



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

Loch Ness – Inverness

We depart from Inverness and begin our journey south, travelling along the shoreline of Loch Ness, so keep watching out for Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster! The loch is 37 km long and is the second deepest in Scotland. There have been regular sightings of Nessie, the first recorded one being in 565. She is thought to be a plesiosaur and to be about 18 metres long with one large hump, a long neck (1.8 m) and a small head. There have been many scientific expeditions, some using mini-submarines and sonar, looking for evidence of our world-famous monster.

Our first stop of the day is Dochgarroch. Here you will have the option of taking a cruise* across Loch Ness, disembarking at Urquhart Castle, or stay aboard and travel the shoreline of Loch Ness, ending at Urquhart Castle* for a visit.

Urquhart Castle, large and ruined but still very impressive, is situated on the edge of Loch Ness. Built in the 13th c., it changed hands several times over the next 400 years and it is around here that Nessie has been seen most often. If you have chosen to take the cruise or visit the Castle, you will have the option of spending time here at the Castle and its visitor centre.

From Urquhart Castle, we travel further south, still following the shoreline of Loch Ness to Invermoriston, where we will visit Wades Bridge and St Columba's well. Around 565 AD, St Columba journeyed from the isle of Iona, up the Great Glen to visit the King of the Picts as part of his mission to convert the Picts to Christianity. Brude, the King of the Picts, reigned from 555-584 AD (roughly). We do not know where his seat of power was, but it was said to be near Loch Ness.

On his way to meet with Brude, St Columba is said to have founded a church at what is now known as Invermoriston, on the north-west shore of Loch Ness. The church is unfortunately long gone, however near its presumed site is a holy well said to have been blessed by the Saint, which is known as 'Saint Columba's Well'. Until his visit, the well was said to have been poisoned; Columba drove out the evil spirits infesting the well and the water immediately turned pure. From that point on it was considered to have healing properties; especially good for curing hangovers and infertility. Spend time to visit this holy well and perhaps you will experience the healing properties yourself!



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From the well, we will travel on to Fort Augustus for a spot of lunch and time to explore the village. The Gaelic name for the village is Cille Chuimein, and was renamed Fort Augustus after the Jacobite Rising of 1715. In the aftermath of the Jacobite rising in 1715, General Wade built a fort (taking from 1729 until 1742) which was named after the Duke of Cumberland. Wade had planned to build a town around the new barracks and call it Wadesburgh. The settlement grew, and eventually took the name of this fort. The fort was captured by the Jacobites in March 1746, just prior to the Battle of Culloden.

After lunch, we reach the southern-most point of Loch Ness, before we begin our journey back north, heading up the east side of Loch Ness and passing spectacular views we see Urquhart Castle from a different viewpoint. Our fifth stop of the day is the Fall of Foyers (Gaelic: Eas na Smuide, meaning 'smoking falls') is a beautiful waterfall at the small hamlet of Foyers on the quieter eastern side of Loch Ness. The falls are said to have a 165 ft drop and inspired the Scottish poet Robert Burns to write about them.

Afterwards, we head further north, for our last stop of the day at the lovely little village of Dores and its beautiful beach. Dores beach is a pebble beach that stretches across Loch Ness from the village of Dores to Torr Point and has some iconic views of the loch. We spend half an hour at the beach before we return to Inverness, disembarking at the bus station and bidding a fond farewell.

*Optional Extra. The cost for this is not included in the price of your tour.