



Discovering Our Planet Together



Wild Scotland Photo Expedition

A Rare Photography Adventure in the Remote Highlands & Hebrides



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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days /
Apr–May,
Sep–Oct

Price
From
\$14995

Wild Scotland Photo Expedition

A Rare Photography Adventure in the Remote Highlands & Hebrides

Photograph Scotland's wildest realms on a journey that gets you far afield of conventional destinations. Delve deep into rugged mountains, ancient pine forests, windswept moors and the outermost coast of Europe. Capture moody mountain profiles and gleaming lochs, each vista more arresting than the next. On this singular itinerary, discover remote, lesser-known destinations like the Knoydart Peninsula, Torridon Hills and Wester Ross UN Biosphere Reserve. Yet we don't bypass iconic subjects you expect, including 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle, Trotternish Ridge and the Quiraing on the Isle of Skye, and the Jacobite Steam Train crossing the magnificent 21-span Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Scottish Highlands. Add luxury boutique accommodations secluded in nature, and there's simply no more compelling encounter with Scotland for photographers than this impeccably crafted foray into its most dramatic western landscapes.

Trip Highlights

On this immersion in Scottish nature, capture Britain's most striking landscapes, seek shots of red deer, river otters and sea eagles, and look for whales, dolphins and seals on a private boat cruise

Ferry to the Outer Hebrides on Scotland's Atlantic edge for shoots at Luskentyre Beach, the 5,000-year-old Callanish Standing Stones, and scenes of traditional crofting life

From the Old Man of Storr to Eilean Donan Castle, brooding sentinel on a tidal island, plus the Jacobite train belching steam as it crosses Glenfinnan Viaduct, we make sure to include iconic subjects, too



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Day 2

Glen Affric National Nature Reserve / Loch Lochy

Day 3

Glenfinnan Viaduct / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Wildlife Cruise / Isle of Skye

Day 4

Isle of Skye—Sleat Peninsula / Eilean Donan Castle

Day 5

Isle of Skye—Trotternish Ridge / Isle of Harris

Day 6

Isle of Harris / Golden Hour at Luskentyre Beach

Day 7

Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Crofting Museum / Glen Torridon

Wild Scotland Photo Expedition Itinerary

A Rare Photography Adventure in the Remote Highlands & Hebrides

Day 1: Inverness, Scotland / Contin

Arrive 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. The property's formal gardens and arboretum full of exotic trees make for fine photographic opportunities from the moment we arrive. This evening, gather for an orientation and welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Wester Ross & Loch Maree /
Whisky Tasting / Highland Cow
Photo Shoot

Day 9

Wester Ross Landscape
Photography / Classic Scottish
Ceilidh

Day 10

Torrison / Inverness / Depart

Day 2: Glen Affric National Nature Reserve / Loch Lochy

Head deep into Glen Affric where we find some of the most scenic landscapes in the Highlands. A walk beside the tranquil waters of Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin, in the heart of Glen Affric National Nature Reserve, leads us through fragments of rare Caledonian pinewood—remnants of Scotland's ancient forest, now the center of ambitious rewilding efforts. Here amid twisted old growth trees and the scent of resin and heather, opportunities for wide-angle landscape shots and intimate portraits of this rare and special habitat are revealed with every step. Streams tumble into clear lochs, and waterfalls gleam against a backdrop of the rugged peaks of the western Highlands. The region is home to red deer, pine marten, golden eagles and osprey, which we may spot flying overhead.

Continue to Loch Lochy, a long, narrow ribbon of water hemmed in by steep forested slopes. An afternoon hike along its shoreline reveals both the stillness of hidden bays and the drama of mountains plunging straight to the water's edge. As day gives way to evening, retreat to our lakeside lodge, a secluded haven on Loch Lochy's shore, where the warmth of the hearth and sweeping Highland views offer a rewarding close to the day.



Day 3: Glenfinnan Viaduct / Knoydart Peninsula—Private Wildlife Cruise / Isle of Skye

Drive the short scenic route along the Great Glen to Fort William and into Glenfinnan, pursuing one of Scotland's most iconic images along the way: the Jacobite Steam Train crossing the gently curving 21-arched Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous as the route of the "Hogwarts Express" in the Harry Potter films. We'll hike up the hillside to position ourselves for the perfect shot, anticipating the train's path over the elegant span, steam billowing from the locomotive.

Continue west through more glorious Highland scenery to Mallaig, a small port town on Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe. Here, we 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 known as "Britain's Last Wilderness," renowned for its rugged grandeur and tranquility. As we follow the craggy coast, often wreathed in clouds, look 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, which can only be reached by boat or on foot. The building was originally a cottage in the 1770s, later becoming a smiddy's forge, and today a beloved community-owned pub. Our skipper then whisks 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—Sleat Peninsula / Eilean Donan Castle

The largest island in the Inner Hebrides archipelago, Skye is known for its dramatic mountains, narrow lochs, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles. Today's focus is the Sleat Peninsula, a lesser-known part of the island. It's often called "the garden of Skye" for its soft, green landscape—in contrast to more stark and rocky terrain elsewhere—with lush vegetation that meets the rugged shoreline and white sand beaches. Short hikes reveal varied photo prospects as we keep one eye on the sky in search of white-tailed sea eagles and the other on the sea, looking 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.

