

两日游：尼斯湖、因弗内斯和苏格兰高地

第一天

从爱丁堡到因弗内斯

穿过斯特灵城（Stirling）时，你能看见一个巨大的城堡位于你的右侧。城堡矗立在火山岩扶墙上，俯瞰着福斯河冲积平原。城堡所处位置具有战略意义，它守卫着横渡福斯河的最低渡口，保卫着进出苏格兰高地的主要干线。至少自十一世纪始，这一战略据点上就筑有防御工事。顺着右侧继续前行，你还能看见俯瞰着整个斯特灵城的苏格兰独立纪念塔（National Wallace Monument），这个纪念塔是由公众捐款建立，以纪念伟大的苏格兰民族英雄威廉·华莱士。站在纪念塔上，你从近处的客莱克教堂（Abbey Craig）开始，一直能看到著名的布瑞克（Brig）战役所在地。在1279年的布瑞克之战中，威廉·华莱士率领苏格兰士兵击败了数量上占绝对优势的英格兰国王爱德华的军队。

离开斯特灵城，沿着这条路继续前行，我们最终来到了泰斯河边，过河后我们进入了杜恩（Doune）城。该城以盛产Deanston麦芽威士忌酒和制造遂发枪和锋利的刀片闻名。杜恩过去曾设有许多棉纺厂，在鼎盛时期所雇用的工人超过2000。站在桥上，沿河远眺，你会看见雄伟的杜恩城堡。杜恩城堡不仅在历史上颇富盛名，而且是电影《巨蟒和圣杯》（Monty Python and The Holy Grail）的拍摄所在地。

我们在高地上继续前行，走进卡蓝德（Callander）村。村里还很好地保留着古罗马人的营地等历史遗迹。卡蓝德村之所以闻名，成为旅游胜地和商业中心，多半是由于维多利亚女王对荒原高地的爱以及十九世纪末这儿所发生的蒸汽铁路革命的缘故。

现在我们来到了秀丽的卓萨（Trossachs）镇和布巴德（Braes of Balquhiddy）镇，麦格哥族人罗布·罗伊（Rob Roy）所钟爱的地方。罗布·罗伊是苏格兰的罗宾汉。至于他究竟是英雄还是恶棍，就看你怎么看了。他生活在一个动荡不安的时代，经历了詹姆斯二世党人的三次起义，以及苏格兰人与蒙特斯（Montrose）公爵长期的斗争。据说英语里的“blackmail”（“敲诈”）一词就是始自罗布·罗伊：‘mail’在古语中是钱的意思，指他从当地的地主和那些从北方沿着这条古老的不通机动车的小路到南方市场的高地

牧人身上勒索的钱财。

穿过格拉斯哥、斯特灵和挪斯之间的主要道路交叉口克赖安拉利（Criannlarich），我们来到了町卓默（Tyndrum）。町卓默曾是高地铁路系统中两条主要铁轨的交汇处，一条通向西部的欧本（Oban），另一条通向北部的威廉堡（Fort William）；直到今天公路仍沿着这两条铁轨的方向延伸。

沿着格兰峡谷（Glen Orchy）前行，穿过峡谷桥，我们来到了一片稀无人烟的沼地兰诺克沼地（Rannoch Moor）。继续向下走，就来到了位于格赖克（Glencoe）群山之间的海滨一带。就是在格赖克地区，苏格兰高地世代相传的热情招待疲惫游客的优良传统遭到了背叛，那时罗伯特·坎贝尔（Robert Campbell）领导下的国民自卫队，听从了国务卿约翰·达瑞普的命令，实际上是听从了威廉国王的命令，武装起来，试图屠杀热情招待他们的东道主麦克多纳一家。

沿着林尼湖（Loch Linnhe）继续前行，我们到达了威廉堡。威廉堡的得名源于当时政府所建的一个城堡（该城堡是遍及全国一直到Inverness的系列城堡之一），以守卫詹姆斯二世党人的心脏地带，并控制各个部落的要塞。奔宁山是英国最高的山脉，高1343米，离海岸线仅六公里，这使威廉堡每年的降雨量丰富。

奔宁山山下是奔宁山谷。奔宁山是英国最高的山，高1343米，离林尼湖仅有6公里，湖水的源头就发源于此。这是威廉堡每年有丰富降雨量的原因，也使山谷植被绿意盎然，郁郁葱葱。从这儿，我们开始了攀登英国最高的山峰、最崎岖的路段。

