

3-Night Scottish Highlands Outdoor Escapes

Tour Style: Outdoor Escapes

Destinations: Scotland & United Kingdom

Trip code: LLBOE-3

2 & 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Get away from work for a short break's walking (or stay for the week) and be surprised! By the range of guided walks, from a meander through the wooded Nevis Gorge to Steall Falls to a stroll through Glen Coe's history in the company of an NTS Ranger or harder mountain routes such as Ben Starav, a traverse of the mighty Mamore mountains and the Ben Nevis horseshoe, magnificent mountain days one and all. By how much you can do in a weekend when your guides know their stuff, from a cruise on Loch Shiel, to an ascent of the north face of Aonach Mor in a mountain gondola and a trip to the Nevis Distillery for a tour and a tasting of a wee dram or two. By the camaraderie and craic that comes from making discoveries and having adventures in a small group of like-minded people.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our Country House
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 2 days guided walking

- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

Moment Of The Holiday

When you sink into a comfy chair at the Kingshouse Hotel, one of the oldest in Scotland, having earned a pint and maybe even the bragging rights from ticking off a munro. Truly following in the footsteps of mountaineers past and present and soaking up one of the best views of Buachaille Etive Mor.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip has a choice of 3 walk options each walking day and the walks range from level 2 to 5. Most of the days include a full day walking with distances covered up to 11½ miles and with 4,850ft of ascent.

ITINERARY

Version 1 (Runs 2019/20)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Lismore, Beinn Na Caillich & Ben Starav

Enjoy the choice of 3 guided walks which showcase the stunning Highland scenery. The island of Lismore is a firm favourite, whilst the summits of Sgorr Dhearg and Ben Starav are two impressive local peaks.

Option 1 - Lismore

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Total ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Take the ferry to Lismore for an exploration of this tranquil island. We'll visit the picturesque, old fishing village of Port Ramsay, a Pictish Broch and the ruins of Castle Coeffin.

Highlight: This is a day of far reaching sea views as we gaze out across Loch Linnhe towards the mountains of Glen Coe and the Isle of Mull.

Option 2 - Beinn Na Caillich

Distance: 8 miles (12½km)

Total ascent: 3,200 feet (980m)

In Summary: Follow the undulating mountain ridge over the summits of Mam na Gualainn and Beinn na Caillich, before descending to join the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven.

Highlight: The 'Corbett' summit of Mam na Gualainn commands a fine view over Loch Leven and towering mountains of Glen Coe.

Option 3 - Ben Starav

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 4,050 feet (1,240m)

In Summary: Lying above the shores of Loch Etive, the challenge of Ben Starav is a worthy one. This magnificent mountain walk is a classic adventure day, one of the best in the Western Highlands.

Highlight: The chance to tick off another Munro! See how many summits you can spot from the top - Ben Nevis, Ben More, Ben Lui and many more.

Day 3: Glen Coe

The dramatic valley of Glen Coe is the base for today's walks. Experience Scotland's turbulent history, and towering mountains.

Option 1 - Historic Glen Coe

Distance: 5 miles (8.5km)

Total ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In Summary: We're in the company of an NTS Ranger this morning, sharing the stories and histories of Glen Coe as we wander around Glen Coe Lochan, before heading to the famous Clachaig Inn.

Highlight: If you've still plenty of energy - extend your walk to Signal Rock - the gathering point for the MacDonalDs of Glen Coe at times of emergency.

Option 2 - Beinn A Chrulaiste

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 2,360 feet (720m)

In Summary: Another 'Corbett', the rounded summit of Beinn a Chrulaiste stands at the entrance to Glen Coe. Great views of the famous Buachaille Etive Mor and the expansive Rannoch Moor.

Highlight: A well-deserved pint or two at the legendary Kings House hotel at the end of our walk.

Option 3 - Bidean Nam Bian

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 3,800 feet (1,160m)

In Summary: Walk from Glen Coe through Coire nan Lochan to the twin summits of Stob Coire nan Lochan and Bidean nam Bian - the highest peak in Argyll. We descend through another of Bidean's magnificent carries back into Glen Coe.

Highlight: A real sense of achievement when you reach the summit.

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a final breakfast before making your way home.

Version 2 (Runs 2020)

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 6: Ardgour

Enjoy the choice of 3 guided walks. We'll take the Corran Ferry across Loch Linnhe to discover the Ardgour Peninsula.

Option 1 - Inchree & Ardgour

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km) - in two walks.

Total ascent: 1,250 feet (380m) between the two walks.