The Sleat Peninsula is dominated by views of the brooding Black Cuillin, one of the most famous mountain ranges in Western Europe, and we find various viewpoints from which to photograph the sharp peaks in all their splendor. Weather permitting, we'll take a short ferry ride to Loch Coruisk, a gorgeous jewel of fresh water that sits within a ring of dark volcanic peaks. On a hike from the jetty to the shore of the loch, whose name means "cauldron of waters," capture dramatic views against the backdrop of the Black Cuillin, which is often wreathed in mist.

This evening, we cross briefly back to the mainland to photograph Eilean Donan Castle, one of the most famous sights in Scotland. The 13th-century fortification is situated on an island where three great sea lochs meet. It lay in ruins for nearly 200 years after a Jacobite uprising in 1719 but was restored to its former glory after the island was purchased by a member of the MacRae clan in 1911. We plan our visit for dusk, when the low light best captures the moody facade.

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

Today is devoted to photographing more of the dramatic landscapes on Skye as we make our way across the island and on to the Outer Hebrides. We'll make numerous stops, punctuated with short walks to the best viewpoints of our subjects, including the jagged Cuillins Mountains. Break 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'll shoot several geological landmarks on 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-colored hexagonal pillars resembling the pleats of a tartan kilt. The Quiraing is the grandest of all, formed by a massive landslide on Trotternish Ridge that created high cliffs, terraced plateaus and sharp rock outcrops. Once we reach the port town of Uig on the northwest edge of Skye, 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.



Day 6: Isle of Harris / Golden Hour at Luskentyre Beach

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 North Atlantic Ocean. Its craggy coast, defined by cliffs and secret coves, offers nesting habitat for myriad seabirds. 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 of our time on Harris is a golden-hour shoot at famed Luskentyre Beach. Despite its renown, we may be virtually alone here, as few tourists make it to the outer edge of Scotland. This 3-mile expanse of pristine white sand, backed by a stretch of dunes, will have you thinking you’re in the South Pacific, not far-north Britain. The water is as transparent as crystal, and depending on the weather and time of day, the color of the sea may shift from pale aqua to vibrant turquoise or deep teal.

Day 7: Isle of Lewis—Callanish Standing Stones / Crofting Museum / Glen Torridon

Rise early this morning and drive north to Lewis, which is actually connected by land to Harris, with the two island portions divided by a mountain range. Our first stop is 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.

Exploring more of Lewis, we pass through traditional rural settlements and stop at a weaving shop where world-famous Harris tweed is produced. We’ll chat with a local artisan who weaves the renowned woolen fabric, which has been made by individual weavers on foot-pedaled looms in their homes on Harris and Lewis since 1846. We also visit a museum dedicated to historic crofting life—small-scale farming and food production, to photograph the traditional “blackhouses” where the crofters lived. This afternoon, board a ferry from Stornoway, the largest town on Lewis, for the mainland. The 2.5-hour crossing may offer a chance to photograph dolphins and whales from the observation deck. Once we disembark at Ullapool, continue to our lochside hotel in Glen Torridon in the northwest Highlands.



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Day 8: Wester Ross & Loch Maree / Whisky Tasting / Highland Cow Photo Shoot

From the moment you awaken in The Torridon Hotel, superb photographic opportunities abound. The hotel sits amid stunning formal grounds and surveys the waters of Loch Torridon with towering hills beyond. The light is ever changing as Highland cows graze in the foreground. Today promises more dramatic photo opportunities as we head beyond the hotel, driving backroads past mountain crags, over open heath, and along the rugged coast of the Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere region, a designated National Scenic Area. This part of Scotland has one of Europe's lowest population densities, and the sense of being in a wild realm is palpable. We stop at various vantage points for striking landscape shots, including the long valley of Loch Maree, an important protected nature reserve. On the slopes flanking this large freshwater loch, we find the best remaining examples of ancient Caledonian pinewood in Britain, with 400-year-old Scots pine specimens plus birch, holly, ivy, rowan, oak and juniper. The loch and environs are home to elusive otters and pine marten, as well one of Britain's largest breeding populations of black-throated divers. Red deer, the largest native land mammal in the UK, roams the open moorlands of Wester Ross.

Back at our hotel, a private whisky tasting with our hotel barman awaits. Then it's time for a photo shoot with the hotel's own small herd of Highland cows, or "coos," as they are known in Scotland. Hardy, lovable and photogenic, these shaggy bovines are the world's oldest registered cattle breed.

