

7 Night Scottish Highlands Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided walking

Destinations: Scottish Highlands, United Kingdom & Scotland

Trip code: LLXFW-7

3, 4 & 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Few places gift walkers with winter scenery like Scotland does. Hike through snowy Scottish Highlands, crunch over frostbitten fields, and ramble by frozen lochs for an experience sure to put you in a merry mood. And then there's the reward. Fire roaring and a belly-warming whisky ready for pouring, festive breaks at our country house in Glen Coe come with all the Christmas magic you could wish for. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and welcome you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, fresh, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee

- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of up to three different-grade daily walks
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Getting into the festive spirit with a guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Scottish Highlands on foot
- Staying in our charming country house in the Scottish Highlands
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

Day 2: Glen Nevis

Option 1 - Nevis Riverside & Fort William Heights

Distance: 6 miles (10 km)

Ascent: 250ft (80m)

We'll head into the heart of the mountains in search of River Nevis to follow it downstream, past falls and fast-flowing sections, with views of Ben Nevis up above. As we descend towards Fort William, look out for signs of wildlife, including red deer.

Option 2 - Nevis Gorge

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 700ft (220m)

We'll meander through Nevis Gorge keeping an eye on Ben Nevis high above us. Enjoy the tranquillity of this wooded gorge, where the torrent churns between giant boulders, providing a soundtrack of trickling water. Soak up the sight of Steall Waterfall, the third highest cascade in Britain, before emerging into the wide vistas of Steall meadow.

Option 3 - Below The North Face

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 2,600ft (800m)

Set your sights on the climbers' hut that sits below the mighty north face of Ben Nevis as you begin climbing up and up. Then once we reach it, we'll contour below the Castle Ridge buttress and descend via the Pony Track to Glen Nevis. You'll have the chance to see the famed towering cliffs of the north face up close – revered for its excellent rock and ice climbing.

Day 3: Loch Linnhe And The Hills Around Ballachulish

Option 1 - Loch Linnhe Shore

Distance: 5 miles (8 km)

Ascent: 155ft (40m)

We'll explore the shores of beautiful Loch Linnhe with an easy circular route from the house today. Look out over its calm, crystalline water and the forested hills that embrace it while stretching your legs around the loch. There's also plenty of time to pause and take photographs or take a seat and soak up our surroundings.

Option 2 - Gleann A Chaolais Circuits

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 950ft (300m)

From the house we'll head towards Ballachulish Bridge, which crosses over Loch Leven and Loch Linnhe. You'll have ample opportunity to see the lochs from a different angle as well as the imposing sight of Beinn a Bheithir on the other side. There'll be a stop at St John's Church in Ballachulish, but the highlight has to be the forested trails of Gleann a Chaolais – a hiker's delight.

Option 3 - Sgorr Dhearg

Distance: 9.5 miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 3,700ft (1120m)

We'll cross Ballachulish Bridge to see Loch Linnhe and Loch Leven from high above before setting our sights on the tracks that'll lead us through the forest. There's a gentle ascent followed by a narrower, steeper path that sees you emerge from the forest below the dramatic horseshoe ridge of Beinn a' Bheithir.

We'll turn left after the col to then tackle the summit of Beinn Dhearg. From the top, cast your eyes over the mountains above Glencoe, Ben Nevis, and several Hebridean Islands – fingers crossed for a clear day. The same route will take us back down into the valley of Gleann a' Chalois via forested tracks.

Day 4: Hills And Tracks Around Kinlochleven

Option 1 - Mamore Lodge And Grey Mare's Waterfall

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1450ft (440m)

The sight of Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall plunging 60m into the valley will stop you in your tracks. Not only that, but there are also far-reaching views over the lochs and peaks of this nature reserve.

Wildlife enthusiasts should keep an eye open for ospreys, peregrine falcons, and even feral goats along the way. We'll then join the Old Military Road along the flanks of Sgurr an Fhuarain, stopping at even more fine viewpoints, before heading back to Kinlochleven.

Option 2 - The Lairigmor

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 2,050ft (620m)

You'll walk from the northern shore of Loch Leven to the village of Kinlochleven. The route will take us up a steep hillside, then follow a path behind Mam na Gualainn to join the famed West Highland Way. You'll complete a section of Scotland's premier long-distance path, including part of General Wade's 18th century military road.

Option 3 - Beinn Na Caillich

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 3,200ft (980m)

Warm up for other adventurous peaks later in the week with a climb over undulating mountain ridges to the summit of Mam na Gualainn. From the top, Loch Leven stretches out below you, then we'll carry on climbing to reach the summit of Beinn na Caillich. Afterwards we'll descend to join the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven.

Day 5: Free Day - Scottish Highlands

Discover more about [Alltshellach and the local area](#) for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 6: Glencoe

Option 1 - Glen Coe

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,050ft (320m)

Discover Glen Coe's turbulent history and connections to the Clan MacDonald as we follow woodland paths to the scenic 'Hospital Lochan' before reaching Clachaig Inn. This former climber's hostel is steeped in history - nearby Signal Rock was the gathering point for the MacDonalds of Glen Coe in times of emergency.

Option 2 - The Lost Valley And Glencoe

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 850ft (270m)

You'll need to watch your step as we tackle a steep and rocky path along the Allt Coire Gabhail, also known as the Lost Valley. It's rumoured the Clan MacDonald kept stolen cattle here, perfectly hidden in amongst the towering peaks that conceal a waterfall, boulder-strewn paths, and wooded hillsides. It's a tough walk, but you'll feel as if you're exploring another world.

Option 3 - Pap Of Glencoe

Distance: 7.5 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 2,800ft (840m)

Leaving Glencoe, we'll head under the cover of forest and walk along winding paths and tracks to a small lochan. It's then a steep climb through the forest onto the open, windswept mountainside.

