

Avanti[®]
Destinations

 Visit
Scotland | Alba[™]



SCOTLAND
IS CALLING

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INTRODUCTION

Travelers who are searching for legacy-laden trips that are feasible in today's post-pandemic world should look no further than Scotland — a beautiful and riveting destination that is steeped in multilayered history and proud traditions. Scotland is packed with dramatic and awe-inspiring landscapes, fascinating culture, world-famous spirits, hearty cuisine, and friendly down-to-earth locals.

Aside from its world-famous whiskies, there's probably nothing else in the country that can signify heritage more impressively than the kind of tangible culture that's integral to the Scottish landscape: castles. It's estimated that there were once up to 3,000 castles and stately manors in Scotland. It's fair to say that no matter where you find yourself, a castle is never far away.



EDINBURGH



Travel to Edinburgh — the Scottish capital — for a memorable and authentic local experience. Visit Edinburgh Castle, the historic Old Town, and the Royal Yacht Britannia — the former royal yacht of Queen Elizabeth II. Make your way to Glasgow, Scotland’s largest city and economic powerhouse. There you will witness how the city has evolved from its origins as a manufacturing and trade hub into the cultural giant that it is today.

Travel outside Scotland’s famous cities and explore the spectacular countryside glens, lochs, highlands, lowlands, and isles. Just outside Edinburgh, Stirling Castle and Wallace Monument are symbols of the many battles with the English and offer visitors enchanting scenic beauty combined with rich history. Head north to the town of St. Andrews, which is primarily known as the birthplace and royal seat of golf. Explore the environs of Loch Ness for a chance to spot ‘Nessie’, the lake’s elusive resident. Enjoy a Scottish festival and eat traditional Scottish haggis with the locals. And don’t forget to visit at least one of over 130 whisky distilleries in Scotland — the country with the greatest concentration of whisky production in the world.





SEASONALITY

Scotland is widely known as a dreamy destination with a slightly temperamental climate that fits perfectly with the striking quality of its breathtaking landscapes. There are three main seasons that travelers should look out for — each of them offering reasons that would help determine the best time to visit Scotland.



FRINGE FESTIVAL

PEAK TRAVEL SEASON (JULY TO AUGUST)

Although the huge crowds that gather during this season may seem counter-intuitive for travelers who are pining for a taste of Scotland's tranquil wilderness, visiting during high season is perfect for those who are keen on experiencing the country's famous festivals. It may be the warmest time of the year, but don't forget to pack rain gear.



INVERNESS



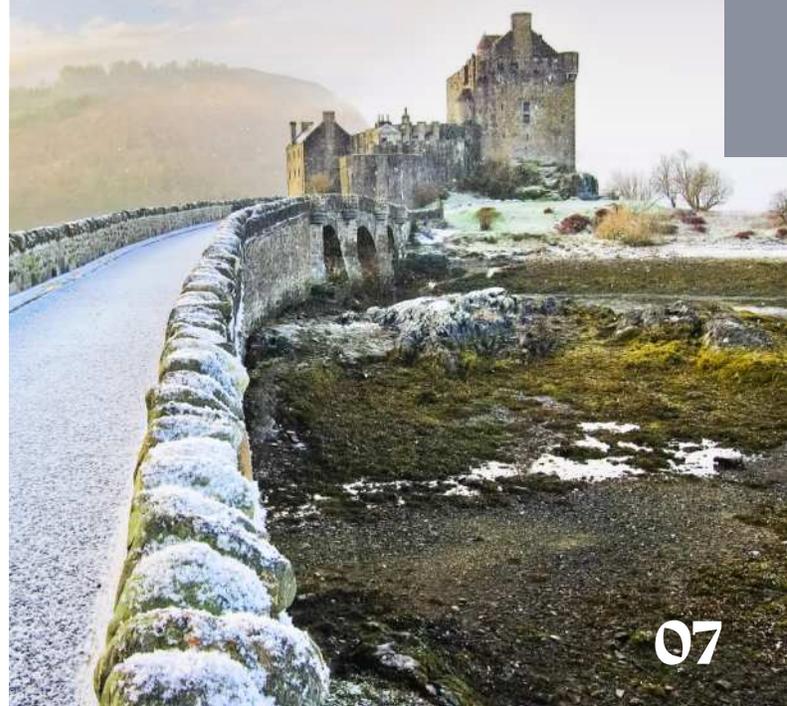
SHOULDER SEASON (MAY TO JUNE PLUS SEPTEMBER)

With the best chances for enjoying relatively dry weather and with the daylight lasting longer, this season is perfect for outdoor adventures and countryside exploration.

LOW TRAVEL SEASON (OCTOBER TO APRIL)

Even if a notable number of attractions and rural accommodations close during this season, this is still the best time to visit Scotland if you are planning to escape the madding crowds, quietly savor the country's offerings, and just cozy up in a warm pub and enjoy a hearty traditional dish when it gets too chilly outside.

