



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

LOCH LOMOND, THE TROSSACHS & STIRLING CASTLE - Glasgow

We leave Glasgow on a motorway, past the airport before crossing high above the **River Clyde** on the Erskine Bridge – the Clyde has been extremely important to Scotland because of the thousands of ships that have been built there over the centuries.

Our first destination is **Loch Lomond**, one of Scotland's most famous and attractive lochs. Besides having the largest surface area of any loch or lake in Great Britain, Loch Lomond has attractive hills & mountains on both sides and also 38 islands. We will stop at the south end of the loch, in a small town called **Balloch** where you will have the opportunity of going on a one-hour trip* on the loch in a well-equipped cruise boat. For those who don't wish to go on the cruise, the driver can drive you up the west side of Loch Lomond to an attractive loch-side village called **Luss** where you can go for a short walk, enjoy stunning views across the loch or enjoy a coffee.

From Loch Lomond we travel towards an area of Scotland called the **Trossachs**, a beautiful wild region of lochs, mountains, rivers and forests - indeed the word Trossachs means 'wild area' in Gaelic, Scotland's ancient native language and which is still spoken by about 60,000 people. Soon we reach another small village called **Aberfoyle** where we will stop for lunch.

From here the road now goes uphill and is called the Duke's Pass as it was paid for by the Duke of Montrose and opened in 1885. Driving over the Duke's Pass we may stop for photos if the visibility is good before getting a glimpse of **Loch Drunkie**, and nearby.

We will now get our first view of the mountains before lovely **Loch Achray** comes into view - often there are Highland cattle in a field near the loch - very attractive animals with thick long coats and huge horns. As we drive around the loch we pass by a building that looks like a castle but was actually built as a hotel in 1849 when tourists started coming to the area.



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

We drive through a small village called **Brig o'Turk**, where our Queen Victoria stopped about 150 years ago for a meal and afterwards gave a gold sovereign to the landlady - her name was Muckle Kate ('Muckle' = big!) and then comes **Loch Venacher**, popular with fishermen and water-sports enthusiasts.

We now leave the Trossachs, drive through the small town of **Callander** and soon we come to the village of Doune. As we leave the village and cross over the river Teith, we get a good view to the right of **Doune Castle**, built in the 14thc. and impressively situated above the river. A very popular film called 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail' was filmed here in 1975.

We are now approaching **Stirling** with the **Wallace Monument** coming into view in the distance. It is 67 metres high and was built in the 1860's to commemorate our great freedom fighter, **William Wallace**, who defeated the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297 and was immortalised in the 1995 film 'Braveheart'. The battle took place on and beside an old wooden bridge over the river Forth, close to the hill (Abbey Craig) on which the monument stands.

Stirling was always known in days gone by as the 'Key to the Kingdom' because of its geographical position close to the centre of Scotland - it was said that to control Scotland in olden days, you had to control Stirling. You will have the chance to visit and explore **Stirling Castle*** which sits high on a large volcanic rock - the site has been fortified since ancient times although today's castle dates back mainly to the 15th, 16th & 17th centuries. The kings & queens of Scotland lived here during that period and it was not just a military base but also their home and it therefore has a palace, chapel, large banqueting hall & gardens as well as other buildings. It is well worth visiting and there are audio-guides available in several languages

A little to the south of Stirling we pass, on the left, the site of the **Battle of Bannockburn** where, in 1314, a Scottish army under **King Robert the Bruce** won a crucial victory against the English. A burn is a Scottish term for a small river and we will drive over the Bannock Burn.

We are now on our way back to Glasgow. On the way we will see a very impressive sculpture on the right. It is 10 metres high and is called Arria – it represents the mother of a Roman Emperor in the



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

second century called Antonine : at that time the Romans occupied part of Scotland and built a huge wall across the country that they named after him : there are some remains of the wall in this area.

Glasgow will come into view soon. It is the largest city in Scotland and the industrial heartland of the country although Edinburgh is the capital.

* This is an optional extra – the cost for this is not included in the price you have paid for the tour.