



Women's Tours by EMBARK

31 DAY HOSTED TOUR
12 AUGUST 2027 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2027

ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND





Let's explore England, Wales and Scotland together!

Join us for a wonderfully relaxed and richly layered month-long journey through England, Wales and Scotland – designed especially for women who love great company, fascinating history and unforgettable scenery, all enjoyed at a comfortable pace. Travelling in June and July (when we give ourselves the very best chance of enjoying Britain's finest weather – yes, even in London!), we explore everything from elegant cities to wild northern landscapes. We'll wander through Royal London, storybook Cotswold villages and the rolling countryside of Yorkshire before crossing into Wales to ride the Snowdon Mountain Railway to the summit of Yr Wyddfa. Along the way, there'll be castles, afternoon teas and plenty of laughs.

As we venture further north, the scenery grows ever more dramatic. We'll travel through the Highlands to the magical Isle of Skye and even as far as the remote and captivating Orkney Islands – a true “pinch me” moment. Think ancient stone circles, windswept coastlines and those iconic shaggy Highland cows we've all secretly hoped to see up close.

With minimal one-night stays, we unpack less and savour more. We'll cruise Loch Ness, learn how to play the bagpipes, explore grand castles and finish in glorious Edinburgh, soaking up its atmosphere, history and a touch of tartan flair. This is Britain at its best – shared with like-minded women, plenty of comfort, and just the right balance of fun, culture and adventure.

Itinerary Overview (not including flying time to London/home from Edinburgh)

- 4 nights' accommodation London
- 1 nights' accommodation Windsor
- 2 nights' accommodation Cotswolds
- 2 nights' accommodation Llandudno
- 1 nights' accommodation Liverpool
- 2 nights' accommodation York
- 2 nights' accommodation Lakes District
- 1 nights' accommodatio Loch Lomond
- 2 nights' accommodatio Isle of Skye
- 1 nights' accommodatio Ullapool
- 1 nights' accommodatio Thurso
- 2 nights' accommodatio Orkney Islands
- 2 nights' accommodation Inverness
- 2 nights' accommodation Aberdeen
- 2 nights' accommodation Edinburgh





12th August 2027: Day One (meals in flight)

Today you will be transferred from your front door (Newcastle/Hunter/Lake Macquarie) to Sydney airport with your fellow travellers. We'll be taking an overnight flight to London.



13th August 2027: Day Two (meals in flight, dinner)

Welcome to London - where the accents are familiar, the seasons are reversed, and the tea is taken very seriously! On arrival, we'll be transferred away to our centrally located accommodation, our home away from home for the next four nights. Tonight, dinner will be included in a local restaurant.

14th August 2027: Day Three (B, D)

Step into the heart of Britain's royal and political heritage as you begin your day with skip-the-line entry to Westminster Abbey. Inside this magnificent thousand-year-old church, your guide will bring history to life, sharing stories of coronations held here since 1066 and the remarkable figures laid to rest within its walls. You'll stand before the revered Coronation Chair and wander through Poet's Corner, where literary greats such as Charles Dickens and Geoffrey Chaucer are commemorated, gaining a deeper appreciation for the Abbey's enduring role in shaping the nation's story.



From here, continue to the iconic Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, where the chimes of the famous clock tower have marked moments of national significance for generations. As you admire this instantly recognisable symbol of London, your guide will share insights into the workings of British democracy within the historic Palace of Westminster that stands beside it.



A short stroll leads you into the serene surroundings of St. James's Park, one of London's most beautiful Royal Parks. Walking along its tree-lined pathways and tranquil lake, you'll make your way toward Buckingham Palace, official residence of the monarch and a powerful symbol of the British monarchy. Viewing the palace from its grand gates, you'll witness the pageantry of royal tradition, arriving in time to observe the Changing of the Guard, a vibrant display of military precision and centuries-old ceremony.

We will continue through the lively heart of the city toward Trafalgar Square, where you'll have free time to enjoy lunch at your leisure (not included). Nearby, you'll see the exterior of 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the British Prime Minister and the setting for many of the country's most important decisions.



We will also visit the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren's architectural masterpiece. Beneath its grand dome, you'll discover a place that has hosted royal weddings, state funerals, and national celebrations, while your guide shares stories of its resilience through the

Great Fire of London and the Blitz. Together, these iconic landmarks offer a rich and memorable introduction to London's history, pageantry and enduring traditions. Tonight, we'll take a dinner cruise along the Thames.

