



Kilchurn Castle on Loch Ba in Argyll, one of our stops along the way

SCOTLAND ITINERARY

*Any part of this schedule is subject to change at any moment for any reason,
for reasons both within and beyond our control*

DEFINITIONS:

Group Discussion Dinners: In each stage of our journey (i.e., in each location we travel), we will finish our time in that place with a Group Discussion Dinner. This is a dinner that is included in your course fee, where we'll be able to sit down as a collective, eat together, and celebrate our learnings for the stage through intentional conversation about what we saw, thought, learned, etc.

Town Days: Town Days are designated open days where you'll be able to decide what to do with your day according to your interests. Some of you might pair up to visit an art gallery. Another pod of you might wander about town together. On these days you'll have the opportunity to choose where you eat your meals, so you can experiment on your own. These are also days where you can work in your Travel Journal, talk with the friendly locals, and do some cloud gazing and thinking to synthesize your thoughts about all you're experiencing. Each stage has one Town Day.

Meals on your own: Throughout the schedule you'll see places where it says "breakfast, lunch or dinner on your own." These are intentional places where you have the autonomy to make your own choices about food. As we'll be staying in hostels, an easy budget choice is to get some

groceries, and make food at the kitchen in the hostel. These are also the places to adventure and have fun with experimenting with the local cuisine, while giving you more control of your budget, and how much you choose to spend on meals.

Travel Days: Just what they sound like – days we move. On these days we won't have other scheduling so we can travel easy, check into the hostel, and have some down time to wander around and get oriented, or catch up on your thoughts in your Travel Journal.

SCHEDULE

- Tues May 21** Begin Scotland flight
- Wed May 22** Arrive in Scotland – we'll meet you at the airport!
Get to the hostel, settle in, rest, independent exploring if desired
Welcome Dinner
Lodging: Edinburgh – Code Pod Hostel
Meals: Breakfast & lunch on your own / on the plane. Group Dinner.
- Thu May 23** Museum of Scotland
Lodging: Edinburgh – Code Pod Hostel
Meals: Breakfast included in Edinburgh hostel stay; lunch on your own at the Museum of Scotland. Dinner on your own.
- Fri May 24** Edinburgh Castle
Town Day: Recommended sites include the Royal Mile, Gladstone's Land, the Parliament Building, Palace of Holyroodhouse
Lodging: Edinburgh – Code Pod Hostel
Meals: Breakfast included in Edinburgh hostel stay; lunch on your own at Edinburgh Castle. Secure a packable lunch and snacks on your own for Travel Day tomorrow. Group Discussion Dinner
- Sat May 25** Travel & Town Day: train to Oban
Lodging: Oban – Oban Youth Hostel
Meals: Breakfast included in Edinburgh hostel stay. You must bring your own packed lunch / snacks for the train ride, secured the day before. You might want to secure travel snacks in Oban for tomorrow's Kilmartin Day (although lunch will be provided). Dinner on your own.
- Sun May 26** Day Trip: minivans to Kilmartin, one of highest concentrations of prehistoric sites in Scotland. Burial cairns, standing stones, stone circles, hill forts and petroglyphs. Day includes walking guided educational tour throughout the countryside and visit to Kilmartin Museum.
Lodging: Oban – Oban Youth Hostel
Meals: Breakfast & packed lunch included in Oban hostel stay. You may supplement with snacks on your own. Dinner on your own.

Mon May 27

Day Trip: minivans to Auchindrain & Loch Awe. Auchindrain is the best preserved Scottish Highland farm township from the 1700s in Scotland that survived the Clearances, and a symbol of the old Gaelic culture. Day includes guided educational tour and talk on folklore. After Auchindrain we'll spend some time at Loch Awe, digging into the Cailleach myths embedded in the landscape of the area before heading back to Oban

Lodging: Oban – Oban Youth Hostel

Meals: Breakfast & packed lunch included in Oban hostel stay. You may supplement with snacks on your own. Group Discussion Dinner.

Tue May 28

Travel & Town Day: Oban to Isle of Mull. Minivans to Oban ferry, ferry from Oban to Craignure, minivans to Tobermory / Isle of Mull. We'll stop on the way at Loch Ba to have lunch and continue exploring the mythologies of the Cailleach embedded in the landscape, then travel on to Tobermory to check into our hostel. We'll have an optional visit to Calgary Beach after that, or you may explore town on your own.