也是从这儿，你才可以领略得到奔宁山全部的雄伟壮观和该山得名的原因。奔宁山没有阿尔比斯山高，位于更北的纬度上，气候与北极地区的气候差不多。在林尼湖湖畔吹拂的温煦海风，到奔宁山山顶经常变成刺骨的冷风。

沿着这条路前行，我们现在来到了大峡谷（Great Glen），这儿的地理断层实际上将整个英国分成两个部分，现在这一带地质仍然很不稳定。峡谷地区遍布湖泊，有林尼湖、洛奇湖、奥奇湖以及闻名世界的尼斯湖，传说在湖的深处居住着尼斯湖水怪。所有这些

湖泊都由Caledonian运河和众多水闸连接，由托马斯·泰福德十九世纪早期所建。

奔宁山向南的那一侧耸立着威廉堡，壮观的突击队纪念碑（Commando Memorial）位于史宾（Spean）桥边。二战期间，就是通过这儿的火车站，英勇的小伙子来到这里进行军事训练，然后又从这儿奔向前方的战场。

高地上的部落之间从来都不是和睦相处的，彼此之间的争斗极为常见。据说，湖区这一带曾发生过极有可能是最为血腥和毫无目的的部落争斗。在舍茨之战（Battle of the Shirts）之战中，高地上的两个部落，约有800到1000人打了整整一天，除了12个人幸免遇难外，其余参与争斗的人或死或伤。在因弗格瑞（Invergarry）路边，有一个“七头井”（the Well of the Seven Heads），由格兰格瑞（Glengarry）的部落首领1812年建立，是高地部落之间互相残杀和野蛮争斗的另一个见证。1665年，杀死Keppoch全家的七个凶手的脑袋在这口井里被清洗过后，献给了因弗格瑞（Invergarry）城堡的部落首领。

接着，我们来到尼斯湖的最西部，进入奥古斯塔斯堡（Fort Augustus）镇。这个城堡也是詹姆世二世党人为了军事控制的需要而建立的。直到现在，它仍然有一个修道院，尽管再也没有修士住在这儿，修道院仍然静静地立在那儿，象个守门人，守卫着进出尼斯湖的第一个阶梯的水闸。看到形状各异的大小船只进出水闸系统，不仅使你心情愉快，而且还具有教育意义。

在因弗莫里斯顿（Invermoriston），我们会在里斯顿（Moriston）河边逗留一会，尽情地欣赏这一带的自然美景。同时，你也可以欣赏到托马斯·泰富的另一杰作——里斯顿桥。泰富除了设计Caledonian古苏格兰人运河，完成了多项土木工程等功绩外，还设计了多座看起来简朴实际上却起着重大作用的桥梁。比如说，里斯顿桥就是由他抽空设计的。这座桥于1813年完工，是他为改善苏格兰地区的交通状况所设计的众多桥梁中的一座。

沿尼斯湖北岸行驶，你能看见厄克特（Urquhart）城堡。城堡那居高临下的岬角似乎仍在守卫着通向大峡谷、湖区以及湖岸四周的通道。从这儿开始，我们才能真正欣赏到“尼斯”湖区的风景。

尽管厄克特（Urquhart）城堡现在已成为废墟，但城堡的建筑格局依稀可见，站在一度雄伟的城堡上眺望远方湖区的秀美景色仍然是最佳选择。

再往前行，我们开车经过厄克特峡谷入口处的庄娜（Drumnadrochit）。它位于海湾边上，离神秘的尼斯湖不远。在这里你会听到尼斯湖水怪的传说，信不信当然由你了。

参观完既神奇又神秘的尼斯湖后，我们经过一段短短的崎岖路程就又回到了我们在因弗内斯的住宿地。

第二天 从因弗内斯到爱丁堡

早饭后，我们从因弗内斯的住宿地出发，来到了旅行的第一站庄莫瑟（Drumossie）沼泽。该地区以卡勒登（Culloden）战役闻名（附近的村子就是卡勒登（Culloden）），该战役是英国本土上最后一场重要的陆地战。在这场战役中，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量和他们的首领查尔斯·爱德华·斯图特王子被Cumberland公爵指挥下的汉诺威军队所击败。汉诺威军占有军事上的优势：不仅武器装备强，而且士兵供给丰富。可以说，无论是在数量上，枪支上，还是在指挥上，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量决不可能有获胜的机会，整个战役仅持续了短短的40分钟。

