



## Express Scotland Tour for Jenene Hartnett

Our ref IWF1129296

Area	Nights	Accommodations
Pitlochry	1	Fishers Hotel
Inverness	1	Strathness House B&B
Dunblane	1	Cromlix Hotel

Please note that the accommodation is suggested only, and we are not holding availability. If you would like to confirm, we will be delighted to check these or similar hotels for your clients.

### Day 1 / Glasgow/Edinburgh – Stirling – Pitlochry



Arrival at either Glasgow or Edinburgh Airport, collect your car and drive via Stirling to Pitlochry.

**Stirling** is a taste of both the Lowlands and the Highlands. It is packed with castles and tales of people who are larger than life, and it is blessed with awe-inspiring, natural beauty. "*Hold Stirling and you control the entire country...*" Stirling is associated with King Arthur and some believe it was the locale for Camelot. In recorded history, we know that Alexander I dedicated a chapel here. Below the very impressive Stirling Castle, Old Town Stirling is protected by the 16th

century walls built to keep Mary, Queen of Scots, safe from Henry VIII. And, it was here, that the infant James VI was crowned in 1567.

**Pitlochry** is located in the very heart of Scotland. Cairngorms National Park is very close by to the north, and Edinburgh less than 1.5 hours to the south via the A9 road. When Queen Victoria fell in love with the Highlands of Scotland, Pitlochry was a quiet village surrounded by the pine-covered hills of the Central Highlands. It became famous when she named it one of the finest resorts in Europe, and visitors began arriving to discover the magic of the Highlands. This vibrant town in the wooded valley of the River Tummel runs along a main street that's lined with shops and eating places.

#### Suggested visit:

- Stirling Castle, Stirling
- Blair Athol Distillery, Pitlochry



Overnight at Pitlochry

## Day 2 / Pitlochry– Inverness

Just north of Pitlochry is located **Blair Castle**. The only man in Europe still allowed to have a private army is the Duke of Atholl, who resides at Blair Castle! The sight of his magnificent, white castle on the main road north will stop you in your tracks. The oldest part of the castle was built in 1269. During the Jacobite campaigns, it was designed anew, and the turrets were added. A brilliant stroke of genius. The ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to the Atholl Highlanders, Blair Castle stands proudly against the magnificent backdrop of Highland Perthshire. With collections that fill over 30 rooms, there are few historic homes in Britain that can claim to have more comprehensive family treasures than Blair Castle, which portrays Scottish life over 700 years.



Drive via **The Cairngorms** – Scotland's pristine National Park. The Cairngorms, have the highest, rugged mountain range in Britain rising to 4,296 feet. This country is heaven for walkers, skiers, rock climbers & nature lovers. A number of species of rare birds are attracted to the thriving, unusual alpine flora. Rock-climbers and skiers particularly love the challenge of the Cairngorms. Its craggy sides attract climbers from around the world—they practice at the Cairngorms before trips to the Himalayas! During the summer a funicular railway climbs Cairngorm. The views over the Spey Valley are spectacular. There's also a steam railway, dating from 1863, that runs from Aviemore and Broomhila.

Stop at **Dalwhinnie Distillery** which stands in the Cairngorm National Park at the heart of the Scottish Highlands in the village of Dalwhinnie. From this remote but accessible location comes their liquid known as the gentle spirit. Take a distillery tour that gives you an explanation of the traditional art of malt whisky distilling. Afterwards sample 2 Dalwhinnie single malts with specially selected chocolate that combines beautifully with the whisky. A guide will also give you advice on the best way to appreciate whisky and suggest other food combinations. End on a high note as all adults receive a complimentary Dalwhinnie whisky glass.



Arrival at **Inverness**, the capital of the Highlands. Inverness is the true capital of the Highlands, and with 50,000 people, it is one of Scotland's fastest growing cities. It is also one of the Highland's oldest settlements. All roads still lead to the Highland's center, Inverness. It feels like a compact town, but it has the bustle and air of a lovely city. The River Ness flows through Inverness, and salmon fishermen come during the summer, even where the river runs right through the city's center. High above the city is Inverness Castle, a unique Victorian built of red sandstone. Just below the castle is the museum and Art Gallery which runs exhibitions and workshops for kids.

### Included visits:

- Blair Castle visit
- Dalwhinnie Distillery tour

Overnight at Inverness.



