

Walking the Scottish Highlands

A privately-guided tour visiting the Cairngorms, hidden Lochs & Glens, and Ben Nevis



Journey into the Scottish Highlands in the company of an expert guide on this fully-guided walking itinerary. Over the course of 7 days, you'll hike some lesser-known trails as well as several classic Scottish walks. In the Cairngorm Mountains, you'll discover remote mountain glens and sparkling lochs – and maybe bag a munro or two! In Glen Feshie, you'll encounter shy wildlife as you explore ancient Caledonian pine forests, while at Glen Coe and Loch Leven you'll be able to capture some of Scotland's most famous landscapes. The itinerary finishes in Fort William, from where you'll have the option to summit Ben Nevis, Scotland's tallest peak.

Throughout your time in the Scottish Highlands, you'll be supported by an experienced guide who will help tailor your hikes so that they are just the right level of challenge for you. There will also be ample time to relax, with delicious meals and cosy evenings at comfortable hotels, and to explore the towns of Kingussie, Newtonmore, and Fort William.

Day 1 – Arrive Inverness

Make your own way to Inverness for one night (B&B) at the Kingsmills Hotel, or a similar 4-star property.

Day 2 – Transfer to the Cairngorms (B, L)

You will be met by your driver/guide in Inverness this morning, and together make your way to the Cairngorms National Park in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. The Cairngorm will serve as a beautiful backdrop for your first hike, as you follow a trail that runs through ancient Caledonian pine forest and alongside a sparkling Highland loch. As you go, your guide will share with you some secrets to foraging for wild foodstuffs!

Your Financial Protection

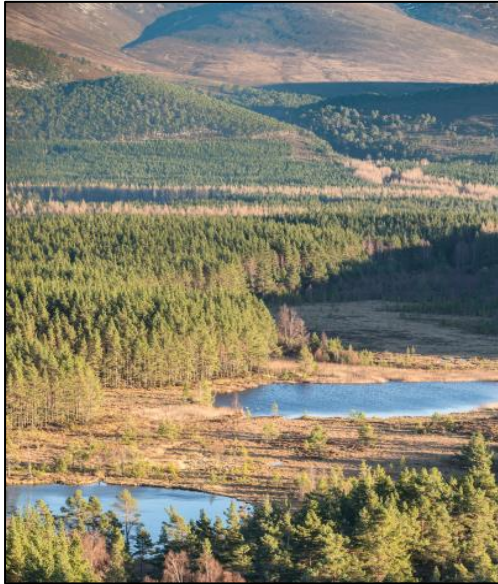
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For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Today's walk will be a short initial hike of approx. 5km, after which you'll travel to your hotel in Kingussie, a small town situated within the Cairngorms, and your home for the next 3 nights.

Overnight in Kingussie at the Cross Hotel (B&B basis).

Hike Details: Approx. 2 hours, 5km/3.1miles, 70m/ 230ft of ascent



Day 3 – Full-day hike in Glen Feshie (B, L)

Today will be spent exploring Glen Feshie. This wild and beautiful glen, or valley, was formerly a deer stalking estate but has in recent years been carefully and sensitively returned to its wild roots, with the restoration of its ancient Caledonian pine forests and a resurgence of species such as wildcat, otter and capercaillie.

During today's 12km hike, you'll be able to soak in the quiet atmosphere, miles away from any urban environment, and admire the scenery as you journey deep into the glen, where you'll discover a unique 'bothy' nestled amid the trees! If you'd prefer a more demanding hike, there will also be an option today to climb to one of Glen Feshie's two munros, Sgor Gaoith and Mullach Clach a'Bhlair.

Hike details: Approx. 5-6 hours, 12km/ 7 miles, 250m/ 820 ft of ascent (not including the munros)

Day 4 – Classic Cairngorms full-day hike (B, L)

Today you'll enjoy fabulous vistas of the Cairngorm cliffs as you climb the rocky pass known as the Chalamain Gap. This boulder-filled dip opens out to views of the slopes of mighty Braeriach, the tallest of the Cairngorms peaks and the third highest mountain in the UK. For the best views, you'll have the option to ascend the small summit of Creag a' Chalamain; from this high vantage point, the depths of the Lairig Ghru pass, which cuts through the whole Cairngorms massif, drop away in front of you, as the view extends across a highland plateau all the way to the lower slopes of Braeriach.



