



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

Isle of Skye from Inverness

We depart Inverness and begin our journey to the Isle of Skye; heading West towards Loch Ness for some Nessie-hunting! The Loch is 37 km long and the second deepest in Scotland. There have been over 1000 sightings of Nessie, the first recorded in 565 by St Columba. Nessie is thought to be a plesiosaur and to be 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 confirmation of our world-famous monster. We will stop at Invermoriston for time to view Loch Ness, visit Wades Bridge and St Columba's Well.

From Invermoriston we journey further Westwards passing the village of Invergarry and into a large uninhabited area, full of beautiful scenery and mountains, lochs and forests. On our way we pass Loch Garry, Loch Loyne and Loch Cluanie. We then travel through Glenshiel, one of the most breathtaking glens in Scotland, with mountains towering above us on both sides. Beyond the glen we reach Loch Duich, a sea-loch, and we now come to one of Scotland's most impressive & photogenic castles, Eilean Donan*.

The name means "Donan's island" in Gaelic (Donan was a 7th century holy man who lived on the tiny island) and the castle was built in the 13thc. to protect this part of the coast from Viking raids. It had a turbulent history and in 1719 it was almost completely destroyed by English warships. However, the castle was restored about 100 years ago by the Clan Macrae, who still own it, and you will have the chance to tour the castle either today or on your third day if you wish.

Not long after leaving the castle, the Skye Bridge comes into view and we cross over onto the island of Skye. The island is the second largest of the 700 islands off the coasts of Scotland, roughly 80km in length and with a very irregular outline caused by the ocean cutting into the land. The National geographic magazine has voted Skye as one of the world's top 5 islands.

Our next stop of the day is Sligachan for a brief photo stop. Legend states that the Lord of the Isles attacked Skye in 1395, but William MacLeod met the MacDonalds at Sligachan and drove them back



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to Loch Eynort, where they defeated them in battle. The scenery around here is particularly beautiful so don't forget to bring your camera!

We travel up the East coast of Skye to the island's largest town, Portree, where we will spend our lunch break. Enjoy plenty of time to explore the small harbour town and enjoy a bite to eat before our tour continues.

We will tour around the northern half of Skye, taking in some of the wonderful scenery and attractions the island has to offer. The following are some of the places your driver may stop at:

- Old Man of Storr A 50-metre-high basalt tooth of rock that sits below a mountain called the Storr.
- Lealt Falls A short walk takes in two waterfalls and at the end of the path, down on the shore, are the remains of the factory where a mineral called diatomite was processed, having been extracted from fossilised shells at a loch Cuithir a few km away.
- Kilt Rock Vertical black basalt columns & horizontal strata in the cliff-face have created a curious pleated effect like a kilt. There is also a waterfall where a small river plunges over the top of the cliff.

On our way back to mainland Scotland, we will take a short comfort break at the village of Broadford, before journeying on to the Kyle of Lochalsh for refreshments.

Our second last stop of the day is Loch Carron for Strome Viewpoint. The name Lochcarron is also applied to the collection of small settlements strung out along Loch Carron, a sea loch on the west coast of Ross and Cromarty. The village stretches for almost 2 miles, meandering along the shore of the loch. It means "Loch of rough water".

Our last stop of the day is Achnasheen (Gaelic: Achadh na Sine), a small village in Ross-shire. The village features many white washed cottages on the shore of Loch Carron in the Wester Ross region of Scotland. The area has an abundance of wildlife and breath-taking scenery and is a central



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location for hillwalking and touring the West Coast and Highlands, including Torridon, Plockton and Skye. Enjoy a short while in Lochcarron for refreshments and views over the loch.

We then begin the last part of our journey home to Inverness, passing Loch Luichart, Loch Garve and the Rogie Falls. We cross over the Kessoch Bridge to Inverness and wish everyone a fond farewell at Inverness Bus Station.

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