15th August 2027 : Day Four (B, L)

Today we will visit the Tower of London for an immersive journey through one of Britain's most storied landmarks. Your experience starts with a memorable audience with one of the Tower's world-famous Beefeaters. This is a unique opportunity to take photographs, ask questions, and hear authentic tales of intrigue, imprisonment and royal drama — stories passed down through generations that bring the Tower's history vividly to life.

From here, your guided tour unfolds through the fortress's most iconic sites. You'll visit the formidable 11th-century White Tower, the oldest part of the complex. Within its ancient stone walls, discover the world-class displays of arms and armour, including the extraordinary Line of Kings exhibition, which has captivated visitors for over 350 years.

As you explore further, you'll walk the historic battlements, stand near the Raven's Den — home to the legendary guardians of the Tower — and visit Tower Green, the solemn execution site of three English queens. Your journey culminates with the unmissable Crown Jewels, where you will come face-to-face with one of the world's most dazzling collections of royal regalia. At the heart of this extraordinary display lies the Coronation Regalia, a priceless and deeply symbolic collection of objects used since 1661 to crown the sovereigns of England.

Afterwards, it's off to taste our way around the Borough Markets! Our local guide will show us the best stalls out of hundreds of markets. You'll try savoury and sweet dishes, from sausage rolls to sticky toffee puddings. In between tastings, see firsthand and hear about Bankside's iconic sights, like Clink Prison. A little bit of history and a lot of food makes this a fun afternoon in London.

Afterwards, enjoy some time at leisure to explore at your own pace. Perhaps visit iconic Harrods, stroll through the leafy surrounds of Hyde Park, or head to Oxford Street for a spot of world-class shopping. Alternatively, simply relax and put your feet up after a day of sightseeing. Tonight, we'll be taking in a West End Show!

16th August 2027 : Day Five (B, High Tea/L)

Enjoy a refined royal morning starting in Kensington Gardens, where British royalty have strolled for more than 300 years. Stroll along the Cradle Walk, to view the beautiful Sunken Garden and take in the tranquil setting that has long been associated with royal life.

Admire the exterior of Kensington Palace as you hear captivating stories of its notable residents and visitors, from Queen Victoria and Princess Margaret to Diana, Princess of Wales, and today's royal family including King Charles III and the Prince and Princess of Wales.





Afterwards we'll access to the State Apartments and Royal Palace Gardens, including highlights such as the King's Staircase, the King's and Queen's State Apartments, the Queen Victoria Rooms and the Jewel Room, each revealing layers of royal history and ceremony.

Your experience concludes in truly regal style at the opulent 18th-century Orangery, nestled within the palace grounds, where you will indulge in a sumptuous Royal Tea. Surrounded by elegant architecture and manicured gardens, savour a selection of hand-prepared sandwiches, delicate pastries and cakes, all accompanied by the finest British tea — the perfect crowning touch to a memorable royal London experience.



This afternoon we'll immerse ourselves in London's traditional pub scene, uncovering historic drinking dens that many visitors overlook. Step inside centuries-old alehouses, visit literary haunts once frequented by writers such as Charles Dickens, and gain insight into the capital's rich and colourful drinking culture. As we stroll through one of London's oldest neighbourhoods, you'll hear fascinating stories of the characters, customs and traditions that have shaped this enduring social institution.

17th August 2027 : Day Six (B, D)



After a few full days discovering the highlights of London, we'll enjoy a relaxed start to the morning. Late morning, we'll check out of our hotel and set off for the next stop on our journey. Just an hour away, we'll arrive in the charming town of Windsor, where we'll spend the night. Here, we'll visit the magnificent Windsor Castle, the world's oldest and largest occupied castle, originally built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century. Explore the lavish State Apartments, glimpse the grand royal bedchambers, and admire the intricate craftsmanship of Queen Mary's Dolls' House. After taking in the history and splendour of this mighty fortress, we'll enjoy time to stroll through Windsor's picturesque streets and gardens at leisure before dinner at a local restaurant.