Keep going along more steep and rocky ground, then your effort will be rewarded once we reach the summit - Loch Leven and the surrounding mountains offer a picture-postcard view. We'll then descend following the Allt a' Mhuilinn back towards the valley.

Day 7: Hills And Glens Beyond Ballachulish

Option 1 - Kentallen Peninsula

Distance: 7.5 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 600ft (180m)

A bracing coastal walk around the Kentallen Peninsula provides a wonderful contrast to the inland mountains. You'll explore Cuil Bay and Kentallen Bay to finish at the Holly Tree Hotel. You'll have ample opportunity to spot birds and seals as we take in the sweeping views across Loch Linnhe and the isle of Mull from the Rubha Mor headland.

Option 2 - Glen Duror

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (460m)

From the ancient settlement of Duror we walk through Glens Duror and Fhiodh in the heart of the mountains. It's a route steeped in Scottish history that passes the birthplace of 'James of the Glens' - the ill-fated leader of Clan Stewart of Appin.

Option 3 - Meall Mor

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 2500ft (760m)

We gain height following wooded tracks and paths until we break free of the trees and start ascending one of the ridges that drops from the summit. After taking in the summit's fantastic views of the surrounding mountains, we descend towards Ballachulish via the smaller summit of Am Meall.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Alltshellach

For a combination of mountain views, olde-worlde charm, and somewhere comfortable to sleep, this stately Scottish house in North Ballachulish has an enviable setting right on the shores of Loch Leven. The walking opportunities here are as every bit rugged and romantic as you'd expect, especially around Glen Coe, the Mamores, Kinlochleven, Bidean nam Bian, and Ben Nevis – the 1,345-metre-high peak towering above glistening lochans and glacial valleys in the north-west Highlands. You can also spend time in Fort William and ride the Hogwarts-esque Jacobite steam train as it makes its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan, and Arisaig to the fishing port of Mallaig.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Alltschellach has 38 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

We love: Room 21 for its extra space, corner position, and gorgeous views across Loch Leven. Equally fabulous is Room 23 (known as the Bishop's Room) on the second floor.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

About Your Stay

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays Leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Alltshellach](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Alltshellach
Onich
Fort William
Invernesshire PH33 6SA

Tel: +44 (0)1855 821357

By Shared Transfer

If you are travelling to or from Alltshellach on Saturdays from 9 March to 2 November 2024, or on Mondays and Fridays over the festive period, you can join our group coach transfer from Glasgow's Buchanan Street Bus Station or Glasgow Airport.

2024 prices are £70 per person for a return transfer or £48 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey 2024: Depart Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station at 15:15 or Glasgow Airport at 15:45; arrive at Alltshellach at 18:30.

Return journey 2024: Depart Alltshellach at 08:30; arrive at Glasgow Airport at 11:30 or Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station at 12:00.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

HF Holidays Sales and Support Team

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

By Train

The nearest station is Fort William.

Or you can take the train to Glasgow then the Scottish Citylink bus or our group coach transfer to Alltshellach.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By Taxi

The journey from Glasgow city centre is 97 miles, which takes around 2.5 hours.

By Bus

Scottish Citylink bus numbers 914 or 915 run from Glasgow Buchanan Street and Glasgow International Airport.

Ask the driver to stop at the north side of Ballachulish Bridge. From here you'll need to walk 400m to Alltshellach.

By Car

From Glasgow take the A82 towards Crianlarich then Fort William. Once you reach Ballachulish go straight on at the roundabout over the steel bridge and take the second right on to the B863 towards Kinlochleven. Alltshellach is 400 yards on your right.

By Air

The nearest airport is Glasgow International Airport.

You can take the Citylink bus 915 (2.5 hours) or join our group coach transfer (2.75 hours).

If you fly into Manchester Airport, there are direct and indirect trains to Glasgow. Approximate journey time is four hours plus your transfer to Alltshellach.

LOCAL AREA

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Alltshellach.

Ballachulish

Split into three (North Ballachulish, South Ballachulish and Ballachulish Village), the village was once famous for its slate. Nowadays, one of the best-known attractions is the 9-hole Woodlands Golf Course, formally known as The Dragon's Tooth.

Fort William

Nicknamed the Outdoor Capital of the UK, this West Highland town on the banks of Loch Linnhe is a 25-minute drive away. The town centre has a high street with an excellent selection of shops selling outdoor clothing and walking equipment.

Jacobite Steam Train

Making its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan and Arisaig as it travels to the fishing port of

Mallaig, riding this Hogwarts-esque steam train is a must for *Harry Potter* fans. Trains run daily and early booking is recommended.

Isle Of Mull

Reached by car ferry from Oban or Lochaline, this Inner Hebridean island is home to Tobermory - the colourful town featured in children's TV series, *Balamory*. Don't miss Duart Castle, the ancestral home of Clan Maclean – one of the oldest Highlands families.

Isle Of Lismore

After hiring bikes at Port Appin, a 30-minute drive away, it's just a short ferry crossing to this quiet and rural island. Must-dos include making the most of the walking and cycling opportunities, spotting all manner of wildlife, and visiting the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.

Oban

As the unofficial capital of the West Highlands of Scotland and the Gateway to the Hebridean Isles, this harbour town is a 45-minute drive away. The climb to McCaig's Tower rewards with spectacular views across Oban Bay to the Atlantic Islands.

Eilean Donan Castle

Claiming to be the most-photographed Scottish castle, this ancient stronghold worth the 80-mile drive. It opened to the public in 1955 and has since become one of the country's best-loved attractions. Most interesting is the banqueting hall, kitchen, and main keep.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Spotting scope and/or binoculars
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables

- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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