



Discovering Our Planet Together



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



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Trip Details:

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Days
9 Days /
Apr-Jul,
Sep-Oct

Price
From
\$12995

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Scotland has long held a wild allure in Britain. Its heather-clad Highlands and far-flung Western Isles have drawn adventurous travelers for centuries. In summer, days stretch toward nearly perpetual light, nurturing a flurry of life in the Hebrides Isles off Scotland's northwest coast. Millions of seabirds nest in some of the largest rookeries in the world, while whales, seals and dolphins feed in clear Atlantic waters warmed by the Gulf Stream. Exploring the coves and cliffs of the Outer Hebrides, we also find remnants of ancient human presence, from Iron Age stone forts to embellished Celtic crosses. Inland, explore native Caledonian pine forest, heathered moors and silver lochs of the rugged Highlands, home to elusive wildlife including the magnificent Scottish red deer. In mystical Scotland, the wild still reigns in Europe!

Trip Highlights

Discover Scottish nature with expert naturalists—look for whales and dolphins on private boat cruises, and scout for red deer, pine marten, river otters and sea eagles

From the Isle of Skye, head to the Outer Hebrides on Scotland's far Atlantic edge—Harris and Lewis are a rare inclusion, where rural life is steeped in tradition

Enjoy a nature immersion on this stunning 42-mile rail journey through glens, lochs and Britain's highest mountains, crossing the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Day 2

Private Loch Ness Cruise / Loch
Lochy

Day 3

Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart
Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise /
Isle of Skye

Day 4

Isle of Skye—Loch Coruisk & Sleat
Peninsula Hiking

Day 5

Isle of Skye—Trotternish Ridge /
Tarbert, Harris

Day 6

Isle of Harris / Private Shiant Isles
Seabird Cruise

Day 7

Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing
Stones / Contin

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Itinerary

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

Day 1: Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Our Scotland nature adventure begins in Inverness, the largest city and cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. From Inverness, a transfer is included to our historic country house hotel located just outside the village of Contin, about a 30-minute drive. Coul House, a grand stone manor house built in 1821, is the centerpiece of the Coul estate established by the Mackenzie clan in 1560. Gather for an orientation and welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader this evening.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Canoeing at Glen Affric / Farewell Event

Day 9

Inverness / Depart

Day 2: Private Loch Ness Cruise / Loch Lochy

It's just a short drive this morning to the Great Glen, passing dramatic vistas of Highland peaks and valleys to arrive at famous Loch Ness, one of the largest and deepest freshwater lakes in Britain. Aboard a private high-speed RIB boat, cruise the silver loch, pausing for a panorama of ruined Urquhart Castle on a rocky promontory above the water's edge—one of Scotland's largest medieval fortresses. Of course, we hope for a glimpse of the furtive Nessie, the water monster of legend that is the subject of more than a thousand eyewitness accounts. We're more likely, however, to spy nesting ospreys, eagles and waterfowl. Continue to Loch Lochy for an afternoon hike, exploring the shoreline and forests that blanket the steep mountains rising above the narrow lake. Then it's time to check in to our lodge, an isolated Highland retreat on the shore of Loch Lochy, offering cozy ambience and glorious views.

Day 3: Jacobite Steam Train / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Boat Cruise / Isle of Skye

Drive a short distance to Fort William this morning where we board the Jacobite steam train with passage to Mallaig. This magnificent 42-mile one-way journey begins near Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis, and crosses the 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct (made famous as the route of the "Hogwarts Express" in the Harry Potter films) which overlooks Loch Shiel. Our rail trip concludes at Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe.

Once we disembark at Mallaig, board a private boat for a cruise along the Knoydart Peninsula among some of the wildest landscapes in Scotland. Sandwiched between Loch Nevis and Loch Hourn in the West Highlands, the peninsula forms the northern part of what is traditionally known as "The Rough Bounds," due to the region's harsh terrain and remote nature. Knoydart is also known as "Britain's Last Wilderness," renowned for its rugged grandeur and tranquility. As we follow the craggy coast, often wreathed in clouds, keep an eye out for abundant sea life—we may see otters, dolphins, porpoises, minke whales, gray and common seals basking on rocks, and seabirds, including the majestic sea eagle. We break for lunch at the most remote pub on mainland Britain—The Old Forge, in the small village of Inverie on the south shore of the Knoydart peninsula. The building was originally built as a cottage in the 1770s, later becoming a smiddy's forge, then today a beloved community-owned pub. Our skipper then whisk us across Loch Hourn, the most fjord-like of Scotland's sea lochs, to Armadale on the Isle of Skye where we transfer to our hotel on the Sleat Peninsula, the southernmost section of the island.



