
GEEO ITINERARY

Scotland 7/6/2025

Day 1: Edinburgh Arrive in Edinburgh at any time. For early arrivals, check out Edinburgh Castle. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Edinburgh at the **Edinburgh Airport (EDI)** at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Scotland at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jet lag. *Please note that we are unable to book pre-trip nights at the Cairn Hotel Edinburgh. If you need additional nights, you'll need to book directly with the hotel of your choice. If you'd like assistance with finding options, feel free to reach out, and we'd be happy to help.* If you arrive early enough in the day, we recommend that you visit Edinburgh Castle. This historic fortress dominates the skyline of the city from its position on Castle Rock. It is the home of the Crown Jewels of Scotland, the Stone of Destiny, and the National War Museum. The entrance fee of £20 GBP includes entrance to all attractions within Edinburgh Castle. Please note that to visit Edinburgh Castle, you'll need to reserve a ticket. To guarantee entrance, we advise pre-purchasing your ticket on their website. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that hotel check-in usually opens around **2:00-3:00 p.m.**, so if your flight arrives early in the morning, you may wish to book a pre-trip hotel night so that you can rest when you arrive. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another. **Joining Instructions** If you arrive in Edinburgh by plane, take the tram to St. Andrew Square or the Airlink bus 100 to Waverley Station. St. Andrew Square tram stop is about 3-4 minutes from the hotel on foot, and Edinburgh Waverley train station is about 10 minutes from the hotel on foot. A tram ticket from the airport costs about £10, and a one-way Airlink bus ticket costs £5.50. If you take a taxi from the airport, you can expect to pay £30-40 GBP depending on the traffic. **Accommodation:** The Place Hotel (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Edinburgh/Inverness Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Edinburgh before leaving for the Highlands. Visit Cairngorms National park followed by a guided hike in Glenmore Forest.

Enjoy a panoramic view of Edinburgh on a short sightseeing bus tour before heading to the Scottish Highlands Visit Cairngorms National Park, and enjoy an easy, guided hike in Glenmore Forest, ending at Loch Morlich. Glenmore is a beautiful spot that holds one of the few remaining pockets of ancient Caledonian Pinewood in Scotland. In the afternoon, explore Inverness, or opt to visit the Victorian Market. Dating back to 1890, The Victorian Market features an ornate cast-iron and wooden domed roof, and a sandstone arch on the Church Street entrance. This historic building now houses a variety of retailers, services, and food shops to explore. **Approximate travel time:** 4 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** AC Hotel by Marriott Inverness (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 3: Inverness In the morning, visit to Culloden Moor. After lunch, board an educational cruise on the Loch Ness, then visit Urquhart Castle before returning to Inverness.

Welcome to the Highlands of Scotland! This morning, visit the infamous Culloden battlefield, the site of the Battle of Culloden, known as the final confrontation of the Jacobite rising of 1745. Here, Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart were decisively defeated by Hanoverian forces commanded by William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, which put an end to the Jacobite rising. Explore the battlefield and moor

at your own pace, or opt to join a guided tour. After lunch, enjoy a relaxing cruise (2-3 hrs) along Loch Ness. This freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands is best known for alleged sightings of Nessie, the fabled Loch Ness Monster. Visit Urquhart Castle, one of Scotland's largest castles at the center of great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Explore the history of this strategic fortress and the stories revolving around the power struggles between the Scots and the English amidst the Wars of Independence. **Approximate travel time:** 2 hrs by private vehicle, 2-3 hrs by boat **Accommodation:** AC Hotel by Marriott Inverness (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 4: Inverness/Fort William Discover the beautiful Isle of Skye and see the iconic Eilean Castle. Visit Sligachan, where you can spot the Black Cullin mountains in the distance. In the evening, take a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig.

Discover the beautiful Isle of Skye. Enjoy a scenic drive to the Isle, stopping at the iconic Eilean Castle while en route for a snap of the old fortress. Once on the Isle, visit Sligachan, where you can spot the Black Cullin mountains in the background. Watch for the old man's face on the Old Man of Storr hike. As part of the Trotternish ridge, the Storr was created by a massive ancient landslide. The rock bears the name "Old Man Storr" because its outline and protruding pinnacle resemble the face of an old man. In the evening, take a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig. **Approximate travel time:** 2.5 hrs by private vehicle, 30 minutes by ferry **Accommodation:** Muthu Fort William Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 5: Fort William Visit the Glenfinnan Viaduct made famous by Harry Potter. Watch the Jacobite Steam train cross over the viaduct. Stretch your legs with a forest walk followed by a distillery tour and whisky tasting at Ben Nevis Distillery.

Start the day by visiting the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Glenfinnan attracts many thousands of visitors from around the world to experience the stunning scenery but also to catch a glimpse of the famous Jacobite steam train, also known as the Hogwart's Express in the *Harry Potter* novels and films, travel across the Glenfinnan viaduct. The viaduct carries the railway to Glenfinnan Station across an impressive 1,000 ft (305m) span, 100 ft (30m) above the ground. While in the area, raise your bonnet to the lone highlander on top of the Glenfinnan Monument. Framed by spectacular Highland scenery at the head of Loch Shiel, the Glenfinnan Monument is a striking tribute to those who fought in the Jacobite Risings. It commemorates the Jacobite clansmen who fought and gave their lives in support of Charles Edward Stuart, often called "Bonnie Prince Charlie." Afterward, stretch your legs with a forest walk (1.5-2 hrs, 3km). Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in the British Isles. Standing at 1,345 meters (4,413 feet) above sea level, it is at the western end of the Grampian Mountains in the Lochaber area of the Scottish Highlands. Set off an easy hike through Achriabhach Forest beginning initially uphill and then continuing through tree-lined paths, passing a waterfall and reaching superb views across Glen Nevis. Next, we visit Ben Nevis Distillery, known for its location at the base of Ben Nevis and for its exceptional whisky. Tour the distillery and sample one of the whiskies. (Opt for a tasting of several of the whiskies at the bar downstairs after the tour.) **Approximate travel time:** 5 to 6 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Muthu Fort William Hotel (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 6 Fort William/Glasgow City Explore Glencoe and learn about this key valley and its importance in Scotland's history, then head south towards Glasgow. Enjoy some free time to explore Scotland's largest city.

Head south towards Glasgow. Along the way, visit Glencoe, Scotland's most famous and scenic glen. Also known as the weeping valley, it was the site of the 1692 massacre of the Mac Donald clan. visit Rannoch Moor and the Black Mount and learn about the complex history of this natural paradise. In the afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore Scotland's largest city. Glasgow is a port city on the River Clyde in Scotland's western Lowlands. It's famed for its Victorian and art nouveau architecture, a rich legacy of the city's 18th-20th-century prosperity due to trade and shipbuilding. Today, it's a national cultural hub, home to institutions including the Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, and National Theatre of Scotland, as

well as acclaimed museums and a thriving music scene. You can also opt to go on the Brewery Tour, Bike Tour, or visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. **Approximate travel time:** 3 hrs by private vehicle **Accommodation:** The Address Glasgow (or similar) **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 7: Glasgow City Depart Glasgow at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart at any time. The tour ends in Glasgow, and the nearest airport is **Glasgow Airport (GLA)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Glasgow, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

****Itinerary Disclaimer:** While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*