre of this historic town which still has cobbled streets dating from the 17th century.</p> <p>Depending on time of departure the following day, perhaps drive through Windsor Great Park down to Virginia Waters, or visit Runnymede, an attractive area of riverside meadows. It was on this site, in 1215, that King John sealed Magna Carta, an event commemorated by the American Bar Association Memorial. The John F. Kennedy Memorial and various memorial trees are indicative of the area's importance in world history.</p> | <p>205 miles 3.75 hours</p> |
| Day 15 | <p>Heathrow Airport</p> <p>Back to Heathrow, dropping of your hire car before you onward journey home.</p> | <p>10 miles 20 minutes</p> |
| <p>Travel times are approximate and reflect the fastest route without detours</p> | | |

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Approximate Cost (indicative)

Accommodation:

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| 14 nights @ an average of £110 per night, per room, for a double room in a mixture of bands A&B accommodation, including breakfast. | £ 1540 |
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| Service fee | £ 305 |
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| Other direct costs (books, maps, postage) | £ 75 |
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| Total | £ 1920 |
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