EILEAN DONAN CASTLE





IMPORTANT DATES



THE HIGHLAND GAMES

The world-famous Highland Games is a beloved Scottish tradition that has been going for hundreds of years now. The Games celebrate Scottish culture, community, heritage, and hospitality through dancing, music, and unique athletic events that involve throwing, lifting, and pulling. The most iconic games include Tossing the Caber, Tug O'War, Shot Put, and Weight for Height.



HOGMANAY & NEW YEAR

No other country celebrates the New Year with as much boisterous revelry and infectious vigor as Scotland does. Hogmanay is what the Scots call New Year's Eve, and it has origins that can be traced back to the Vikings when they celebrated winter solstice. Immerse yourself in the colorful street parties as you sing Auld Lang Syne and get captivated by the fireworks lighting up the night sky.



ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

Every August, thousands of keen visitors make a beeline to Edinburgh to attend the Edinburgh Festival Fringe — the single greatest celebration of arts and culture in the world. A big part of this summer attraction is the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo — a spectacular evening of music, dance, and military pageantry punctuated by performances from the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Scottish Regiments.

[VIEW PACKAGE](#)



FOOD & DRINK

With fresh mountain waters, lush rolling hills, fertile soil, varied weather, and the Atlantic on its doorstep, Scotland's abundant natural larder is renowned for its superlative quality. Access to bountiful fresh ingredients has produced a cuisine that covers the traditional, the innovative, and everything in between. From Aberdeen Angus Beef to Stornoway Black Pudding, Scotland is overflowing with gastronomic delights that define the unique characteristics of the Scottish diet – all of which make your visit unforgettable. There's plenty of comfort food such as porridge, oatcakes, leek and potato soup, Scotch pie, bangers and mash, and bacon butty. Don't forget to bring your appetite while checking out some of the best food and drink that Scotland has to offer.



FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFAST

In Scotland, nothing can set you up for a day of exploring or revive you from the spell of a boisterous night out better than the traditional full Scottish breakfast. This hearty array of local culinary icons typically consists of black pudding, lorne sausage, tattie scones, fried eggs, toast, bacon, hash browns, fried tomatoes, mushrooms, and of course... haggis.





HAGGIS

Adept foodies know that there's much more to Scotland's food culture than haggis – sheep or calf offal mixed with oatmeal and spices. It may not be the most photogenic, but this world-famous Scottish staple tops the list because it manages to encapsulate the country's resourcefulness, grit, and ingenuity into a humble dish that packs an amazing burst of flavor.



LOCAL SEAFOOD

With more than 6,000 miles of coastline, Scotland has no shortage of fresh and tasty seafood. Must-try items include the iconic Arbroath Smokies (mouth-watering smoked haddock that's been given protected geographical status like Parma Ham or Champagne), delectable smoked salmon, sustainably sourced scallops, and one of the best fish and chips this side of the Atlantic.

SCOTCH WHISKY

Even if locally produced gin has gained popularity recently, no trip to Scotland can be considered truly complete without a wee dram of whisky. Scotch is arguably the most tangible and profound singular expression of Scottish culture, craftsmanship, regional terroir, illustrious heritage, and unbridled dedication – distilled into one sophisticated fiery drink.



NATURE

Venture into the Scottish wild side by immersing yourself in a diverse landscape characterized by rolling hills, towering peaks, atmospheric glens, dramatic climate, jagged coastlines, tranquil lochs, and fascinating flora and fauna. Perfect for adventurers and outdoor enthusiasts, Scotland is home to 2 National Parks, 43 National Nature Reserves, 3 UNESCO Global Geoparks, and 2 UNESCO Biospheres. It's not hard to imagine why Scotland is up there on the list of countries with the most visually striking natural environments in the world.

LOCH LOMOND & TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

Scotland's first-ever National Park – dubbed as 'The Highlands in Miniature' – spans 720 square miles and contains some of the finest scenery in the country. Popular amongst locals and visitors alike, the region is easily accessible from Scottish cities like Stirling or Edinburgh.

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Regardless of where you find yourself within Scotland, you are likely not too far away from a National Nature Reserve such as Glencoe NNR or St Cyrus NNR – protected areas where you can admire and appreciate nature and wildlife without disrupting the ecosystem.





CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK

Covering much of the eastern Highlands and west Aberdeenshire, Cairngorms National Park is the largest of its kind within the United Kingdom. This pristine wilderness features everything from sub-arctic habitats to ancient forests to Britain's second highest peak: Ben Macdui.



UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS & UNESCO BIOSPHERES

UNESCO Global Geoparks provide a fascinating insight on how Scotland's breathtaking landscapes developed since prehistoric times. UNESCO Biospheres are specially designated places where sustainable communities thrive in harmony with their environment.



GETTING TO SCOTLAND

Visitors from the United States can travel to and from Scotland with relative ease. Through a good selection of direct flight options operated by popular carriers like Delta, United, and American Airlines, it is convenient to fly into Edinburgh or Glasgow from many major gateways within the US. For Americans who are flying from other countries within Europe, Scotland's international airports enjoy excellent year-round connections with most European and Scandinavian countries.



