



Discovering Our Planet Together



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



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Trip Details:

Days:
9 Days / Apr–Oct

Price:
From \$11695
(+ Air)

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Scotland has long held a wild allure in Britain. Its heather-clad Highlands and far-flung Western Isles have drawn adventurous travelers for centuries. In summer, days stretch toward nearly perpetual light, nurturing a flurry of life in the Hebrides Isles off Scotland's northwest coast. Millions of seabirds nest in some of the largest rookeries in the world, while whales, seals and dolphins feed in clear Atlantic waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. Exploring the coves and cliffs of the Outer Hebrides, we also find remnants of ancient human presence, from Iron Age stone forts to embellished Celtic crosses. Inland, explore native Caledonian pine forest, heathered moors and silver lochs of the rugged Highlands, home to elusive wildlife including the magnificent Scottish red deer. In mystical Scotland, the wild still reigns in Europe!

Trip Highlights

Discover Scottish nature with expert naturalists—look for whales and dolphins on private boat cruises, and scout for red deer, pine marten, river otters and sea eagles

From the Isle of Skye, head to the Outer Hebrides on Scotland's far Atlantic edge—Harris and Lewis are a rare inclusion, where rural life is steeped in tradition

Enjoy a nature immersion on this stunning 42-mile rail journey through glens, lochs and Britain's highest mountains, crossing the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct



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Trip Details:

Days:

9 Days / Apr-Oct

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Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Itineraries

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



2025 Itinerary

Photo Expeditions Available Make it Custom Make it Private



2026 Itinerary

Photo Expeditions Available Make it Custom Make it Private



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1
Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Day 2
Private Dolphin Cruise in Moray Firth / Culloden Battlefield

Day 3
Private Loch Ness Cruise / Trees for Life / Highland Traverse to Glen Shiel

Day 4
Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise

Day 5
Isle of Skye / Isle of Harris

Day 6
Harris / Private Shiant Isles Seabird Cruise

Day 7
Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Contin

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands 2025 Itinerary

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Day 1: Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Our Scotland nature adventure begins in Inverness, the largest city and cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. From Inverness, a transfer is included to our historic country house hotel located just outside the village of Contin, about a 30-minute drive. Coul House, a grand stone manor house built in 1821, is the centerpiece of the Coul estate established by the Mackenzie clan in 1560. Gather for an orientation and welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader this evening.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Canoeing in Glen Affric Nature Reserve / Traditional Gaelic Ceilidh

Day 9

Inverness / Depart

Day 2: Private Dolphin Cruise in Moray Firth / Culloden Battlefield

From Contin, return to Inverness where we board a private boat at the marina for an excursion into Moray Firth, a large sea bay home to Scotland's best-known pod of bottlenose dolphins, the most northerly population in the world. We don expedition suits and life jackets, then head out in a RIB (rigid inflatable) boat for an exhilarating high-speed cruise on the firth. Taking weather and tides into account, our skipper sets a course in search of dolphins. Once we enter Chanonry Narrows, we slow our speed in this protected area where we most frequently spot dolphins. Famously inquisitive, they sometimes swim right alongside our boat. Keep an eye out, too, for harbor porpoises, common and gray seals, and the occasional minke whale.

This afternoon, visit Culloden Battlefield and museum, a National Trust for Scotland site where the 1745 Jacobite uprising came to a harrowing end—the last major battle on British soil. The outcome of this battle shaped both the human and natural history of this environment for centuries to come. As we wander this living landscape, we may see skylarks, wildflowers, and goats and Shetland cows grazing on the restored moorland, just as one would have in the 18th century. Returning to our boutique inn, we anticipate a memorable dinner featuring contemporary Scottish cuisine prepared by Coul House's accomplished chef.

Day 3: Private Loch Ness Cruise / Trees for Life / Highland Traverse to Glen Shiel

We drive a short distance this morning to the Great Glen, passing dramatic vistas to arrive at famous Loch Ness, one of the largest and deepest freshwater lakes in Britain. After a brief stop at ruined Urquhart Castle on a rocky promontory above the loch—one of Scotland's largest medieval fortresses and the site of a half-century of conflict—we walk to the pier to board a high-speed RIB boat for an outing on Loch Ness. Of course, we hope for a glimpse of the furtive Nessie, the water monster of legend that is the subject of more than a thousand eyewitness accounts. We're more likely, however, to spy nesting ospreys, eagles and waterfowl.

