Cruise Scotland
Destination Scotland – The Cruise Industry Guide

www.cruisescotland.com
WELCOME TO SCOTLAND! For a small country, we are a fantastic cruise destination with world-renowned scenery, history and culture. Our beautiful coastline offers deepwater ports capable of handling the world’s largest cruise ships and remote island harbours – ideal for welcoming small exploration vessels. Whether you’re planning a round Britain and Ireland itinerary, a cruise to Iceland and Faroe, the Norwegian Fjords or transatlantic re-positioning, Scotland’s ports are ideally placed.

World-class scenery awaits your guests; UNESCO World Heritage sites, ancient standing stones – older than the pyramids, majestic castles reflecting Scotland’s turbulent history, National Parks, Scotland’s first European Geopark containing 3 billion year-old rock formations, wildlife, sealife, a natural environment and a unique culture combine to offer a truly unforgettable visitor experience.
Early contact with the Harbour Master for all cruise vessels is essential to discuss any tidal restrictions on proposed berthing dates.

The Port also has a secure landing stage for cruise vessel tenders wishing to land or collect passengers for larger vessels anchored out in the bay.

Aberdeen Harbour has ISPS approved facilities with a range of support service companies for the Cruise Operators.

Aberdeen Harbour operates a compulsory pilotage service for vessels over 60 metres in length. One hour’s notice is required for pilotage.

Porpoises, seals, ducks and swans playing in the harbour are just part of the welcome committee for cruise ship visitors. The high environmental standards of Aberdeen City and Shire are noticeable from the moment the passenger reaches the port.

With a recorded history dating back to 1136AD Aberdeen Harbour has evolved through both trade and investment into a world-class port.

As a port-of-call for cruise ships and a major roll-on/roll-off ferry terminal, it handles around 140,000 passengers a year.

Contact:
Harbour Master, Aberdeen Harbour Board, 16 Regent Quay, Aberdeen AB11 5SS

T: +44 (0)1224 597000
F: +44 (0)1224 571507
E: info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk
W: www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Aberdeen

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Trump International
Set amidst The Great Dunes of Scotland, this award-winning championship course offers breathtaking scenery and an unparalleled test of golf. The course is woven through the majestic dunes, and rises to find panoramic views of the sea with each hole boasting distinct characteristics and unique features. Nestled in the heart of the magnificent and ancient estate, the five-star, exclusive MacLeod House & Lodge provides unsurpassed luxury accommodation, comfort and service. The exquisite nineteen bedroom hotel is adorned with opulent furnishings, fine linens and Italian marble en-suites as well as a stunning restaurant serving traditional Scottish cuisine with a modern twist. Experience the unrivalled beauty, atmosphere and Scottish hospitality of Trump International – the ultimate golfing destination.

Royal Lochnagar Distillery
Royal Lochnagar distillery is situated on the south side of the River Dee close to Balmoral Castle. Age old traditions and craftsmanship produce one of Scotland’s most exclusive whiskies. A visit to Royal Lochnagar is a timeless experience. You can see the distillers tending to the traditional mash tun and gleaming copper stills. At the tour end your complimentary dram will confirm that Royal Lochnagar is a malt whisky worthy of the “Royal” prefix to its name.

Balmoral Castle
Set amongst the magnificent scenery of Royal Deeside in the shadows of Lochnagar is the Balmoral Estate. Purchased by Queen Victoria in 1848, the Estate has been the Scottish Home of the British Royal Family ever since. The Estate extends to just over 50,000 acres of heather-clad hills and ancient Caledonian woodland and of course the beautiful River Dee is nearby. Over the past 150 years careful stewardship by the owners, The Royal Family, has preserved the wildlife, scenery and architecture which is available for all generations to enjoy. In her journals, Queen Victoria described Balmoral as “my dear paradise in the Highlands”. We hope you will feel the same way about Balmoral once you have visited this most special place.

Castle Fraser
The most elaborate Z-plan castle in Scotland, and one of the grandest Castles of Mar, Castle Fraser was built between 1575 and 1636 by the 6th laird, Michael Fraser, and was the supreme work of two great families of master masons, Bell and Leiper. The castle belongs to the same period of native architectural achievement as two neighbouring castles, Crathes and Craigievar, both owned by the Trust. One of its most evocative rooms is the strikingly simple Great Hall. The castle contains many Fraser family portraits, including one by Raeburn, and fine 18th- and 19th-century carpets, curtains and bed hangings.

Aberdeen Maritime Museum
Aberdeen Maritime Museum tells the story of the city’s long relationship with the Sea. This award-winning museum is located on the historic Shiprow and incorporates Provost Ross’s House, which was built in 1593. The Maritime Museum houses a unique collection covering shipbuilding, fast sailing ships, fishing and port history. It is also the only place in the UK where you can see displays on the North Sea oil and gas industry. Aberdeen Maritime Museum offers visitors a spectacular viewpoint over the busy harbour.
**Dundee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location:</strong></th>
<th>56° 28' N 002° 57' W</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of Berths:</strong></td>
<td>King George Wharf, Max Vessel LOA 240 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max Beam 40 m, Max Draught 8.84 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Wharf, Max Vessel LOA 185 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max Draught 8.2 m, Air Draught 44.6 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tidal range:</strong></td>
<td>Dundee – Springs 5.0 m, Neaps 2.2 m</td>
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**Pilotage:** Compulsory  
**Town centre:** 1 km  
**Nearest airport:** Edinburgh Airport 72 km

Our port in Dundee is located on the north side of the beautiful River Tay estuary. With a significant investment programme underway at the waterfront including the location for the new V&A design museum, Dundee's modern surroundings make it a cruise destination for the 21st Century offering a unique combination of excellent facilities and fast transport links to many attractions including Gleneagles, Glamis Castle and the town of St Andrews.

**Contact:**
Robert Mason, Head of Cruise, Forth Ports Limited, Carron House, Dock Road, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire FK3 8TY

T: +44 (0)1324 668400  
F: +44(0)1324 668484  
E: marketing@forthports.co.uk  
W: www.forthportscruise.com  
W: www.forthports.co.uk
Shore Excursions
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RRS Discovery and Discovery Point
This five star visitor attraction is one of the focal points of Dundee’s visitor scene, sitting at the heart of the waterfront and housing the restored RRS Discovery. Climb aboard Discovery and follow in the footsteps of Captain Scott and his crew on one of the most heroic voyages of exploration ever undertaken and discover how the officers and crew survived for two winters trapped in the Antarctic ice.

RRS Discovery was built in Dundee specifically for scientific research in Antarctica. Audio-visual shows, computer-based interactives and displays of the actual artefacts of the crew will transport you to Antarctica.

The McManus: Dundee’s Art Gallery and Museum & Dundee Law
The McManus is housed in a splendid Gothic Revival-style building displaying Dundee’s finest collections.

The McManus was also voted Dundee’s best loved building in 2000 and has been the heart of art and culture in the city since its opening in 1867. The galleries display artworks and objects drawn from the museum’s collections of Art, Archaeology, History, Natural Sciences and World Cultures and provide a fascinating insight into Dundee’s people, culture and environment.

The museum has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment programme, re-opening to the public in 2010 with new displays, a specially designed learning suite, café and gift shop.

Dundee Law
A trip to Dundee is not complete without a visit to the top of Dundee Law. The Law is part of an extinct volcano. There is much to be seen from the top of the Law with its spectacular views across the Tay estuary to the hills of Fife. You will see striking views of the Sidlaw hills and on a clear day the beautiful surrounding villages and countryside. It is the highest point of the city and without a doubt the best viewing point.

The University of Dundee Botanic Garden
The University of Dundee Botanic Garden houses a wide range of plants, tropical and temperate glasshouses, a water garden and herb garden. Located in 9.5 hectares of south facing land near the banks of the River Tay, the garden features many species of indigenous British plants as well as collections of important plants from all continents of the world. There is always an amazing array of colours to be seen no matter what time of year you visit.

Glamis Castle
Glamis Castle has been the Ancestral home of the Earls of Strathmore for over 600 years. The present Earl is Michael, 18th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. Glamis, situated in the foothills of the Angus Glens, is a living, breathing monument to Scottish hospitality; a place of enjoyment, reflection, laughter and wonder for all.

The castle has witnessed more than 600 years of history and we take great delight in sharing the many stories, secrets and intriguing tales that surround it.
Leith is Edinburgh’s primary port and its excellent cruise terminal facilities ensure fast and efficient access for passengers in transit or for embarking or disembarking. A large coach and car park sits adjacent to the port’s modern cruise liner terminal which is just a 15 minute road journey to Edinburgh’s historic city centre with its many famous attractions.

For the 2015 season we are developing an additional anchorage point at Newhaven which will bring larger liners even closer to the beautiful capital city of Edinburgh. The new Edinburgh anchorage offers a unique cruise ship mooring only a short tender to the historic harbour at Newhaven with its local bars, cafes and restaurants as well as the excellent onward connections to the iconic visitor destinations of the capital which can be reached in around 15 minutes.

The Port of Rosyth is located 17 km from Edinburgh and liners pass below the famous Forth Rail Bridge, the largest listed bridge in Britain and one of the most recognisable landmarks in the world.

| Location:  | 55° 59’ N 003° 10’ W | South Queensferry Anchorage | 56° 00’.34 N 003° 22’.6 W |
| No. of Berths: | 4 | Tender time 15 mins | LOA 300 m+ can be accommodated |
| Berth details: | Leith (2 berths – 350 m) Max LOA 210 m, Max draft 9.5 m Rosyth (2 berths – 500 m) Max LOA N/A, Max draft 9.5 m | Vessels not limited by draft | |
| Air Draft: | 44 m without tidal constraints at Rosyth | Tidal range/movement: Leith – Access via lock, non tidal berth Rosyth – Springs 5 m, Neaps 2.5 m | |
| Anchorage: | Newhaven Anchorage Tender time 15 mins 3 miles from City Centre Position: 55° 59’ N 003° 11.8’ W LOA circa 300 m at anchor (Larger LOA on application) Max draft 9.5 – 11 m | Pilotage: Compulsory |  |
| Town centre: | Leith 4 km, Rosyth 25 km Hound Point 17 km, Newhaven 4.8 km | |  |
| Nearest airport: | Edinburgh Airport from Leith 17 km, Rosyth 20 km, Hound Point 12 km, Newhaven 15 km | |  |

The Bridge stands alongside the Forth Road Bridge and provides a magnificent gateway to Rosyth. Visitors will also see the construction of the new road bridge crossing which is due for completion in 2016.

Hound Point Anchorage lies next to the Bridges in the Forth and enjoys views to both shores. Only accessible to very large liners and following a 15 minute boat ride to Hawes Pier, Edinburgh City centre is just a 30 minute drive away.

Contact:
Robert Mason, Head of Cruise, Forth Ports Limited, Carron House, Dock Road, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire FK3 8TY

T: +44 (0)1324 668400
F: +44(0)1324 668484
E: marketing@forthports.co.uk
W: www.forthportscruise.com
W: www.forthports.co.uk
Shore Excursions
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**Royal Yacht Britannia**

The Royal Yacht Britannia was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years sailing over 1 million miles around the world. Now berthed in Edinburgh you can follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences.

With a fascinating audio tour of the 5 decks discover how the Royal Family and 220 crew lived. See where Prince Charles and Princess Diana honeymooned and where celebrities and Royal leaders were entertained including Ursula Andress, Frank Sinatra, President Reagan and President Gorbachev.

**Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh Castle dominates Scotland’s capital city from its great rock. Battles were fought over, Royalty lived and died within its walls and countless generations have been inspired by it. Tracing its origins from an iron age strong hold, the castle through history has sheltered many Scottish monarchs including Mary Queen of Scots.

Since the 1600s the castle had been a military base and this military presence remains unbroken to this day. The castle is now Scotland’s leading tourist attraction and a key element of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. The Tattoo is a must see with much pomp and pageantry.