18th August 2027: Day Seven (B, D)

Today we journey into England's picturesque countryside, travelling toward the storybook landscapes of the Cotswolds. Along the way, we pause to explore one of the world's most iconic prehistoric sites — Stonehenge. Standing for over 4,000 years, this remarkable stone circle continues to captivate visitors and historians alike.

Continuing on, we arrive in the elegant city of Bath, famed for its honey-coloured Georgian architecture and Roman heritage. Founded on natural thermal springs, Bath has been a place of relaxation and social gathering for nearly 2,000 years. We can wander through its graceful streets and sweeping crescents, including the impressive Royal Crescent; admire the magnificent Bath Abbey, where kings have been crowned beneath its vaulted ceiling. A stroll across Pulteney Bridge — one of only a handful of bridges in the world lined with shops — offers lovely views over the River Avon and its iconic weir; while the nearby Parade Gardens provide a tranquil riverside setting to soak in the charm of this beautiful and historic city.





Our charming hotel in the Cotswolds is exactly how you imagine - the personification of the English chocolate-box country house, covered in ivy and standing high on a hill overlooking miles of stunning Cotswolds countryside. It's the perfect base for our 2 night stay.

19th August 2027: Day Eight (B, D)

The picturesque Cotswolds embody traditional English charm, and our day showcases some of its most beautiful and character-filled villages. We'll begin in Bourton-on-the-Water, often affectionately known as the "Venice of the Cotswolds." Here, the gentle River Windrush flows beneath a series of low stone bridges - some so modest they can be crossed in just a few steps - framed by honey-coloured cottages built from the region's distinctive limestone.

From here, we enjoy a gentle countryside walk between Lower Slaughter and Upper Slaughter, two villages whose unusual name derives from the old English word "slohtre," meaning muddy place - a far cry from their peaceful atmosphere today. Lower Slaughter is home to a beautifully preserved 19th-century water mill, while Upper Slaughter remains one of the most unspoilt villages in England, with its historic manor house and tranquil setting along the River Eye.

Continuing on, we visit Bibury, described by William Morris as "the most beautiful village in England." Its famous Arlington Row cottages, dating back to the 14th century!

Our day concludes in Burford, often called the "Gateway to the Cotswolds." Its steep High Street slopes gently down toward the River Windrush and is lined with centuries-old cottages, independent boutiques and traditional English pubs. With its rich history, charming streetscape and warm village atmosphere, Burford provides the perfect finale to a day immersed in the timeless beauty of the Cotswolds.

20th August 2027: Day Nine (B, L/Afternoon Tea)

Today we cross the border into Wales and make our way to the charming coastal town of Llandudno, where we'll enjoy a two-night stay. Set on the picturesque Creuddyn Peninsula in North Wales, within Conwy County Borough, Llandudno is the country's largest seaside resort and is affectionately known as the "Queen of the Welsh Resorts."

En route, we pause in the historic city of Chester, where we explore its unique character and rich heritage. We will wander beneath the distinctive two-tiered Chester Rows, home to charming boutiques and cafés, and walk along the ancient Roman Walls — the most complete in Britain, dating back nearly 2,000 years — for sweeping views over the city. Along the way, we will see the magnificent Chester Cathedral and the iconic Eastgate Clock, said to be the second most photographed clock in England after Big Ben. We will also enjoy a stroll along the River Dee at The Groves, taking in the peaceful riverside setting.





During our visit, we will experience a memorable Afternoon Tea at Chester Cathedral. Set within the remarkable 13th-century monks' dining hall, the café is steeped in history, featuring a 17th-century tapestry, portraits of the Earls of Chester, and the striking Creation Window depicting the six days of creation.

21st August 2027: Day Ten (B, D)



Embark on a heritage railway journey to the summit of Snowdon (or Yr Wyddfa) the majestic peak that rises 1,085 metres above sea level – the highest mountain in Wales! From the comfort of the historic mountain railway, ascend through dramatic landscapes of rugged cliffs and sweeping valleys, crossing impressive viaducts and passing cascading waterfalls, deep gorges and the evocative remains of abandoned farms, chapels and ancient settlements.

As the train climbs higher, breathtaking views unfold in every direction. At the summit, enjoy time to take in the extraordinary panorama stretching across Snowdonia National Park and, on a clear day, as far as Ireland, before returning to the base by rail.



