

LOCH LOMOND, THE TROSSACHS & STIRLING CASTLE

(INC GLASGOW CITY TOUR)

We first travel west through the old industrial heartland of Scotland to **Glasgow**, Scotland's largest city and industrial capital of the old British Empire. Passing through the city centre you will see the heart of the dynamic modern city and learn about its rise to greatness within Britain.

You should look for two of the city's most imposing structures as you pass: its **Cathedral** begun in the late 12thC and its **University** founded in 1451, making it the fourth oldest in the United Kingdom and the second oldest in Scotland, whose present massive neo-Gothic buildings, now so much a focal point of the city's skyline and silhouette, were built when the University relocated and its original home demolished in the 1870s to make way for railway development!

Continuing on we twice pass over the **River Clyde**:

Firstly via the **Kingston Bridge**, a vantage point from which you will gain spectacular views of the **Broomielaw**, the quayside from which so many emigrants departed their homeland for the New World and beyond, and from where, in much happier and later times, **Glaswegians** would depart on holiday day trips '**Doon the watter**' on pleasure steamers. From here also you can see the **Fairfield Crane**, the most visible remnant of the mighty shipyards that once lined the **Clyde** and once helped make it '**The Second City of the Empire**'.

But all is not past, this great city has a present and a future and in this briefest of glimpses you will still see ample evidence of **Glasgow's** resurgence as a major international business centre.

Secondly, we recross further downstream via the **Erskine Bridge** from where we get a splendid view of the ancient fortress at **Dunbarton** as we journey on to bonnie **Loch Lomond**, mainland Britain's largest expanse of fresh water, watched over by **Ben Lomond**, from which it takes its name.

Here you have the option of time spent on a cruise around the southern parts of the loch from **Balloch** as far as **Inchmurrin** or you may prefer to walk along the loch shores and through the beautiful conservation village of **Luss**, with its **11th C Viking Hog-backed gravestone** in the churchyard giving clear testimony of its much less peacefully intentioned early visitors!

Leaving Loch Lomond behind us we pass through villages and rich farmland to reach the town of **Aberfoyle**, the '**Gateway to the Trossachs**'. Often described as '**The Highlands in Miniature**', the **Trossachs** were traditionally held by the

MacGregors whose most famous son **Rob Roy** started life as a cattle drover before a feud with the **Duke of Montrose** led to him being 'outlawed'; the family's name eventually being banned altogether! Reputed acts of kindness to other put-upon locals earned him the name of '**Scottish Robin Hood**'. We'll also remember the dastardly Duke, as we climb up into the Trossachs on the twisting, turning **Duke's Pass**, the only road running right through these lands.

Driving through the old forests, past lochs (**Loch Venachar** and **Loch Achray**) and heather clad hills you will experience for yourself what it was like to be **Rob Roy**, on the run and hiding out in his beloved **Trossachs** to escape the clutches of the Duke's men.

This was the same land so beloved of **Sir Walter Scott** as inspiration for novels like **Rob Roy** and poems like **The Lady of the Lake**, and whose name is borne by a pleasure steamer on nearby **Loch Katrine** (from the Gaelic *cateran*, meaning "a Highland robber"!)

This is an area rich in history and legend, blessed with beautiful hills and forests, punctuated with many romantically set lochs, and leavened with curious place names; some of which we shall pass through, such as **Brig o' Turk** (which has absolutely nothing to do with anyone of that nationality!) and **Kilmahog** where we usually stop for a well-earned comfort stop, a coffee, but especially to make the acquaintance of a noted local character - **Hamish**, the **Heelan' Coo** - (he's male actually!)

Our next stop of the day is at the mighty **Stirling Castle**, royal home of the Stewart dynasty, known as the '**Key to the Kingdom**', its commanding position above the plain on which it stands, guarding what was, for centuries, the lowest crossing point of the **River Forth**, and bestriding the route between Highlands and Lowlands made it the most strategically important fortress in Scotland. You will have time to visit the castle, and hear of the exploits of men like **William Wallace**, **Robert Bruce - King of Scots**, **King James V** and **Bonnie Prince Charlie**.

