

Scotland's Classic Splendours

<https://www.irtsociety.com/journey/scotlands-classic-splendours/>



Overview

The Highlights

- Seal-watching boat trip in the scenic bay of the Applecross mountains
- Private tour of Ballindalloch Castle
- Visit to Rothiemurchus Estate with a choice of country pursuits
- Guided tour of Glamis Castle and gardens, childhood home of the late H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother

- Before-dinner drinks in the cozy lounge car, all included
- Wind-in-your-face viewing from the open-air platform
- Breathtaking views of the moors, mountains, lakes, and sea
- Intimate setting with just 40 passengers total
- Highest levels of dining and service on-board
- Inspiring dramatic and musical events by Highlanders

The Tour

NEW for 2025! The train will introduce two new Grand Suites (bringing the total of Grand Suites to four) and will no longer have dedicated single cabins. Single travelers will still be able to book a cabin for sole occupancy.

[*Belmond Royal Scotsman*](#) Scotland's Classic Splendours Tour is one of the best in the world. From the bagpipes and intimate musical events, to the grand sweep of the moors and the gorges, the *Belmond Royal Scotsman's* Classic Splendours Tour is a journey straight to the heart of the Scottish Highlands.

Life on the train is relaxed and indulgent, with the freshest, finest local produce served in the dining cars. From Edinburgh, the train follows the east coast up to Keith, then journeys to the picturesque west coast village of Plockton, thence to Inverness and south to Perth.

Itinerary

Day 1: Edinburgh-Keith

The *Belmond Royal Scotsman* departs Edinburgh in the early afternoon, traveling north across magnificent Forth Railway Bridge—one of the first cantilever bridges, completed in 1890.

Enjoy afternoon tea as the train follows the east coast, passing through Arbroath, Montrose and Aberdeen before arriving in the market town of Keith. An informal dinner is served on board, after which you are invited to the Observation Car to enjoy entertainment with a Scottish flavor.

Day 2: Keith-Kyle of Lochalsh

A leisurely breakfast is served as the train travels west along the Moray Firth towards Inverness, capital of the Highlands. From there, it on to Kyle of Lochalsh, one of the most scenic lines in Britain, while lunch is served. The line passes Loch Luichart and the summit and Achnashellach

forest, descends to Strathcarron and runs along the edge of stunning Loch Carron.

Travel onwards through Achnasheen, then commence the climb to the Luib summit and Achnashellach Forest, before descending to Strathcarron for a visit of Attadale Gardens.

Alternatively, stay on board the train until you reach the picturesque fishing village of Plockton, and head out on a boat trip to view seals and admire the magnificent views across the bay to the Applecross Mountains. After, take a walk through the woodlands to a viewpoint overlooking the loch. Return to Plockton Hotel for a traditional Highland welcome and a dram or two.

Back on board the train, a formal dinner is followed by coffee and liqueurs in the observation car.

Day 3: Kyle of Lochalsh-Boat of Garten

Join your onboard host for an invigorating early-morning walk over the bridge that links the mainland with the Isle of Skye. Depart Kyle as breakfast is served and retrace part of yesterday's route as far as Dingwall. Have your cameras ready for the views of Plockton across the bay to the left, where you can see white-washed cottages with fishing boats and yachts riding at anchor.

Disembark in Garve for a bespoke shopping experience. Alternatively, stretch your legs and join our Highland storyteller for a walk along the old military road leading to Silver Bridge. Lunch is served as the train departs Inverness.

Travel south to Carrbridge for a visit to Ballindalloch, one of Scotland's most romantic castles. The baronial castle, known as the "Pearl of the North," is the much-loved family home of the Macpherson-Grants, with treasures including a fine collection of 17th-century Spanish paintings, a sumptuous dining room, splendid vaulted hallway and impressive library.

Options at Ballindalloch include a private castle tour, 9 holes of golf on the castle's own course or an exclusive look at what is Scotland's only single estate distillery.

The night is spent on board at Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway. After an informal dinner, our Highlander regales guests with tales and weaponry displays.

Day 4: Boat of Garten-Dundee

The day begins with an excursion to Rothiemurchus Estate, where you may choose from activities such as fishing, clay pigeon shooting or a tour of the estate.

Rejoin the train at Kingussie and have lunch while traveling south to Dunkeld. Disembark and visit Glamis Castle, Seat of the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, and childhood home of the late H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Save time in your tour to visit the gorgeous gardens. Alternatively, visit the quaint town of Pitlochry and Blair Athol Distillery for an afternoon tour.

Rejoin the train in Perth for a final formal dinner on board.

Day 5: Dundee-Edinburgh

Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and crosses the Tay Bridge into the former Kingdom of Fife and on to Edinburgh, where your journey ends.

Dates & Prices

2026 Dates

- March 30 - April 3
- April 6 - April 10
- April 20 - April 24
- April 27 - May 1
- May 9 - May 13
- May 18 - May 22
- May 25 - May 29
- June 15 - June 19
- July 3 - July 7
- July 20 - July 24
- August 24 - August 28
- September 7 - September 11
- September 21 - September 25
- October 12 - October 16
- October 19 - October 23
- October 26 - October 30

Accommodation	Double	Single	Deposit
Twin/Double	From £9,100	From £18,200	25%
Grand Suite	From £23,000	From £46,000	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

Scotch malt whisky lovers may prefer the [Scotch Malt Whisky Trail Tour](#).

The Society of IRT highly recommends extending your stay with our Virtuoso preferred hotel The Balmoral. We get special rates and amenities for our passengers there - and it's especially handy

because it's right at the train station - just an escalator down to the tracks. We also have wonderful guides and drivers at our fingertips. Please inquire if you wish this concierge service.

Greater Savings on Longer Tours: Book the [Grand Western Scenic Wonders](#) (combines Classic and Western itineraries) and save!