Day 9: Wester Ross Landscape Photography / Classic Scottish Ceilidh

Delve farther today into the magnificent wild reaches of Wester Ross and its rugged, glacier-scoured terrain. The Torridon Hills, to the north of the glen where our hotel lies, are among the most dramatic peaks in the British Isles, made of some of the oldest rocks in the world. Among our subjects is the iconic profile of Liathach, a spectacular multi-peaked mountain whose name means "the gray one" in Scots Gaelic. Comprised of Torridon sandstone that forms a series of steep, stacked rocky terraces, the imposing peak is one of the most notable in Britain and a prize among climbers that tackle its knife-edged ridge. Shieldaig Island, managed by the National Trust for Scotland, is another highlight for photographers, with its postcard-perfect village of whitewashed cottages fronting the sea. We'll be sure to get the shot of a single red-roofed cottage perched above the loch just outside the tiny town, a classic vista in the region. And while we can never predict the weather, typical broken clouds often mean moody skies creating evocative backdrops. This evening, enjoy a festive farewell ceildh at our hotel, a traditional Gaelic party that features music, storytelling and refreshments—you'll want to bring your camera.

Day 10: Torridon / Inverness / Depart

Our time in wild Scotland draws to a close today as we rise before dawn for an early-morning transfer to Inverness, about 90 minutes by road, to meet departing flights.



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Accommodation Details:

Coul House Hotel

Hotel Hebrides

The Whispering Pine Lodge

Duisdale House Hotel

The Torridon

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

Wild Scotland Photo Expedition 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.



The Torridon

A former Victorian hunting lodge on 58 acres beside a sea loch, featuring historic interiors, contemporary rooms, Highland cuisine, an extensive whisky bar and estate activities.



Photograph Scotland's Wildest Natural Realms on Our Unique Itinerary

While Scotland's rich cultural heritage and most famous natural sites have long attracted photographers, our focus is on the wilder side of Scotland—more remote and less discovered. Find out what makes our photography expedition stand apart:

- 1 Encounter Scotland off the Crowded Tourist Track**

Our unique itinerary gets you farther afield into wild places few experience, from the rugged coast of the Knoydart Peninsula and the pristine beaches of the Outer Hebrides to lochs and high peaks in the Torridon Hills, rising above ancient pinewood forest. You won't find these destinations on standard Scottish photo tours.
- 2 Capture Iconic Shots on Every Photographer's List**

We know that you, as a nature photographer, are keen to get to wild places and dramatic subjects others rarely have the opportunity for (see #1 above!). But we also know you want sought-after classics like Eilean Donan Castle and the dramatic geological features on the Isle of Skye, like the Old Man of Storr and the Quiraing. Our carefully crafted itinerary offers you both.
- 3 Shoot the Jacobite Steam Train Crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct**

Our journey through the Western Highlands is timed to include a stop for this iconic shot: the vintage red train chugging over the stunning 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films, pulled by a classic locomotive belching steam.
- 4 Explore the Rarely Visited Wester Ross UN Biosphere Reserve**

In the less-discovered Northwest Highlands, capture stunning landscape shots as we weave among mountain crags, open heath, narrow lochs and glacier-carved glens in this World Heritage region that's also a designated National Scenic Area of Scotland. Look for elusive wildlife, too, including red deer, pine marten, a healthy otter population and more.
- 5 A Small Group Ensures Quiet Nature Encounters & Personal Attention**

Our expedition is limited to 10 photographers. This small group size allows access to secluded hikes, a private small boat cruise, and watching wildlife without disturbing it—as well as personalized coaching from our Photo Expedition Leader at every location.



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6

Distinctive Boutique Accommodations with Local Character

Our small group size allows us to choose authentic inns noted for their history, atmosphere and special settings close to nature. You won't stay at impersonal chain hotels in nondescript locations.

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 Photo Expedition Leaders are both top photographers, with years of experience as instructors, as well as professional naturalists. They also have special access to 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 Photo Expedition

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. **Read our important promise.**

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!



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$14995

Group Size: Limited to 10 Travelers

Wild Scotland Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

A Rare Photography Adventure in the Remote Highlands & Hebrides

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Sep 24, 2027	Oct 3, 2027	\$14995 USD Fall Foliage Season
Oct 1, 2027	Oct 10, 2027	\$14995 USD Fall Foliage Season
Oct 8, 2027	Oct 17, 2027	\$14995 USD Fall Foliage Season
Oct 15, 2027	Oct 24, 2027	\$14995 USD Fall Foliage Season

2028 Departures



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$14995
Group Size:
Limited to 10 Travelers

Departure	Return	Notes
! Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Apr 28, 2028	May 7, 2028	\$15995 USD
May 5, 2028	May 14, 2028	\$15995 USD
Sep 22, 2028	Oct 1, 2028	\$15995 USD
Oct 6, 2028	Oct 15, 2028	\$15995 USD
Oct 13, 2028	Oct 22, 2028	\$15995 USD
Oct 20, 2028	Oct 29, 2028	\$15995 USD

Pricing

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

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, private charter cruise to Loch Nevis and Knoydart Peninsula, 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, 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

Arrive in Inverness by 2 pm on Day 1 for a welcome orientation and dinner beginning at 5:30 pm. You may depart Inverness anytime on the final day. We are prepared to handle all your round-trip travel arrangements.

We can serve you best if Natural Habitat Adventures' Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can make the most efficient arrangements. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



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Extension Details:

The Cotswolds: Exploring English Nature
\$10995

Wild Scotland Photo Expedition Extensions

A Rare Photography Adventure in the Remote Highlands & Hebrides



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.