From Creag a' Chalamain, you can either retrace your steps, or descend to the floor of the pass and wind your way down to Loch Morlich through open pinewoods.

Hike details: Approx. 6½ hours, 12km/ 7 miles, 310m/ 1015 ft of ascent

NB. It will be possible today to include some of the higher summits if you would like a more demanding hike. Your guide will discuss the different trekking routes available with you.



Day 5 - Hike Loch Gynack & transfer to Fort William (B, L)

Starting directly from your hotel this morning, you'll journey through woodland and into the foothills of the Monadhliath mountains, located just north of Kingussie on the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park. Here, you'll explore the shimmering shores of Loch Gynack, with wonderful views of the surrounding Monadhliath summits. You then continue through open moorland to arrive at the fascinating Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore, an extensive open-air museum with buildings 'frozen in time' to give a taste of Highland life in years gone by!

After the morning's walk, you'll depart Newtonmore and head west to Fort William, situated at the foot of Ben Nevis. You stay tonight at the Moorings in Fort William, a cosy 30-room hotel positioned on the edge of the Caledonian Canal.

Hike details: Approx. 4 hours, 7.5km/ 4.75 miles, 162m/ 530 ft of ascent



Day 6 – Full-day Glen Coe hike (B, L)

The dramatic mountains and ridges of Glen Coe have featured as the backdrop to many films and are a fixture of depictions of the Scottish Highlands; looking up at the summits, it is easy to see why! Today you will explore one of the peaks of this famous valley with your guide, enjoying

stunning views and fabulous walking. After your hike, you'll settle down with a celebratory beverage in a traditional climbers' pub, and listen to fascinating tales and legends told by a local storyteller!

Hike details: Approx. 6 hours, 8km/ 5 miles, 900m/ 2952 ft of ascent

Day 7 – Ben Nevis (B, L)

Take on the challenge of the highest mountain in the UK today, starting from almost sea level and climbing all the way up to the 1,345m summit. This is a popular climb route, and you can expect to encounter many other walkers today; keep your eyes open for rock climbers on the popular North facing cliffs! On reaching the summit – and assuming the weather is kind to you! – 'the Ben' will reward your efforts with sweeping views. No matter what the weather, nothing affects the sense of achievement as you stand at the top of Scotland.



This evening, raise a well-earned drink to your mountain adventures and cherished memories with the traditional toast of "Slainte Mhath", or 'good health'!

Hike details: Approx. 9 hours, 17km/ 10.5 miles, 1352m/ 4436 ft of ascent

Alternative Route – the West Highland Way

Ben Nevis can be a challenging day climb, especially if the weather is poor. If you would prefer a less demanding walk today, there is also the option to hike the final section of the classic long-distance route, the West Highland Way. This involves a morning transfer to the village of Kinlochleven, from where you trek back to Fort William via Lairig Mor ("the great pass"), a steep but rewarding climb that serves as a fitting finale to your week in the Highlands.

Hike details: Approx. 7 hours, 24.5km/ 15.25 miles, 475m/ 1558 ft of ascent

Day 8 – Departure (B)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before transferring back to Inverness, where you say goodbye to your guide. If flying home or taking the train, you'll be transferred to the airport or railway station; otherwise we can help with accommodation in Inverness or onward transfer arrangements if required.

NB. depending on timings, it may be possible to enjoy one last short hike before you depart today. Your guide will discuss the options with you in advance.



Price Guide:

The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,654 per person**, based on four travellers in twin/double accommodation and travel between May and October. For winter private departures, or for the lower-cost scheduled open group rates, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- 1 night accommodation in a 4 star hotel in Inverness (twin/double rooms) on B&B basis
- 3 nights' accommodation (twin/double rooms) at the Cross Hotel in Kingussie on B&B basis
- 3 nights' accommodation (twin/double rooms) at the Moorings in Fort William on B&B basis
- An experienced walking guide accompanying you from day 2-8
- All transfers in a private vehicle driven by your guide
- Lunch is on days 2-8
- All activities as detailed in itinerary, including guided hikes on days 2-7, entrance to Highland Museum on day 5, and storytelling experience on day 6
- Meet up with your private guide in Inverness at the start of day 2 – normally this will be at your hotel in Inverness.

Excludes:

- Transfers to/from Inverness
- Dinners will be to your own account
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips