

2024 Post Congress Tour

This year IVAS will be heading out of the city of Edinburgh to the Scottish Highlands, including the famous Loch Ness. You will need to book and pay for each tour yourself. These tours are open to the public, which means anyone can join. There is a maximum number for each tour, so sign up now, do not wait as once the tour is full, they will not take any more people. Both tours have some crossover, but each gives you time in specific areas in Scotland. There are opportunities to take short nature walks. It is recommended to bring suitable clothing, footwear, water, and snacks.

Each tour will start in Edinburgh and end in Edinburgh at the daily designated meeting place. Once you have booked your tour, please email dprevratil@ivas.org so that you can be placed on the list with your contact information so you can receive updates and reminders about the tours.

Day 1 - Sunday, September 15, 2024

Loch Ness, Scottish Highland, Glencoe & Pitlochry Tour – 12.5-hour trip

Cost US\$101.91

Cancellation is 24 hours advanced notice from the start time to receive a full refund.

To book your tour click on link: [Loch Ness, Glencoe and Ben Nevis from Edinburgh 2024 \(viator.com\)](https://www.viator.com/Loch-Ness-Glencoe-and-Ben-Nevis-from-Edinburgh-2024)

- **Enter the date September 15, 2024**
- **How many people**
- **Pay for your tickets and in the “Special Requirements Box” type in - With a group IVAS.**

What's included:

- All taxes, fees, and handling charges
- Experienced 'Hairy Coo' Driver-Guide providing live commentary, storytelling throughout including important history.
- Air-conditioned vehicle
- Regular Comfort Breaks

What's not included:

- Food and drinks
- Gratuities
- Optional Loch Ness cruise can be purchased on morning of tour - £16.50
- No Toilet/Restroom on board the bus
- No Wi-Fi on board the bus
- No children under the age of 7 allowed.
- Not wheelchair accessible

Information about this tour: (Taken directly from the Viator site)

Make your way to the central Edinburgh meeting point. Board your coach and settle in for the journey north. Make a brief stop in Callander before journeying into the Highlands through Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Your next stop is in haunting Glencoe, filled with dramatic scenery and history.

Your guide fills you in on Glencoe's stories before you continue north, passing Ben Nevis on the way. Stop next in Fort Augustus on the southern shores of Loch Ness. Take a cruise on the loch (additional cost) in search of the elusive monster or explore the village and wander along its canal. Make a stop at the Commando Memorial, which honors British war heroes and overlooks the Nevis range, before heading back south through Cairngorms National Park. There's time for a final stop in the charming village of Pitlochry before returning to Edinburgh where your tour ends. This tour is weather dependent.

Stop 1 - Callander – 30 minutes – Admission Ticket Free

After departing Edinburgh you'll head north through the central belt of the country. Your guide will entertain by laying the foundations of many a story about Scotland's past heroes like William Wallace and Robert the Bruce who made this area of Scotland their own. You will spot royal palaces, giant mythical Kelpies, and the ancient stronghold of Stirling Castle before we arrive at our first stop of the day in the town of Callander. Known as "The Gateway to the Highlands" Callander is situated on the boundary of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty. Here you will be able to explore the town's abundance of authentic gift shops, delicatessens, and bakeries. An ideal place to stretch your legs and refresh before you rejoin the bus to enter the highlands properly.

Pass By – Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (Pass by only)

As we enter 'Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park' our bus weaves through hills, mountains, and Glens. These remote places were once inhabited by Highland Clans, not to mention Scotland's most famous outlaw, Rob Roy MacGregor, whom some consider The Scottish Robin Hood. Look out across the landscape and picture what it was like as you hear the remarkable bloodthirsty stories of betrayal and revenge as told by your guide. If we happen to spot some of our famous 'Hairy Highland Coos', we might stop for a selfie.

Stop 2 - Glencoe – 10 minutes – Admission Ticket Free

Glencoe was also the scene of one of Scotland's most shocking massacres. Stop at the Picturesque town of Callander "Gateway to the Highlands" and the Hairy Coos. As you gaze at the haunting hills, you notice the Glen is eerily silent. In the 17th century one of the worst acts of betrayal occurred here. Your guide will recount the details of this betrayal for you. You can almost feel the sorrow in the mountains of the 'weeping valley'. Above all though, Glencoe is one of Scotland's most beautiful landscapes. A highlight of any tour to the Scottish Highlands!

Pass By – Fort William (Pass By only)

The tour then takes you through Fort William and past the spectacular Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in the British Isles. The Nevis Range towers over the winding road as you continue your journey to Loch Ness.