This afternoon, stop for a special presentation at Trees for Life, a rewilding project that seeks to restore the globally unique Caledonian forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. The predominantly Scots pine forest mixed with varied deciduous trees has been decimated over centuries, cleared for grazing and timber. Through partnerships with large landowners, restoring the forest ecology provides habitat for native species including red deer, pine marten, badger, red squirrel, wild boar, otter and the rare Scottish wildcat, while opening the door to possible reintroductions of keystone species such as beaver and lynx. Trees for Life is a Nat Hab philanthropy project, and guests on our trip will have a chance, if they wish, to donate to a special Nat Hab grove restoration project.

Reaching the shores of Loch Cluanie, look for red deer and scan the skies for golden eagles and other raptors. Our accommodation for the next two nights is in Glen Shiel in an old coaching inn that has long served travelers bound from the Highlands to the Isle of Skye. Ringed by scenic hills, the inn offers glorious views and cozy ambience.



Day 4: Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise

Leave the inn this morning to drive about an hour to Fort William where we board the Jacobite steam train for the trip through the Highlands to Mallaig. This magnificent 42-mile one-way journey begins near Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis, and crosses the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct (made famous as the route of the "Hogwarts Express" in the Harry Potter films) which overlooks Loch Shiel. Our rail trip concludes at Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe.

Once we disembark at Mallaig, board a private boat cruise to explore some of the wildest landscapes in Scotland along the Knoydart Peninsula. Sandwiched between Loch Nevis and Loch Hourn in the West Highlands, the peninsula forms the northern part of what is traditionally known as "The Rough Bounds," due to the region's harsh terrain and remote nature. Knoydart is also known as "Britain's Last Wilderness," renowned for its rugged grandeur and tranquility. As we cruise the craggy coast, often wreathed in clouds, keep an eye out for abundant sea life—we may see otters, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, gray and common seals basking on rocks, and seabirds, including the majestic sea eagle. Break for lunch at the most remote pub in mainland Britain—The Old Forge, in the small village of Inverie on the south shore of the Knoydart peninsula. The building was originally built as a cottage in the 1770s, later becoming a smiddy's forge, then today a beloved community-owned pub. After lunch, if sea conditions permit, our skipper whisks us across Loch Hourn, the most fjord-like of Scotland's sea lochs, to Armadale on the Isle of Skye. (In inclement weather, we may take a larger ferry.) From here, we make our way back to the Cluanie Inn to close the loop and end the day.

Day 5: Isle of Skye / Isle of Harris

More wild Scottish scenery is in store as we make our way to the Isle of Skye and on to Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Journey through forest and moorlands, past lochs and trout streams, to reach the coast, stopping for photos of evocative Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most iconic sites. Strategically perched on a small island where three great sea lochs meet, the original 13th-century fortification was built to protect adjacent lands from Viking raids. At Kyle of Lochalsh, cross the famous bridge to Skye and continue northwest across the island through the rugged Cuillins Mountains. En route, we stop to hike in the hills, soaking up the rugged, wild landscape, as well as in a few small villages. Capture photos of the Old Man of Storr, a large, prominent rock pinnacle overlooking the sea that's visible for miles. We also view Kilt Rock, a 300-foot-high wall of towering columnar basalt, and the Quiraing, part of the Trotternish ridge that was formed by a massive landslide that created high cliffs, hidden plateaus and sharp rock outcrops. At the port town of Uig, board the ferry to Tarbert on the Isle of Harris, cruising in the gleaming light of evening. Have dinner on board before arriving at our hotel in the heart of this small harborside town.



Day 6: Harris / Private Shiant Isles Seabird Cruise

The Isle of Harris is a diverse landscape of mountains and moorlands, crofts, lochs, meadows and white sand beaches edging turquoise sea. Its craggy coast, defined by cliffs and secret coves, offers nesting habitat for myriad seabirds. In high summer, discover the wildflower meadows that burst into color on the machair, a sparse veneer of green atop the sand. The single-lane "Golden Road" winds along the east coast of Harris among miniature fjords and tiny historic hamlets with Viking and Gaelic names.

