SCOTLAND’S HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS
9 Days | Lord of the Glens | 48 Guests | Expeditions in: Jun/Jul/Aug/Sep | From $8,340 to $14,240

Our ship is uniquely sized to navigate through the network of canals that lead through the heart of the Scottish countryside, and it can also sail the open water to explore the wild islands along the coast. Gain a holistic perspective of Scotland—and do it in grand style. Selected as a National Geographic Traveler magazine “Tour of a Lifetime” for its authenticity, immersion, sustainability, and connection, our Highlands and Islands expedition offers the most encompassing way to explore Scotland.

DAY 1-2: U.S./Inverness, Scotland/Embark
Fly overnight and arrive in Inverness. Board Lord of the Glens and settle into your cabin. Gather for a reception and dinner on board, and a performance by junior Scottish dancers. (Day 2: D)
DAY 3: Culloden/Clava Cairns/Loch Ness/Fort Augustus
Visit Culloden, the infamous battlefield where Bonnie Prince Charlie’s Jacobite forces were defeated in 1746. The battle was brief but bloody and decisive, with as many as 2,000 Jacobites killed or wounded. It had drastic consequences for the Scotland Highlands and was followed by the infamous Highland Clearances that saw the mass expulsion of Catholic clansmen from their homes, and in many cases, from their country. Our visit includes both the battlefield and the award-winning visitor center, the National Trust for Scotland’s flagship site. See the standing stones and passage tombs of Clava Cairns, dating from the early Bronze Age. The impressive structures of this sacred site were developed for over a thousand years. This afternoon, set sail on the Caledonian Canal, built between 1803 and 1822 to connect Loch Linnhe with the three other lochs that lie in the slip fault of the Great Glen. Enter Loch Ness, where you’ll learn about the legendary monster said to inhabit the loch. Ascend an impressive flight of locks that run through the heart of Fort Augustus to moor at the top of the village. Set out on a hike this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Laggan Locks/Corpach/Glenfinnan
Continue along the Caledonian Canal, ascending to 106 feet at Laggan Lock, after gliding along the tree-lined canal known as Laggan Avenue. Sail onward across picturesque Lochs Oich and Lochy before descending Neptune's Staircase, a set of eight interconnected locks dropping 64 feet to the sea loch at Corpach. From Corpach, drive to Glenfinnan to explore the spectacularly scenic location now famous for Harry Potter, or chose to explore Loch Linne by kayak from our moorings in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Loch Linnhe/Oban
Sail through Loch Linne to the town of Oban, set on a picturesque bay on the Firth of Lorn. There is time to explore this lively town on foot, visiting a whisky distillery and McCaig’s Folly, a monument on a hill overlooking the town and bay that was inspired by the Roman Colosseum. This evening, we have a whisky tasting onboard ship. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Sound of Mull/Iona/Duart Castle/Tobermory
Sail to the Isle of Mull, in the Inner Hebrides. Drive across Mull, then cross to Iona by ferry to explore this picturesque island. Explore the island, which is of vital historic importance. Saint Columba arrived here in 563 with twelve followers, built a church, and began the process of converting the peoples of the area to Christianity. Iona became famous as a place of learning and as a pilgrimage site. Visit the medieval abbey ruins and the rebuilt abbey church. Stroll through St. Oran’s Chapel and the royal graveyard where Scottish kings, including Macbeth, are buried.
On Mull, visit Duart Castle. The ancestral home of Clan MacLean—an impressive fortress (with a dungeon!) with dramatic views over the Sound of Mull—was built in the 13th century, and is still lived in by the MacLean family. Re-joining our ship, we sail the dramatic Sound of Mull for our overnight berth at the picturesque fishing community of Tobermory. This evening, we plan to meet with a member of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust to learn about their efforts to protect marine mammals in these waters. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: Tobermory/Isle of Eigg or Isle of Rum/Inverie
Sail north to either Eigg or Rum, depending on weather conditions. The islands have small populations of fewer than one hundred souls, but teem with wildlife. Look for marine animals and birdlife, including Atlantic seals, minke and humpback whales, dolphins, basking sharks and harbour porpoises, and one of the largest colonies of Manx shearwaters in northern Europe. If we visit Eigg, we’ll have the chance to walk or cycle around the island trails, enjoy views of the imposing crag of An Sgurr, and talk with the local residents. If we visit Rum, we’ll visit fanciful Kinloch Castle, completed in 1900 as the home of Sir George Bullough, who had purchased the island with money he had earned as a textile magnate. The castle is now managed by Scottish National Heritage.

Then sail to the tiny village of Inverie, where you can have a drink at the Old Forge, the most remote pub in the British Isles. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: Isle of Skye/Kyle of Lochalsh
Continue north to the Isle of Skye. At the Museum of the Isles, trace the legacy of the 1,300-year-old Clan MacDonald, the Lords of the Isles, who once ruled the west coast of Scotland. See the ruins of Armadale Castle, ancestral home of the MacDonalts, and take a walk through the beautiful woodlands and gardens.

Then sail for Kyle of Lochalsh. Set out on a guided walk on the Balmacara Estate, affording spectacular coastal and mountain views. Alternatively, explore nearby Eilean Donan Castle, which sits on a tidal island at the confluence of three lochs, and is connected by causeway to the mainland. A Jacobite stronghold, it was destroyed by government forces in 1719 but restored in the early 20th century.

Celebrate your voyage with a farewell dinner onboard. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: Kyle of Lochalsh/Disembark
/Inverness/U.S.
Disembark in Kyle of Lochalsh and drive through the highlands to Inverness. Then transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)
We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

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