

Luxury Castles of Scotland by Rail

From £2,899 per person // 10 days



Treat yourself to a fairytale holiday by rail and hire car, taking you through the beautiful scenery of Scotland with accommodation in stunning castle hotels along the way. Our suggested itinerary takes you through central Scotland, the Highlands and then back down to Edinburgh via the Ayrshire Coast.

The Essentials

- Travel in First Class from your local station to Glasgow and return
- Explore northern Perthshire from your castle base near Pitlochry
- Stay in a Highland hotel once favoured by Queen Victoria in Fort William
- Head down the Atlantic Coast to your breathtaking Ayrshire retreat

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- First Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 9 days' car hire (economy) from Edinburgh
- 9 nights' handpicked castle hotel accommodation with breakfast
- A rail map of Scotland
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, hotel vouchers and other documentation
- All credit card surcharges and complimentary delivery of your travel documents

PLEASE NOTE: All castle hotels featured have a limited number of rooms available. However, there are many beautiful castle hotels in Scotland to choose from so we can tailor a holiday with other properties if necessary.

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Glasgow

This morning, take the train from London Euston (or your local station) north to Glasgow, travelling in First Class. On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel (or similar). Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Glasgow, taking in sights such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Mackintosh House (a reconstruction of the private home of Art Nouveau architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh) and the Botanic Gardens.



Day 2 - Glasgow To Pitlochry

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning and then head back to the station to collect your hire car. Your first drive to Pitlochry is only just over an hour and a half so you have plenty of time to meander north, perhaps taking in the views from the Wallace Monument just outside Sterling as you go. On arrival in Pitlochry, make your way to Fonab Castle Hotel, just outside town, where you have a 2-night stay. Settle into your room here and perhaps take advantage of on-site facilities including an indoor swimming pool, luxurious spa and a choice of two restaurants. You might also like to enjoy afternoon tea with views over Loch Faskally and the peak of Ben Vrackie.



Day 3 - Pitlochry And Around

Pitlochry is a popular destination in the Highlands of Perthshire, straddling both banks of the River Tummel. Use your hire car to explore the local area but don't miss the opportunity to explore on foot too if you can. The famous 'Queen's View' (named after Queen Victoria) over Loch Tummel can be accessed by car but there are plenty of walking trails for all abilities starting from here. More ambitious walkers may like to scale the local peaks of Ben Vrackie or Schiehallion for breathtaking panoramas over the surrounding peaks and Rannoch Moor. You may also like to visit the Atholl Palace Museum, charting the history of the grand Atholl Palace, once a Victorian hydropathic establishment and now a stunning hotel which is now another option for your stay in the Pitlochry area.



Day 4 - Pitlochry To Fort William

It's only a 90-minute drive from Pitlochry to Fort William on the fastest route, so you might like to take a few scenic detours and explore more of the Cairngorms National Park or pay a visit to Urquhart Castle, overlooking Loch Ness. Along the route, there's also the famous Dalwhinnie Whisky Distillery, where you can enjoy tours and tastings. On arrival in Fort William, head for Inverlochy Castle, where you have a 3-night stay. Queen Victoria spent a week at this 19th century castle and declared 'I never saw a lovelier or more romantic spot'. Facilities at the hotel include an award-winning restaurant and the possibility for outdoor pursuits including clay-pigeon shooting, fishing, tennis and cycling.



Days 5 & 6 - Fort William

Largely unchanged in structure since its development in the 13th century, Inverlochy Castle sits in the shadow of the mighty Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak at a height of 4,413 ft. During your stay, you might like to visit the Ben Nevis Whiskey Distillery, hike around beautiful Glencoe or take the stunning Glen Etive road just south of Glencoe which takes you down 12 miles of single-track road to the banks of Loch Etive, a huge saltwater loch which connects to the sea north of Oban. On one of your free days, you'll enjoy a day trip (travelling in First Class) on the famous Jacobite steam train, which takes you along the famous West-Highland line, across the Glenfinnan Viaduct to the fishing village of Mallaig, just across from the Isle of Skye.



Day 7 - Fort William To Ayrshire

After breakfast this morning, it's time to leave Fort William and make the 4-hour drive south to the Ayrshire Coast. Your route takes you through Glencoe and along the banks of Loch Lomond. You can make a day of it and stop for a cruise or photo opportunities in the stunning Trossachs National Park or have lunch in the pretty resort town of Ayr. Further down the coast, you can visit the majestic clifftop Culzean Castle or stretch your legs along Girvan Beach before you turn off the A77 onto a single track road which will take you to Glenapp Castle, your home for the next 3 nights.



Days 8 & 9 - Ayrshire

Completed in 1870 and opened as a hotel in 2000, Glenapp is one of Scotland's finest castle hotels. In a prime, remote location on the Ayrshire coast, the castle boasts spectacular views across to the Isle of Arran and Ailsa Craig. Out and about, you can take a coastal hike, visit one of the many castles in the area, find out more about Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, who was born in the area or take in a round of golf at a choice of nearly 50 courses. A short ferry ride across the Firth of Clyde will take you to the unspoilt islands of Arran or Cumbrae.



Day 10 - Ayrshire To London Via Glasgow

Leave your last hotel this morning and take the 3-hour drive back to Glasgow. You can drop your car off at the station before boarding a rail service which will take you back to London. Alternatively, if you'd like to add a couple of nights in Edinburgh to your stay, why not take the train here instead? We can add travel and accommodation to your package – please call for details and prices.

Pricing

From £2,599 per person

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on First Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.