



## YOUR PRIVATE TOUR OF SCOTLAND

<p><b>Day 1</b></p>	<p>You will arrive at Edinburgh Airport where you will be met at arrivals to begin your tour of Scotland. Travel north to Stirling, once known as the 'Key to Scotland', with its imposing position in the centre of the country, to <b>Stirling Castle</b>. For centuries this was the most important castle in Scotland and the views from the top make it easy to see why. Stirling Castle played an important role in the life of Mary Queen of Scots. She spent her childhood in the castle and Mary's coronation took place in the Chapel Royal in 1543. From the ramparts you can see the <b>Wallace Monument</b>, perched high on the Abbey Craig around where Wallace camped before his heroic battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, built in 1869 to commemorate Scotland's hero. Your final destination today is <b>Fonab Castle</b> located on the banks of Loch Faskally and a short walk from the heart of the historic Victorian town of Pitlochry. The breath-taking views in both Sandemans on the Loch and Fonab Brasserie, the welcoming atmosphere of their lounges, and the unbelievable selection in their Gin and Whisky bars - coupled with our exquisite menus and superb service, entice you to come, stay and enjoy. Overnight Fonab Castle, Pitlochry.</p>
<p><b>Day 2</b></p>	<p>Today you will journey into the heart of Speyside where you will have the opportunity to take the special '<b>Spirit of the Malt</b>' tour at <b>The Glenlivet Distillery</b> nestled deep in the dramatic scenery of Speyside, the heart of Scotland's whisky-making country. You can explore the turbulent history of the whisky smugglers, delve into the enigmatic world of distilling and sample the single malt that started it all. This tour includes a visit to Josie's Well, a trip around the distillery itself, a tutored tasting of 7 different expressions of The Glenlivet and an exclusive visit to our traditional dunnage warehouse, where you can sample a dram drawn straight from one of their aged casks. Your overnight destination in the heart of Speyside is at the stunning recently refurbished <b>Craigellachie Hotel</b>, tucked away in the rolling hills with views of the river Spey and Thomas Telford Bridge from your room and where you can sample from nearly 700 whiskies at the Quaich bar. Overnight Craigellachie House Hotel, Aberlour.</p>
<p><b>Day 3</b></p>	<p>This morning starts with a visit to <b>Glenfarclas Distillery</b> at Ballindalloch where you can explore the distillery with one of their knowledgeable guides on the '<b>Five Decades Tour</b>' and an exclusive in-depth tour of the distillery followed by a tasting of five of The Family Casks, with one from each decade. The whiskies will be selected and introduced by one of the Glenfarclas Brand Ambassadors. All year round spring water bubbles through the Glen, alive as that day in 1886 when the founder William laid the first stones of the distillery that is still owned and managed by his descendants today. Following on from this you may wish to visit a maker of traditional whisky barrels at the <b>Speyside Cooperage</b>, where you can watch the skilled coopers and apprentices at work building whisky casks from the finest USA oak. Join us at <b>Glenfiddich Distillery</b>, in the Valley of the Deer for <b>The Classic Tour</b>. Start the story with a short film and get closer to their family spirit. Walk through the Mash House with the knowledgeable guides, where the highest quality raw ingredients are being prepared for fermentation. Here you'll learn how their signature pear flavour is created. Step into our Still House, where shining copper stills are fired and a precious distillate is condensed and end in Warehouse 1 where hearty earthen aromas from whiskies that have been gently maturing for generations fill the air. Finally spend time nosing and tasting the beautifully aged and crafted Glenfiddich 12, 15 and 18 Year Old whiskies. Overnight Craigellachie House Hotel, Aberlour.</p>



