EDINBURGH, THE HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS

Edinburgh Return

Nine Days

Edinburgh ▪ Ballachulish ▪ Isle of Mull
Inverness ▪ Loch Ness

YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ Eight nights in premium accommodation
- ✓ Services of a Great Rail Journeys Tour Escort and expert local guides
- ✓ 16 meals – 8 breakfasts (B) and 8 dinners (D)
- ✓ Airport transfers and tipping

INSIDER EXPERIENCES ☆

- ☆ Visit the Isle of Mull including Duart Castle
- ☆ Navigate Neptune's Staircase and cruise Loch Linnhe
- ☆ Ride the famous Jacobite Steam Train*
- ☆ Cruise to Loch Ness and visit Urquhart Castle
- ☆ Traverse Scotland on the picturesque Kyle Line
- ☆ Enjoy a traditional Scottish evening in Edinburgh

Day 1. Arrive Edinburgh
Today you will arrive in Scotland's much-loved capital, Edinburgh. Discover its fascinating history, unsurpassed beauty and warm, friendly locals. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally located hotel, situated close to the station.
Stay: Edinburgh, Apex Hotel Waterloo Place. D

Day 2. Edinburgh, West Highland Line, Ballachulish
All aboard for Glasgow this morning, before changing trains for a journey on one of the world's most incredible railway lines, the West Highland Line. Travel along a hillside ledge overlooking Gare Loch before entering the spectacular Highlands, an idyllic, remote and untouched landscape. The incredible route skirts the western banks of Loch Lomond and climbs quickly from Crianlarich to Upper Tyndrum and wild Rannoch Moor, a dramatic region of peat bogs, streams and ancient forests that are only visible from the comfort of your train. Mighty mountains provide an imposing backdrop to the journey on the approach to Fort William. On arrival, transfer to the nearby village of Ballachulish.
Three Nights: Ballachulish, Isles of Glencoe Hotel or similar. BD

Day 3. Ballachulish, Isle of Mull, Duart Castle ☆
Venture to the town of Oban where you'll board a ferry and cruise to Craignure on the Isle of Mull. Heading through the small islands and across to Mull, the incredible picture-postcard views are truly awe-inspiring. Think rugged coastline; hills rising sharply from the water's edge, endless greens, purples and browns of the moorland; and jagged, exposed rock faces. On approach to the island, you'll notice a lonely castle above the sea cliffs. This is Duart Castle, ancestral home of the Maclean Clan. Visit the castle, taking in its eclectic rooms and stunning views. Later, return to Ballachulish. BD

Day 4. Ballachulish, Neptune's Staircase, Loch Linnhe ☆
Today you'll travel by coach to Neptune's Staircase, an impressive set of eight locks operated by a team of at least three lock keepers. Situated on the Caledonian Canal, the 22-ton lock gates were originally hand-powered, but are now operated by hydraulics. It takes approximately one-and-a-half hours to pass from one end of the staircase to the other, where water overcomes gravity and nature to climb the hillside. From here, continue on to the picturesque waters of Loch Linnhe and set off on a cruise. Pass the stunning mountain landscapes of Glencoe before returning to your hotel. Tonight enjoy a traditional Scottish dinner. BD

Day 5. Ballachulish, Jacobite Steam Train*, Inverness ☆
Departing from Fort William, join the Jacobite Steam Train for a journey to Mallaig on the final leg of the West Highland Line. Your train will steam past Ben Nevis before climbing into the mountains around Glenfinnan, a town famous as the rallying point for Bonnie Prince Charlie's assault on the British throne. At Glenfinnan, reach the line's most picturesque section and

1. Cross the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct

one of Britain's most iconic engineering works – the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct. A magical experience, it's no wonder this train was featured as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter films. As you head towards Mallaig, we drop down to the sea's edge and the landscape opens up with the first views of the rugged 'Small Isles' – Rum, Eigg and Muck – which hang close offshore and tease in and out of view near the journey's end. After a lunch stop, it's time to return to Fort William. From there, you'll then continue by coach through the picturesque countryside to the city of Inverness, capital of the Highlands.
Three Nights: Inverness Palace Hotel & Spa. BD

Day 6. Inverness, Loch Ness ☆
This morning enjoy some time at leisure to familiarise yourself with Inverness. This afternoon, you'll travel to the tranquil waters of Loch Ness, as famous for its 'monster' as much as for its beauty. During a cruise, soak up the myth and mystery of Loch Ness and its monster before disembarking at the picturesque 13th-century ruins of Urquhart Castle. Later, return by coach to Inverness. BD

Day 7. Inverness, Kyle Line, Eilean Donan Castle ☆
Today, enjoy one of the most breathtaking railway journeys in Europe, the Kyle Line. Enjoy countless photo opportunities as you wind through wooded hillsides and over sparse moors, climbing over the highlands and past charming loch-side and seaside towns. Arrive at Kyle of Lochalsh, the end of the line, located across a short stretch of water from the Isle of Skye. Afterwards, make a visit to Eilean Donan Castle, situated on a tiny island in Loch Duich. BD

Day 8. Inverness, Edinburgh ☆
Leaving Inverness behind this morning, you'll travel south by rail through the Cairngorms and via the towns of Aviemore and Kingussie, as well as the burgh of Pitlochry, before arriving back in Edinburgh. Transfer from the railway station to your hotel, then this evening, enjoy the opportunity to try some traditional Scottish fare. You'll also listen to a chorus of bagpipes and drums during a Scottish-themed evening to mark the end of your journey.
Stay: Edinburgh, Radisson Blu Hotel. BD

Day 9. Depart Edinburgh
Your journey ends with a transfer to the airport today. B

2020 Dates & Prices (A$)

9 Days – Edinburgh Return (RJTSHS9P)

Per person, twin share	EB Price	Standard Price
Mar. 29; Apr. 2, 5, 16, 19.	$3,795	$4,295
Apr. 22, 23, 26.	$4,095	$4,595
Apr. 30; May 3.	$3,895	$4,595
May 5.	$4,295	$4,995
May 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31.	$3,895	$4,595
June 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 25, 28.	$3,895	$4,595
July 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26.	$4,095	$4,795
Aug. 19, 20, 23.	$4,995	$5,695
Aug. 24, 27, 30, 31.	$4,495	$5,195
Sept. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 29.	$3,995	$4,695
Oct. 1.	$3,995	$4,695
Oct. 4, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25.	$3,495	$4,195

EB Price – includes dollar saving.
EB Price – includes Early Payment Discount and dollar saving.
Solo travellers add from $1,400, enquire for details.
For Early Payment Discount terms and conditions see pages 18-19.

Trip Notes

Itinerary and hotels may be subject to change. *Scotrail service may replace the Jacobite Steam Train during March and April departures. Accommodation in Ballachulish is best available. Please see pages 124-125 for full terms and conditions.