A highlight today is a private cruise to the Shiant Isles, one of the world's most famous seabird colonies. Located between Skye and Lewis, these columnar basalt islands are known in Gaelic as Na h-Eileanan Seunta, or the "Enchanted Isles." Though this tiny island group is uninhabited by humans, it is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including a quarter-million puffins—2% of the entire global population. Some 7% of all razorbills in the U.K. also breed here, along with colonies of guillemots, cormorants, shags and great skuas. We often see seals lounging on the rocks, too.

Sept/Oct departures only: Fall trips will typically not visit the Shiant Islands, since the seabirds will have departed by this time. Instead, a private boat cruise will offer an alternate route, tracing the rugged Harris coastline east of Tarbert Marina, passing several remote and deserted villages, with views of the Shiant Isles offshore. As we cruise, scour the waves in hopes of seeing dolphins and whales from the boat before returning to our hotel for teatime.

Day 7: Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Contin

This morning we head north to explore the Isle of Lewis, passing crofters cottages and tiny rural settlements along the way. We stop at a weaver's shop for an exclusive opportunity to chat with a local artisan who produces world-famous Harris tweed. The traditional wool cloth is woven only by islanders in their private homes, a practice dating back centuries. On Lewis, we visit one of Scotland's most intriguing archaeological sites, the Callanish Standing Stones. This 5,000-year-old ring of 13 gneiss pillars is arranged in a cruciform pattern around a 14-foot central monolith. Erected on the west coast of Lewis in the late Neolithic era, predating Stonehenge, the stones were a focus for ritual activity during the Bronze Age. Several other stone circles, arcs and alignments are also visible from the main site. Historians estimate the site was abandoned around 1,000 B.C. and ultimately buried beneath a thick layer of peat turf, not unearthed until 1857. We also visit a museum dedicated to the historical crofting life in the Hebrides before continuing to Stornoway, where we board the ferry back to the mainland. The 2.5-hour crossing is an opportunity to look for dolphins and whales from the observation deck. On arrival in Ullapool, we return to the Coul House Hotel, where our journey began.

Please note: Throughout the 2025 season, restoration work will be underway at Callanish Standing Stones, which may prevent us from visiting the main section of the archeological site. When that is the case, we will substitute a visit to Dun Carloway, an ancient broch and Historic Scotland site.



Day 8: Canoeing in Glen Affric Nature Reserve / Traditional Gaelic Ceilidh

Head deep into the glen for a canoeing excursion, providing an intimate perspective on the rugged beauty of the Highlands. We paddle the gentle Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin in Glen Affric National Nature Reserve, containing the third-largest tract of native Caledonian pinewoods in Scotland, an ancient species that first colonized the area after the last Ice Age but was nearly lost through centuries of felling. The reserve is home to red deer, pine marten, black grouse, capercaillie, golden eagles and osprey, which we look for overhead. The reserve also shelters secretive otters and the extremely rare Scottish wildcat, the United Kingdom's only native feline and most endangered mammal. Though we will not see one, it's inspiring to learn that a crucial national program has engaged in efforts since 2011 to bring this small, muscular tabby cat back from the brink of extinction. Later, a very special event is in store as we head to the home of our Scottish hosts—Warwick, Becky and their children—for a festive afternoon of traditional Gaelic entertainment. Enjoy a classic ceilidh featuring fiddle playing, robust singing, whisky tasting, stories, and other fireside amusements. Guests are invited to offer their own contributions, too! Return to Coul House for a final night.

Day 9: Inverness / Depart

After breakfast, transfer to Inverness to meet departing flights.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Day 2

Culloden Battlefield / Private Loch Ness Cruise / Trees for Life / Loch Lochy

Day 3

Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise / Isle of Skye

Day 4

Isle of Skye—Sleat Peninsula Hiking

Day 5

Isle of Skye—Trotternish Ridge / Tarbert, Harris

Day 6

Isle of Harris / Private Shiant Isles Seabird Cruise

Sept/Oct departures only

Sept/Oct departures only

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands 2026 Itinerary

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Day 1: Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Our Scotland nature adventure begins in Inverness, the largest city and cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. From Inverness, a transfer is included to our historic country house hotel located just outside the village of Contin, about a 30-minute drive. Coul House, a grand stone manor house built in 1821, is the centerpiece of the Coul estate established by the Mackenzie clan in 1560. Gather for an orientation and welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader this evening.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 7

Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Contin

Day 8

Canoeing at Glen Affric / Traditional Gaelic Ceilidh

Day 9

Inverness / Depart

Day 2: Culloden Battlefield / Private Loch Ness Cruise / Trees for Life / Loch Lochy

This morning, visit Culloden Battlefield and museum, a National Trust for Scotland site where the 1745 Jacobite uprising came to a harrowing end—the last major battle on British soil. The outcome of this battle shaped both the human and natural history of this environment for centuries to come. As we wander this living landscape, we may see skylarks, wildflowers, and goats and Shetland cows grazing on the restored moorland, helping to maintain it as it would have appeared in the 18th century.

It's just a short drive to the Great Glen, passing dramatic vistas of Highland peaks and valleys to arrive at famous Loch Ness, one of the largest and deepest freshwater lakes in Britain. Aboard a private high-speed RIB boat, cruise the entire length of Loch Ness, pausing for a water-level view of ruined Urquhart Castle on a rocky promontory above the loch—one of Scotland's largest medieval fortresses. Of course, we hope for a glimpse of the furtive Nessie, the water monster of legend that is the subject of more than a thousand eyewitness accounts. We're more likely, however, to spy nesting ospreys, eagles and waterfowl.

Next, we have a private presentation at Trees for Life, a rewilding project that seeks to restore the globally unique Caledonian forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. The predominantly Scots pine forest mixed with varied deciduous trees has been decimated over centuries, cleared for grazing and timber. Through partnerships with large landowners, restoring the forest ecology provides habitat for native species, including red deer, pine marten, badger, red squirrel, wild boar, otter and the rare Scottish wildcat, while opening the door to possible reintroductions of keystone species such as beaver and lynx. Trees for Life is a Nat Hab philanthropy project, and guests on our trip will have a chance, if they wish, to donate to a special Nat Hab grove restoration project.

Late this afternoon, arrive at our lodge, an isolated Highland retreat on the shore of Loch Lochy, near Fort William. Backdropped by steep, forested mountains, the lodge offers cozy ambience and glorious views.



Day 3: Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise / Isle of Skye

Drive a short distance to Fort William this morning where we board the Jacobite steam train with passage to Mallaig. This magnificent 42-mile one-way journey begins near Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis, and crosses the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct (made famous as the route of the "Hogwarts Express" in the Harry Potter films) which overlooks Loch Shiel. Our rail trip concludes at Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe.

Once we disembark at Mallaig, we board a private boat for a cruise along the Knoydart Peninsula among some of the wildest landscapes in Scotland. Sandwiched between Loch Nevis and Loch Hourn in the West Highlands, the peninsula forms the northern part of what is traditionally known as "The Rough Bounds," due to the region's harsh terrain and remote nature. Knoydart is also known as "Britain's Last Wilderness," renowned for its rugged grandeur and tranquility. As we follow the craggy coast, often wreathed in clouds, keep an eye out for abundant sea life—we may see otters, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, gray and common seals basking on rocks, and seabirds, including the majestic sea eagle. We break for lunch at the most remote pub on mainland Britain—The Old Forge, in the small village of Inverie on the south shore of the Knoydart peninsula. The building was originally built as a cottage in the 1770s, later becoming a smiddy's forge, then today a beloved community-owned pub. Our skipper then whisks us across Loch Hourn, the most fjord-like of Scotland's sea lochs, to Armadale on the Isle of Skye where we transfer to our hotel on the Sleat Peninsula, the southernmost section of the island.

Day 4: Isle of Skye—Sleat Peninsula Hiking

More wild Scottish scenery is in store as we explore Isle of Skye. The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, Skye is known for its dramatic mountains, narrow lochs, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Today's focus is the Sleat Peninsula, a lesser-known part of the island. It's often called "the garden of Skye" for its soft, green landscape—in contrast to the more stark and rocky terrain elsewhere—with lush vegetation that meets the rugged shoreline and white sand beaches. Several hiking options await, all of which invite us to keep one eye on the sky in search of white-tailed sea eagles and the other on the sea, as we look for marine life including otters, seals, whales and dolphins. The peninsula is also one of the strongest Gaelic-speaking areas on the isle, with more than a third of residents using the ancient Celtic language.



