



The Traveling Professor Presents

EDINBURGH AND THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS BY SCENIC RAIL

Day 1: Welcome to Inverness

Check-in at the 4-star [Inverness Palace and Spa Hotel](#) located on the scenic Ness River. Depending upon traveler arrival time, we will set a time to meet to get to know our travel companions. Our licensed, professional guide greets us at the hotel for a walking tour. Hear the stories of rebellions, witchcraft, prophecies, clans, Jacobite curses and yes, the Beatles.

Day 2: Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, Culloden Battlefield

Today is a day for castles, monsters, "Outlander", and Scottish lore. The finest way to see Loch Ness is with a deluxe water cruise. There are indoor and outdoor viewing areas for your pleasure. The ship is sonar-equipped to detect any mysterious underwater activity and after visiting the fully stocked bar on-board, The Professor guarantees a sighting of the Loch Ness monster! Nothing says "castle" like famous Urquhart Castle. It has seen great conflict in its 1,000-year history as it passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. It's a beautiful spot for a photo as it looks over the great Loch Ness. We finish the day by traveling to the site of the 1746 Battle of Culloden between the Jacobites and British armies that marked the dismantlement of Highland Society. This one-hour battle changed Scotland's history forever.

Day 3: Dunrobin Castle

Today, travel up the scenic coast to Dunrobin Castle. This is as good as it gets in the Scottish Highlands. Be treated to beautiful scenery, a tour of the famed castle, falconry, majestic gardens and a great day out in the Highlands. On the way back to Inverness, visit the famed Glenmorangie Distillery for a tour and tasting.

Day 4: Kyle of Lochalsh and Isle of Skye Day Trip by Scenic Rail

This might be the most scenic train ride you have ever been on. Roll through stunning landscape from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh. Upon arrival, our driver and private van meet us at the train station. Enjoy an unforgettable and breathtaking journey through the dramatic Isle of Skye - you've never seen anything like it. There are plenty of stops along the way for perfect photo ops. On the return to Inverness there is time for a picture stop at Eilean Donan Castle. What a day!

Day 5: Inverness Free Day

Free day in Inverness. There is plenty to see and do like visit old bookstores, bike along the canal, stroll the Victorian Market. We have plenty of suggestions to fill your day.

Day 6: Welcome to Edinburgh, Scotland

Check-out of the Inverness Palace hotel after breakfast. Taxis take us to Inverness train station. It is a scenic and relaxing ride from the Highlands down to Edinburgh Waverly Station. Transfer to the centrally located and comfortable Apex Grassmarket Hotel, located in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. Let's get checked in, do a quick orientation, and have a wonderful Scottish welcome this evening.

Day 7: Walking Tour and Edinburgh Castle

The best way to explore Edinburgh is on foot. The city is one of the world's finest capital cities, teeming with cultural diversity and impressive history. A professional and licensed guide tells of the history, traditions, and architecture of this 1,000-year-old city. Visit the Royal Mile, Princess Street Gardens, St. Giles (where Queen Elizabeth lay in rest), Calton Hill and more. After lunch, go to the dominating fortress of Edinburgh Castle. Stunning views, knights in shining armor, and the Scottish Royal Crown jewels are all there.

Day 8: St. Andrews Day Trip

It's getaway day from Edinburgh as we take the lovely trip up to St. Andrews. There are scenic stops along the way until we arrive in the historic town. St. Andrews is the home of golf, but there is so, so much more to this place. Our professional, licensed guide takes us to the University of St. Andrews and ancient cathedral. We also find those nooks and crannies that The Traveling Professor tours are known for. It's a delightful half-day walk full of stories, legends, history and the characters that make St. Andrews what it is. Those interested in golf can walk the most historic and famous golf course in the world or stroll the famous beach of "Chariots of Fire".

Day 9: Abbotsford and Rosslyn Chapel Day Trip

A private van and driver pick us up at the hotel for a delightful trip to the Scottish Borders with scenic stops along the way. Abbotsford is the beautiful countryside former home and gardens of Sir Walter Scott. Then it is on to Rosslyn Chapel, made famous by Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" for an interesting and mystical Scottish experience.

Day 10: Edinburgh Free Day

It would not be a Traveling Professor tour if we did not give travelers time to enjoy themselves on their own. With a premium Hop-On, Hop-Off bus pass, there is plenty to see and do. We provide VIP admission to The Royal Yacht Britannia and Palace of Holyroodhouse, the royal summer residence. Visit markets, museums, historic sites, pubs, shopping opportunities. It's a great day of leisure on this free day in Edinburgh.

Day 11: Departure from Edinburgh

Enjoy breakfast. We are here to help you get on your way to your next destination.

ABOUT OUR TOURS

We travel with 12-18 people. This offers the opportunity to do what we want to do, on our own schedule. We provide all local transportation as well as admission to those sites listed on the itinerary.

Breakfast is included each day of the tour. Every day we plan a relaxing lunch and dinner. Please join us or go out on your own - we are glad to offer our best recommendations.

Our guide is with us during the day. Tour leaders are with the group 24/7. Unless otherwise noted, we ask travelers to be ready to go at 9:30 a.m. for a full and active day of touring.

Well before departure date, each traveler is supplied with a "final" detailed itinerary along with a complete and detailed information packet. It has advice on packing, money matters, passports, weather, etc. We make sure travelers are well-prepared. And of course, we are always available to personally answer any questions you may have.