Our day continues in the beautifully preserved medieval town of Conwy, dominated by its magnificent 13th-century castle (a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by Edward I). Wander through the atmospheric streets, lined with independent shops and traditional Welsh craft stores, and admire the remarkably intact town walls that encircle the historic centre. Down by the picturesque quayside, breathe in the sea air, watch boats bob gently in the harbour and see the famous Smallest House in Great Britain. With its blend of history, coastal charm and Welsh character, Conwy offers a delightful complement to the grandeur of Snowdon.

22nd August 2027: Day Eleven (B, L)



Depart for Liverpool, a vibrant waterfront city whose global influence far exceeds its size. Best known as the proud hometown of The Beatles, Liverpool is a place where music, maritime history and bold architecture come together in unforgettable style. In fact, the city is recognised by Guinness World Records as the “World Capital of Pop,” and The Beatles went on to become the best-selling band of all time after first performing at the legendary Cavern Club — which we will pass during our exploration of the city centre.

As we stroll through Liverpool's atmospheric streets, we'll discover a city shaped by centuries of seafaring trade. Its historic docks were once at the heart of the British Empire's global shipping network, and today the revitalised waterfront blends heritage with modern energy. We will admire the magnificent Liverpool Anglican Cathedral — the largest cathedral in Britain and one of the largest in the world — an awe-inspiring structure that took 74 years to complete.



After lunch, our visit continues around the beautifully restored Albert Dock, where cobbled walkways, historic warehouses and striking waterfront views create a lively yet timeless atmosphere.

23rd August 2027: Day Twelve (B, D)

Depart for the historic city of York, travelling through the scenic landscapes of North Yorkshire. En route, we pause in the elegant spa town of Harrogate, renowned for its refined Victorian charm and beautifully maintained gardens. Here, we explore the stylish Montpellier Quarter, with its characterful boutiques, galleries and antique shops, and stroll through the colourful Valley Gardens and Montpellier Gardens, where floral displays and historic pavilions reflect the town's gracious heritage.

Our journey continues to the Fountains Abbey, one of the largest and best-preserved Cistercian monastery ruins in England. Founded in 1132 by monks seeking a life of simplicity and devotion, the soaring arches and stone ruins offer a glimpse into medieval monastic life. Set within the sweeping Studley Royal Water Garden, the abbey stands amid tranquil parkland that enhances its beauty.

Later, we arrive in York, where dinner will be included this evening, providing the perfect opportunity to relax and reflect on a day rich in history, architecture and quintessential Yorkshire charm.

24th August 2027: Day Thirteen (B, D)

Discover the timeless charm of York, England's walled city. Step back in time as you explore the ancient City Walls, first built by the Romans in the 1st century and strengthened by Viking and medieval defenders over the centuries. Visit the magnificent York Minster, the 14th-century Gothic cathedral that dominates the skyline, and see St Michael-le-Belfrey, where Guy Fawkes was baptised in 1570.

Wander along the character-filled Stonegate before admiring the Yorkshire Museum and the evocative ruins of St Mary's Abbey - once the wealthiest abbey in northern England. Cross over the River Ouse over the Scarborough Railway Bridge which dates back to 1845. Visit the National Railway Museum, providing an extensive history of the railway network and development in the UK; there are over 100 locomotives and nearly 300 other items of rolling stock here.

For lunch, enjoy a classic British experience with a Fish & Chips Cruise! Freshly prepared by award-winning local favourite Mr Chippy, your meal is served as you relax on board, taking in riverside views of York's landmarks and the surrounding countryside, accompanied by live commentary from the captain. Our day concludes at the Shambles, York's most famous medieval street, once lined with butcher shops and now brimming with independent boutiques and cafés — the perfect spot to explore further.

25th August 2027: Day Fourteen (B, D)

Today we journey through the breathtaking landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales. Rolling green hills, dry-stone walls that criss-cross the countryside, and charming stone villages create a picture-perfect backdrop as we travel through this much-loved region.

Along the way, we'll admire the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct, a triumph of Victorian engineering completed in 1874. Stretching across the dramatic moorland with its 24 towering stone arches, this remarkable structure forms part of the famous Settle–Carlisle Railway and stands as a testament to the ambition and craftsmanship of the railway age.