Lodging: Tobermory - Tobermory Youth Hostel

Meals: Breakfast & packed lunch included in Oban hostel stay. You may supplement with snacks on your own. Secure packed lunch and snacks for tomorrow' boat tour to Staffa. Dinner on your own.

Wed May 29

Day Trip: boat tour to Staffa Island to see Fingal's Cave, puffins and other sea birds, and explore the mythology of Fionn MacCumhail and the giant embedded in this landscape. We'll minivan it to Fionnphort where we'll pick up the boat and leave the vehicle. After our Staffa Island tour, we disembark on the Isle of Iona, the site where St. Columbo first brought Christianity from Ireland to Scotland, and see the medieval monastery and nunnery. There will be extra time to explore the white-sand and pebble beaches of Iona before taking the ferry back to the Isle of Mull, picking up our minivan, and driving back to Tobermory where we'll have dinner.

Lodging: Tobermory - Tobermory Youth Hostel

Meals: Breakfast included in Tobermory hostel stay. Bring your own packed lunch, secured the night before, for the boat tour. Dinner on your own.

Thu May 30

Town & Beach Day

Lodging: Tobermory - Tobermory Youth Hostel

Meals: Breakfast & lunch on your own. Group Discussion Dinner.

- Fri May 31** Travel & Town Day: Tobermory to Glen Coe. We'll drive the minivan back to Oban (via the ferry), drop it off, and hop on the bus to Glen Coe.
Lodging: Glen Coe – Glen Coe Independent Hostel
Meals: Breakfast included in Tobermory hostel stay. Lunch on your own in Oban in the layover as we shuffle from van to bus. Once in Glen Coe, secure lunch and snacks on your own for tomorrow's hike. Dinner on your own.
- Sat June 1** Day Trip: hiking about, exploring Cailleach mythology in the highest mountains in Scotland
Lodging: Glen Coe – Glen Coe Independent Hostel
Meals: Breakfast on your own. You will have needed to secure your packed lunch and snacks for our hike today the night before. Secure a packed lunch and snacks for tomorrow's hike, if desired. Dinner on your own.
- Sun June 2** Town Day, including optional additional hike
Lodging: Glen Coe – Glen Coe Independent Hostel
Meals: Breakfast & lunch on your own. Secure a packed lunch and snacks for tomorrow's train ride. Group Discussion Dinner.
- Mon June 3** Travel & Town Day: Glen Coe to Inverness. We'll visit the Inverness Museum upon arriving.
Lodging: Inverness – Black Isle Hostel
Meals: Breakfast on your own. You will have needed to secure your packed lunch and snacks for our train ride today the night before. Dinner on your own.
- Tues June 4** Day Trip: Culloden Battlefield. History of Jacobites, Scottish rebellion against the British and the defeat at Culloden as an instigator of Scottish migration to North America
Lodging: Inverness – Black Isle Hostel
Meals: Breakfast on your own in Inverness – lots of coffee / pastry shops in the area. Lunch on your own at Culloden – there's a café there. Dinner on your own.

- Wed June 5** Town Day: Recommended trips include: Urquart Castle, walking the Ness Islands, the Black Isle (dolphin watching from the shore, Pict stones at the Groam House Museum), just cruising about town, Loch Ness tomfoolery exploration.
Lodging: Inverness – Black Isle Hostel
Meals: Breakfast & lunch on your own in Inverness. Be sure to secure a sack lunch and snacks for tomorrow's hike in Cairngorms. Group Discussion Dinner.
- Thu June 6** Day Trip: Caledonian Forest in Cairngorms National Park, exploring the mythology of the tree and forest in Celtic traditions while hiking
Lodging: Inverness – Black Isle Hostel
Meals: Breakfast on your own in Inverness, lunch on the trail (you will have needed to secure it the day before in Inverness during the Town Day). Secure packable lunch for Travel Day tomorrow. Group Discussion Dinner
- Fri June 7** Travel & Town Day: Stirling
Stirling Castle
Group Discussion / Debrief of experience
Celebration Dinner
Lodging: Stirling – Stirling Youth Hostel
Meals: Breakfast on your own in Inverness, packable lunch on the train (secured the day before). Group Celebration Dinner
- Sat June 8** Fly home