For travelers who are already in the UK, rail is a superb way to get to Scotland — especially since Edinburgh and Glasgow are both served by frequent train services from London. The two major Scottish cities can also be reached from many other popular locations in England such as Manchester, though travelers may have to change trains along the way.



TRANSPORTATION

PRIVATE TRANSFERS

Avanti provides a selection of short or long-distance transfers within Scotland, incorporating sightseeing stops along the way. These originate from either Edinburgh or Glasgow. Avanti can also address custom point-to-point long distance transfer requests. Private transfers offer excellent levels of privacy and comfort, but travelers can also opt for a more budget-friendly 'Taxi' option — private transfers that use taxis instead of luxury sedans and vans.

SELF-DRIVE OPTIONS

Scotland — with its picturesque ever-changing scenery, open roads, and multiple attractions scattered all over the country — is a perfect place for a road trip! Driving is an excellent way to discover the popular and hidden gems of Scotland at the pace that you desire. We have several self-drive Recommended Vacation Packages in this e-Brochure to inspire you.

EDINBURGH

*SCOTLAND'S INTELLECTUAL
CAPITAL – THE FIRST-EVER
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE*



EDINBURGH

E



Nestled atop rocky crags and overlooking the Firth of Forth's dark-blue waters, Edinburgh is a treasure trove of medieval architecture, high culture, scenic vistas, exciting gastronomic gems, excellent shopping, colorful festivals, energetic nightlife, and essential attractions such as Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile. From Michelin-starred restaurants to storied cobbled alleyways and shops, Edinburgh offers a plethora of sensory delights.

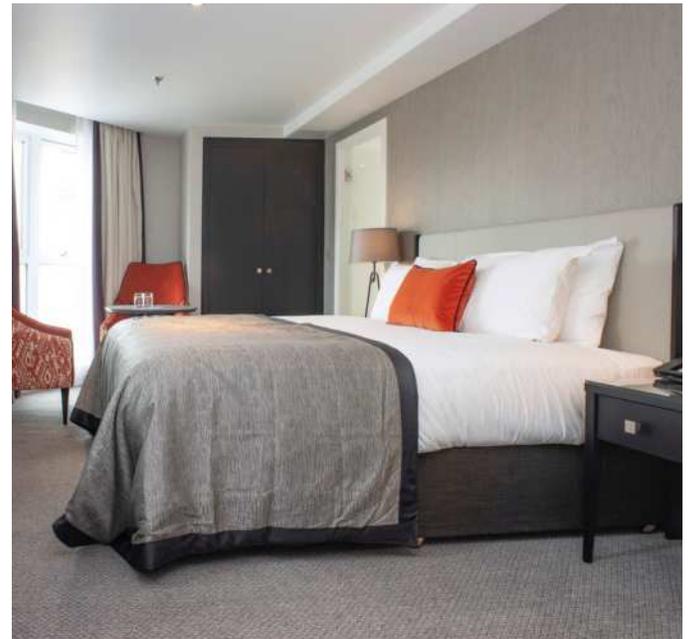
WHERE TO STAY

BALMORAL 5*

This historic Edinburgh hotel is a paragon of luxury and Scottish grandeur. It also features a Michelin-starred restaurant.

[MORE INFO →](#)





RADISSON BLU 4*

Located along the historic Royal Mile, this upscale hotel is a short walk away from attractions like Edinburgh Castle and Princes Street.

[MORE INFO →](#)

TEN HILL PLACE 4*

A modern hotel that's perfectly situated near the city center and boasts excellent views of Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park.

[MORE INFO →](#)

WHAT TO DO



EDINBURGH FOOD SAFARI WALKING TOUR

Venture down the eclectic Broughton Street area of Edinburgh to taste unique delicacies and traditional Scottish fare.



PRIVATE TOUR OF EDINBURGH BY MINI COOPER

Zip through the streets and avenues in a Mini Cooper on a quest to visit several of the city's popular attractions and hidden gems with your private driver/guide..

THE ROYAL MILE





+

SMALL GROUP SCOTCH WHISKY EXPERIENCE – GOLD TOUR

Learn about the process of making Scotch whisky through an immersive hi-tech barrel ride. Cap the experience with a dram from the Scotch region of your choice.

+

PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF EDINBURGH'S ROSE STREET PUBS

Sample wee drams of Scotch from independent distilleries and a pint of Scottish ale or stout as you explore Rose Street — Edinburgh's legendary pub crawl hotspot.



GLASGOW

*A PORT CITY THAT
BLOSSOMED INTO A HUB FOR
CULTURE AND THE ARTS*

W

Glasgow is a bustling metropolis where architectural legacy — the product of wealth created from the city's history of manufacturing and trade — is evident and celebrated. The largest city in Scotland is now filled to the brim with theaters, art galleries, museums, learning institutions, and a plethora of boutiques, restaurants, and cafés.