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Day 4: Isle of Skye—Loch Coruisk & Sleat Peninsula Hiking

More wild Scottish scenery is in store as we explore Isle of Skye. The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, Skye is known for its dramatic mountains, narrow lochs, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Weather permitting, this morning we'll take a short ferry ride to Loch Coruisk—a jewel of fresh water that sits within a ring of dark volcanic peaks. Our focus turns next to the Sleat Peninsula, a lesser-known part of the island often called "the garden of Skye" for its soft, green landscape. In contrast to more stark and rocky terrain elsewhere, here, lush vegetation meets the rugged shoreline and white sand beaches. Several hiking options await, all of which invite us to keep one eye on the sky in search of white-tailed sea eagles and the other on the sea, as we look for marine life including otters, seals, whales and dolphins. The peninsula is also one of the strongest Gaelic-speaking areas on the isle, with more than a third of residents using the ancient Celtic language.

Day 5: Isle of Skye—Trotternish Ridge / Tarbert, Harris

Today we make our way north across the Isle of Skye and on to Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Stop for scenic vistas of the jagged Cuillins Mountains and take a walk in the hills before breaking for lunch in Portree, the capital of Skye. Overlooking a sheltered bay, this picturesque village is famous among photographers for its row of pastel-colored houses lining the harbor. Continuing north, we stop to admire several geological landmarks on the Trotternish Ridge, a rugged high escarpment. The Old Man of Storr, visible for miles, is a prominent rock pinnacle overlooking the sea from a steep mountainside. Kilt Rock is a 300-foot-high wall of towering columnar basalt, its multi-coloured hexagonal pillars resembling the pleats of a tartan kilt. The Quiraing may be grandest of all, formed by a massive landslide on the ridge that created high cliffs, terraced plateaus and sharp rock outcrops. At the port town of Uig, board the ferry to Tarbert on the Isle of Harris, cruising in the gleaming light of evening. We'll have dinner onboard the ferry before arriving at our hotel in the heart of this small harborside town.



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Day 6: Isle of Harris / Private Shiant Isles Seabird Cruise

Lying on the far northwest edge of Scotland in the Outer Hebrides, the Isle of Harris is a windswept landscape of mountains and moorlands, crofts, lochs, meadows and white sand beaches fronting the turquoise North Atlantic. Its craggy coast, defined by cliffs and secret coves, offers nesting habitat for myriad seabirds. In high summer, discover the wildflower meadows that burst into color on the machair, a sparse veneer of green atop the sand. The single-lane "Golden Road" winds along the east coast of Harris among miniature fjords and tiny hamlets with Viking and Gaelic names. A highlight today is a private boat trip to the Shiant Isles, one of the world's most famous seabird colonies. Located between Skye and Lewis, these columnar basalt islands are known in Gaelic as Na h-Eileanan Seunta, or the "Enchanted Isles." Though this tiny island group is uninhabited by humans, it is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including a quarter-million puffins—2% of the entire global population. Some 7% of all razorbills in the U.K. also breed here, along with colonies of guillemots, cormorants, shags and great skuas. We often see seals lounging on the rocks, too.

Sept/Oct departures only: Fall trips typically will not visit the Shiant Islands, since the seabirds will have departed by this time. Instead, a private boat cruise will offer an alternate route, tracing the rugged Harris coastline east of Tarbert Marina, passing several remote and deserted villages, with views of the Shiant Isles offshore. As we cruise, scour the waves in hopes of seeing dolphins and whales from the boat before returning to our hotel for teatime.

Day 7: Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Contin

This morning we head north to explore Lewis, which is actually connected by land to Harris, with the two island portions divided by a mountain range. Along the way, we pass through traditional rural settlements and stop at a weaving shop where world-famous Harris tweed is produced. We have an exclusive opportunity to chat with a local artisan who weaves the renowned woolen fabric, which has been made by individual weavers in their homes on Harris and Lewis since 1846.