战争失败后，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量四处逃散。汉诺威的骑兵部队在返回因弗内斯的路上，听从上边的命令对方军队的幸存者全部杀死，甚至处死那些仅仅被怀疑是詹姆世二世党人的无辜者。同样地，步兵则将战场上那些被找到的、受伤的詹姆世二世党人一律杀死。“杀光”政策和后来的“高地绥靖”政策，以及对高地部落的残酷镇压，标志着传统的高地部落文化的结束。而最后的武装清除高地政策迫使当地的居民离开他们世代生活的家园，高地成了饲养绵羊的农场，以为新兴的工业革命服务。这一残酷的悲剧在英国历史上得到了保留，最显著地体现在人们对公爵所起的绰号“坎伯兰郡的刽子手（Cumberland）”上。

回到A9路，在荒原的南边，有史前新石器时代的建筑棒状石冢（Clava Cairns），这个建筑是用来做什么的至今人们争论不一。考古学家认为这个建筑可能是为了举行某种仪式，实际上等于说他

们也不知道当时的人们为什么要建筑它。

沿着A9路，向南行驶，来到了我们的下一站托马汀（Tomatin）酒厂。你不仅可以参观酒厂，而且还可以品尝酒厂酿造的美酒。这个大麦芽酿酒厂是苏格兰最大的酿酒厂，导游领你参观酒厂时，你能看到23个排成一排的蒸馏塔。你还可以免费品尝各种美酒，如果你乐意的话，也可以在酒厂专门开设的商店购买一些你喜欢的好酒。

午饭我们在阿维莫尔（Aviemore）一带吃，这儿是专门为凯恩戈姆（Cairngorm）滑雪爱好者而开设的旅游胜地，现在已成为旅游、休闲和举办会议的场所。

再往南走，我们从A9主路上下来后，沿着一条风景优美的小路，穿过Rothiemurchus 地产，来到了风景如画的艾林湖（an Eilean）区。在这儿拍照可是最佳场所，你也可以沿着湖边散步，欣赏岛上那个已成为废墟的城堡。

沿着这条向南的小路，我们来到了盖斯林（Ruthven） 驻营地。营地是遵从魏德将军的指令，为当时的卫戍部队而建立的，属于高地政策的一部分，于1721年完工。坐在高高的曾经作为防御工事的土墩上，很容易理解营地是如何控制周边地区的。对于住在营地中的人来手，此处确实是个安全的隐蔽地。在1745至1746年的起义中，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量用火焚烧了城堡，现在的城堡已是一片废墟。

附近的村庄金魁斯（Kingussie）有高地民间博物馆（Highland Folk Museum）。博物馆实际上分布在两处：在金魁斯的博物馆主要展览高地家庭和农业等使用的有趣手工制品，拥有典型的高地住宅黑房子里所有的东西。如果时间允许的话，你可以在此多逗留一会，仔细地观看每一样物品。但是这不在我们的旅游计划之内，因为我们需要充分利用时间。值得一提的是，在牛顿莫（Newtonmore）附近的另一处博物馆。在这儿，你至少需要两个小时才能真正领略得到高地生活的主要娱乐活动。

路上，我们还可以参观一下Dalwhinnie酿酒厂奇特的宝塔建筑，建筑的顶层是麦芽作坊。该酒厂是苏格兰海拔以上最高的麦芽酒厂。你也可能有机会看到当地的Shinty运动场地。Shinty是高地

人所玩的一种古老的球棍游戏。胆小怯懦的人不仅不敢玩，而且也不敢观看金魁斯（Kingussie）和牛顿莫（Newtonmore）之间进行的这种当地球类运动。

回到A9路，我们驶往敦克尔德（Dunkeld）附近的贺米达几（Hermitage）林地。我们可以在布莱尔阿萨作一短暂停留，眺望一下布莱尔城堡。城堡是阿萨公爵祖传的老宅，在詹姆士二世党人的最后一次起义过程中，这儿发生了英国历史上的最后一次城堡保卫战。该城堡是英国唯一拥有合法的私人军队的所在地。Hermitage是林地散步优美的场所，这儿种植的树木来自世界各地，是苏格兰当地红松鼠的栖息地。附近是十八世纪所建的奥西恩（Ossian's Hall）厅，是在阿萨公爵的命令下而建的。后来该厅为了纪念麦克森（Macpherson）的作品而重新命名，麦克森声称他发现了三世纪时的诗人奥西恩（Ossian）久已失传的作品，这些作品都是以史诗的形式讲述了古老的凯尔特英雄的故事。