The Castle, impressive enough in itself, is home to the Regimental Museum of one of our fearsome and illustrious Highland regiments, the **Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders**, as well as affording unparalleled panoramic views over the surrounding countryside: across the site of **Wallace's** victory at the **Battle of Stirling Brig** to the **National Memorial** to his memory on **Abbey Craig** beyond to the East and to the site of **Robert the Bruce's** victory at the **Battle of Bannockburn** on the Southern horizon. Whilst within walking distance there are fascinating historical and architecturally significant buildings well worth the visit: **Argyll's Lodgings**, the **Old Town Gaol**.

After our stay in **Stirling** it is a pleasant, relaxed trip that brings us back into **Edinburgh** for our Tour's end. On the way you will catch a glimpse of

Linlithgow Palace where **Mary, Queen of Scots**, was born in December 1542, and the **House of Binns**, where **General Sir Tam Dalyell** is said to have played cards against the Devil – and won!

You are then allowed a choice. We can turn off and travel across country to get a view of the twin impressive feats of engineering that are our two **Forth Bridges**: the one, a modern suspension **road bridge**, opened in 1964, and the other the mighty cantilevered marvel that is the **rail bridge**, opened in 1890, before entering **Edinburgh** from the North.

Or we can continue past the red shale **bings**, relics of the area's industrial past and testament to Scottish entrepreneurial skill, creativity and vision - the development of fuel oil manufacture by **James 'Paraffin' Young** – and back into **Edinburgh** from the West.

洛蒙德湖，特洛伊

萨许(TROSSACHS)山以及斯特灵堡

——格拉斯哥城市之旅

我们向西行进，穿过苏格兰的老工业中心，到达苏格兰地区最大的城市和旧时大英帝国的工业之都格拉斯哥。走在市中心，你会发现这是座充满活力的现代化城市，了解到她昔日是如何崛起，逐渐走向辉煌的。

在格拉斯哥，你可以欣赏到这个城市里最为宏伟壮观的两座建筑：一个是始建于12世纪晚期的圣蒙戈大教堂，一个是成立于1451年的格拉斯哥大学。这些建筑使得格拉斯哥成为苏格兰地区内第二大古城和英国国内第四大古城。苏格兰地区有很多新哥特式风格的建筑，构成了该城市主要的风景。这些建筑建于19世纪70年代。当时，为了给铁路建设让路，格拉斯哥大学也被拆除而选址另建。

接着，我们先后两次穿越克莱德河(River Clyde)。

首先是取道金斯敦桥(Kingston Bridge)穿越克莱德河。站在桥上，布鲁美乐的壮观景色尽收眼底。金斯敦桥的码头周围曾经聚满了离开家乡前往新大陆或更远地方的移民。也是从这个码头，在更幸福的近代里，格拉斯哥人乘着游乐艇开始他们的快乐假日之旅。站在金斯敦桥上，你可以看见费尔菲尔德·大吊车。这是昔日的大船坞厂留下来的最明显的标志。克莱德市遍布船坞，曾一度使得克莱德成为大英帝国的第二大城市。

但并非一切都已经是过往云烟，这个伟大的城市不仅拥有现在，也拥有未来。

即使是随便地观光，格拉斯哥城也会让你有足够的理由相信，作为一个重要的国际商业中心，她正在走上复兴之路。

然后，我们通过下游的厄金斯桥(Erskine Bridge)又回到克莱德河对岸去。在桥上，我们可以欣赏到丹巴顿(Dunbarton)古城堡的壮丽景观。我们接着前往美丽的洛蒙德湖(Loch Lomond)，该湖是英国大陆内最广阔的一片淡水水域，它因守望该湖的本·洛蒙德山而得名。

在洛蒙德湖，有两种游览方式可供选择。你可以乘船从巴勒赫远(Balloch)至因其姆瑞(inchmurrin)游览洛蒙德湖南部地区；或者沿着湖畔步行，穿过那个得以完整保存的美丽的卢斯(Luss)村。在村里教堂的墓地里，有许多11世纪的北欧海盗的墓碑，有力地证明了以前那些来访者肚里有鬼。