WHERE TO STAY



KIMPTON BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE 5*

Once the headquarters of the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, this luxurious five-star property is highly regarded for its Georgian architecture and superlative service.

[MORE INFO →](#)



SHERBROOK CASTLE HOTEL 4*

Set in the tranquil environs of Pollokshields, this upscale baronial-style hotel is surrounded by landscaped gardens and features chic rooms and an elegant restaurant.

[MORE INFO →](#)



DAKOTA GLASGOW 4*

Built inside a contemporary brick building, this 4-star hotel is conveniently located in a bustling commercial district and offers well-appointed rooms and excellent amenities.

[MORE INFO →](#)

WHAT TO DO



GLASGOW CITY CHAMBERS



PRIVATE WALKING TOUR OF CENTRAL GLASGOW

Take in Glasgow's deliciously bohemian atmosphere as you explore Scotland's largest city. Visit essential landmarks like George Square, the City Chambers, and Glasgow Cathedral along the way.



UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



PRIVATE OUTLANDER-INSPIRED DAY TRIP FROM GLASGOW

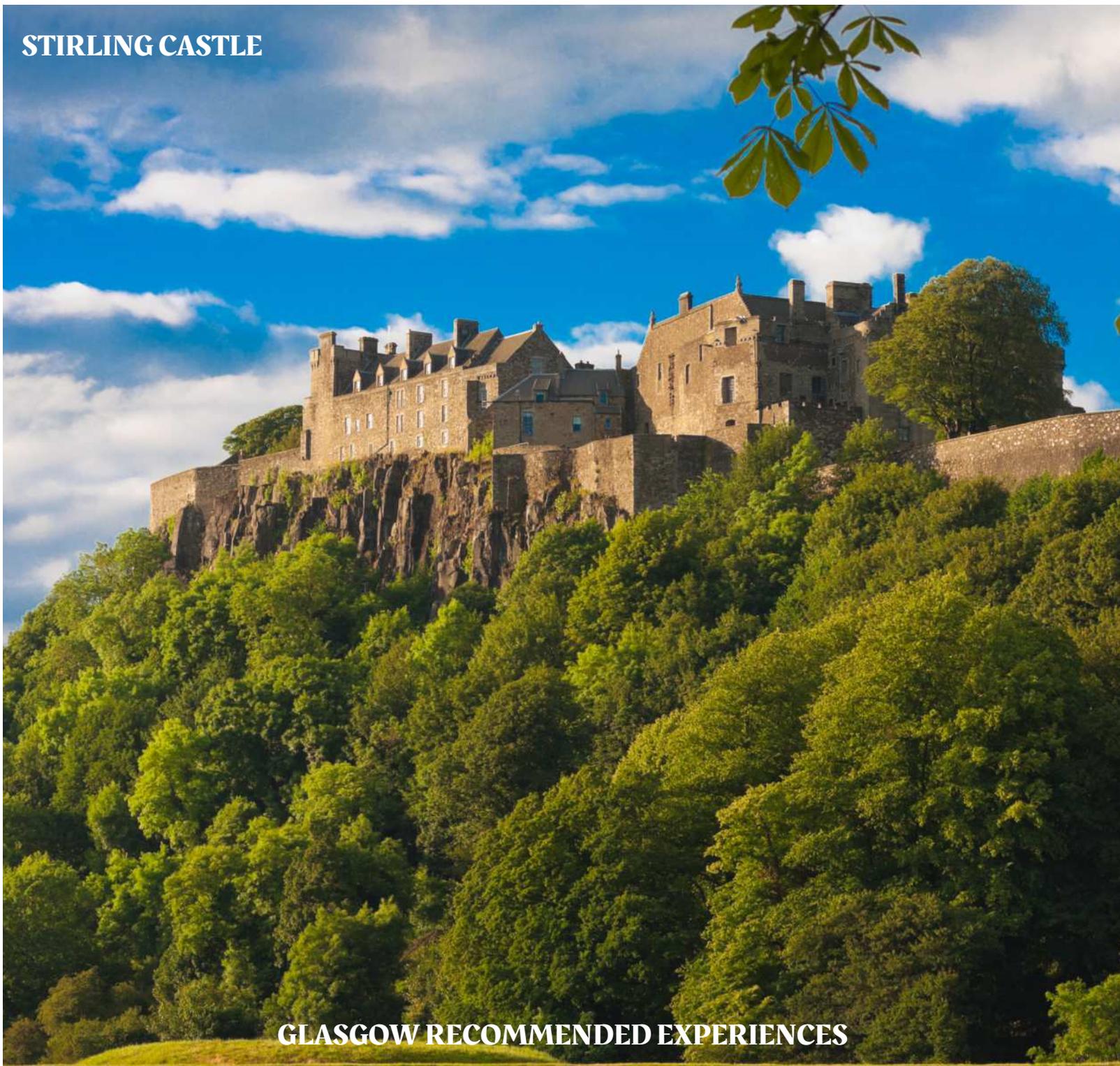
Experience an immersive day trip that takes you to several stunning locations that served as iconic settings for the hit TV series based on Diana Gabaldon's bestselling Outlander novels.



