

*A Custom Designed Itinerary for
In Quest of the Loch Ness Monster*

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

DAY 1: EDINBURGH. Upon arrival at Edinburgh Airport, you will be met by your tour escort and driver, and then transferred to **Channings**, a delightful hotel formed from five Edwardian townhouses, lovingly restored and set in a quiet cobblestone street close to the heart of the city. Two nights are included here. Balance of the day for you to relax and your tour escort will be on hand to assist with sightseeing ideas. (NOTE: Your tour escort will be with you from the start to the end of your trip, for 8 hours per day and coaching will be provided from Day 3 for the same number hours. Entrances are included to all highlighted places. Hotels are inclusive of tax and full Scottish breakfast only). Roundtrip transfers are included this evening to Prestonfield House, where you'll enjoy a Scottish evening of entertainment and dinner is also provided.



DAY 2: EDINBURGH. A half-day tour of Edinburgh today, with coaching and the services of a local city guide, which will include a visit to Edinburgh Castle, perched atop an extinct volcano. It's the birthplace of James VI who was cruelly snatched away from his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots. At the other end of the Royal Mile, leading from the Castle, is the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland and the former home of Mary, Queen of Scots. Along the Royal Mile, heart of medieval Edinburgh, there are several places of interest including St. Giles' Cathedral, the High Kirk of Edinburgh and the church where John Knox preached. You'll also find the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre and the John Knox House make interesting stops. This afternoon is free at your leisure.



DAY 3: STIRLING / BLAIR ATHOLL / INVERNESS. Today start touring with your tour escort and driver. First to Stirling, a medieval town dominated by Stirling Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots and, later, her son James VI lived. The castle sits on a high crag and was one of the strongest and most impregnable fortresses. Then continue in a northerly direction to via Perth and the Great North Road to Pitlochry and Blair Atholl. In Blair Atholl you'll visit Blair Castle, an impressive white structure bristling with turrets, gables, chimneys and crenellated parapets. It is the seat of the Duke of Atholl who retains the only private army in the British Isles, the Atholl Highlanders. Continue on through Kingussie and Aviemore is a popular resort area where you can visit the Cairngorm Whisky Center or, a bit further on, the Tomatin Distillery (time permitting). Your final destination is Inverness, where you'll check in for four nights at **Culloden House**, an impressive mansion. It is set in 40 acres of lawns and parkland and the public rooms are decorated with chandeliers, ornate plasterwork, friezes and a carved fireplace.



DAY 4: LOCH NESS EXHIBITION CENTRE. Enjoy having your first look at Loch Ness this morning, where the legendary Loch Ness Monster is said to make its home. You'll enjoy a visit to the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, where you'll meet Mr. Adrian Shine (subject to his availability), who has been working at the centre for many years and is an expert on the history and events of Loch Ness. He will also give you a guided tour. Return to Inverness for some free time and perhaps an afternoon visit to Culloden Moor (entrance not included.)



DAY 5: LOCH NESS MONSTER SOCIETY. A full day for touring the area with the help of the Loch Ness Monster Society. Exact details of the day's events will be provided closer to the time of your visit but should include meeting someone who says they've seen Nessie and visits to various locations where sightings have occurred or famous photos have been taken. You never know ... maybe you'll even see Nessie yourself! You'll also meet a member/fanatic of the society. Overnight at Culloden House.

DAY 6: LOCH NESS CRUISE / URQUHART CASTLE. Another day at Loch Ness, where we provide a cruise on the loch and visit to Urquhart Castle, once one of Scotland's largest castles and now a haunting ruin on the banks of Loch Ness. Return to Inverness and Culloden House for your overnight.



DAY 7: LOCH NESS / FORT WILLIAM / OBAN. Head southwest today along the western banks of Loch Ness, a final opportunity to look for Nessie. Then continue to Fort William, where you'll see Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis and then perhaps a detour at Glencoe, Scotland's most famous (and infamous) glen, a great cleft of wild-mountain grandeur, where the blood of the MacDonalds ran red on that fateful day in 1692, cruelly betrayed by the Campbells. Many members of the two clans do not speak to each other today because of this past treachery. Then on to Oban, where we include a night at the **Caledonian Hotel**, a Victorian property located on the waterfront.



DAY 8: INVERARAY / GLASGOW. A final day of touring en-route to Glasgow, with a stop to visit Inveraray Castle, the seat of the Clan Campbell. The Gothic revival building took 12 years to complete. The drawing room has a set of 18th century Beauvais tapestries and impressive display of porcelain. Then continue along the banks of Loch Lomond into Glasgow, where you'll be joined by a city guide, for a visit to Glasgow Cathedral. A final night at the **Hotel Du Vin**, a luxurious townhouse hotel, where we also provide a farewell dinner.



DAY 9: DEPART. Transfer to Edinburgh or Glasgow Airport this morning, where our services will end.

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