### Day 3 / Fort Augustus – Glencoe – Dunblane

After hearty breakfast, it is time to leave Inverness and drive to **Fort Augustus**, a stunning drive along the side of Loch Ness to board your one-hour cruise on Loch Ness. This is a relaxing and fun trip, sure to appeal to everyone! Departing from Fort Augustus at the southern end of Loch Ness, you will soon be treated to the breath-taking vista of Loch Ness in all its natural wonder. Your touring vessel is custom-built for Loch Ness sightseeing and is therefore the perfect way to experience the sights, wildlife and history of the famous loch. Sit back with a drink, as you cruise past Cherry Island, the loch's only island, and be spoiled with a loch-side view of striking Fort Augustus Abbey. For those who are inevitably curious about what may lie beneath the deep waters of Loch Ness, your touring craft's sonar equipment beams live images for passengers to view.

**Fort Augustus** takes its name from the fort built in this location, after the defeat of the 1715 Jacobite uprising. It is named after King George II's younger son, Prince William Augustus, who later became the Duke of Cumberland. The infamous "Butcher Cumberland" was responsible for repressing the Highlands and destroying the ancient clan system after the final defeat of the 1745 Jacobite uprising at Culloden. Fort Augustus' main attraction (aside from the natural beauty of its surrounds) is the Caledonian Canal, which bisects the town. The canal connects Corpach near Fort William with Clachnaharry in Inverness, was completed in 1822, and at 60 miles long can be regarded as one of Scotland's greatest engineering feats. To the north the canal enters Loch Ness, and within the village itself is a series of stacked locks that provide a relaxing and entertaining spectacle.



In the afternoon drive towards **Glencoe**. "Glen Coe" is probably Scotland's most famous and scenic Highland glen – and deservedly so - it really does merit the description 'spectacular'. The best approach is from the south on the A82, one of the major routes through the Highlands. The road climbs over the bleak expanse of Rannoch Moor and drops down between the steep scree-strewn sides of Glencoe. Awesome mountains such as Buachaille Etive Mor and the Three Sisters loom on either side, with riverine scenery at the bottom of the glen. The area is a paradise for walkers and climbers in all seasons,



and skiers and snowboarders in the winter. The name Glencoe means 'Valley of Weeping', and has a haunting atmosphere as a result of the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692. This was carried out by the British army, when the chief of the MacDonalds of Glencoe had been slow to swear allegiance to William of Orange. The picturesque village of Glencoe lies at the northwest end of the glen. In the TV series Outlander, Glencoe features in the show's opening credits. It has also starred on the big screen, in Harry Potter movies, Highlander and Rob Roy.

Arrival at Cromlix hotel for overnight.

At the start of 2013, tennis legend Andy Murray purchased **Cromlix**, situated near his home town of Dunblane, in order to help attract new visitors to the area. Following extensive refurbishment, the US Open, Olympic and Wimbledon champion has transformed the elegant Victorian Perthshire mansion into a luxury 15-bedroom and Gate Lodge, five-star destination. Situated in beautiful countryside, just three miles from Dunblane, Cromlix is set in 34 acres of secluded woodlands and garden grounds, with its own chapel and house loch. The hotel boasts a Chez Roux restaurant, offering reasonable priced menus that focus on using seasonal locally sourced produce wherever possible, five suites and ten bedrooms, gate lodge accommodation, reception hall, two drawing rooms, conservatory, dining room, snooker and meeting rooms.



#### Included visits:

- 1-hour Loch Ness cruise from Fort Augustus

#### Day 4 / Departure

You are approximately 45 minutes away from either Glasgow or Edinburgh airport. Safe flight home!

Dates	
<b>13 – 16 Sep 2020</b>	<b>Total for 4 pax € 4572.00</b>

***Note: If the number of tourists changes will need to re-calculate the offer.***

#### SERVICES INCLUDED IN QUOTE

- 3 nights at the properties suggested above or similar, Double rooms for Single use each night with private bath/shower
- 3 breakfasts
- Car rental for 4 days (WV Jetta manual or similar)
- Visit to Blair Castle on day 2
- Visit to Dalwhinnie Distillery on day 2
- 1-hour cruise on Loch Ness from Fort Augustus on day 3

#### NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE

- Beverages
- Any other services or entrance fees not stated in the above
- Train tickets

