



LUXURY Trains

BY ODYSSEY

TRAIN : The Royal Scotsman

JOURNEY : Essence Of Scotland

Journey Duration : Up to 4 days

Day to Day Itinerary

Embark on a captivating journey through Scotland's untamed beauty. Explore Scotland's rugged landscapes, historical towns, and picturesque villages. Experience the tranquility of the Boat of Garten and discover the secrets of Tomatin Distillery. Explore historic Ballindalloch Castle, relish in the charm of Aviemore and Dundee before concluding your journey in Edinburgh.

Day 1 EDINBURGH

Your journey on Royal Scotsman begins as the whistle blows. The train gathers speed through the magnificent beauty of Scotland's ancient, rugged landscapes. On board, elegant Edwardian interiors wrap you in the warmth of cashmere and tartan, allowing you to explore the land of the brave in the finest modern comforts. Travel north to the 'Fair City' of Perth while indulging in afternoon tea and continue through Dunkeld, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl.

The rolling hills of Perthshire are replaced by more dramatic peaks and valleys as you travel north into the Highlands. Glide past Aviemore, gateway to the glorious Cairngorms National Park with its towering peaks, swathes of Caledonian forest and array of adventurous pursuits.

Just beyond Aviemore is the village of Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway. The train stops here for the night, surrounded by the peace and tranquility of the Cairngorms.

After a dinner onboard, enjoy lively entertainment in the Observation Car. Musicians and performers join the train, blending sweet, slow Gaelic songs with lively folk melodies. With no more than 38 guests on board, expect kinship and hearty camaraderie, best celebrated over a local drama.

Day 2 KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Departing Boat of Garten this morning, the train travels north towards Inverness, capital of the Highlands. Lunch is served on the way to Kyle of Lochalsh, on what is arguably the most scenic route in Britain.

The line passes Loch Luichart and the Torridon Mountains, which geologists believe were formed before any life began. Travel onwards through Achnasheen, then commence the climb to the Luib summit and Achnashellach Forest before descending to Strathcarron, where you are invited to visit Attadale Gardens. This huge, 30,000-acre estate has been home to the Macpherson family since the 1950s. Your visit includes the Water Garden, Japanese Garden and Sunken Garden.

Later, enjoy some light refreshments with your hosts as they welcome you into their home, built over 250 years ago. Alternatively, stay on the train and alight at the picturesque village of Plockton, where you can take a boat trip to see the colony of wild seals and enjoy magnificent views across the bay to the Applecross Mountains. Time is on your side for a woodland walk, followed by a traditional Highland welcome and a dram or two in the seafront Plockton Hotel. Return to the train in Kyle of Lochalsh, gateway to the mystical Isle of Skye, for overnight stabling. After dinner, make your way to the Observation Car, where local musicians are waiting to entertain you.

Day 3 AVIEMORE

Leave Kyle and retrace part of yesterday's route as you enjoy breakfast on the way to Inverness. There, disembark to uncover the secrets behind the historic Tomatin Distillery. Although it was formally established in 1897, whisky production has been central to the way of life in this remote Highland area since the 15th century. The name itself gives an insight into a more clandestine past: Tomatin translates as 'Hill of the Juniper Bush' — a nod to the wood that does not smoke while burning, once a favorite of illicit distillers.

Alternatively, relax onboard as our Highland storyteller brings fables to life, regaling you with fascinating tales of the Jacobites and dramatic moments of the country's past.

After lunch on the train, disembark in Aviemore for an afternoon visit to Ballindalloch Castle. From the heart of the Speyside whisky region, the 'Pearl of the North' enjoys a majestic setting, surrounded by hills with the Spey and Avon rivers running through the grounds. Home of the Macpherson-Grants, the baronial castle treasures a fine collection of 17th-century Spanish paintings, a sumptuous dining room, splendid vaulted hallway and impressive library.

Rejoin the train in Aviemore early evening and, as it makes its way to Dundee, prepare for a final Gala dinner to mark your last night on board. After your celebratory feast, you may feel inspired to take part in some lively Scottish country dancing on the station platform, a fitting finale to your tour.

Day 4 EDINBURGH

Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and crosses the Tay Bridge into the former Kingdom of Fife. In Edinburgh, your Essence of Scotland journey ends. We bid you farewell and wish you safe onward travels.