**Rosslyn Chapel**

Famed for its links to the Knights Templar and made famous by Dan Brown’s Da Vinci Code. William St Clair founded the chapel for his family in 1450. Saved from destruction in the civil wars of the 1600s the chapel fell into disrepair in the 1800s when restoration spearheaded by Queen Victoria was undertaken. Repair and restoration continued for the next 100 years, but in 2004 Dan Brown’s published book become a worldwide best seller causing unprecedented visitor numbers to the chapel. The release of the film in 2006 further raised the chapel’s profile and fuelled continued interest in and speculation around Rosslyn’s mysteries but nearly 600 years after it was built the chapel still stands as a testament to the fascinating mind which designed and built this fabulous chapel.

**Deep Sea World**

Deep Sea World is a popular aquarium located in the village of North Queensferry in Fife. It is host to a collection of large sand tide sharks also known as ragged tooth sharks and various other species of shark. For the opportunity of a lifetime why not dive into Deep Sea World’s underwater safari and come face to face with a huge sand tiger shark, conga eels, sting rays and thousands of fish.

Besides the sharks there are opportunities to see the seals in their enclosure, experience the Amazon rainforest, marvel at the Krakatoa tank and at the collection of amphibians which includes green poison frogs, red eye frogs, blue poison dwarf frogs, golden poison frogs and mud skippers.

**Holyrood Palace**

The Palace of Holyrood House commonly referred to as Holyrood Palace is the official residence of the monarch of the United Kingdom in Scotland. Located at the bottom of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh at the opposite end to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace has served as a principal residence of the Kings and Queens of Scots since the 16th Century and is the setting for state occasions and official entertaining.
The natural deepwater port of Greenock offers a safe, convenient stopping point for cruise ships of all sizes, accessible 24/7 with no tidal or lock restrictions. The spacious quayside can easily accommodate the largest of cruise ships alongside. Parking space for over 60 coaches with further parking facilities available on site.

The award-winning welcome starts at the terminal building, which provides access to a host of local information for both passengers and crew, from opportunities to purchase essential items and souvenirs, right through to internet access. The town of Greenock is just a 5 minute walk from the terminal, with its spectacular views over the River Clyde from the Esplanade.

Greenock Ocean Terminal lies at the heart of an air, rail and road network providing easy access to the rest of Scotland – from Scotland’s largest city Glasgow with its fantastic range of visitor attractions and iconic architecture to the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, from Ayrshire’s Burns Country to majestic Edinburgh.

Magnificent views across to the mountains and beyond welcome all ships to the port, which is outstanding in its access to tourist destinations, historic sites, and shopping – a real hidden gem. From the moment passengers disembark to the stirring sounds of a traditional pipers welcome, they experience the friendliness and character for which Scotland is well renowned.

Contact:
Andrew Hemphill, Clydeport Operations Ltd,
Greenock Ocean Terminal, Patrick St, Greenock
PA16 8UU

T: +44 (0)1475 726171
F: +44 (0)1475 888130
E: andrew.hemphill@clydeport.co.uk
W: www.clydeport.co.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Glasgow

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Lochs and Glens
Following the Scenic A82 from Glasgow to the western side of Loch Lomond ensures a tour of outstanding natural beauty. Stop at Balloch, the gateway to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs for specialty shopping at Loch Lomond Shores and the unique aquarium at the Loch Lomond Sea Life Centre. Just 15 minutes north is the quaint little conservation village of Luss with its stone cottages, gift shops, tearooms and Lochside walks. Tours can continue onwards to encompass other Loch such as Loch Fyne and Loch Eck, together with the fantastic Inveraray Castle where Downton Abbey’s Scottish experience was filmed in 2012.

The Water of Life
Extremely attentive to visiting parties, award-winning Glengoyne Distillery offers an entertaining and in-depth distillery visit and can tailor tours exactly to passengers’ requirements and time availability. Examples include the Glengoyne, Wee Tasting and Tasting tours that run on the hour and for which no prior booking is required for groups of 10 or less, while the Master Blender tour and the Glengoyne Masterclass where guests can create their very own branded whisky are specifically arranged and booked in advance.