离开洛蒙德湖，我们穿过许多村庄和富饶的农场，来到了阿伯福伊尔(Aberfoyle)——这是去往托萨奇斯(特洛伊萨许(TROSSACHS))山的门户。素有“小高地”之美誉的托萨奇斯地区一直以来都为麦格雷戈家族所有。麦格雷戈家族最出色的儿子罗布·罗伊(Bob Roy)，原本是个牛贩，后来因为与蒙特洛斯公爵(Duke of Montrose)结怨，被迫亡命天涯。而且连家族的姓氏都被禁止使用！而罗布·罗伊因其对当地穷苦人的善行，被冠以“苏格兰罗宾汉”的美誉。当我们沿着曲曲折折的“公爵之路”(Duke's Pass)——唯一一条穿过这些土地的道路，爬上托萨奇斯山时，我们也会想起那个胆小如鼠的公爵。

开车穿过那些古老的树林，穿行于湖泊(Venachar湖和Achray湖)和开满石楠花的丘陵，你会亲身感受到罗布·罗伊(Rob Roy)当时的感觉：为避开公爵手下的追捕，在自己所钟爱的山中东躲西藏。

这里也是沃尔特·司各特爵士所钟爱的地方。这个地方给了他灵感，使他创作出了小说《罗布·罗伊》和诗歌《湖上夫人》。就在附近的卡特莱恩湖(Loch Katrine)上，还有一艘以他的名字命名的游乐艇——“司各特爵士号”。(在盖尔语黑帮的行话里，是“高地强盗”的意思！)

这是一片充满历史和传奇的土地，受上天的恩赐，有着美丽的山川和森林，浪漫天成的湖泊点缀其间，而令人好奇的地名更是增添了神秘美丽的氛围。我们会经过一些有着奇特名字的地方，像“土耳其双桅船”(Brig o' Turk)(其实根本和土耳其这个国家无关！当地语言野猪的意思)。还有克莫霍(kilmahog)，我们通常在那里停下来休憩一番，喝杯咖啡，特别是去结识一个当地赫赫有名的人物何美狮(其实它是头公牛！)

我们的下一站是雄伟的斯特灵堡。城堡曾是斯图尔特王朝的皇宫，被称作“通向王国的钥匙”。千百年来，城堡居高临下的位置使它得以守住福斯河最低的渡

口；同时它雄跨在高地与低地之间的道路上的位置又使它成为苏格兰地区战略上最重要的堡垒。你可以去参观一下这个古堡，还会听到很多英雄人物如威廉·华莱士（William Wallace）、苏格兰之王罗伯特·布鲁斯（Robert Bruce）、詹姆斯五世以及美王子查理等人的丰功伟绩。

古堡本身就已经令人叹为观止，而它同时又是著名的军服博物馆的所在地。在这里，你不仅可以看到令人敬畏的著名军团之一——阿盖尔和萨瑟兰军团（Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders）所用过的东西，还可领略到独一无二的周边乡村全景式的景观：从华莱士在斯特灵堡战役胜利（Battle of Stirling Brig）的遗址到苏格兰国家独立纪念碑（National Memorial），从东部艾比克莱格（abbey craig）的华莱士纪念碑到南部王罗伯特·布鲁斯在班诺克波恩（bannockburn）的战役胜利遗址，都可以一览无遗。出了斯特灵堡，走不了多远，又有一座值得一览的迷人建筑：那就是有着重大历史意义和建筑意义的阿盖尔的居所（Aegyll's）

离开斯特灵，一段宜人而又放松的旅程将把我们带到此次旅途的终点——爱丁堡。在途中，你能看到苏格兰女王玛丽1542年12月的出生地林利豪宫（Linlithgow Palace）；还能看到本斯故居（House of Binns），据说在那里塔姆戴利埃尔将军曾跟魔鬼打牌——居然赢了魔鬼！

接下来你有两个选择。第一个选择是我们离开现在这条路，穿过乡村，去欣赏一对建筑上的杰作两座福斯大桥：一个是设计现代的公路桥，于1964年开始通行；另一个是铁路桥，于1890年开始通行。参观完大桥以后，我们将从北部进入爱丁堡。

第二个选择是我们继续沿着这条路前进，观看红页岩堆。该地是昔日石蜡王詹姆斯·杨（James 'Paraffin' Young）开发燃油的遗址，见证了苏格兰人民的技能、创新和远见。之后，我们从西部返回爱丁堡。