In Summary: We've two short walks today. Either join one or both, or use our transport and try some of the activities at the Inchree Activity Centre (payable locally). Our first walk explores Inchree's spectacular waterfalls, we then cross to Ardgour for a woodland walk.

Highlight: The chance to spot red squirrels.

Option 2 - Maclean's Towel

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 2,450 feet (760m)

In Summary: Hop on the Corran Ferry to the Ardgour Peninsula, then climb up the side of the spectacular Maclean's Towel waterfall to the summit of Meall Breac.

Highlight: An opportunity to walk in the tranquil mountains of Ardgour. Great views over the immense Loch Linnhe, with the mountains of Glen Coe beyond.

Option 3 - Garbh Bheinn

Distance: 6½ miles (10km)

Total ascent: 3,200 feet (980m)

In Summary: Follow the fine west ridge from Glen Tarbert onto the 'Corbett' summit (a peak over 2,500ft high) of Garbh Bheinn.

Highlight: Garbh Bheinn, meaning 'rough mountain' is an apt name for this rugged peak. Look out for the Great Ridge, first ascended by J H Bell and W Brown in 1897, and now regarded as a classic rock climb.

Day 8: Glenfinnan & Ben Nevis

Discover two of the Highland's most famous landmarks: the curved Glenfinnan Viaduct and the towering summit of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain.

Day 16: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Alltshellach

Situated in a stunning location on the shores of Loch Leven, Alltshellach is a stately Scottish house set amid a rugged landscape. The house is a picture of Highland solidity, with spectacular views of craggy mountains and grassy slopes beyond the loch. This pocket of domesticity lets you admire nature at your leisure though, sipping tea or G&T as you watch clouds scud across the sky. In fact, this one-time home of the Bishop of Argyll & the Isles has been recast as a hiker's hotel, with an air of old-world splendour, excellent accommodation, a generous indoor pool, three lounges and a supremely cosy Highland Bar that's well-stocked with local beer and whisky, all of which is (almost) enough to distract you from the vast vistas over the waters. But it's the great outdoors you're here for and the house is ideally situated for accessing the Mamores, the mountains of Glen Coe and tackling Ben Nevis as well as bagging munros and spotting local wildlife.

At The House

- Excellent boot and drying rooms
- Three lounges
- Multi-purpose ballroom
- Highland bar
- Free WiFi is available in some public rooms
- Range of board games and books
- Heated indoor swimming pool
- Extensive gardens with views and access to Loch Leven

Dining

All holidays at our Country Houses are full board accommodation including evening meal on arrival to breakfast on the day of your departure. All of our Country Houses have a well-stocked bar serving local beers, wine and spirits.

- Start your day with our extensive breakfast
- Take your fill from our famous self-service picnic lunches
- A relaxed social dinner is a highlight of any stay at our Country Houses

Your Evenings

Just relax and take it easy, or if you'd like to continue to chat with our guides and fellow guests then why not grab a drink or take part in one of our optional evening activities.

All of our bars are stocked with locally sourced drinks so you can really soak up your surroundings.

Additional Information

- Fire procedure is displayed in each room and explained to guests on arrival. Guests requiring assistance at an evacuation are identified at this time and door hanger cards are issued on request
- A small fridge is available for storing medication ? Good signage for fire escape routes
- One bedroom key issued per room (second key available on request)
- Assistance dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired guests are welcome; dogs must be kept on a lead or harness at all times
- Information can be provided in large print
- Staff has had disability awareness training

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

There are 38 comfortable bedrooms, all in the main house, with a range of 'Good', 'Better' and 'Best' options to choose from. Rooms radiate cosiness thanks to little touches – a remedy for even the dreichest day. Those with a view are worth the extra spend, as you'll be overlooking the gardens and loch. The Best rooms include Room 21, a spacious corner room with lovely views of Loch Leven, while Room 23 is a stately showstopper that was once the official Bishop's bedroom, complete with original features and cracking views.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive gardens, heated indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose ballroom, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring, return to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Stroll the gardens that dip down to the loch. The small peninsula at the bottom of the lawns is called An Dunan and often becomes an island at high tide – look for prehistoric rock art cut into the slabs on its side. Make time too to plunge into the heated indoor swimming pool and do a couple of lengths under the watchful eye of the mountains through the panoramic windows. Inside the house, head for one of the communal areas: you'll have three to choose from and can kick back, relax and catch up with other guests. Later, stop in the Highland Bar for a nip of whisky or a nightcap – the comfy seats make a fine spot for a dram and there's a range of good single malts to choose from that'll have you believing you're living a laird's life.

