

MacBACKPACKERS

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Tours

3 day Isle of Skye - Departs Fridays £79

- Price includes 3 full days of touring on our comfortable mini buses, and our friendly fun guides, telling you stories galore.
- Accommodation is not included, but we do book it for you at our cosy wee hostels
- Departs Fridays at 8am
- Arrives Back to Edinburgh on Sundays between 5pm/6pm

3 Days of breathtaking scenery and magical mystical stories from our knowledgeable and fun Guides. This Island is the largest of the Inner Hebridean's, and a "must see" by everyone. It is steeped in myth and legend, and historical tales of clan rivalry. Not only do you have this amazing island adventure, but also we visit the dark shores of Loch Ness, the dramatic Eilean Donan Castles and the haunting Glen Coe.

Typical Itinerary:

Day 1: Departing Edinburgh, we head North over the Forth Road bridge, across the Kingdom of Fife towards the beautiful Highlands. Our first stop is at the village of Dunkeld. A Highland gateway village, and also once the ancient capital of Scotland. Heading in to the heart of the highlands, we pass through the Grampian mountains, where we hear tales of Roman invasion, and a very rebellious Scotland. Driving via Inverness, we then head down to the Dark shores of Loch Ness. We drive over the north shores of the Loch in search of a wee monster called Nessie, and take in the views of Urquart castle, a ruined stronghold on the shores of the Loch. Driving through Invermorriston Glen, we are now on our way to Skye. Over the Skye Bridge we go to the village of Kyleakin where we will be spending the next two nights in our cosy wee hostel.

Day 2: And now our adventure begins, a day exploring one of Scotlands most famous Islands. Before heading to its northern tip, we pass through the mighty Cuillin mountains on to Portree the islands Capital, where we stop for supplies, and also for a wee look at this village, with its quaint little fishing harbour. The Trotternish Peninsula is the focus for the rest of the day, stopping at amazing waterfalls and the seriously haunted ruined Macdonald stronghold perched on top of a sea cliff. We scramble up one of the islands amazing rock formations, a small mild hike to suit all, so leave your high heels at home. Now it is time to bring it down for a little chill time and to pay our respects to the "little people" at the enchanting Faerie Glen. And as the sun goes down we head back to the village of Kyleakin in time for a pint at the local pub.

Day 3: Departing Skye we head back over the bridge to the mainland, where our last full day of adventure begins at one of Scotland's most scenic castles, Eilean Donan, as seen in the movie Highland. Its then a very scenic drive through the lands of Kintail, where every mountain has a story of romance, adventure and betrayal. Gliding through the colours and scenery of Glen Shiel and Glen Garry, we head down to Fort William and then on to the breathtaking Glen Coe, the scene of Scotlands most haunting massacres. This glen is definitely one of Scotland jewels. While hearing the tales of its horrific past, you also have a chance to absorb its amazing atmosphere. Continuing south over the desolate Ranoch moor, we then head out of the Highlands down to Stirling, to pay homage to Mr William Wallace at the Wallace Monument. Edinburgh is our final destination, arriving back in Scotland's dynamic Capital, for some heart felt goodbyes.

Christmas Tours 2007

5 Day Christmas Caper £275

Departs Edinburgh Sun, 23rd December

Our 5 Day Christmas Caper Tour encompasses a host of superb sights and experiences, including Loch Ness, Christmas on the Isle of Skye, forest walks, the Cuillin mountains, amazing Glen Coe and much more.

Includes:

Five days fully guided touring
Four nights accommodation
Christmas Dinner
All breakfasts in the Highlands

Day 1 (Sun) Inverness

Day 2 (Mon) Skye

Day 3 (Tues) Skye

Day 4 (Wed) Ft Willy or Oban

Day 5 (Thurs) return to Edinburgh

Day One - The adventure begins as we depart the Capital and head due north to the mountains and the Highland boundary. Our first stop is at the beautiful forest of the Hermitage. The ancient trees and the 17th century folly provide a great backdrop for the stunning waterfall and the perfect start to your Christmas tour. After a stop at Pitlochry for lunch we delve deeper into the Highlands driving to Killiekrankie, the site of the 1689 uprising, and then north to the barracks of Ruthven that came to symbolise Jacobite hatred of the Government of the late 1600's. Our journey to Inverness takes us past Scotlands first National park in the Caingorms and then on to Culloden, the Highlanders last stand before we party on in the capital of the Highlands.

Day Two - Every trip to the Highlands has to have some Nessie spotting, why not take a swim, if you dare, then it's off to Fort Augustus for a spot of lunch via a trip down the full length of Loch Ness. But it's Christmas Eve and we have a special trip through some of the best of the West as we take you to the Isle of Skye and an unforgettable Christmas.

Day Three - Yippppppeeeee... It's Christmas, and what a place to celebrate it, welcome to Christmas in Skye, and after some presents and yule tide festivities it's off to the restaurant for a Christmas feed that fill you not only with the joys of the day, but the desire to live to the max as you enjoy the stunning setting and the great people.