SMALL GROUP STIRLING CASTLE, LOCH LOMOND AND WHISKY TOUR

Head to Loch Lomond National Park and marvel at the beauty of its mountains, lochs, and forests. Explore Stirling Castle's historic grounds. Sample single malt whisky at Glengoyne Distillery.

STIRLING CASTLE



GLASGOW RECOMMENDED EXPERIENCES

THE HIG

*ARGUABLY SCOTLAND'S
MOST ICONIC REGION*

HIGHLANDS



As one of the last remaining natural environments in Europe that offer the ultimate escape, the untamed and sparsely populated terrain of the Highlands is well known. But the stunning charm and beauty of the region is also personified by places like Inverness, Aberdeen, Oban, and Torridon — lovely cities and towns scattered across a majestic landscape dotted with lochs and ancient ruins.

WHERE TO STAY

KINGSMILLS HOTEL 4*

This hotel — located a mile away from Inverness city center and the River Ness — has tastefully decorated rooms, a spa, and leisure facilities.

[MORE INFO →](#)





CULLODEN HOUSE HOTEL 4*

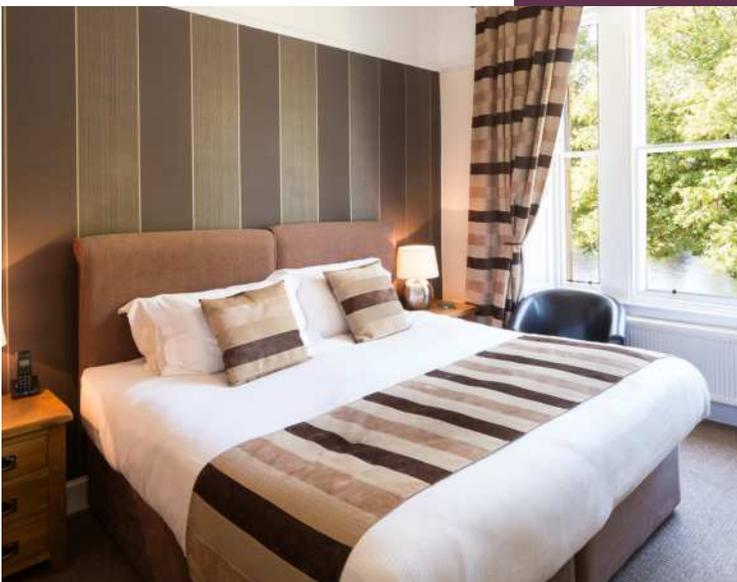
With its origin as a 16th-century Jacobean castle, this luxurious ivy-clad property is surrounded by 40 acres of manicured gardens and features a AA Rosette-rated restaurant.

[MORE INFO →](#)

THE GLEN MHOR HOTEL 3*

This Victorian townhouse hotel situated near Inverness Castle, along the banks of the River Ness, features a restaurant known for live jazz performances and an extensive whisky collection.

[MORE INFO →](#)



WHAT TO DO



EILEAN DONAN CASTLE



THE COMPLETE LOCH NESS EXPERIENCE TOUR FROM INVERNESS

This is the ultimate Loch Ness experience! Enjoy panoramic views from a cruise ship, learn about the historic ruins of Urquhart Castle, and explore the less frequented southern roads of Loch Ness.



EILEAN DONAN CASTLE AND THE ISLE OF SKYE TOUR FROM INVERNESS

This one-day adventure takes you across the Highlands to visit key locations — Loch Ness, Eilean Donan Castle, Isle of Skye, and Black Isle — while taking in the region's stunning beauty.



JACOBITE TRAIN

Pretend you're on Harry Potter's Hogwarts Express and take in epic views of the Highlands as you travel along the Glenfinnan Viaduct over Loch Shiel while aboard the famous Jacobite Steam Train.



LOCH NESS CONTEMPLATION CRUISE BY JACOBITE

This relaxing 2-hour cruise from Dochgarroch Locks to Loch Ness (and back) delivers unforgettable views of the Great Glen along with famous sites like Bona Lighthouse and Urquhart Castle.