<p><b>Day 4</b></p>	<p>Travel towards Inverness along the coast to <b>Culloden Battlefield</b> where the last hand-to-hand battle was fought on British soil which takes on a whole new meaning with the opening of an exciting new visitor centre and interactive exhibition. The battlefield itself is now restored to as close as possible that marched on by the two sides on that fateful day. Continue down the north bank of Loch Ness to the Clansman Harbor for a <b>Jacobite Freedom Cruise</b> to enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding mountains from the loch and sail the deepest part using the Jacobite sonar then alight at <b>Urquhart Castle</b>, the site of many battles led by the Clan MacDonald, which stands on a rocky promontory on the north shore with stunning views of the glen and a chance to spot the famous Loch Ness Monster. It has a turbulent history: seized by the English in 1296, sacked in 1545 by MacDonald Lord of the Isles and later left to decay after 1689. You will have the chance to explore for an hour before cruising back up the loch to the Clansman Harbour. Further down the Great Glen arrive at <b>Fort Augustus</b> on the southern tip of Loch Ness, stopping to marvel at Thomas Telford's feat of engineering. The flight of 5 locks transport sailing vessels and boats from Loch Ness at the north end into the Caledonian Canal. Just north of the Fort William stop briefly at <b>The Commando Memorial</b> dedicated to the men of the original British Commando Forces raised during World War II. It overlooks the training areas of the Commando Training Depot established in 1942 at Achnacarry Castle. Unveiled in 1952 by the Queen Mother, it has become one of Scotland's best-known monuments, both as a war memorial and for its stunning views of Ben Nevis and Aonach Mòr. Travel a short distance to your overnight accommodation your overnight accommodation at <b>Glenspean Lodge Hotel</b>, an attractive country house, majestically situated within 5 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland. Overnight Glenspean Lodge, Spean Bridge.</p>
<p><b>Day 5</b></p>	<p>Travel through Fort William and over the Ballachulish Bridge to reach the most scenically beautiful of all Highland glens, <b>Glencoe</b>, stopping at the visitors centre to view some of the most spectacular mountain scenery anywhere. This area is steeped in history, and at the Visitors Centre you will hear about the infamous 1692 massacre of Clan MacDonald and see the new exhibition which gives a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Glencoe's starring role in the latest Bond movie <i>Skyfall</i>. Travel down Loch Awe which is host to <b>Kilchurn Castle</b> which has a four-storey tower built in the mid-15th century by Sir Colin Campbell, 1st of Glenorchy. Much enlarged in 1693, it incorporates the first purpose-built barracks in Scotland. The substantial ruins are some of the most picturesque in the country with spectacular views down Loch Awe. Continue to Inveraray, a picturesque small town on the banks of Loch Fyne where you can take a wander around <b>The Edinburgh Woollen Mill</b> for a wonderful selection of traditional and contemporary knitwear, high street fashions and many gifts and souvenirs or browse some of the unique shops situated on the main street, especially the <b>Loch Fyne Whisky Shop</b> where you may even be offered a dram! You may wish to stop at <b>Brambles</b> for refreshments and some home baking – they boast they have the best coffee in town then it is south to Kennacraig to catch the ferry across the sea to Port Askaig on Islay. Your overnight accommodation is at <b>The Bridgend Hotel</b> located at the "Heart of Islay". Originally an Inn it was opened around 1849 and nowadays provides the original Islay experience - a warm, friendly and professional service – to all the guests. Overnight Bridgend Hotel, Islay.</p>



<p><b>Day 6</b></p>	<p>Today you will visit <b>Bunnahabhain Distillery</b> for a '<i>Tasting Tour</i>' which consists of a distillery tour with a taste of four Bunnahabhain expressions. To enter the Bunnahabhain distillery is to walk into a story of a seafaring adventure. Since 1881, the gentle malt has always begun with good quality malted barley, clean, pure Margadale spring water and a little yeast. Moving on to <b>Bowmore Distillery</b> for a '<i>Standard Tour with Tasting Session</i>'. Founded over two centuries ago in 1779, Bowmore is the first recorded distillery on Islay (pronounced 'eye-la') and one of the oldest in the whole of Scotland. Islay malts are renowned for their peaty smokiness and Bowmore is no exception. They carefully smoke their malt in a peat-fired kiln, just as their ancestors did over 200 years ago. This afternoon you will take part in a <b>Peat Cutting</b> session where you can try your hand at peat cutting yourselves. You will learn about Peat and its use in the whisky industry and the domestic industry. You can have a shot of laying out and stacking the peats then afternoon tea and homemade scones and a wee dram after your hard work. Overnight Bridgend Hotel, Islay.</p>
<p><b>Day 7</b></p>	<p>This morning the ferry departs from Port Ellen at 0945hrs to arrive back on the mainland at 1125hrs. Travel back to Inveraray where you can take time to visit <b>Inveraray Castle</b>, home to the Duke of Argyll, with beautifully preserved interiors spanning many generations of Campbells. The Castle is a remarkable and unique piece of architecture featuring four imposing French influenced conical spires surmounting the stone castellated towers. A fascinating insight into prison life in the 19th century awaits you at <b>Inveraray Jail</b>. Real people portray life in this award winning prison. Interact with costumed characters, watch courtroom trials, meet the Warder, go to jail and witness cell life, sample the punishments and browse the exhibition of prison artefacts before retiring to your overnight accommodation at Overnight Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray.</p>
<p><b>Day 8</b></p>	<p>Today you will be collected this morning and make the journey to Edinburgh where you will spend the rest of the day at your leisure. <b>Edinburgh Castle</b>. In 1566 Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI in the royal palace within the castle and the tiny bed-closet still survives. Most importantly to Scots, in 1996 the Stone of Destiny, Scotland's coronation stone, was placed in the Crown Room alongside the nation's Crown Jewels, (the Honours of Scotland), following its return from Westminster after a space of 800 years. Your accommodation is <b>The Apex Waterloo Place</b>, a luxury city centre boutique hotel situated at the east end of Princes Street. Overnight Apex Waterloo Place, Edinburgh.</p>
<p><b>Day 9</b></p>	<p>Today you will be collected and taken to the airport by private transfer for your onward flight.</p>

Admissions to sights and attractions are **not** included, (unless otherwise stated), as there may be changes made to the itinerary.

Our terms and conditions can be viewed here  
<http://www.chauffeurscotland.co.uk/TermsAndConditions.html>