Scotland: The West and Highlands on the Royal Scotsman

https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/grand-taste-highlands/



Overview

The Highlights

- Five nights aboard the luxurious *Royal Scotsman*

- All-inclusive drinks, meals, sightseeing aboard 5-star luxury train

- Visit to the stunning Morar Sands, with views toward the Isle of Skye

- Exclusive visit to Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute, a remarkable Victorian Gothic mansion

- Visit to Rothiemurchus Estate with optional country activitiesTour and tasting at Strathisla Distillery, one of Scotland’s oldest working distilleries

- Guided tour of The Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh

- Before-dinner drinks in the cozy lounge car; fabulous five-star dining and service in the two dining cars

- Free time in Edinburgh

The Tour

Join the Scotland: Highlands and the West tour aboard Scotland's premiere luxury train: the *Belmond Royal Scotsman*. It's always hard to say farewell to the Scottish Highlands. That's why we've made it possible for you to join us for a much longer journey.

Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the West Highland Line -- past waterfalls, moors and mountains -- and an exclusive view of Mount Stuart, a spectacular Victorian Gothic house. Then after some free time in Edinburgh, experience the wild beauty of the Scottish Highlands as you head north, enjoying a leisurely journey up to Fort William.

New for 2027! The *Royal Scotsman* is introducing new Suite carriages as of April 2027. The new Suites offer more room to relax, and feature a comfortable sofa or armchairs by day and a double or twin bed by night. Enjoy the large picture window and fully equipped en-suite shower room, with upgraded touches to help you relax throughout your journey.

Itinerary

Day 1: Edinburgh

The *Belmond Royal Scotsman* departs Edinburgh early afternoon and travels north to the 'Fair City' of Perth, indulging in an afternoon tea as the train continues on the Highland line through Dunkeld, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl.

Glide past Aviemore, gateway to the glorious Cairngorms National Park. Beyond Aviemore is Boat of Garten, where the train stops for the night.

Enjoy dinner on board. Afterwards, enjoy lively entertainment in the Observation Car.

Day 2: Boat of Garten

This morning, travel the short distance by coach to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, where broadcaster and food anthropologist Ghillie Basan teams with her son Zeki to teach everything you need to know about Scottish wildlife and Highland survival skills.

Enjoy a barbecue lunch served while Ghillie shares the story about how she came to live in the Cairngorms and was elected a Food Ambassador for Scotland. Join her by the fire for an insightful food and kombucha pairing as she showcases the succulent seasonal produce of the Highlands.

Choose from a number of activities, including clay pigeon-shooting, fishing or a guided hike. Alternatively, you can also join Zeki on a guided nature walk with a focus on foraging, storytelling, traditional craft, learning how our ancestors survived through the ages in the Caledonian Forest.

Return to the train in Carrbridge for a relaxing afternoon onboard as the train travels through Inverness and then onto Keith. Enjoy an optional early evening visit to Strathisla Distillery, the oldest and one of the most picturesque working distilleries in the Highlands.

Enjoy a splendid dinner on board, followed by lively Jazz music in the Observation Car.

Day 3: Dundee — Spean Bridge

Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and travels south through the former Kingdom of Fife, back to Edinburgh Waverley Station.

Disembark here for a visit to The Royal Yacht Britannia, berthed in Leith. Enjoy a guided tour of its five regal decks, including the State Apartments, Crew’s Quarters, Engine Room and Bridge. Afterwards, enjoy a light lunch at Brasserie Prince within the Balmoral Hotel or some free time to explore Scotland's vibrant capital city.

Rejoin the train in the early afternoon and travel west through Falkirk, Clydebank and Dumbarton to skirt Glasgow before reaching the northern bank of the Clyde. Near the mouth of the Clyde estuary lies Craigendoran, the starting point for the majestic West Highland Line.

Enjoy afternoon tea as you travel along the edge of Gare Loch. Passing Arrochar, you will glimpse your first view of Loch Lomond. The train descends almost to the water's edge at Ardlui, and then has a hard climb up Glen Falloch, whose many waterfalls provide an impressive display.

Continuing north, the train passes through Crianlarich, then on to Rannoch Moor, one of the last great wildernesses of Scotland. Dinner is served on the way to Spean Bridge, after which you are invited to the Observation Car to enjoy lively entertainment by local musicians.

Day 4: Spean Bridge — Bridge of Orchy

The travels west by the side of Loch Eil, before turning north along the dramatic coastline to Arisaig. Alight here for a romantic walk along the Silver Sands of Morar and views across the Sound of Sleat to the Isle of Skye and the jagged Cuillin Mountains.

Lunch is served as the train retraces its route towards Fort William. Disembark here for a fascinating visit to historic Glenfinnan, where you are joined by a local guide, who brings to life stories of Bonnie Prince Charlie and other Scottish heroes. Head to The Old Station Restaurant for drinks and light bites, before walking the very short distance to the train when it arrives into Spean Bridge Station.

Alternatively, a guided hike is available (weather permitting). A mountain ranger will lead a moderate-grade walk through the scenic Nevis Gorge to the Steall Waterfall, the second highest in the UK. Please note that a reasonable level of fitness is required. Sturdy walking boots with a good tread and ankle support, waterproof jacket and suitable trousers are essential. Walking boots and waterproofs can be provided, subject to availability.

Return to the train in Fort William and relax. Dinner is served as you travel south towards the tiny Argyll village of Bridge of Orchy.

Day 5: Wemyss Bay

Leaving Bridge of Orchy, soak up the dramatic Highland scenery as you journey south towards Glasgow. After lunch, disembark in Wemyss Bay a 35-minute ferry crossing to the Isle of Bute awaits.

Visit Mount Stuart, Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic house and the fantasy of the 3rd Marquess of Bute and his architect, Sir Robert Rowand Anderson.

After enjoying afternoon tea in the Drawing Room, explore the magnificent house and the grounds. Stroll down the Lime Tree Avenue to discover a secluded stretch of coastline and lovely views towards the mainland.

Return to the train in Wemyss Bay, where a delicious gala dinner is served on the way to Kilmarnock, our stabling location for the evening.

Day 6: Kilmarnock — Edinburgh

After an early departure from Kilmarnock this morning, enjoy a leisurely breakfast as you travel east towards Edinburgh Waverley Station and your *Royal Scotsman* luxury rail journey ends.

Dates & Prices

2027 Dates

July 21 - July 26

Accommodations	Double	Single	Deposit
Twin/Double	From £15,100	From £30,200	25%
Suite	From £18,650	From £37,300	25%
Grand Suite	From £32,900	From £65,800	25%

Please note prices are in British pounds. View approximate exchange rates.
Prices are per person.
Pricing varies based on availability and date. Prices are subject to change daily. Contact us to confirm pricing and availability for your desired departure.

2028 Dates

May 3 - May 8
July 7 - July 12

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Twin/Double	From £16,200	From £32,400	25%
Suite	From £18,450	From £36,900	25%
Grand Suite	From £33,900	From £67,800	25%

Please note prices are in British pounds. View approximate exchange rates.
Prices are per person.
Pricing varies based on availability and date. Prices are subject to change daily. Contact us to confirm pricing and availability for your desired departure.

More

Note: Prices are per person and include all table d'hôte meals, all alcoholic and other beverages, all sightseeing excursions as shown in the itinerary and accommodation on board based on two people sharing a twin compartment or one person in a single.