敦克尔德（Dunkeld）镇离爱丁堡不远。离开敦克尔德（Dunkeld）镇，我们进入美丽之城佩斯（Perth）。佩斯曾是Scone Palace的首府所在地。传说中的命运之石就躺在这片狭长的地带。命运之石是苏格兰国王在古老的加冕典礼仪式上所用的石头，后来在爱德华一世的指令下被偷到英格兰去了。

命运之石被偷走运到南方后，成为威斯敏斯特大教堂王位加冕典礼的一部分。1951年，一伙学习法律的苏格兰学生、苏格兰民族主义者和爱国者把它运到别处一段时间，之后则放在艾布洛夫（Arbroath）大教堂附近，又回到了伦敦。

1996年，在盛大隆重的欢迎仪式中，命运之石最终永远地回到了苏格兰，现在放在爱丁堡城堡中。

穿过福斯路桥，我们达到了我们行程的终点。大桥于1964年开通，横跨福斯河两岸。而位于福斯河上游的是雄伟的福斯铁桥，其悬架于1889年完工，1890年正式开始通行。不论你从哪个方向进入爱丁堡，都能看到通往亚瑟王宝座和爱丁堡城堡的路标。

2-DAY LOCH NESS, INVERNESS & THE HIGHLANDS

Day 1

Edinburgh to Inverness

Passing **Stirling**, to the right can be seen the mighty castle standing on its volcanic rock buttress and commanding the flood plain of the **River Forth**. Guarding the lowest crossing point of the river, it was a strategic point defending the main route to and from the Highlands. There have been fortifications on this site since at least the 11th C. Further to the right, towering over the town can be seen the **National Wallace Monument**. Built by public subscription in memory of one of Scotland's greatest heroes, **William Wallace**, it looks down from **Abbey Craig** on to the site of his famous victory over the numerically superior forces of **King Edward's Army** at the **Battle of Stirling Brig** in 1297.

Leaving **Stirling** the road eventually leads us across the **River Teith** and in to the town of **Doone**, famous for, among other things, **Deanston Malt Whisky** and the manufacture of weaponry: flintlock pistols and fine blades. It was also the site of cotton mills employing in excess of 2000 people at its height. On crossing the bridge, glance down river and you will see the imposing **Doone Castle**. Famous throughout history but mostly as a film location in Monty Python and The Holy Grail.

We continue our journey into the Highlands passing through the village of **Callander**, with its **Roman** camp and other historical connections. Its expansion as a tourist and commercial centre is owed to the Victorian love affair with the Highlands and with the steam railway revolution of the late 19th C.

Now we are passing through **The Trossachs** and the **Braes of Balquhiddy**, the stamping ground of **Rob Roy MacGregor**: hero or villain styled by some as Scotland's Robin Hood, depending on your perspective. He lived through turbulent times including three Jacobite Uprisings and a long-standing feud with the Marquis of Montrose. He is credited with giving us the term '**blackmail**': 'mail' being an old word for money and referring to the fees he extorted from local landowners and highland cattlemen following the old drove roads from the North to markets in the South.

Passing through **Crianlarich**, the main junction of routes between Glasgow, Stirling, and the North, we come to **Tyndrum**, once a major rail junction of the Highland Railway, one route heading west to **Oban** and the other northwards to **Fort William**; routes followed to this day by the roads.

Travelling close by **Glen Orchy** and through **Bridge of Orchy** the road rises to the uninhabitable desolation that is **Rannoch Moor** before descending to

the coast between the brooding might of the mountains of **Glencoe**. Glencoe - site of the infamous betrayal of age-old Highland traditions of hospitality to the weary traveller, when militia under the command of **Robert Campbell of Glenlyon**, on direct instructions of John Dalrymple, Secretary of State, and ultimately of **King William** himself, rose up and attempted the total massacre of their hosts, the **MacDonalds**,

Now it's on alongside **Loch Linnhe** and through **Fort William**. Its name was given to it when a Government fort, one of a string of such forts that was to stretch across the country all the way to **Inverness**, was established as a garrison to police the **Jacobite heartland** and to control the clans.