Next, we visit one of Scotland's most intriguing archaeological sites, the Callanish Standing Stones. This 5,000-year-old ring of 13 gneiss pillars is arranged in a cruciform pattern around a 14-foot central monolith. Erected on the west coast of Lewis in the late Neolithic era, predating Stonehenge, the stones were a focus for ritual activity during the Bronze Age. Several other stone circles, arcs and alignments are also visible from the main site. Historians estimate the site was abandoned around 1,000 B.C. and ultimately buried beneath a thick layer of peat turf, not unearthed until 1857. We also visit a museum dedicated to historic crofting life in the Hebrides—small-scale farming and food production—before continuing to Stornoway, where we board the ferry back to the mainland. The 2.5-hour crossing is an opportunity to look for dolphins and whales from the observation deck. On arrival in Ullapool, return to Coul House Hotel where our journey began.



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Day 8: Canoeing at Glen Affric / Farewell Event

Head deep into the glen for a canoeing excursion this morning, offering an intimate perspective on the rugged beauty of the Highlands. We paddle the gentle Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin within the Glen Affric Nature Reserve, home to ancient native Caledonian pinewoods. The region is home to red deer, pine marten, golden eagles and osprey, which we may spy flying overhead. This afternoon, gather with the group for a special festive farewell event. Afterward, return to Coul House to prepare for early morning departures.

Day 9: Inverness / Depart

After breakfast, transfer to Inverness to meet departing flights.



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Accommodation Details:

[Coul House Hotel](#)

[Hotel Hebrides](#)

[The Whispering Pine Lodge](#)

[Duisdale House Hotel](#)

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/europe/scotland-adventure/accommodations

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Accommodations

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Coul House Hotel

Built in 1821 by the aristocratic Mackenzie family, this elegant stone manor house in a secluded rural setting offers intimate accommodations and fine locally sourced Scottish cuisine.



Hotel Hebrides

An ideal base from which to explore the Hebrides, this boutique hotel in Tarbert on the Isle of Harris features contemporary guest rooms with paintings by an acclaimed local artist.



The Whispering Pine Lodge

Originally a hunting lodge in the 1800s, this restored boutique hotel enjoys an isolated Highland setting with lake access and woodland trails, warm rooms with dark woods and tartan accents, plus locally sourced fine dining.



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Duisdale House Hotel

Originally an 1865 hunting lodge built for Clan Macdonald, this restored mansion is a contemporary boutique hotel with elegant rooms and stunning sea and garden views.



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See Scottish Nature as Only Nat Hab Will Show You!

While Scotland's cultural heritage and most famous natural sites have long been popular tourism destinations, our focus is on Scotland less discovered, less known, less crowded and more remote—the Nat Hab way!

1 Experience Scotland off the Crowded Tourist Track

Our exclusive itinerary takes you to remote wild places few experience, from Europe's largest seabird rookeries to vast tracts of forest home to red deer and endangered (and virtually unseen) Scottish wildcat—plus prehistoric and Celtic sites that reveal Scotland's ancient cultural history. Several private cruises in less-visited locales offer encounters with marine mammals and abundant seabirds. You won't find these destinations on standard Scottish tour routes!

2 Two Private Wildlife Cruises Off the Knoydart Peninsula & Isle of Lewis

Two private chartered boat excursions provide opportunities to look for abundant marine life amid the rugged scenery of the Knoydart Peninsula in the West Highlands, and in the Outer Hebrides. Weather permitting, from Lewis we visit the uninhabited Shiant Isles, known for their spectacular puffin colonies. (Note, however, that September departures do not visit the Shiant Isles, as the seabirds have moved on—instead, we'll cruise along the intricate coast of Harris.)

3 Ride the Famous Jacobite Steam Train

Our journey through the Western Highlands includes this notable rail line from the heights of Ben Nevis down to sea level at Loch Nevis—which includes the stunning 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films.

4 Visit a Native Forest Restoration Project

Enjoy a special presentation at Trees for Life, a rewilding project that seeks to restore the globally unique Caledonian forest that once covered much of interior Scotland. This is a Nat Hab philanthropy project, and guests will have a chance to make an optional contribution toward our own grove restoration project.

5 A Small Group for Intimate Nature Encounters

Unlike typical coach tours, our nature adventure is limited to *just 12 guests*. Our small group size allows exclusive access to secluded hikes and walks, privately chartered small boats, watching wildlife without disturbing it, and true serenity in nature. With our high guide-to-guest ratio, we can tailor daily activities to travelers' personal interests and physical ability levels, impossible to do with a larger group.