Day 5: Isle of Skye—Trotternish Ridge / Tarbert, Harris

More wild Scottish scenery is in store as we make our way north across the Isle of Skye and on to Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Stop for scenic vistas of the jagged Cuillins Mountains and take a walk in the hills before breaking for lunch in Portree, the capital of Skye. Overlooking a sheltered bay, this picturesque village is famous among photographers for its row of pastel-colored houses lining the harbor. Continuing north, we stop to admire several geological landmarks on the Trotternish Ridge, a rugged high escarpment. The Old Man of Storr, visible for miles, is a prominent rock pinnacle overlooking the sea from a steep mountainside. Kilt Rock is a 300-foot-high wall of towering columnar basalt, its multi-coloured hexagonal pillars resembling the pleats of a tartan kilt. The Quiraing may be grandest of all, formed by a massive landslide on the Trotternish Ridge that created high cliffs, terraced plateaus and sharp rock outcrops. At the port town of Uig, board the ferry to Tarbert on the Isle of Harris, cruising in the gleaming light of evening. We'll have dinner onboard the ferry before arriving at our hotel in the heart of this small harborside town.

Day 6: Isle of Harris / Private Shiant Isles Seabird Cruise

Lying on the far northwest edge of Scotland in the Outer Hebrides, the Isle of Harris is a windswept landscape of mountains and moorlands, crofts, lochs, meadows and white sand beaches fronting turquoise sea. Its craggy coast, defined by cliffs and secret coves, offers nesting habitat for myriad seabirds. In high summer, discover the wildflower meadows that burst into color on the machair, a sparse veneer of green atop the sand. The single-lane "Golden Road" winds along the east coast of Harris among miniature fjords and tiny hamlets with Viking and Gaelic names. A highlight today is a private boat trip to the Shiant Isles, one of the world's most famous seabird colonies. Located between Skye and Lewis, these columnar basalt islands are known in Gaelic as Na h-Eileanan Seunta, or the "Enchanted Isles." Though this tiny island group is uninhabited by humans, it is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including a quarter-million puffins—2% of the entire global population. Some 7% of all razorbills in the U.K. also breed here, along with colonies of guillemots, cormorants, shags and great skuas. We often see seals lounging on the rocks, too.

Sept/Oct departures only:

Fall trips typically will not visit the Shiant Islands, since the seabirds will have departed by this time. Instead, a private boat cruise will offer an alternate route, tracing the rugged Harris coastline east of Tarbert Marina, passing several remote and deserted villages, with views of the Shiant Isles offshore. As we cruise, scour the waves in hopes of seeing dolphins and whales from the boat before returning to our hotel for teatime.



Day 7: Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Contin

This morning we head north to explore Lewis, which is actually connected by land to Harris, with the two island portions divided by a mountain range. Along the way, we pass through traditional rural settlements and stop at a weaving shop where world-famous Harris tweed is produced. We have an exclusive opportunity to chat with a local artisan who weaves the renowned woolen fabric, which has been made by individual weavers in their homes on Harris and Lewis since 1846.

Then, we visit one of Scotland's most intriguing archaeological sites, the Callanish Standing Stones. This 5,000-year-old ring of 13 gneiss pillars is arranged in a cruciform pattern around a 14-foot central monolith. Erected on the west coast of Lewis in the late Neolithic era, predating Stonehenge, the stones were a focus for ritual activity during the Bronze Age. Several other stone circles, arcs and alignments are also visible from the main site. Historians estimate the site was abandoned around 1,000 B.C. and ultimately buried beneath a thick layer of peat turf, not unearthed until 1857. We also visit a museum dedicated to historic crofting life—small-scale farming and food production—in the Hebrides before continuing to Stornoway, where we board the ferry back to the mainland. The 2.5-hour crossing is an opportunity to look for dolphins and whales from the observation deck. On arrival in Ullapool, we return to the Coul House Hotel, where our journey began.