Day Four - Easy as she goes...watch that hangover, well we will be gentle with you as we head south. Our journey there is a day of beautiful valleys and glens that Scotland is famous for. We have stops at the majestic Eilean Donan castle and Glen Garry. Fort William or Oban will be our last night destination of the Highlands.

Day Five - Our last day has plenty more mind blowing Christmas adventures as we go on a hairy coo safari and take in the stunning Glen Coe. This in turn takes us on to Rob Roy country where the famous Highlander once roamed. But we soon drop down to the Lowlands to finish our 5 days of fun with a stop at Stirling and the story of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce in their struggles against Edward the 1st of England and the long wars of Independence. With the exploits of these great men still in our minds, we finally return to Edinburgh at the end of five memorable days.

Please note: This tour may run in reverse but you will still see the most amazing sights that we offer

3 Day Christmas Cracker £190

Departs Edinburgh Mon, 24th December

Christmas and the Loch Ness monster are inextricably linked in the hearts and minds of many people, to the point that the two have become interchangeable – this spectacular tour is a chance to spend Christmas in Inverness, Capital of the Highlands and home to Scotland's beloved Yuletide beastie.

Includes:

Three days fully guided touring

Two nights accommodation

Christmas Dinner

All breakfasts in the Highlands

Day 1 (Mon) Inverness

Day 2 (Tues) Inverness

Day 3 (Wed) return to Edinburgh

Christmas and the Loch Ness monster are inextricably linked in the hearts and minds of many people, to the point that the two have become interchangeable this spectacular tour is a chance to spend Christmas in Inverness, Capital of the Highlands and home to Scotlands beloved Yuletide beastie.

Day One - From one Capital to another, Inverness, we travel through the fantastic mountains of the Central Highlands, old Barracks, waterfalls and beautiful forests. Our first stop though is set deep in the heart of Birnam Woods at the old 17th century Folly of the Duke of Atholl. This is the perfect start to 3 days of celebration. As we head North from here we will stop for lunch but soon motor on into the mountains for look at the impressive ruins of Ruthven.

Although these barracks were built in the 1700's, the stones and sites dark history goes a way back to Pictish times. From our vantage point at the barracks it's off to the lower fields of Culloden where the Highlanders stood in battle for the last time. You need not worry though, for you have nothing to battle but the desire to enjoy a fantastic night in the capital of the Highlands, Inverness, and it's amazing Christmas atmosphere.

Day Two - Hip - Hip - Hooooooooooray and it's Christmas day and what an amazing place to celebrate it. The day will start with some presents and breakfast, but in the afternoon it's off to get some quality Christmas dinner and pass the rest of the day making the very best of festivities.

Day Three - With a little tenderness in mind we will start the last of our three days together with a trip to Loch Ness (and a swim if you are brave enough) for the peacefu resting feel of the loch before heading to the falls of Foyers and then on to Fort Augustus for a look at the spectacular locks of the Caledonian Canal. Our journey south takes us down the line of the the Great Glen and it's beautiful lochs on our way to the impressive peaks of Glen Coe.

Depending on the great Scottish weather, (and of course the hang over) we will take some time for a walk in this stunning Glen. But it's south we go from here on our way to Stirling and a look at the lives of our freedom fighters William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. This is the last stop on our fantastic 3 day Christmas Cracker and will leave you ready to tackle the next celebration in style.

Hogmanay accommodation and tour package

7 night accomm and tour package - £255

Spend the night of 27th in Edinburgh followed by a 3 day Isle of Skye tour of the Highlands on the 28th December and then accommodation back in Edinburgh on 30th, 31st, 1st and 2nd. Includes street pass

27th Dec: Arrive in Edinburgh and take a slow walk around and get yourself acquainted with the magical city.

28th Dec: Departing Edinburgh, you meet up with others who are doing the 7 night package and head North over the Forth Road Bridge, across the Kingdom of Fife towards the beautiful Highlands. Our first stop is at the village of Dunkeld - a Highland gateway village and once the ancient capital of Scotland. Heading into the heart of the highlands, we pass through the Grampian mountains, where we hear tales of Roman invasion, and a very rebellious Scotland. Driving via Inverness, we then head down the shores of Loch Ness along the north of the Loch in search of a certain monster called Nessie, and take in the views of Urquart castle, a ruined stronghold on the shores of the Loch. Then, heading through Glen Morriston, we are now on our way westward to Skye. Over the Skye Bridge we arrive at the village of Kyleakin where we will be spending the next two nights in our cosy wee hostel, with its real fire and wonderful coastal views.