Stop 3 – Fort Augustus Abby – 2 hours

Desperate for a glimpse of ‘Nessie’? Fort Augustus, a charming, postcard-perfect, Highland village on the Southern shores of the Loch. From here you will have the opportunity to take a fantastic 1-hour cruise on the loch with our friends at Cruise Loch Ness. The local crew on board share their experiences of Nessie, as you search for yourself. All with the aid of state-of-the-art Sonar equipment helping you scan the near 900-foot depths of the loch below. Tickets are Adults £16.50, Children £10.00 and are purchasable on the day with cash. For those who do not wish to take the optional boat cruise, you will have time to explore the village and its beautiful Caledonian Canal lock system, built by the famous engineer Thomas Telford in the 19th century, that descends through the heart of the village into Loch Ness. Walk further along the canal and into the surrounding countryside to enjoy mountainous views and sights of farm animals and possibly red deer.

Stop 4 – Commando Monument – 10 minutes – Admission Ticket Free

Along the route, we’ll stop at the Commando Memorial. In 1942, this setting became the training ground for Britain’s Special Forces. Harsh, unforgiving, and breathtakingly beautiful. A statue of our heroes overlooks the Nevis range. Bring a camera – this is undoubtedly one of our favorite photo-stops in all of Scotland. Here, weather permitting, you could also spot Ben Nevis. The tallest mountain in The United Kingdom.

Pass By – Cairngorms National Park (pass by only)

Heading south we travel through the Cairngorm National Park where red squirrels, roe deer, red deer, soaring buzzards, pine martens, golden eagles and osprey can be found. Our final stop of the day is Pitlochry

Stop 5 – Pitlochry – 30 Minutes – Admission Ticket Free

Pitlochry is situated in the heart of the stunning scenery of Highland Perthshire. The town sits below Beinn Bhraicheadh (Ben Vrackie), the speckled mountain and beside the river Tummel, in some of the most magnificent scenery in Scotland. With a backdrop of surrounding hills and beautiful woodlands, it is wonderful walking country.

Pass By – Forth Bridge (Pass by only)

As we re-enter Edinburgh from the North, you will be met with views of Scotland’s greatest piece of engineering, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Forth Bridge. This 19th century engineering marvel was at one point the World’s longest cantilever bridge. Today it neighbors the 20th century Forth Road Bridge and the 21st century Queensferry Crossing which opened in 2017. Three spectacular bridges, from three different centuries, span the Firth of Forth connecting our Capital city and the Kingdom of Fife.

Return back to the morning meeting spot.

Day 2 - Monday, September 16, 2024

Loch Lomond, Stirling Castle, and the Kelpies Tour – 9.5-hour trip

Cost US\$80.07

Cancellation is 24 hours advanced notice from the start time to receive a full refund.

To book your tour click on link: [Loch Lomond, Stirling Castle and the Kelpies from Edinburgh 2024 \(viator.com\)](#)

- **Enter the date September 16, 2024**
- **How many people**
- **Pay for your tickets and in the “Special Requirements Box” type in - With a group IVAS.**

What's Included:

- Driver/guide from Timberbush tours
- Air-conditioned vehicle
- Regular Comfort breaks

What's not included:

- Food and drinks, unless specified.
- Gratuities
- Attraction Tickets to Stirling Castle can be purchased.
- Optional Loch Lomond cruise can be purchased on morning of tour.
- No Toilet/Restroom on board the bus
- No Wi-Fi on board the bus
- No children under the age of 4 allowed.
- Not wheelchair accessible

Information about this tour: (Taken directly from the Viator site)

Explore Loch Lomond and Stirling Castle, and delve into the world of William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and Rob Roy on this tour from Edinburgh. Visit Stirling Castle, widely considered among Scotland's most impressive fortresses with a guide. Head through the Trossachs National Park to the Highland village of Balloch, nestled by the banks of magical Loch Lomond. Perhaps take a lake cruise or enjoy capturing the pretty town of Luss on camera before the journey back to Edinburgh. Explore the Scottish Highlands, Loch Lomond, and Stirling Castle in just one day. Visit picturesque Highland towns and villages including Balloch. Learn the roles William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and Rob Roy played in Scottish history and folklore. Operates in all weather conditions, please dress appropriately.

Stop 1 - The Kelpies & The Helix – 15 minutes – Admission tickets free

This tour will include a photo stop at the Kelpies.

Stop 2 – Balloch – 1 hour – Admission Tickets Free

We stop at Balloch at Loch Lomond to give our customers the option of taking a cruise across Loch Lomond. Admission for the cruise is not included, cost is £15.00.

Stop 3 - Loch Lomond Shores – 1 hour – Admission Tickets Free

For those who are not interested in taking the cruise, we stop at Loch Lomond Shores, for customers to take a leisurely walk.

Stop 4 - Aberfoyle – 1 hour – Admission Tickets Free

We stop at the village of Aberfoyle for lunch.

Stop 5 - Stirling Castle – 1.5 hours

We stop to spend time at Stirling Castle. Admission to the castle is not included. The cost to purchase tickets in advance online is £17.50 cost to purchase on the day £19.50.

Stop 6 - South Queensferry – 10 minutes – Admission Ticket Free

We stop at South Queensferry for views of the Forth Bridges.

Return back to the morning meeting spot.