Sheltered at the foot of **Ben Nevis** is **Glen Nevis**. **Ben Nevis**, the highest mountain in Britain rises to its 1343 metres within just 6 km of the shoreline of **Loch Linnhe** at whose head it lies. It is this that gives **Fort William** its generous volume of annual rainfall and imparts lush green-ness to the glen. From here the pathway to the peak of Britain's highest mountain begins its precipitous climb.

It is also from here that the full looming majesty of **Ben Nevis** and the range that bears its name can be appreciated. Not as high as Alpine mountains, **Ben Nevis** lies on a more northerly latitude and the climate can be considered similar to Arctic regions. What appears a balmy sea breeze on the shores of **Loch Linnhe** may not infrequently transmute into 20-30 knots of chilling wind on the summit of the Ben!

The road now leads into the **Great Glen**; a geographical fault that virtually splits the country in two at this point and still remains an area of geological instability. The Glen is now characterised by its chain of lochs: **Loch Linnhe**, **Loch Lochy**, **Loch Oich**, and the world famous **Loch Ness** with its legendary alleged monster inhabiting its depths. The lochs are all linked by the **Caledonian Canal** and its many locks; built in the early 19thC by Thomas Telford.

On a hillside looking south to Fort William stands the impressive **Commando Memorial** by **Spean Bridge**; whose railway station would have received the brave young men coming here for their training and from there they took trains to fight in World War II.

Clans were never easy neighbours and inter-clan warfare was rife. On the banks of the lochs there allegedly took place what would seem to be probably the most bloody and pointless of any such confrontations: The **Battle of the Shirts** when a reputed 800-1000 men of two Highland clans fought a day long battle that left all but 12 men dead or injured on the field. Whilst on the roadside at **Invergarry** there stands the **Well of the Seven Heads**, erected in 1812 by the **Glengarry** chief, and yet another testament to the ferocity and savagery of inter-clan feuding. Here it was that the heads of the seven murderers of the family of **Keppoch** were washed in the well before being

presented to the Clan chief at **Invergarry Castle** in 1665!

Then it is on to the westernmost end of the Loch and the town of **Fort Augustus**: Once again, a product of the need for military control of **Jacobite** areas. Until recently it could also boast a monastery and, although the brethren may no longer occupy it, the monastery still stands a tranquil guardian at the foot of the ladder of locks leading in and out of **Loch Ness** at this point. It both educating and entertaining to see the many boats of all shapes and sizes negotiate this lock system.

At **Invermoriston** by the **River Moriston**, the natural beauty of the place almost hides yet another example of the work **Thomas Telford**, who, between constructing the **Caledonian Canal** and similar major feats of civil engineering, also found time to create more modest yet effective bridges such as that over the river here. Completed in 1813 it is one of many he built to improve the transport links throughout the country.

Driving along the banks of **Loch Ness**, on its northern shore, we soon come to **Castle Urquhart** on its dominating promontory still seeming to guard passage along **The Great Glen**, the Loch, and the shore. It is off this point that most of the sightings of '**Nessie**' have taken place. Although now a ruin, much of its structure remains and its impressive power and views over the loch amply repay a visit.

A little further and we pass through **Drumnadrochit** at the mouth of **Glen Urquhart**, nestling in a bay off of this most mysterious of lochs. Here it is that you will learn of the **Loch Ness Monster**. It is left to you to determine for yourself the fact from the fiction.

After **Loch Ness** with its magic and mystery it is a relatively short and uneventful journey to **Inverness** and our accommodation for the night.

Day 2

Inverness to Edinburgh

Departing our accommodation in **Inverness** after breakfast, our first stop is **Drumossie Moor**, better known as the **Battlefield of Culloden**, after the nearby village of that name; the site of the last major land-battle fought on British mainland soil. Here the **Jacobite** forces and their leader, **Prince Charles Edward Stuart**, were defeated by a much larger, better fed, and militarily superior **Hanoverian** army under the **Duke of Cumberland**. Outnumbered, out-gunned, and out-manoeuved the tactically limited Jacobite army never stood any realistic chance and the entire event lasted barely 40 minutes.