We'll also visit the beautiful Aysgarth Falls, a series of three stepped waterfalls cascading over wide limestone shelves along the River Ure. Set within ancient woodland, the falls have inspired poets and painters for centuries and even featured in the film Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. With fresh country air and the soothing sound of rushing water, it's the perfect place to pause and soak in the natural beauty of the Dales. This scenic day takes us through to Windermere 'The Lakes District' for our two-night stay

26th August 2027: Day Fifteen (B, L)

Enjoy a full day immersed in the breathtaking beauty of the Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage landscape of shimmering waters and dramatic fells that has inspired poets and painters for generations.

We begin at Lake Windermere, England's largest lake, where a scenic round cruise offers uninterrupted views of tranquil waters framed by rolling hills and rugged mountains. From the deck, take in the ever-changing scenery that has captivated visitors since Victorian times. After disembarking, we spend time in Windermere, a town that flourished as a fashionable 19th-century holiday retreat when the railway first brought travellers seeking fresh air and sublime scenery.

Our journey continues to Coniston Water, forever linked to speed legend Donald Campbell, who set world water speed records here in his iconic Bluebird. Next, we visit the charming village of Grasmere, once home to poet William Wordsworth. With its independent shops, traditional stone cottages and famous gingerbread shop dating back to 1854, Grasmere perfectly captures the spirit of the Lakes.

We then enjoy a spectacular drive around the Helvellyn range, one of the Lake District's most impressive mountain chains. Helvellyn itself rises proudly between Thirlmere and Ullswater, offering dramatic ridgelines and sweeping valley views. Our day concludes with a scenic drive along Ullswater, often described as the most beautiful lake in England, its long, glacial curves providing a fitting finale before we return to our hotel after a day rich in natural wonder and timeless charm.

27th August 2027: Day Sixteen (B, L)

Today we cross into Scotland! Our first stop is the National Piping Centre in Glasgow, where you will be welcomed by a Bagpiper in full highland dress playing for your arrival! Tour the museum with your bagpipe host, to hear about the history and traditions of bagpiping in Scotland. If you are game, you'll have the opportunity to try and play the chanter (part of the bagpipe) and the full bagpipes themselves.

Lunch at a local restaurant offers a warm and welcoming taste of modern Scottish hospitality. Afterwards we will continue our travels through to Loch Lomond for overnight stay.

Our accommodation here is a charming country inn nestled in the picturesque village of Luss, on the western shores of Loch Lomond in Scotland. As the largest loch in Great Britain by surface area, Loch Lomond it is dotted with more than 30 islands, each steeped in legend and history. Framed by the dramatic landscapes of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, this enchanting setting has inspired poets, songwriters and visitors for centuries!

28th August 2027: Day Seventeen (B, D)

Journey from the tranquil shores of Loch Lomond toward the legendary



legendary Isle of Skye, travelling through some of the most awe-inspiring scenery in the Scottish Highlands. The drive unfolds across the vast wilderness of Rannoch Moor before descending into the dramatic valley of Glencoe, where towering peaks and deep-cut glens create one of Scotland's most iconic landscapes. A stop at Glencoe National Nature Reserve allows time to take in sweeping views, explore the area's fascinating geology and poignant history, and perhaps enjoy a short walk beneath the shadow of its famous mountains — a setting that truly captures the spirit of the Highlands.

Continuing north, we pause at the Glenfinnan Viaduct, an impressive feat of Victorian engineering and the longest concrete railway bridge in Scotland. Set against the waters of Loch Shiel, it is instantly recognisable from the Harry Potter films, and if timing allows, we may catch sight of the Jacobite Steam Train crossing its graceful arches. Nearby stands the Glenfinnan Monument, where a lone Highlander gazes across the loch in tribute to those who fought for the Jacobite cause.

By day's end, we arrive on the enchanting Isle of Skye, a place often described as Scotland in miniature. Renowned for its rugged coastline, otherworldly rock formations and mist-draped mountains, Skye's landscapes feel both wild and timeless. From the jagged Cuillin peaks to fairy pools, ancient castles and windswept cliffs, the island's raw natural beauty and deep-rooted Gaelic heritage make it one of Scotland's most magical and unforgettable destinations. We are fortunate to be spending two nights here on the Isle of Skye

29th August 2027: Day Eighteen (B, D)

No visit to the Isle of Skye is complete without discovering the rich history and enduring legends of Clan MacLeod at the award-winning Dunvegan Castle & Gardens. As the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland, Dunvegan has been the ancestral home of the MacLeod chiefs for over 800 years. Inside, we will view an impressive collection of fine oil paintings and treasured clan artefacts, including the legendary Fairy Flag — said to possess miraculous powers that ensured victory in battle when unfurled. We will also see the remarkable Dunvegan Cup, a rare medieval "mazer" dating back to the Middle Ages. Surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens and overlooking the sea loch, the castle offers a captivating blend of history, myth and breathtaking scenery.

