



Edinburgh Explorer Tour

This 6-night tour takes participants through Scotland's capital and deep into the Highlands. Combining rich history, medieval charm, and mythical landscapes, this experience is ideal for students or adult travellers who want to explore a different side of the UK.

From the cobbled streets of the Royal Mile to the mysterious waters of Loch Ness, this journey offers an authentic Scottish experience that balances structured learning with personal discovery. You'll walk in the footsteps of kings and queens, hear tales of ancient folklore, and witness some of Britain's most breathtaking natural scenery.

Whether you're an educator seeking a meaningful cultural programme, a student hungry for adventure, or simply someone drawn to Scotland's legendary beauty, this tour offers the perfect blend of history, culture, and Highland magic. Join us for an unforgettable week in one of Europe's most captivating destinations.

Day 1 – Arrival in Edinburgh

01	02	03
Meet & Greet	Hotel Check-In	Welcome Dinner
Our friendly team will welcome you at Edinburgh Airport or Waverley Station, ensuring a smooth start to your Scottish adventure.	Settle into your comfortable accommodation and receive a helpful orientation about the local area and what to expect.	Join your fellow travellers for a delightful meal on the iconic Royal Mile, soaking in the atmosphere of Edinburgh's Old Town.

Your journey begins the moment you step off the plane or train. Edinburgh's compact city centre means you'll be immersed in history within minutes of arrival. The Royal Mile, stretching from the castle down to Holyrood Palace, provides the perfect introduction to Scotland's capital – a street where every stone seems to whisper tales of centuries past.

As you walk these ancient streets on your first evening, you'll notice the unique architecture that defines Edinburgh: towering tenement buildings, narrow closes (alleyways), and the ever-present silhouette of the castle perched dramatically on its volcanic rock. This is more than just a welcome dinner – it's your first taste of the magic that makes Edinburgh so special.



After dinner, take a leisurely stroll to get your bearings. The city feels alive with history, music, and the warm hospitality Scotland is famous for. Rest well tonight – tomorrow, your proper exploration begins, and Edinburgh has so much to reveal.

Day 2 – Historic Edinburgh

Today takes you deep into Edinburgh's medieval heart, where centuries of royal intrigue, battles, and cultural achievement come alive. Edinburgh Castle dominates the skyline for a reason – it's been the backdrop to some of Scotland's most pivotal moments, and walking through its ancient gates is like stepping through a portal in time.



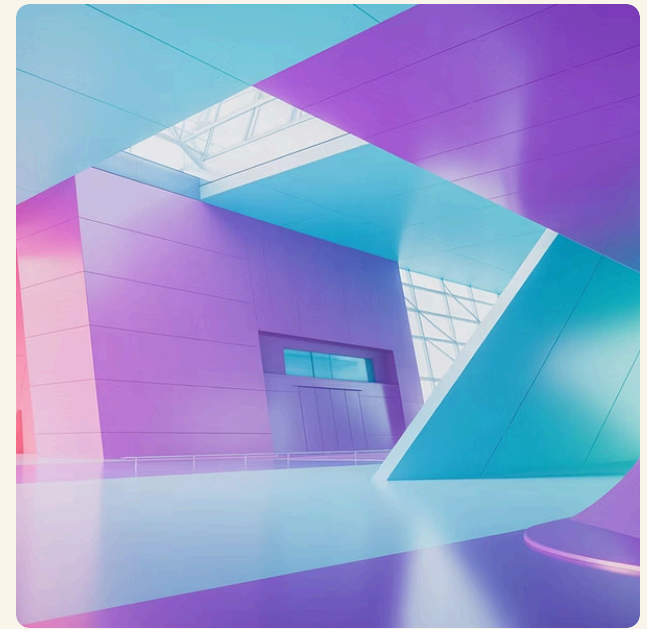
Edinburgh Castle

Marvel at the Crown Jewels, the Stone of Destiny, and panoramic views across the city. Your guide will bring 900 years of history to life.



St Giles' Cathedral

This magnificent kirk has been at the heart of Scottish religious life since 1124. Its crown spire is one of Edinburgh's most recognisable landmarks.



National Museum

From prehistoric Scotland to modern innovations, this world-class museum tells Scotland's story through remarkable artefacts and interactive displays.

The Royal Mile connects all these historic treasures, and as you walk its length, you'll discover hidden closes, ancient graveyards, and buildings that have stood for hundreds of years. Your guide will share stories of Mary Queen of Scots, Robert the Bruce, and the ordinary people who shaped this extraordinary city.