Food & Drink

As at all of our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Alltshellach is full of Scottish flavours and focusses on locally sourced and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when you might be treated to Cullen Skink Soup and a trio of smoked salmon, mackerel pate and steamed mussels with Highland oat cakes, while mains may include Highland game and 'Barlotto', a type of nutty risotto made from barley instead of rice. Finish off with a spoonful of Iron Brew Ice, chocolate and marmalade mouse and Atholl brose, a luxurious blend of honey, whisky and carefully selected herbs for a flavour of the Highlands.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

Travel Details

Our address is: Alltshellach, Onich, Fort William, Invernesshire PH33 6SA

By Train:

The nearest station is in Fort William, however most guests travel to Glasgow then catch our transfer coach. For

train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Air:

Many guests opt to fly to Glasgow Airport, then join our transfer coach to Glen Coe.

Glasgow To Glen Coe Transfer

We offer a coach transfer between Glasgow Buchanan bus station**, Glasgow airport and Alltshellach every Saturday. The transfer is £32 return and £21 for a single trip, but a place must be reserved at least 14 days in advance by calling our Reservations team on 020 8732 1220.

On arrival days our coach leaves Glasgow Buchanan Street bus station at 4.15pm, or Glasgow airport at 4.45pm. We will arrive at Alltshellach at 7pm which is in time for dinner on your first evening.

On departure day the transfer will get you back to Glasgow Airport by 11.30am and to Buchanan Street bus station by 12.00 noon.

** Buchanan Street bus station is about 15 mins walk from Glasgow central station (frequent buses are available) or 5 minutes walk from Glasgow Queen Street station.

By Bus:

If you are not travelling on a Saturday, the journey from either Glasgow Buchanan Street or the airport can be made using the Scottish Citylink bus, numbers 914 or 915. See www.citylink.co.uk for the timetable. Ask the driver to stop at the north side of Ballachulish Bridge - from here it is a 400 metre walk to Alltshellach.

By Car:

From Glasgow take the A82 towards Crianlarich. Continue on the A82 towards Fort William. Head for Ballachulish keeping the village on your left. Go straight on at the roundabout over the steel bridge and take the second right B863 to Kinlochleven and the seafood restaurant. Alltshellach is 400 yards further on, on your right.

Travelling From Overseas

Ideally book a flight to Glasgow Airport. From here you can join our coach transfer to Alltshellach (see above).

The next best option is to fly to Manchester Airport, which has a better range of long-haul flights. There are trains from the airport to Glasgow (some direct, others need 1 change). Allow 4 hours to get to Glasgow, then join our coach transfer to Alltshellach. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

There are also flights to Edinburgh with a train transfer to Glasgow.

Local Area

Alltshellach is situated beside the shores of Loch Leven. This is a spectacular location with magnificent views of the surrounding mountains.

About 2 miles away, across the loch is the village of Ballachulish. Here you'll find a post office, food store and bank. A much wider range of facilities can be found in Fort William, about 14 miles to the north.

As the adventure capital of Britain, the Lochaber region is a popular destination for all outdoor enthusiasts. During your stay in Glen Coe you may enjoy visiting the following activities and places of interest:

Jacobite Steam Train

Ride the Jacobite steam train from Fort William to Mallaig. This stunningly scenic line includes the famous Glenfinnan viaduct, featured in the Harry Potter films. Steam trains run every day and early booking is recommended. www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite

Isle Of Mull

Reached by car ferry from Oban, or Lochaline, Mull is one of the most popular Scottish islands. You could visit the colourful harbour at Tobermory or the abbey on Iona. www.calmac.co.uk/mull

Isle Of Lismore

The peaceful island of Lismore is ideal for a relaxed exploration. You can hire bikes at Port Appin, about 30 minutes' drive south of Alltshellach, then take the short ferry crossing to the island.

Oban

The bustling harbour town of Oban, about 45 minutes' drive south of Alltshellach, is a popular destination. There's always plenty of activity around the harbour and it's well worth the walk up to McCaig's Tower, a remarkable folly built in the style of a Roman amphitheatre, with commanding views over the town.

Eilean Donan Castle

Nearly 80 miles drive north from Alltshellach is this romantic and much photographed Scottish lochside castle. Located on a small island just offshore, the castle is isolated by the sea at high tide, only accessible via a stone bridge. www.eileandonancastle.com

Ice Factor

Try your hand at ice climbing on the indoor wall at nearby Kinlochleven. www.ice-factor.co.uk

About

Mountain Country House • 38 Bedrooms • Open March to November & Festive Period • Standard check-in from 2.30pm • Free Parking on site • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Walkers' Facilities including Boot Room & Drying Room • Discovery Point with route guides and maps • Indoor Swimming Pool

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended

- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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