We then continue to Portree, the colourful capital of Skye. We will stroll along its picturesque harbour, where brightly painted buildings line the waterfront and fishing boats bob gently in the bay. Exploring the town's charming streets, we will browse local shops and galleries, soak in the relaxed island atmosphere and take in views across the surrounding hills and coastline that make this Highland harbour so memorable.

Our day also includes a visit to the Skye Museum of Island Life, where we step back in time to experience a recreated Highland village. Through traditional thatched cottages and fascinating exhibits, we gain a true insight into daily life on Skye over a century ago, deepening our appreciation for the resilience and heritage of the island's communities.





30th August 2027: Day Nineteen (B, D)

As hard as it is to leave the stunning Isle of Skye, we must continue on our journey through Scotland. As we drive towards Ullapool for the night, we first begin with a visit to the iconic Eilean Donan Castle. Perched on a small tidal island where three sea lochs meet, and connected to the mainland by a stone bridge, this picture-perfect fortress has become a true symbol of the Highlands. Dating back to the 13th century, the castle has witnessed clan feuds, Jacobite risings and dramatic restorations — and today stands proudly against a backdrop of rugged mountains and shimmering waters.

From here, we continue to Inverewe Garden on the wild Atlantic coast of the North West Highlands. Here, we discover the inspiring story of Osgood Mackenzie and his daughter Mairi, who transformed what was once a barren, windswept wilderness into a thriving lochside garden in the 19th century. Thanks to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream, exotic plants from around the world flourish in this unlikely setting. Later, we depart for the charming harbour town of Ullapool, where we settle in for our overnight stay surrounded by the beauty of Scotland's northwest coast.

31st August 2027: Day Twenty (B, D)

Today we travel north to Thurso, venturing deep into Scotland's dramatic Highland landscapes. En route, we visit the magnificent Dunrobin Castle, the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands, boasting an impressive 189 rooms. With its fairytale spires and sweeping gardens overlooking the Moray Firth, Dunrobin more closely resembles a French château than a traditional Scottish fortress.

Before arriving at our accommodation, we'll make a stop at the Dunnet Head Bay Distillery. Here we will be guided through the distillery to see the traditional production process—from malting and mashing to fermentation, distillation, and maturation in oak casks. Along the way, you will hear stories of the distillery's history, the unique local ingredients, and the flavours that make their spirits distinctive. Our tour concludes with a tasting session of their fine whiskies and other spirits while enjoying views of the rugged northern coastline - creating a memorable and authentic Highland experience!



1st September 2027: Day Twenty-One (B, D)

We will start our day exploring John O'Groats, the most northerly village on the mainland. Soak in the dramatic scenery at the northernmost tip of mainland Scotland. A stroll along the rugged coastline offers breathtaking views of the Pentland Firth and, on a clear day, the Orkney Islands.

Then it's time to visit Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of mainland Britain, located in Caithness, Scotland. It's a rugged peninsula known for its wild, untamed landscape, stunning sea cliffs, and coastal grasslands. The area is a designated nature reserve and is home to a variety of seabirds, including puffins, razorbills, and guillemots.



Afterwards we will take the ferry from Scrabster to Stromness, our home on the Orkney Islands for the next two nights. As the vessel departs Scrabster on Scotland's northern mainland, you will be treated to panoramic views of the rugged coastline and the sparkling waters of the Pentland Firth. The crossing typically takes around 90 minutes, providing plenty of time to spot seabirds, watch for passing boats, or simply enjoy the fresh sea air.



2nd September 2027: Day Twenty-Two (B, L)

A full-day tour of Orkney promises an unforgettable journey through extraordinary landscapes and thousands of years of history. We begin at the Standing Stones of Stenness, one of Britain's oldest stone circles, where these towering monoliths rise dramatically from the windswept landscape, offering a powerful connection to Orkney's ancient past. Travelling alongside the waters of Scapa Flow — once a vital Royal Navy anchorage during both World Wars — we take in sweeping coastal views before arriving at the Ring of Brodgar, an impressive ceremonial stone circle set within a vast natural amphitheatre of lochs and hills.



