



Cairn Stone Adventure Tours

BEST OF SCOTLAND 2010 ITINERARY

Revised (4-12-10)

April 28 (Wed) 11:30AM Bus loading at [SMC Niles Campus](#) (park in SW corner of lot)
12:00NOON Leave for Chicago O'Hare airport.
4:00PM Leave O'Hare on United Flight 958

April 29 (Thur) 5:55AM Arrive at London Heathrow Airport
8:40AM Leave Heathrow on BMI Flight BD 52
10:00AM Arrive in Edinburgh.

After clearing customs we will be shuttled to our hotel the City Centre [Holiday Inn](#) just ½ block from [Princess Street](#) and the lovely park. An enchanting, vibrant, and medieval city awaits us after our orientation walk that starts at 2:00PM. It will be early to bed in preparation for our big day on Friday.

April 30 (Fri) After a deluxe continental breakfast we will do the fabulous [Edinburgh](#) city hike. Meet in the lobby at 9:30AM. It is about 8 ½ miles and will take a good part of the day.

Highlights include Princess Gardens, [Edinburgh Castle](#), the Royal Mile, the Grassmarket, a pub stop at [Greyfriars Bobby](#), [Cowgate](#), the [Holyrood Castle](#), Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Park and the breathtaking trail up to Arthur's Seat, Calton Hill, and back to the [theatre district](#) for dinner.

May 1 (Sat) After breakfast and a little more shopping we will board our motorcoach at 11:00AM for the scenic ride to Callander and the lovely [Trossachs region](#). Our hike at [Ben A'an](#) will take us up a river and through heather to an unforgettable view.

Our lodging will be in the nearby quaint village of [Callander](#). We have neat friends there who have set us up with a bed and breakfast experience and a traditional group dinner with entertainment. Sean Connery has been seen horseback riding in the area.

May 2 (Sun) After a hearty Scottish breakfast we will board our bus at 10:00AM and move further northwest into the beautiful Highlands. En route we will stop in the dramatic [Glen Coe](#) region for a breathtaking hike up to Lost Valley, where the Macdonald clan hid their stolen cattle. Shorter hikers can enjoy a hike to the river.

We will have a late lunch at the famous [Clachaig Inn](#) before moving on to the harbor resort town of [Oban](#) and the lovely [Royal Hotel](#).

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- May 3 (Mon)** After breakfast we will leave our hotel on foot for a beautiful coastal hike just outside the city of Oban. The hike features sea cliffs, ancient ruins, the [Dunstaffnage Castle](#) and magnificent sea views. We will have a tour at the [Oban Distillery](#) in the afternoon and lots of time to explore this picturesque resort city.
- May 4 (Tue)** This will be a big “doubleheader” day as we load the bus early at 9:00AM and move on to the Isle of Skye. Our first stop will be 60 miles out of Oban at [Glen Nevis](#) near Ft. William. This is the spectacular glen where the most dramatic scenes in *Braveheart* were filmed. Hikes will range from 1.4 to 7.0 miles before we have lunch along [Loch Linnhe](#) in Ft. William.
- Then it is on to the port city of [Mallaig](#) (forty miles to the west) with a stop for an incredible 5K coastal hike along the [Silver Sands of Morar](#). This hike ends at arguably the most beautiful 9 hole golf course in the world. The movie *Local Hero* was filmed here.
- We will then board a ferry in nearby [Mallaig](#) for the 30 minute ride to the magical [Isle of Skye](#). Our lodging for the next two nights will be at the lovely [Cuillen Hills](#) and the [Royal](#) Hotels situated over the harbor in the amazingly beautiful resort city of [Portree](#).
- May 5 (Wed)** At 9:30AM following a full Scottish breakfast in the dining rooms overlooking the harbor, we will hike to [the Old Man of Storr](#). This hike can range from 1 to 10 miles and is a real treat for the eyes.
- A short afternoon hike of 3 miles is planned at 3:00PM that starts on a beautiful coastal trail at the base of our hotel and follows an old path where golden eagles, seals, otters, and dolphins may be spotted. The trail eventually winds through a moor and up a hill and back to our hotel.
- May 6 (Thur)** Following another great breakfast, we will get an early 9:00AM start back to the [West Highlands](#). There will be an optional walk across the [Skye Bridge](#) into [Kyle of Lochalsh](#) (1.3 miles).
- Then it is on to [Plockton](#), the Jewel of the Highlands. This small harbor village is famous for its palm trees. We will have a short pre-lunch hike and then dine in the village.
- It is then on to wonderful [Beinn Eighe](#) for some more awesome hiking, including a genuine Scotch Pine forest, high [munro](#) lakes, beautiful heather, and the most pristine loch in all of Scotland. Following the hike, we will re-hydrate with wine and cheese along the beautiful [Loch Maree](#) before the short drive to [Inverness](#) and our lodging at the [Palace Hotel](#) on the River Ness.

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- May 7 (Fri)** A pre-breakfast hike starting at 7:30AM along the beautiful River Ness trail and the Caledonia Canal will be orchestrated.
- At 11:00AM we will board the bus then it is on to a beautiful ride along the [Great Glen Way](#). Our Loch Ness experience will be a gorgeous short hike up to the [Urguhart Castle](#) and the magnificent view of this famous loch where “Nessie” is alleged to roam.
- Then it is on to Sterling which is often described as Scotland’s heart and soul. The giant [William Wallace Monument](#) (Braveheart) on the way into the city will fire you up! Our lodging is at the really cool [Barceló Hotel](#) in the Old Town district at the base of [Sterling Castle](#). A short hike of Old Town and its cobblestone streets is planned before dinner.
- May 8 (Sat)** Following breakfast we will depart for the 90 minute ride to the [Kingdom of Fife](#) and historic [St. Andrews](#). En route we will do an awesome hike at [Alva Glen](#). It features five waterfalls and some cool grass trails high up in the glen.
- Then on to St. Andrews for a beautiful trek including the ruins of Scotland’s biggest cathedral, the old town gate, Scotland’s oldest university, the [Old Course](#) (the home of golf) and the [West Beach](#) where the movie [Chariots of Fire](#) was filmed.
- There will be time for shopping and dining before we return to Sterling.
- May 9 (Sun)** Sadly, it is time to leave Bonnie Scotland. It is about an hour’s drive to the Edinburgh airport.
- 7:30AM Load bus for drive to Edinburgh Turnhouse Airport
- 11:00AM Leave Edinburgh via BMI Flight BD55
- 12:30PM Arrive at London Heathrow Airport
- 3:20PM Leave Heathrow via United flight 959
- 6:18PM Arrive Chicago O’Hare Airport
- 10:00PM ETA at SMC Niles Campus

EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) Michigan and Indiana time.

CDT (Central Daylight Time) Chicago time. (EDT -1Hr)

BST (British Summer Time) London and all Scotland (EDT +5Hrs)

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