As battle turned to rout the pursuing **Hanoverian** cavalry summarily executed any surviving or merely suspected **Jacobites** on the roads back to Inverness whilst their infantry colleagues dealt similarly with any **Jacobite** wounded found lying on the field. This policy of 'no quarter' and the subsequent 'pacification of the Highlands'; the brutal suppression of the Clans; signalled the end of the traditional Highland Clan culture and the eventual **Highland Clearances** when people were forcibly evicted from their traditional homes and the land given over to sheep farming on an industrial scale. This brutal and tragic episode survives in history and its effects are best summed up in the name given to the Duke: **Butcher Cumberland**.

Returning to the A9, on the South edge of the moor, stand the prehistoric **Clava Cairns**, **Neolithic** constructions whose exact purposes are open to debate; being described by archaeologists as 'ritual' and meaning they don't know for certain what they were erected for!

Travelling south on the A9 our next stop might well be **Tomatin Distillery** where you will be offered the chance of '**a tour and a taste**'; a guided tour of this large malt distillery with its impressive array of 23 stills making it the largest in Scotland, is followed by a free taste of the product, and a chance to make your purchases in the Distillery shop, if you so choose.

Lunch will be taken in the **Aviemore** area. Created to be the Mecca of **Cairngorm** ski-ing it has grown to become a popular tourist, leisure, and conference venue.

Further south we might move off the main A9 and continue our journey along a more scenic route through the **Rothiemurchus Estate**. This will bring us to the beautiful **Loch an Eilean**, a photo opportunity and a chance to stroll along the Loch-side with its views of the ruined castle on its island.

Keeping to our scenic route we next come to **Ruthven Barracks**. Built to house a garrison as part of the policing of the Highlands on the orders of **General Wade**, it was completed in 1721. Sitting atop its defensive mound it is easy to see how it would have commanded the surrounding area and would

have appeared a safe haven for its occupants. It has stood in ruins since being set fire to by **Jacobite** forces during the 1745-6 uprising.

The nearby village of **Kingussie** is also the home of the **Highland Folk Museum**. A two location museum, the **Kingussie** part is home to interesting displays of artefacts, domestic and agricultural, and has examples of Highland homesteads, **Black Houses**, for you to explore (time permitting). Not on our tour because of the time needed to fully do it justice, but worthy of mention here, is the second site near **Newtonmore** where a major recreation of Highland life demands at least 2 hours to fully appreciate.

We pass the quaint pagoda roofed malting houses at **Dalwhinnie Distillery**, the highest malt distillery above sea level in Scotland, and you will also probably get the chance to spot the local **Shinty** pitches. **Shinty** is an ancient stick and ball game native to the Highlands and local derbys between **Kingussie** and **Newtonmore** are not for the timid or the faint-hearted, whether playing or spectating!

Back on the main A9 we are now en route for **The Hermitage** near **Dunkeld** with the chance of a brief comfort-stop at **Blair Atholl** where you will catch a glimpse of **Blair Castle**, ancestral home of the **Dukes of Atholl**, site of the last ever castle siege in Britain during the last **Jacobite** rising, and home of Britain's only legal private army.

The Hermitage is the site of wonderful woodland walks boasting examples of tree species from all around the world and habitat for a resident population of the native red squirrel. You may also visit 18thC **Ossian's Hall**, a 'folly' built on the orders of the **Duke of Atholl** and renamed in reference to the works of **Macpherson** who claimed to have discovered the lost works of 3rdC poet **Ossian**; epic tales of ancient **Celtic** heroes.

From there it is but a relatively straightforward journey towards Edinburgh, passing **Perth, The Fair City**, one-time capital and location of **Scone Palace**; long the site of the fabled **Stone of Destiny**, the ancient coronation stone of countless **Scots Kings**, before being stolen on the orders of **Edward I**.

The **Stone of Destiny**, having been stolen and taken south, remained part of the **Coronation Throne** in **Westminster Abbey**, save for when a group of Scots law students, nationalists and patriots, removed it in 1951, eventually turning up in the environs of **Arbroath Abbey** and being returned to **London**.

In 1996, amid great pomp and ceremony, it was finally permanently restored to Scotland and is now held in **Edinburgh Castle**.

We approach our journey's end by crossing the **Forth Road Bridge**; opened in 1964 it spans the Forth just upstream of the mighty **Forth Rail Bridge** whose cantilever construction was completed in 1889 and officially opened for traffic the following year. Coming into the city from almost any direction the landmarks of **Arthur's Seat** and **Edinburgh Castle** guide us.