We then explore Skara Brae, a remarkably preserved Neolithic village older than the pyramids of Egypt. Buried beneath sand dunes for millennia and revealed by a storm in 1850, its stone-built houses, passageways and even prehistoric "furniture" provide an astonishing glimpse into life over 5,000 years ago.

In the afternoon, we continue to Kirkwall, Orkney's historic capital, for a guided walk through its characterful streets. We visit the magnificent St Magnus Cathedral, founded in 1137 and built from striking red and yellow sandstone, before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Our day concludes at the Italian Chapel, a beautifully crafted place of worship created by Italian prisoners of war during World War II. Built from simple materials yet adorned with intricate painted details, it stands as a moving symbol of hope, resilience and artistry.

Blending archaeology, wartime history, Norse heritage and breathtaking coastal scenery, our day in Orkney offers a truly enriching and memorable Highland experience.



3rd September 2027: Day Twenty-Three (B, D)

This morning we depart for Inverness, taking the ferry back to the mainland as we leave Orkney's rugged shores behind. The crossing offers one last look at the dramatic northern coastline before we continue south into the heart of the Highlands.

On arrival in Inverness, we discover a city that blends history, culture and natural beauty. We stroll along the banks of the River Ness, where peaceful waters flow past the charming Ness Islands and provide lovely views across the city. We'll see Inverness Castle, perched above the river as a striking landmark, and gain insight into Highland heritage with a visit to the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. In the city centre, we explore the Victorian Market, where traditional shopfronts house local boutiques, cafés and artisanal delights, offering a warm and authentic taste of Highland life.



4th September 2027: Day Twenty-Four (B, D)

Begin the day with a Loch Ness cruise. Boarding at Dochgarroch, we glide along Thomas Telford's remarkable Caledonian Canal before emerging onto the legendary waters of Loch Ness itself - following in the footsteps of Queen Victoria, who once travelled these very shores.

As we cruise through the dramatic Great Glen, Highland scenery unfolds all around. We'll enjoy panoramic views of Aldourie Castle, Bona Lighthouse and the spectacular ruins of Urquhart Castle perched on the loch's edge — so keep your cameras at the ready. Along the way, fascinating commentary brings the loch's colourful past to life, from tales of Jacobite intrigue to the World War II Wellington Bomber that rests beneath its dark waters. And of course, no visit would be complete without hearing a few stories about its most famous (and famously elusive) resident 'Nessy'.



5th September 2027: Day Twenty-Five (B, L)

Our travels today will take us from Inverness to Aberdeen. En route, get to know the charming town of Elgin. The striking Elgin Cathedral, often called the "Lantern of the North," offers a glimpse into medieval architecture and tranquil ruins set in beautiful grounds. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the High Street, stopping for lunch at a local restaurant.

Then, enjoy the Aberdeenshire Sheepdog Experience. Located on a farm, just a few miles from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire Sheepdogs offers a unique private opportunity to experience sheepdogs at work. On arrival you will be met by Michelle and Gary Bruce who will explain their experiences working, training and trialling with their 8 Border Collies and share stories about life on a rural Scottish sheep farm.

You will be invited to meet the and see first-hand what it's like to work with these intelligent and highly skilled animals. Michelle and Gary are the only people in the North East of Scotland to offer this unique opportunity, making it a must see!



6th September 2027: Day Twenty-Six (B, L)

It's time to visit Aberdeenshire Highland Cattle Farm located on the Leys Estate at Crathes. Here we will meet Grace Noble, the owner of this prize-winning pedigree herd of cattle. Grace will be delighted to share her passion with you as she guides you around her working farm and gives you an insight as to how these unique animals are cared for. You will also have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the cattle! Grace has close Royal connections, her produce is not only supplied to two Royal Households (Balmoral & Birkhall) King's Charles private residence, she just recently purchased the majority of the late Queen Elisabeth's Highland Cattle Herd from the Balmoral Estate!

After meeting the royal cows, enjoy a beef tasting (and lunch) which is considered to be the most delicious Premium Quality beef available. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon and evening in Aberdeen.