29th Dec: Our adventure gets even better - a day exploring one of Scotlands most famous Islands. Before heading to its northern tip, we pass through the mighty Cullin mountains on to Portree the island's Capital, where we stop for supplies and also for a wee look at this village, with its quaint little fishing harbour. The Trotternish peninsula is the focus for the rest of the day, stopping at amazing waterfalls and the seriously haunted ruined Macdonald stronghold perched atop a sea cliff. We scramble up one of the island's amazing rock formations, a small mild hike to suit all, so leave your high heels at home. Now it is time to bring it down for a little chill time and to pay our respects to the "little people" at the enchanting Faerie Glen. As the sun goes down we head back to the village of Kyleakin in time for a pint at the local pub.

30th Dec: Departing Skye we head to the mainland, where our last full day of adventure begins at one of Scotland's most picturesque castles - Eilean Donan, as featured in the movie Highlander. It's then a very scenic drive through the lands of Kintail, where every mountain has a story of romance, adventure or betrayal. Gliding through the colours and scenery of

Glen Shiel and Glen Garry, we head down to Fort William and then on to the breathtaking Glen Coe, the scene of Scotland's most haunting Clan massacre. This glen is definitely one of Scotland's jewels. While hearing the tales of its dark past, you also have a chance to absorb its amazing atmosphere. Continuing south over desolate Rannoch Moor we then head out of the Highlands and down to Stirling, to pay homage to William Wallace - the hero of Scotland's struggle for independence - at the Wallace Monument. Be back in Edinburgh to see the "Night Afore International" which is a spectacular street arts carnival that takes place on George Street, only a ten minute walk from your hostel.

31st Dec: Join in the party as hundreds of thousands of people bring in the new year. There will be a number of different stages during the night with the celebrations starting from around 10.00pm

1st Jan: Its probably hangover time, so if you feel up to it, you can sweep away the hangover with the one o'clock run down the Royal Mile (tickets £10)

2nd Jan: Have a few relaxing pints in one of the many pubs in Edinburgh. Experience the grassmarket area, the old town, the new town or spend a day doing many of the tours that are on offer in this wonderful place.

6 night accommodation and tour package - £235

Nights of 30th, 31st and 1st in Edinburgh followed by a 3 day tour of the magical Highlands on the 2nd January and a night at the end of your tour on the 4th January. Includes street pass to the world famous street party.

30th Dec: See the "Night Afore International" which is a spectacular street arts carnival that takes place on George Street, only a ten minute walk from your hostel.

31st Dec: Join in the party as hundreds of thousands of people bring in the new year. There will be a number of different stages during the night with the celebrations starting from around 10.00pm

1st Jan: Its probably hangover time, so if you feel up to it, you can sweep away the hangover with the one o'clock run down the Royal Mile (tickets £10). Or just relax and unwind for your highland tour tomorrow morning.

2nd Jan: Departing Edinburgh, we head North over the Forth Road Bridge, across the Kingdom of Fife towards the beautiful Highlands. Our first stop is at the village of Dunkeld - a Highland gateway village and once the ancient capital of Scotland. Heading into the heart of the highlands, we pass through the Grampian mountains, where we hear tales of Roman invasion, and a very rebellious Scotland. Driving via Inverness, we then head down the shores of Loch Ness along the north of the Loch in search of a certain monster called Nessie, and take in the views of Urquart castle, a ruined stronghold on the shores of the Loch. Then, heading through Glen Morriston, we are now on our way westward to Skye. Over the Skye Bridge we arrive at the village of Kyleakin where we will be spending the next two nights in our cosy wee hostel, with it's real fire and wonderful coastal views.

3rd Jan: Our adventure gets even better - a day exploring one of Scotlands most famous Islands. Before heading to its northern tip, we pass through the mighty Cullin mountains on to Portree the island's Capital, where we stop for supplies and also for a wee look at this village, with its quaint little fishing harbour. The Trotternish peninsula is the focus for the rest of the day, stopping at amazing waterfalls and the seriously haunted ruined Macdonald stronghold perched atop a sea cliff. We scramble up one of the island's amazing rock formations, a small mild hike to suit all, so leave your high heels at home. Now it is time to bring it down for a little chill time and to pay our respects to the "little people" at the enchanting Faerie Glen. As the sun goes down we head back to the village of Kyleakin in time for a pint at the local pub.

4th Jan: Departing Skye we head to the mainland, where our last full day of adventure begins at one of Scotland's most picturesque castles - Eilean Donan, as featured in the movie Highlander. It's then a very scenic drive through the lands of Kintail, where every mountain has a story of romance, adventure or betrayal. Gliding through the colours and scenery of Glen Shiel and Glen Garry, we head down to Fort William and then on to the breathtaking Glen Coe, the scene of Scotland's most haunting Clan massacre. This glen is definitely one of Scotland's jewels. While hearing the tales of its dark past, you also have a chance to absorb its amazing atmosphere. Continuing south over desolate Rannoch Moor we then head out of the Highlands and down to Stirling, to pay homage to William Wallace - the hero of Scotland's struggle for independence - at the Wallace Monument. Edinburgh is our final destination, arriving back in our dynamic Capital around 5 - 6pm for your last night in Edinburgh.