The National Museum of Scotland deserves special attention – its collections span natural history, world cultures, science, technology, and Scottish history. The rooftop terrace offers stunning views, and the museum's Victorian architecture is a masterpiece in itself. You'll have time to explore at your own pace, discovering everything from ancient Egyptian mummies to Dolly the Sheep.

This evening is yours to enjoy as you wish. Perhaps explore more of the Old Town's winding streets, find a cosy café, or simply reflect on the incredible history you've absorbed today. Edinburgh has a way of making the past feel present, and you'll carry today's experiences with you long after you've left.

Day 3 – Scottish Culture & Storytelling

Today explores a different side of Edinburgh – the elegant Georgian architecture of the New Town and the rich tradition of Scottish storytelling that has captivated audiences for generations. The contrast between Old Town and New Town is striking, yet both are quintessentially Edinburgh.

Your morning walking tour takes you through wide, planned streets and crescents that exemplify 18th-century urban design. Calton Hill offers panoramic views across the entire city – from here, you can truly appreciate Edinburgh's dramatic topography and understand why it's called "Athens of the North".



Storytelling Workshop

Discover the ancient Scots tradition of oral history and folklore. Learn about kelpies, selkies, and the Loch Ness Monster from a professional storyteller who keeps these tales alive.



Whisky Tasting

Optional experience at a traditional whisky bar. Learn to distinguish Highlands from Islay, and discover why Scots call it the "water of life".



Traditional Pub

Evening dinner in an authentic Scottish pub, where you might catch live folk music and experience true Scottish hospitality.

Scotland's storytelling tradition runs deep. Before books and television, stories were how history, values, and culture passed between generations. Today's workshop connects you to that ancient tradition, and you'll hear tales that have been told around Scottish firesides for centuries. These aren't just children's stories – they're windows into how Scots understood their world, their landscape, and their identity.

The optional whisky tasting offers insight into Scotland's most famous export. You'll learn about the different whisky regions, how the drink is made, and the cultural significance of this amber spirit. Even if you don't drink alcohol, the experience teaches you about Scottish craftsmanship, tradition, and the importance of taking time to savour life's pleasures.

Tonight's pub dinner isn't just about the food (though Scottish cuisine is heartier and more delicious than many expect). It's about experiencing the warmth of Scottish social culture – the easy conversation, the spontaneous music, the sense that strangers can become friends over a shared table. This is Scotland at its most welcoming.

Day 4 – Loch Ness Adventure

Today is the day you've been waiting for – your journey into the legendary Scottish Highlands. This isn't just a coach trip; it's an immersion into some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain, culminating at the mysterious waters of Loch Ness. The drive itself is an attraction, taking you through landscapes that have inspired poets, painters, and filmmakers for generations.



Glencoe is more than scenic – it's emotional. The valley's towering peaks seem to close in around you, and when you learn about the massacre that took place here, the landscape takes on new meaning. This is where history and geography intertwine, where the land itself seems to remember.

The Highlands feel different from anywhere else in Britain. There's a wildness here, a sense of untamed nature that modern life hasn't quite conquered. You'll understand why Scots are so connected to their landscape – it's dramatic, beautiful, and sometimes harsh, but always magnificent.

Loch Ness itself is extraordinary even without Nessie. At 23 miles long and incredibly deep, it contains more fresh water than all the lakes in England and Wales combined. The water is dark with peat, giving it an mysterious, almost otherworldly quality. As your boat cuts through the water, you'll scan the surface – not necessarily expecting to see the monster, but unable to resist looking, just in case.

The boat tour provides fascinating information about the loch's geology, ecology, and of course, the famous monster legend. Whether or not you believe in Nessie, you'll appreciate why this particular loch has captured imaginations worldwide. There's something about its scale, depth, and isolation that makes it feel like anything could be hiding in those dark waters.

By the time you return to Edinburgh tonight, you'll have experienced a completely different Scotland from the city you've been exploring. The Highlands remind you that this small country contains extraordinary diversity – from sophisticated cities to wild mountains, all within a day's journey.

Day 5 – University & Local Life

Today focuses on Edinburgh as a living, breathing city – not just a historic monument, but a vibrant place where people live, work, and study. The University of Edinburgh, founded in 1582, is one of the world's great academic institutions, and touring its campus gives you insight into centuries of scholarly tradition that continue today.

University of Edinburgh

Walk through historic quads where luminaries like Charles Darwin, Alexander Graham Bell, and Arthur Conan Doyle once studied. Subject to availability, we'll arrange a campus tour that showcases both the university's heritage buildings and its modern facilities. You'll see where groundbreaking research happens today, continuing Edinburgh's reputation as a centre of innovation and learning.