7th September 2027: Day Twenty-Seven (B, D)

Our final leg of our journey through the UK is to Edinburgh. Before we reach Edinburgh, we'll stop at Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most important and dramatic strongholds. Commanding sweeping views over the surrounding countryside, this mighty fortress once guarded the gateway between the Highlands and Lowlands. It was a favoured residence of the Stewart kings and queens, who hosted lavish celebrations here — from glittering banquets to royal christenings and coronations. During our visit, we'll explore the restored Royal Palace and wander through the castle's gardens - soaking up stories that shaped Scotland's past.

We then travel to The Helix Park, home of the Kelpies — the largest equine sculptures in the world. Standing an impressive 100 feet tall and weighing over 300 tonnes each, these steel structures are a true feat of engineering. Created by artist Andy Scott and modelled on real-life Clydesdale horses Duke and Baron, the Kelpies celebrate Scotland's industrial heritage and the powerful working horses that once pulled barges along the canals and wagons through the fields.



Edinburgh is where Scotland saves the best for last — a city of castle-topped crags, hidden closes, lively pubs and stories around every cobbled corner. With its dramatic skyline, rich history, buzzing atmosphere and just a touch of Highland magic, it's the perfect place to celebrate the grand finale of our unforgettable journey.

8th September 2027: Day Twenty-Eight (B, D)

Lace up your walking shoes as we dive into the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town with our local guide, ready to uncover the stories, secrets and scandals of Scotland's capital. We begin at historic Holyrood Abbey before passing the striking Scottish Parliament building, where ancient history meets modern design. From there, we wander up the Royal Mile to St Giles' Cathedral, explore the atmospheric Greyfriars Kirkyard — listen out for tales that inspired Harry Potter - and soak up the lively energy of the





Grassmarket, once home to public executions and now buzzing with cafés and character. Our tour also includes time inside the fascinating National Museum of Scotland, where centuries of innovation and culture come to life.

No visit to Edinburgh would be complete without stepping inside its most famous landmark — Edinburgh Castle. Perched high on an extinct volcano, the castle dominates the skyline and offers spectacular views across the city. During our guided visit, we'll explore its historic halls, hear tales of kings, queens and sieges, and discover why this fortress has played such a pivotal role in Scotland's story.

This evening, we celebrate in true Scottish style with an unforgettable night of traditional dance, stirring storytelling, rousing music and the unmistakable sound of the bagpipes — all accompanied by dinner in the heart of the city. It's the perfect way to toast an incredible journey through Scotland.

9th September 2027: Day Twenty-Nine (B, meals in flight)

Today we will be transferred to the airport, to start our journey home. You will spend the **10th September** in transit, arriving back into Sydney on the **11th September**. Once you land in Sydney, you will be transferred to your home address in Newcastle/Hunter.

Please note: While this itinerary includes specific restaurants, hotels and activities, occasional changes may occur due to circumstances beyond our control—such as venue renovations or updates to group dining availability. Rest assured, any adjustments we make are thoughtfully chosen to enhance your overall experience. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility, as part of the joy of travel lies in embracing the unexpected and discovering new highlights along the way.

Your 2027 Embark Tour includes



- Return Transfers from your home address* to Sydney airport
- Economy Class Flights with a full-service airline (upgrade to business class available closer to departure)
- All accommodation (4-5 star where possible)
- Sightseeing and transport as per the itinerary - all entrance fees included
- Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) where indication - minimum of 2 meals per day
- Small Group of only 12 women (plus guides and Embark Travel representatives)
- Embark Travel tour manager, travelling with you
- Local sightseeing experts throughout
- Pre-tour get together meal
- All tipping throughout
- Departure Pack (luggage tags, luggage straps, ticket wallet etc)
- Welcome Home Pack
- Any required visas for Australian passport holders

**PACKAGE COST: \$26,200 per person
twin share**

SOLO Supplement \$5,500

First deposit is \$3,000 per person (due within 7 days of booking)

Second deposit of \$2,000 due 31st July 2026

Balance due 4 months prior to departure. All payments are non-refundable unless otherwise specified.



**ARE YOU READY TO
JOIN US?**

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, CALL
0402335919

OR EMAIL
MICHELLE@EMBARK-TRAVEL.COM.AU