Day 8: Canoeing at Glen Affric / Traditional Gaelic Ceilidh

Head deep into the glen for a canoeing excursion, offering an intimate perspective on the rugged beauty of the Highlands. We paddle the gentle Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin within the Glen Affric Nature Reserve, home to ancient native Caledonian pinewoods. The region is home to red deer, pine marten, golden eagles and osprey, which we may spot flying overhead. Later, a very special event is in store as we head to the home of our Scottish hosts—Warwick and Becky Lister-Kaye and their children—for a festive afternoon of traditional Gaelic entertainment. Enjoy a classic ceilidh featuring fiddle playing, robust singing, whisky tasting, stories, and other fireside amusements. Guests are invited to offer their own contributions, too! Return to Coul House to prepare for early morning departures.

Day 9: Inverness / Depart

After breakfast, transfer to Inverness to meet departing flights.



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Accommodation Details:

Coul House Hotel

The Cluanie Inn

Hotel Hebrides

The Whispering Pine Lodge

Duisdale House Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/europe/scotland-adventure/accommodations/

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Accommodations

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



Coul House Hotel

Built in 1821 by the aristocratic Mackenzie family, this elegant stone manor house in a secluded rural setting offers intimate accommodations and fine locally sourced Scottish cuisine.



The Cluanie Inn

Located in the wild Highlands on the route between Loch Ness and the Isle of Skye, The Cluanie Inn has been serving travelers for over a century.



Hotel Hebrides

An ideal base from which to explore the Hebrides, this boutique hotel in Tarbert on the Isle of Harris features contemporary guest rooms with paintings by an acclaimed local artist.



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The Whispering Pine Lodge

Originally a hunting lodge in the 1800s, this restored boutique hotel enjoys an isolated Highland setting with lake access and woodland trails, warm rooms with dark woods and tartan accents, plus locally sourced fine dining.



Duisdale House Hotel

Originally an 1865 hunting lodge built for Clan Macdonald, this restored mansion is a contemporary boutique hotel with elegant rooms and stunning sea and garden views.



See a Side of Scotland as Only Nat Hab Will Show You!

While Scotland's cultural heritage and most famous natural sites have long been popular tourism destinations, our focus is on Scotland less discovered, less known, less crowded and more remote—the Nat Hab way!

1 Experience Scotland off the Crowded Tourist Track

Our exclusive itinerary takes you to remote wild places few experience, from Europe's largest seabird rookeries to vast tracts of forest home to red deer and endangered (and virtually unseen) Scottish wildcat—plus prehistoric and Celtic sites that reveal Scotland's ancient cultural history. Several private cruises in less-visited locales offer encounters with marine mammals and abundant seabirds. You won't find these destinations on standard Scottish tour routes!

2 Two Private Wildlife Cruises Off the Knoydart Peninsula & Isle of Lewis

Two private chartered boat excursions provide opportunities to look for abundant marine life amid the rugged scenery of the Knoydart Peninsula in the West Highlands, and in the Outer Hebrides. Weather permitting, from Lewis we visit the uninhabited Shiant Isles, known for their spectacular puffin colonies. (Note, however, that September departures do not visit the Shiants, as the seabirds have moved on—instead, we'll cruise along the intricate coast of Harris.)

3 Ride the Famous Jacobite Steam Train

Our journey through the Western Highlands includes this notable rail line from the heights of Ben Nevis down to sea level at Loch Nevis—which includes the stunning 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films.

4 Visit a Native Forest Restoration Project

Enjoy a special presentation at Trees for Life, a rewilding project that seeks to restore the globally unique Caledonian forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. This is a Nat Hab philanthropy project, and guests will have a chance to make an optional contribution toward our own grove restoration project.

5 A Small Group for Intimate Nature Encounters

Unlike typical coach tours, our nature adventure is limited to just 12 guests. Our small group size allows exclusive access to secluded hikes and walks, privately chartered small boats, watching wildlife without disturbing it, and true serenity in nature. With our high guide-to-guest ratio, we can tailor daily activities to travelers' personal interests and physical ability levels, impossible to do with a larger group.



6 Small, Distinctive Accommodations with Local Character

Our small group size allows us to choose authentic inns noted for their history, atmosphere and special locations near small villages and close to nature. No large, impersonal chain hotels for us!

7 The World's Finest Naturalist Guides

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have years of experience and training, including resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides than those who work with us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best!

8 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Scotland Experience

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

9 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!





