

Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands



Trip Summary

Scotland, a country brimming with stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, in-your-face mountains, world class cycling, and friendly locals, is begging to be explored. Listen to the local legends of lore involving “Nessie,” the infamous Loch Ness Monster. Cycle down quiet gravel forest trails, explore the mysterious ruins of an impressive castle, and experience an afternoon of axe throwing! Bike amongst the stunning mountain, glen, and forest scenery of Cairngorms National Park. Discover the charming town of Aviemore, visit a picturesque peninsula and taste old fashioned candies at the Highland Folk Museum. This journey through the Scottish Highlands is sure to not only give you a chance to experience Scotland’s contrasting scenery and its wealth of opportunity for adventure but also to gain an insight into Scottish culture and Highland life.

Itinerary

Day 1: Inverness / Aviemore

On arrival into Inverness Airport you will be met by your Driver/Guide and head straight off on your first adventure, exploring a magnificent turreted Castle and its impressive grounds • Here you will find wonderful history and art to admire • Explore the ‘Playful Garden’ full of quirky characters • Depending on your arrival time this is a great place to stop for lunch too, giving you all a chance to recharge and get excited about the adventures to come during the rest of the trip! • After exploring the castle and garden you will head off to your accommodation for the next 3 nights in the heart of the beautiful Cairngorm National Park • Then you have a free evening to settle into your hotel and explore the varied local restaurant options • *Overnight at Ravenscraig (No meals included)*

Day 2: Aviemore

This morning your guide will take you up into the mountains to meet the local Reindeer herd! • You can choose to walk to their summer grazing grounds, where you are right in walking amongst the herd and can even hand feed them • After meeting the cheeky reindeer, head for lunch to energize yourself for an adrenaline-inducing afternoon of axe throwing • Spend an afternoon in a local woodland arena learning this ancient hunting warrior skill with an expert local • Get the insider tips and see if you can land your axe smack in the bulls-eye! • Your guide will then take you back to your hotel to enjoy a free evening together • *Overnight at Ravenscraig (B, L)*

Day 3: Aviemore

Not far from your hotel, the famous Speyside Way Long Distance Trail runs right through the heart of whisky country • Your guide will meet you with mountain bikes this morning and you can bike this trail all the way to a delicious lunch stop • After lunch, hop on board a special steam train that will take you back into Aviemore • Sit back and enjoy the scenic views • Your guide will meet you at Aviemore Station and return you to your hotel to enjoy an evening exploring the local area • *Overnight at Ravenscraig (B, L)*

Day 4: Loch Ness / Fort Augustus

After a hearty breakfast, experience Scottish history at the Highland Folk Museum • This fascinating site has loads to explore with over 30 dwellings “frozen in time” • Head west to the banks of the famous Loch Ness and it is time to search for Nessie as you take to the water on a thrilling Zodiac Boat ride • Keep your eyes peeled for the Monster and other wildlife on the way up the loch to see the imposing ruins of Urquhart Castle before returning safely to shore • *Overnight at Inch Hotel (B, L)*



Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands

Day 5: Loch Ness / Fort Augustus

This morning, head back onto the water but this time in open canoes with an expert guide, maybe you can sneak up quietly on Nessie? • Check all the exciting bays and rivers nearby, you may even find an island with a secret and a hidden waterfall • Back on shore enjoy a yummy lunch and then you have a whole free afternoon to enjoy the area • *Overnight at Inch Hotel (B, L)*

Day 6: Caledonian Pine Forest / Contin

Today, set out to the ancient Royal hunting grounds with a forest expert to see what exciting things you can discover • Explore a unique ecosystem with thousands of plants and animals, including many rare and protected species • After lunch explore a maze! • This touchstone maze was created to reflect the geology of Scotland using 81 stones from quarries all over the Highlands and Islands • See if you can figure out which sparkly mica stone came from near your first hotel • Afterwards you head to your hotel to settle in and enjoy a free evening • *Overnight at Coul House Hotel (B, L)*

Day 7: Fairy Glen Waterfalls / Contin

This morning, head out onto the salty waters of the Moray Firth • Be on the lookout for the resident colony of Bottlenose Dolphins, porpoises or even a whale! • Back on dry land you will head to the beautiful sandy Rosemarkie Beach and take an easy walk up a delightful wooded glen • This 'Fairy Glen' is named after a time when local children used to ceremoniously decorate the spring here with flowers to ensure the fairies kept the water supply clean for the village • Your guide will then take you back to your hotel to enjoy your last night in Scotland relaxing together • *Overnight at Coul House Hotel (B, L)*