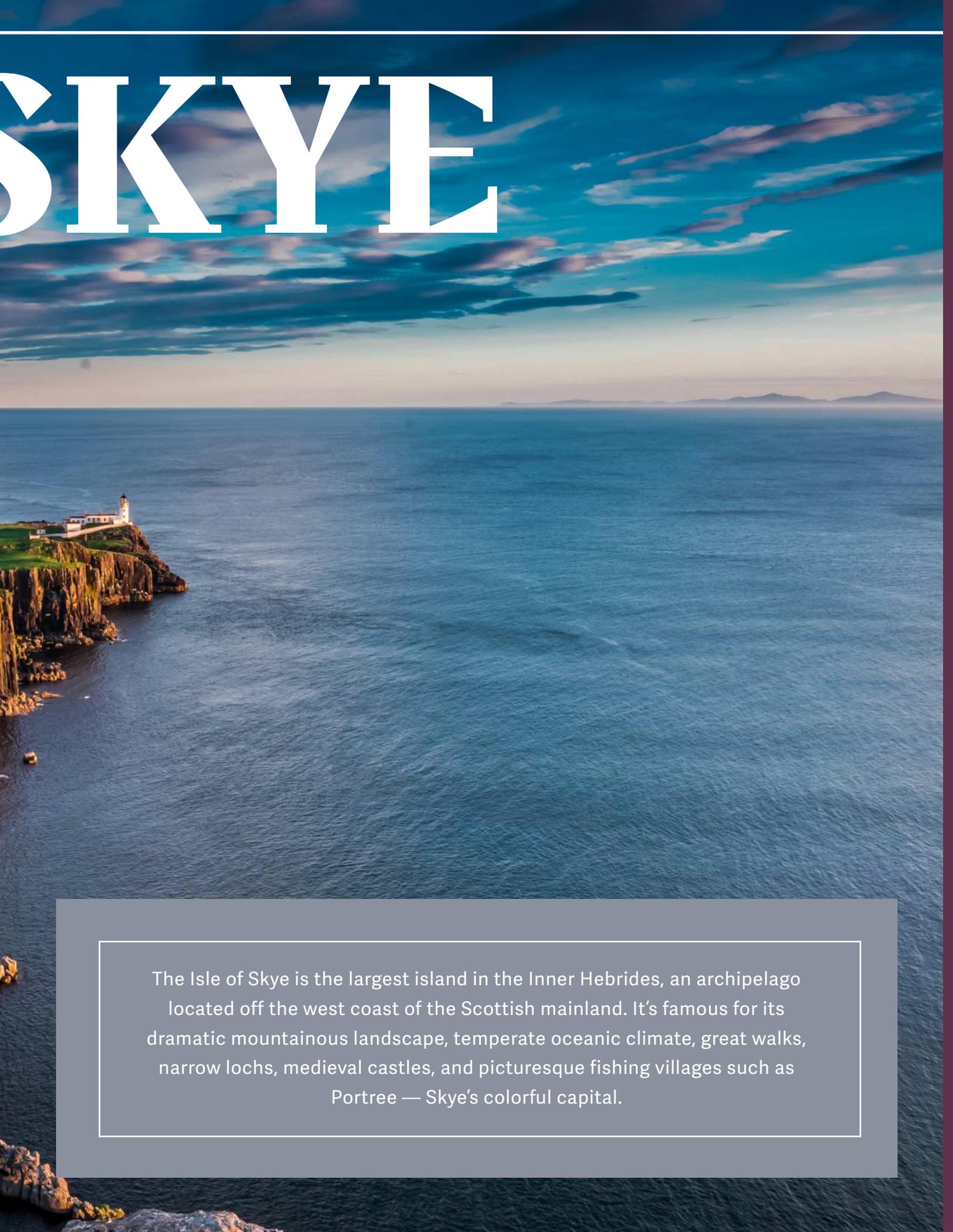


ISLE OF S

*A RUGGED OASIS FOR
ADVENTURERS AND
OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS*



SKYE



The Isle of Skye is the largest island in the Inner Hebrides, an archipelago located off the west coast of the Scottish mainland. It's famous for its dramatic mountainous landscape, temperate oceanic climate, great walks, narrow lochs, medieval castles, and picturesque fishing villages such as Portree — Skye's colorful capital.

WHERE TO STAY



DUISDALE HOUSE HOTEL 4*

Surrounded by gardens and the Duisdale Forest, this beautiful boutique property offers guest rooms that are meticulously designed with stunning contemporary décor. The hotel's restaurant is a notable recipient of two AA Rosettes.

[MORE INFO →](#)



TORAVAIG HOUSE HOTEL 4*

Surrounded by hills and situated on an elevated position that provides partial sea views, this award-winning hotel features stylish rooms and a fine dining restaurant that serves Scottish classics.

[MORE INFO →](#)



SKEABOST HOUSE HOTEL 4*

This elegant hotel is the only Isle of Skye accommodation that has its own golf course — a nine-hole, shoreline challenge. The property features luxurious rooms and an upscale restaurant.