Scottish Parliament

Visit Scotland's contemporary parliament building at Holyrood – a striking example of modern architecture that sparked considerable debate when it opened in 2004. The building's innovative design is meant to represent concepts of democracy and participation. Even from outside, you can appreciate its bold, unconventional approach.

Holyrood Palace

Pass by the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland. This is where royal ceremonies happen and where Mary Queen of Scots lived during the most dramatic period of her life. The palace sits at the foot of the Royal Mile, opposite the modern parliament – a visual representation of Scotland's blend of ancient and contemporary.

Shopping time at Princes Street or the Grassmarket gives you a chance to experience Edinburgh at street level. Princes Street is the main commercial boulevard, running along the edge of the New Town with stunning views across to the castle. The Grassmarket, nestled below the castle rock, offers more independent shops, vintage stores, and local boutiques.

This is your opportunity to find those special Scottish souvenirs – perhaps a cashmere scarf, traditional shortbread, or a bottle of that whisky you enjoyed the other night. Beyond shopping, it's a chance to observe daily Edinburgh life, to see how locals navigate these historic streets as they go about their ordinary business.



What makes Edinburgh special isn't just its past – it's how seamlessly that past integrates with present life. Students rushing to lectures, parliamentarians debating contemporary issues, shops selling both traditional crafts and cutting-edge fashion – this is a city that honours its heritage whilst confidently moving forward.

Take time this afternoon to simply wander. Find a café, watch the street performers, strike up conversations. Some of your best travel memories come not from planned activities but from spontaneous moments – a friendly chat with a shopkeeper, discovering a hidden courtyard, stumbling upon a view that takes your breath away.

Day 6 – Arthur's Seat & Farewell

Your final full day offers a choice that perfectly symbolises Edinburgh's unique character – you can either climb an ancient volcano or enjoy a gentler walk through the royal park. Arthur's Seat, the 822-foot extinct volcano in the heart of the city, provides the kind of experience that's almost unimaginable in most capital cities: a genuine mountain climb mere minutes from the city centre.

The hike to the summit takes about 45 minutes from Holyrood, depending on fitness and route choice. It's moderately challenging but absolutely worth the effort. From the top, you'll see Edinburgh laid out below you in all its glory – the castle, the Old and New Towns, the Firth of Forth stretching to the horizon. On clear days, you can see all the way to the Highlands you visited yesterday.



For those preferring a gentler morning, Holyrood Park offers beautiful level walks around the base of Arthur's Seat, past lochs, crags, and through valleys that feel surprisingly remote despite being in the city. Both options give you that final immersion in Edinburgh's remarkable landscape.

Group Reflections

After your morning activity, we'll gather for a cultural discussion where you can share your experiences, insights, and favourite moments from the week. This is a chance to process what you've learned, ask any lingering questions, and connect your Scottish experiences to broader themes of history, culture, and identity. These conversations often prove surprisingly meaningful, as different people will have absorbed different aspects of the trip.

Farewell Celebration

Tonight's farewell dinner celebrates your week in Scotland with optional traditional music or ceilidh dancing. A ceilidh (pronounced "kay-lee") is a Scottish social gathering with folk music and dancing. Don't worry if you've never tried it – the dances are taught on the spot, everyone makes mistakes, and the whole point is to have fun. It's energetic, joyful, and a perfect way to end your Scottish adventure.

The farewell dinner is always bittersweet. By now, you've formed connections with your fellow travellers, you've developed favourite spots in the city, and Edinburgh has begun to feel familiar. Tonight is about celebrating the journey you've shared – the castles explored, the stories heard, the landscapes witnessed, and the understanding gained.

Whether you're dancing energetically at the ceilidh or simply enjoying the music and watching others, you'll feel the warmth of Scottish hospitality one final time. This is how Scotland says goodbye – not with solemnity, but with joy, music, and the promise that you'll always be welcome back.

As you head back to your accommodation tonight, take a final evening walk through Edinburgh's streets. Notice how different the city feels now compared to that first night. You're no longer a stranger here – you've walked its closes, climbed its hills, heard its stories, and experienced its culture. Edinburgh has become part of your story, and you've become part of its endless stream of visitors who arrive as tourists and leave as friends.