Day 8: Contin / Inverness

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast before shuffling to the Inverness Airport to travel home • *No overnight (B)*

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Our Partner – Wilderness Scotland

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Wilderness Scotland, the only adventure travel company in Scotland to be awarded a 5-star grading by the national tourist agency. Wilderness Scotland is an active travel company focusing on eco-tourism, adventure, wildlife and the rich heritage of this ancient nation. With a professional team of guides who know the wild places of Scotland better than anyone, you can be sure that you are travelling with the local experts. At the core of the business is a spirit and enthusiasm to explore and journey through the wild places of Scotland; a willingness to share such experiences with others; and to realize the positive socio- economic and environmental benefits of sustainable tourism.

Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands



Activities

Hiking: Easy to moderate treks, up to 2 miles and 300 feet of elevation gain. Hikes are on well-kept trails but some have muddy or rocky sections. They are suitable for families with a reasonable fitness.

Biking: Gravel trails and quiet country roads, 6 miles with extensions possible. Flat to rolling terrain, moderate in difficulty.

Boating: Fast-paced Zodiac on Loch Ness and the Moray Firth – enjoy the ride!

Canoeing: 2-hour canoe trip with professional guide on Loch Ness. No experience necessary.

Discovery: Scotland, a country of stunning landscapes, wildlife and wonderful local produce, combined with a thriving arts and culture scene, and topped off with a colorful history of epic battles and historic castles, is just begging to be explored. Scotland boasts over 600 square miles of freshwater lakes, known as lochs, of which the most famous one is Loch Ness, best known for its sightings of the crypto zoological Loch Ness Monster, known affectionately as "Nessie". Did you know that Scots have their own terms for lakes, hills, forests, and other natural formations? A small stream is called a "burn"; an estuary in the sea is called a "firth"; a valley is called a "glen"; a meadow or island is called an "inch"; a lake is called a "loch"; a large tract of open land is called a "moor"; heaps of stones at the bottom of a hill are called "scree"; and a large, flat river valley is a "strath". Visit Cairngorms National Park, displaying the most extensive tracts of Caledonian forest in Britain and calling itself home to 25 percent of the UK's threatened bird, animal and plant species. Come discover the exciting country of Scotland with the leaders in adventure travel!

Wilderness Scotland guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands

Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 – 3: Ravenscraig Guest House

This bed and breakfast accommodation is located in the heart of Aviemore. It is ideally situated on the main street just a short stroll from the town center with its numerous shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. Enjoy comfortable rooms, free Wi-Fi, and breakfast. At Ravenscraig Guest House in Aviemore, the owners make it their business to ensure that our guests are well looked after. A warm welcome, a good night's sleep and a great breakfast are what you expect from a good Guest House and you can be sure that you will get all this and more here.

Nights 4 & 5: Inch Hotel

Located in an iconic spot, above picturesque Inchnacardoch Bay, the Inch Hotel provides some of the very best accommodation on Loch Ness. All of their well-equipped rooms come complete with free Wi-Fi, telephones, hair-dryers, tea and coffee making facilities and flat-screen TVs. Many of the rooms have stunning views overlooking Loch Ness, which is perfect for a Scotland family holiday!

Nights 6 & 7: Coul House

At the Coul House, you'll enjoy the unique 18th Century architecture, the comfortable bedrooms and the delicious dining. Relax in the lounge, have a drink in the bar, or take a walk in the beautiful gardens where guests of all ages enjoy the fairy trail, the mature woods and the pitch and putt. Eat, drink and be merry with food from local chef Garry Kenley.

Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands



Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving early on the day of your trip departure (or, to be safe, at least one day prior to your trip departure). Day one of your itinerary starts at Inverness Airport, depending on your arrival time, or from your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Inverness Airport or your hotel.

Trip Price

From \$3,898

Trip Length

8 days/7 nights

2020 Dates

Departing weekly, call for availability.

Host City

Inverness, Scotland (INV)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Immerse yourself in the best
Scotland has to offer!*



Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands

Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A nonrefundable 25% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- All gratuities.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

Scotland Family – Scottish Highlands



Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (five years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 56+ days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less 25% nonrefundable deposit

Cancellation 30-55 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-29 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.