[MORE INFO →](#)



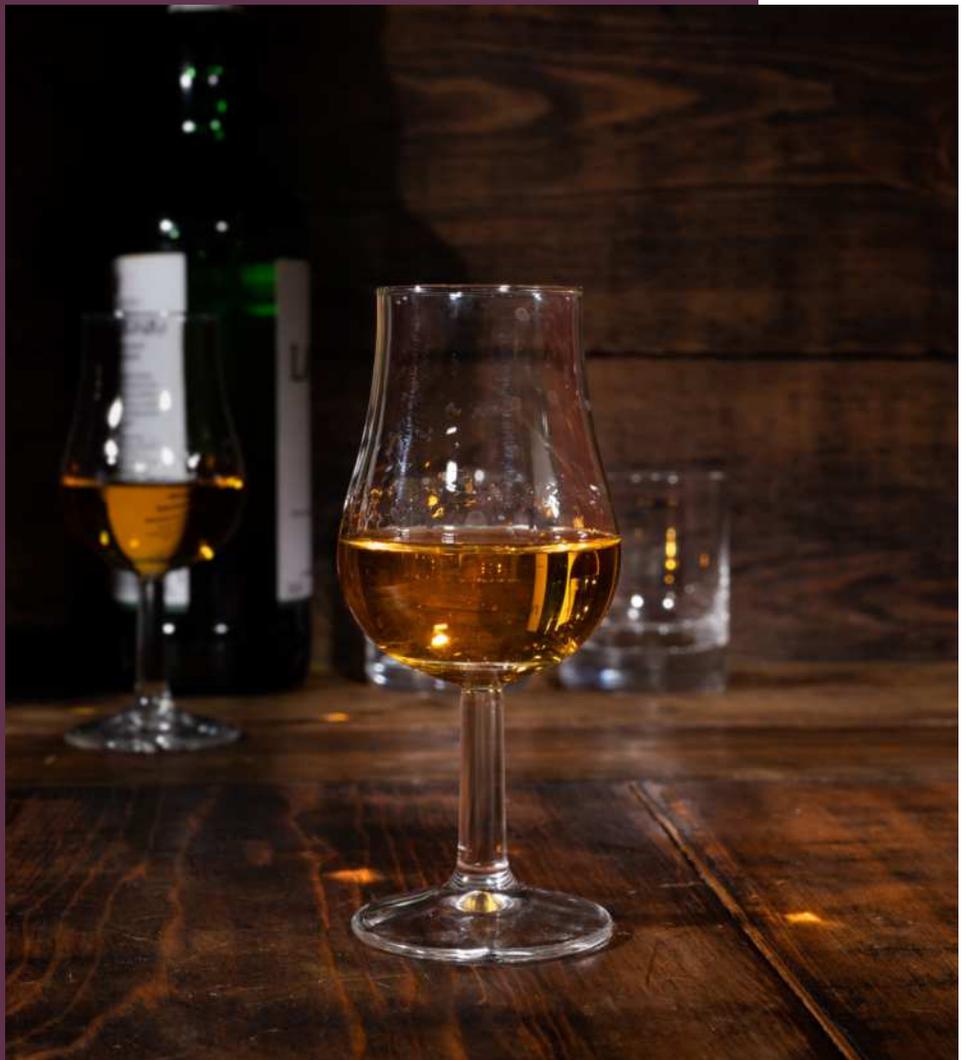
WHAT TO DO



+

TALISKER DISTILLERY TOUR & TASTING

Make your way to the shores of Loch Harport for a tour and tasting at the famed Talisker Distillery — the oldest working single malt Scotch whisky distillery on the Isle of Skye.





SALMON OR TROUT FISHING WITH A GHILLIE

Experience salmon and trout fishing the way the locals do with the help of a 'ghillie' — the ancient Gaelic term for an expert who acts as an attendant and advises you on general fishing techniques.



PRIVATE TOUR OF TROTTERNISH PENINSULA WITH LOCAL DRIVER-GUIDE

Head to the enigmatic Trotternish Peninsula — a strikingly scenic area characterized by its rocky alien-like landscape that has been immortalized in films such as Flash Gordon and Prometheus.

CASTLE HOTELS



📍 *DINGWALL*

TULLOCH CASTLE HOTEL

Housed inside a magnificent 12th-century castle, this historic accommodation has retained many of its period features including a striking 250-year-old paneled Great Hall.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *NEAR EDINBURGH*

DALHOUSIE CASTLE HOTEL

Surrounded by wooded parkland on the picturesque banks of the River Esk, this 13th-century fortress offers award-winning dining, a spa, and luxurious accommodations.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *PITLOCHRY*

FONAB CASTLE HOTEL & SPA

This carefully restored 5-star hotel is located in the heart of Highland Perthshire and offers breathtaking vistas, including views of Ben Vrackie and Loch Faskally.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *FORT WILLIAM*

INVERLOCHY CASTLE

Built in 1863, this award-winning luxury hotel is located less than 2 miles away from Ben Nevis Distillery — a famed whisky producer situated at the base of Ben Nevis, the highest peak in the UK.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *NEAR GLASGOW*

CROSSBASKET CASTLE HOTEL

This magnificent 17th-century castle is just a 15-minute drive away from the center of Glasgow. The traditional hotel features en-suite bedrooms and a river that runs through its grounds.