Make It Private with Your Family & Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands adventure on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on Scotland Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 6 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$11695
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Dates, Pricing & Info

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Apr 27, 2025	May 5, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
May 11, 2025	May 19, 2025	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
May 25, 2025	Jun 2, 2025	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jun 8, 2025	Jun 16, 2025	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jun 22, 2025	Jun 30, 2025	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jul 6, 2025	Jul 14, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jul 20, 2025	Jul 28, 2025	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Sep 21, 2025	Sep 29, 2025	Fall Foliage Season Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Oct 5, 2025	Oct 13, 2025	Fall Foliage Season Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Oct 19, 2025	Oct 27, 2025	Fall Foliage Season



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:

From \$11695
(+ Air)

Group Size:

Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:

Moderate

Departure Return Notes

2026 Departures

Departure Return Notes

Apr 26, 2026	May 4, 2026	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
May 10, 2026	May 18, 2026	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
May 24, 2026	Jun 1, 2026	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jun 7, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jul 5, 2026	Jul 13, 2026	Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Jul 19, 2026	Jul 27, 2026	
Sep 6, 2026	Sep 14, 2026	Fall Foliage Season Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Sep 20, 2026	Sep 28, 2026	Fall Foliage Season Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Oct 4, 2026	Oct 12, 2026	Fall Foliage Season Pair with our Cotswolds trip*
Oct 18, 2026	Oct 26, 2026	Fall Foliage Season



Pricing

2023 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price**
\$9995

Single Occupancy : For a single room add \$1195.

Deposit: \$500 per person

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Prices may change slightly. Guests who reserve their 2024 space prior to final pricing confirmation will receive the lowest rate within the range offered for that date.

2024 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price**
\$10895 to \$11195

Single Occupancy : For a single room add \$1495.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

2025 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price**
\$11695 to \$11995

Single Occupancy : For a single room add \$1595.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

2026 Prices

- ▶ **Trip Price**
\$12995 to \$13395

Single Occupancy : For a single room add \$1895.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. .



Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, first-class journey aboard the Jacobite Steam Train, private charter cruises to Moray Firth, Loch Ness, Knoydart Peninsula, and the Shiant Isles, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, most gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Physical Requirements

Moderate

Our itinerary includes very full days. To enjoy all activities, guests must be able to comfortably walk 2 miles over uneven terrain that is often rough, rocky and slippery, with significant exposure to weather, and sometimes near deep water. Multiple walks are included and are typically 1–2 miles long. The trip also includes a 2 to 3-hour canoeing excursion. While previous paddling experience is not required, guests should be comfortable paddling a two-person canoe in relatively gentle conditions, though if the wind whips up, it's possible we could see some waves. For guests who desire more physical activity, additional early-morning walks are sometimes offered by our guides. A few days include significant time in a vehicle, and drives are often over winding roads through hilly or mountainous terrain. If you get motion-sick on winding roads, you may wish to take preventive medication. Likewise, several boat trips are included that may expose guests to unpredictable sea conditions. While we generally spend time in more sheltered waters, travelers prone to seasickness should take this into consideration and come prepared with medication. While travelers are not required to participate in all activities, should you opt out of the day's scheduled activities, we cannot always guarantee that alternatives will be available.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

Our Scotland journey is different from most, deliberately taking you away from more crowded areas and into wilder locales that unveil Scotland's rich natural history and cultural traditions. Accordingly, we stay in authentic, smaller-scale accommodations in less-traveled locations. While they are very comfortable, rooms are often a bit less spacious than those typically found in North America. But whatever we may forsake in space, we more than make up for in setting, surrounded by nature amid Scotland's most awe-inspiring sights. Please be prepared to spend time outdoors in unpredictable weather, which may include heavy rain and wind—or perfect sunshine.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home



Discovering Our Planet Together

Arrive in Inverness by 4 pm on Day 1 for a welcome dinner at 7 pm. You may depart Inverness anytime on the final day. We are prepared to handle all your round-trip travel arrangements.

We can serve you best if Natural Habitat Adventures' Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can make the most efficient arrangements. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



Discovering Our Planet Together



Extension Details:

The Cotswolds: Exploring English Nature
\$9995

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Extensions

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



The Cotswolds: Exploring English Nature

Wander ancient beech forests and wildflower meadows, follow hedgerows and trout-filled streams, tour private gardens and meet artisan food producers, in an idyllic landscape with a focus on native habitats and conservation.

\$9995



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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