Day 7 – Departure

1

Breakfast

Final hotel breakfast – one last chance to savour Scottish hospitality

2

Check-Out

Gather belongings and say goodbye to your accommodation

3

Transfers

Comfortable coach to airport or train station

4

Farewell

End of programme – but the beginning of lasting memories



Departure day is always tinged with mixed emotions. You're likely eager to return home and share your experiences, yet reluctant to leave a place that's captured your imagination. Edinburgh does that to people – it gets under your skin with its dramatic beauty, rich history, and genuine warmth.

As you travel to the airport or train station, you'll likely replay highlights in your mind: standing on castle battlements, cruising Loch Ness, climbing Arthur's Seat, hearing traditional stories, dancing at the ceilidh. Each person's standout moments will differ, because each person connects with Scotland in their own way.

Our team ensures smooth transfers, arriving with plenty of time for your departure. We'll help with luggage, confirm flight or train details, and make sure you have everything you need for your onward journey. This attention to logistics means you can focus on savouring these final Edinburgh moments rather than worrying about connections.

"You'll be back," locals often say to departing visitors. "Edinburgh has a way of calling people home." Whether you return or not, you'll carry Scotland with you – in photos, in memories, and in a deeper understanding of this remarkable place where history, culture, and natural beauty combine in such extraordinary ways.

As your programme officially ends, remember that learning doesn't stop here. The experiences, insights, and connections from this week will continue to unfold long after you've left. You've gained not just holiday memories, but genuine cultural understanding – seeing Britain beyond London, appreciating Scotland's distinct identity, and recognising how history shapes contemporary life.

Safe travels, and perhaps we'll see you again in Scotland. After all, there's still so much to explore – the islands, the castles, the whisky regions, the wild northwest coast. But for now, you've experienced an authentic slice of Scottish life, and that's something to treasure.

☐ **Stay Connected:** We'd love to hear about your favourite moments! Share your photos and experiences with us, and keep in touch for future Scottish adventures.

What's Included

We've carefully designed this programme to provide exceptional value whilst maintaining high standards throughout. Everything you need for a memorable Scottish experience is included in your package price, from comfortable accommodation to expert guidance, cultural activities to Highland adventures.



Accommodation

Six nights in Edinburgh at carefully selected 3-star hotels or university halls. All rooms are clean, comfortable, and centrally located, ensuring you're never far from the action. University halls (when used for educational groups) offer an authentic student experience in historic buildings with modern facilities.



Attractions & Activities

Entry fees to all listed attractions are covered: Edinburgh Castle, St Giles' Cathedral, National Museum of Scotland, Scottish Parliament, and more. The storytelling workshop brings Scottish folklore to life, and all guided tours feature knowledgeable local guides.



Transfers

Meet and greet at Edinburgh Airport or Waverley Station on arrival, with transfers to your accommodation. On departure day, comfortable coach transport back to your departure point ensures a stress-free journey home.



Meals Provided

Daily breakfast ensures you start each day properly fuelled for exploring. Three group dinners are included – the welcome dinner on the Royal Mile, traditional pub dinner, and farewell celebration. These shared meals are important social occasions where group bonds form.



Highland Excursion

The full-day journey to Loch Ness includes private coach transport, stops at Glencoe and Fort Augustus, and a boat cruise on the famous loch (weather permitting). This is a comprehensive Highland experience, not a rushed day trip.



24/7 Support

Throughout your stay, experienced tour assistants or guides are available around the clock. Whether you need activity recommendations, assistance with issues, or simply local advice, our team ensures you're never without support.

This comprehensive package means you can relax and immerse yourself in the Scottish experience without constantly reaching for your wallet. The inclusions are designed to balance structure with freedom – providing memorable group experiences whilst allowing personal exploration time. You'll have opportunities to discover Edinburgh independently, choose optional activities that interest you, and create your own adventure within the programme framework.

Quality matters throughout. Accommodation is inspected regularly, coaches are comfortable and well-maintained, guides are experienced professionals, and all activities are delivered by reputable providers. We work with established partners who share our commitment to providing authentic, enriching experiences that exceed expectations.

What's Not Included

To maintain competitive pricing whilst giving you flexibility, certain items are excluded from the package cost. This allows you to customise your experience based on personal preferences and budget, choosing optional activities and controlling discretionary spending.



International Travel

Flights or trains to Edinburgh are not included, giving you flexibility to book travel that suits your schedule and budget. Edinburgh is well-connected to major UK and international airports, with excellent rail links throughout Britain. We can provide arrival recommendations and guidance on booking, but transport to Edinburgh is your responsibility.



Optional Experiences

Activities like whisky tasting, ceilidh dancing, and additional attractions are optional extras unless specifically selected when booking. This allows you to choose experiences that genuinely interest you rather than paying for activities you might not enjoy. Prices for optional additions are quoted separately and clearly.



Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended but not included in the package price. Insurance should cover trip cancellation, medical emergencies, lost luggage, and other potential issues. We can recommend suitable providers, but purchasing appropriate coverage is your responsibility.



Additional Meals

Whilst breakfast and three dinners are included, you'll need to budget for remaining meals. Edinburgh offers dining options at every price point, from affordable cafés to fine dining restaurants. This flexibility allows you to eat according to your preferences and budget, trying different places throughout your stay.



The excluded items give you control over your spending and choices. Some travellers prefer trying different restaurants independently, whilst others appreciate group dining. Some want every optional activity; others prefer free time. By separating these costs, we ensure you only pay for what you actually want.

Budget guidance: for lunches and dinners not included, expect to spend £15-30 per meal depending on venue choice. Optional activities like whisky tasting typically cost £25-40. Most travellers find that £200-300 covers all additional expenses comfortably, though this varies based on personal spending habits.



Money-Saving Tip: Edinburgh has numerous excellent affordable eateries. Ask your tour guide for local recommendations – they know the best spots that offer great value without sacrificing quality or authenticity.

Target Audience

This programme has been carefully crafted for adults seeking meaningful cultural experiences in Scotland. Whether you're a student, educator, lifelong learner, or simply someone drawn to Edinburgh's unique blend of history and natural beauty, this tour offers the right balance of structure and independence, learning and leisure.



International Students

Perfect for those studying in the UK or abroad who want to explore beyond their host city. The programme offers cultural enrichment, historical context, and personal development opportunities. University campus visits provide insight into Scottish academic traditions.



School Groups

Suitable for sixth form or college students (16+) seeking an educational experience that combines history, culture, and geography. The itinerary aligns with curriculum topics whilst providing experiential learning opportunities impossible in a classroom setting.



Adult Learners

Ideal for mature students, retirees, or professionals seeking intellectual stimulation through travel. The programme's cultural depth, historical richness, and storytelling elements appeal to curious minds of any age wanting to understand Scotland beyond superficial tourism.



Educators

Teachers and educational professionals will appreciate the programme's learning outcomes, safe structure, and opportunities to observe Scottish educational approaches. The itinerary balances cultural immersion with practical logistics that matter for group leaders.

The tour is particularly well-suited for those seeking alternatives to the typical London-focused UK experience. Whilst London is undeniably significant, Scotland offers a completely different perspective on British history, culture, and identity. This programme acknowledges that the UK comprises distinct nations, each with their own stories, traditions, and character.

Group sizes typically range from 10 to 30 participants, allowing for personal attention whilst maintaining viable economics. Smaller academic groups and partner agencies can absolutely be accommodated – the itinerary adapts well to various group configurations. Solo travellers interested in joining a scheduled departure should enquire about upcoming group dates.

No prior knowledge of Scottish history or culture is required. The programme is designed to be accessible to newcomers whilst offering sufficient depth to engage those already familiar with Scotland. Guides pitch their content appropriately for each group's background and interests.



Physical fitness requirements are moderate. The Highland day involves sitting on a coach, though the Arthur's Seat climb (optional) requires reasonable fitness. All activities have gentler alternatives for those with mobility considerations. If you have specific accessibility needs, please discuss these when booking so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Indicative Price Range

Transparent pricing is important to us. The cost per participant ranges from **£1,480 to £1,750**, depending on several variables. This all-inclusive price represents exceptional value for a week-long programme featuring quality accommodation, comprehensive activities, Highland excursion, and expert guidance throughout.

£1,480	£1,750	6	15+
Starting Price	Peak Price	Nights Included	Included Activities
Based on larger groups (20+ participants) travelling off-peak season with university hall accommodation	For smaller groups (10-15 participants) during high season with hotel accommodation	Full week of accommodation in central Edinburgh locations	Attractions, tours, workshops, and Highland excursion all covered

When comparing this programme to independent travel, consider what's included. Booking six nights' accommodation, attraction tickets, Highland tour, storytelling workshop, and guided experiences separately would typically cost significantly more, not to mention the time required to research and coordinate everything.

The programme also includes intangible value – local expertise, insider knowledge, seamless logistics, and the confidence that everything is handled professionally. The connections formed with fellow travellers and the deeper cultural understanding gained through expert interpretation are benefits that can't be easily quantified.



 **Ready to Explore Scotland?** Contact us for a detailed quote based on your specific group size, preferred dates, and accommodation preferences. We're happy to discuss customisation options and answer any questions about this unforgettable Scottish adventure.