[MORE INFO →](#)

COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS



📍 *ABERDEEN*

ARDOE HOUSE

Hidden amidst 30 acres of rolling Aberdeenshire countryside, Ardoe House is a modern upscale hotel built inside a 19th-century baronial manor house.

[MORE INFO →](#)

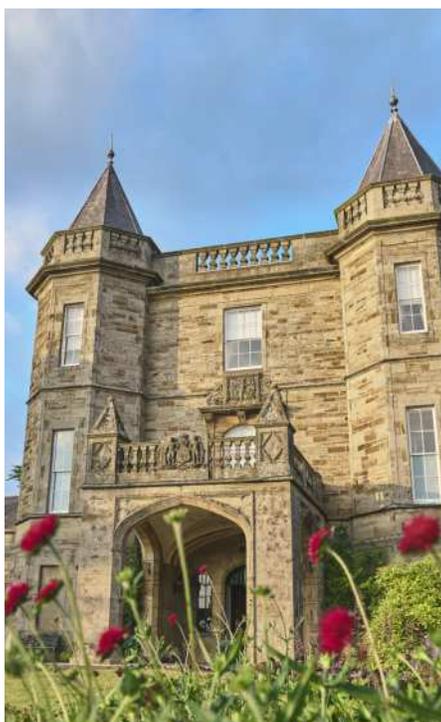


📍 *SCONE*

MURRAYSHALL COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

With a history that dates back over 400 years, this luxurious estate offers sophisticated accommodations and boasts two 18-hole golf courses and an award-winning restaurant.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *KIRKNEWTON*

DALMAHOY HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

Set amidst 1,000 acres of parkland, this baronial-style manor house offers spectacular views of Edinburgh Castle and superb amenities that includes a pair of 18-hole golf courses.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *KINBUCK*

CROMLIX HOUSE HOTEL

Owned by tennis superstar Andy Murray, Cromlix House Hotel is a high-end 5-star accommodation built inside a stunning grey-stone Victorian mansion located near Dunblane — Murray's hometown.

[MORE INFO →](#)



📍 *INVERURIE*

MACDONALD PITTODRIE HOUSE

This historic country house is nestled on 2,400 acres of gardens and scenic woodland. Rooms are individually decorated and the restaurant serves fine local cuisine.

[MORE INFO →](#)





RECOMMENDED VACATION PACKAGES

LOCH NESS EXPERIENCE

**INVERNESS, PITLOCHRY & EDINBURGH
6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS**

It's hard to resist the allure of Loch Ness — its beauty evokes a sense of wonder while the vaunted depths of its murky waters are home to fantastic tales of an elusive mythical monster. Cruise above the Loch while keeping a sharp eye for 'Nessie'. Make your way up into the Perthshire Hills in Pitlochry for some off-road wildlife spotting aboard a Land Rover. You'll also visit Blair Athol Distillery for a site tour and whisky tasting experience.

LET'S GO!



ISLE OF SKYE EXPERIENCE (SELF-DRIVE)

GLASGOW, GLENCOE VILLAGE, ISLE OF SKYE & KILCHRENAN

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

Outdoor lovers can certainly discover paradise on Scotland's second-largest island — an oasis of moors, mountains, lochs, and sea cliffs. Pastoral villages seem unconcerned about the passage of time and castles stand as silent witnesses to tales of

victory, bravery, and betrayal. This itinerary lets you check out Dunvegan Castle, experience how locals would fish for salmon or trout, and enjoy some amazing local whiskies at Talisker Distillery.

LET'S GO!



RECOMMENDED VACATION PACKAGES



DUNNOTAR CASTLE

EAST COAST ODYSSEY (SELF-DRIVE)

**ST. ANDREWS, DUNDEE, ABERDEEN
& INVERNESS**

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

Scottish coasts are renowned for their stunning natural scenery, historic castles, and amazing food, but the west and the east have distinctly different charms. Compared to the west coast's more dramatic landscape and moodier climate, the east coast is relatively more tranquil and tend to be sunnier. This itinerary introduces you to the gems of the east — from the birthplace of golf at St. Andrews all the way to Inverness, the cultural capital of the Highlands.

LET'S GO!



ST. ANDREWS



HANDA ISLAND

NORTH COAST 500 (SELF-DRIVE)

**INVERNESS, BADACHRO,
ULLAPOOL, KYLESKU & THURSO**

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

For the very best of northern Scotland, the North Coast 500 touring route connects a unique mix of castles, lakes, bridges, and villages. As you travel through the historic countryside, there's plenty of opportunities to admire the region's beauty while learning about the local way of life. This itinerary anchored to a scenic 516-mile journey lets you explore a wildlife reserve, do some fishing, and sample local gin and vodka over the course of 9 days.

LET'S GO!



ENTRANCE TO THE MINCH

RECOMMENDED VACATION PACKAGES

Avanti[®]
Destinations

 *Visit
Scotland* | *Alba*[™]



**TO BOOK, CONTACT YOUR
TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL.**

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