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6 Small, Distinctive Accommodations with Local Character

Our small group size allows us to choose authentic inns noted for their history, atmosphere and special locations near small villages and close to nature. No large, impersonal chain hotels for us!

7 The World's Finest Naturalist Guides

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders have years of experience and training, including resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides than those who work with us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! [See Expedition Leader bios](#) with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

8 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Scotland Experience

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

9 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

10 Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



**Dates & Pricing
Summary:**

Prices:
From \$12995

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Dates, Pricing & Info

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Apr 26, 2026	May 4, 2026	\$13395 USD <u>Habitat Club Pricing Available</u>
May 10, 2026	May 18, 2026	\$13395 USD
May 24, 2026	Jun 1, 2026	\$13395 USD
May 31, 2026	Jun 8, 2026	\$13395 USD
Jun 7, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	\$13395 USD



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Departure	Return	Notes
Jul 5, 2026	Jul 13, 2026	\$13395 USD
Jul 19, 2026	Jul 27, 2026	\$13395 USD
Sep 6, 2026	Sep 14, 2026	\$13395 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Sep 20, 2026	Sep 28, 2026	\$12995 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Oct 4, 2026	Oct 12, 2026	\$13395 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Oct 11, 2026	Oct 19, 2026	\$12995 USD
Oct 18, 2026	Oct 26, 2026	\$12995 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Apr 25, 2027	May 3, 2027	\$13695 USD
May 2, 2027	May 10, 2027	\$13695 USD
May 9, 2027	May 17, 2027	\$13695 USD
May 16, 2027	May 24, 2027	\$13695 USD
May 30, 2027	Jun 7, 2027	\$13695 USD



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Departure	Return	Notes
Jun 6, 2027	Jun 14, 2027	\$13695 USD
Jun 13, 2027	Jun 21, 2027	\$14095 USD
Jun 20, 2027	Jun 28, 2027	\$13695 USD
Jul 4, 2027	Jul 12, 2027	\$14095 USD
Jul 18, 2027	Jul 26, 2027	\$13695 USD
Sep 5, 2027	Sep 13, 2027	\$14095 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Sep 12, 2027	Sep 20, 2027	\$13695 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Sep 19, 2027	Sep 27, 2027	\$13695 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Sep 24, 2027	Oct 3, 2027	\$14995 USD <u>Photo Expedition</u>
Sep 26, 2027	Oct 4, 2027	\$13695 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>
Oct 1, 2027	Oct 10, 2027	\$14995 USD <u>Photo Expedition</u>
Oct 3, 2027	Oct 11, 2027	\$13695 USD <u>Fall Foliage Season</u>



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Departure	Return	Notes
Oct 8, 2027	Oct 17, 2027	\$14995 USD <u>Photo Expedition</u>
Oct 15, 2027	Oct 24, 2027	\$14995 USD <u>Photo Expedition</u>



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Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/europe/scotland-adventure/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, one-way journey aboard the Jacobite Steam Train, private charter cruises to Moray Firth, Loch Ness, Knoydart Peninsula, and the Shiant Isles, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, most gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Important Information About This Trip

Our Scotland journey is different from most, deliberately taking you away from more crowded areas and into wilder locales that unveil Scotland's rich natural history and cultural traditions. Accordingly, we stay in authentic, smaller-scale accommodations in less-traveled locations. While they are very comfortable, rooms are often a bit less spacious than those typically found in North America. But whatever we may forsake in space, we more than make up for in setting, surrounded by nature amid Scotland's most awe-inspiring sights. Please be prepared to spend time outdoors in unpredictable weather, which may include heavy rain and wind—or perfect sunshine.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Inverness. **You must arrive in Inverness by 2 pm on Day 1** in order to attend a welcome orientation and dinner. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels will be included in your pre-departure materials.

You may depart Inverness at any time on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



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Extension Details:

The Cotswolds: Exploring English Nature
\$10995

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands Extensions

Explore Rugged Coast, Ancient Forest & Windswept Moors in Britain's Last Great Wilderness



The Cotswolds: Exploring English Nature

Wander ancient beech forests and wildflower meadows, follow hedgerows and trout-filled streams, tour private gardens and meet artisan food producers, in an idyllic landscape with a focus on native habitats and conservation.

\$10995



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.