Auld Reekie
No tour of Edinburgh would be complete without exploring the fascinating fortress complex of Edinburgh Castle. Experienced guides offer complimentary guided tours and highlights include the Scottish Crown Jewels, the delightful St Margaret’s Chapel and the Stone of Destiny on which previous Scottish Monarchs were crowned. Visitors should also make their way to the Palace of Holyrood, another must-see, after making their way down the famous Royal Mile.

Glasgow Icons
To appreciate the creative genius of world renowned architect, designer and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh, passengers can enjoy a compact itinerary with conveniently short passenger times between places of interest. Start the tour with a visit to House for an Art Lover on the south side of Glasgow, a unique attraction inspired from Mackintosh's portfolio of drawings of 1901 which includes a permanent exhibition of decoratively furnished rooms. Head to the city centre for sumptuous afternoon tea at The Willow Tearooms in Buchanan Street, followed by a visit to The Glasgow School of Art, one of the most influential structures of the twentieth century.

Art Galleries and History
Experience the depth and variety of one of Europe’s greatest civic art collections in one outstanding location by including a visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in your itinerary. In addition to the fascinating exhibits, Kelvingrove is an imposing red stone architecture, making it one of Glasgow's landmark buildings. Located in the West End of the city, Kelvingrove offers excellent guided tours, and visitors can enjoy its cafes and shops.
Holy Loch Port is a family run business located on the Cowal Peninsula on the West Coast of Scotland. It is situated amongst some of the most spectacular and picturesque scenery in Scotland. With its deep anchorage it allows immediate entry into lovely Argyll. As “Marine Gateway to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park”, Holy Loch is within easy reach of castles, mountains and charming villages and is the ideal starting point for a variety of fascinating and enjoyable full and half day shore excursions.

Holy Loch Port is already introducing Cruise Ships to the area, with visits from MV Quest, Princendam, Minerva and Hebridean Princess. Small Cruise vessels up to 90 m in length and 4 m draught can berth at the pier. With a very short tender trip ashore, larger ships anchor off and tender to a custom built large pontoon. With Free WiFi, toilets and an undercover waiting area for passengers and crew to use ashore, along with a spacious clean hard standing area for 20+ coaches, and an on-site cafe. Dunoon and Benmore Botanical Gardens are only 2.5 miles from the Port.

Shuttle buses can be arranged to shuttle passengers between the pier and Benmore Gardens and nearby Dunoon. Dunoon offers a museum as well as a fascinating selection of craft shops, galleries, cafes and restaurants. Along with a warm friendly welcome for each and every passenger from the second they step ashore.

With its exceptionally sheltered waters Holy Loch Port represents scenic Scotland, where seascape meets landscape. Where else can passengers open their curtains to the beauty and wonder of scenic Scotland than the Holy Loch.

Contact:
Alison Downs, Holy Loch Port Ltd, Rankin’s Brae, Sandbank, Dunoon PA23 8FE

T/F: +44 (0)1369 700810
M: +44 (0)7843 241320
E: info@holylochport.co.uk
W: www.holylochport.co.uk
Shore Excursions

The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Holy Loch

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Benmore Gardens
With its magnificent mountainside setting, Benmore Gardens, just 2 miles away, is a joy to behold. Its 140 acres, entered via the spectacular Giant Redwood Avenue, boasts a famous collection of flowering trees and shrubs, including over 300 species of Rhododendron. Trails through the gardens lead to amazing viewpoints where passengers can view the ship from high on the mountainside. You can also enjoy the café, shop and exhibitions in the Courtyard Gallery.

Quadmania
Quadmania offer a great outdoor experience. Only 9 miles from the Port, set within a 2,000 acre estate, you can enjoy quad biking, archery, clay shooting or a team challenge course. Adults of any age and ability and children from age 8 can spend an hour of more on one sport or try multi-activity packages, which will provide you with a truly unforgettable day. Quadmania guarantee an exhilarating outdoor adventure in Scotland any time of the year. Everyone can have a fabulous time, whether it is simply to get out in the fresh air and enjoy the stunning views, or by taking on the ultimate quad bike challenge.

Inveraray Castle
Built for 5th Duke Argyll in 1789 from an initial drawing by Sir John Vanbrugh and developed by Roger Morris and William Adam.

The colourful gardens, park and woodland, featuring spectacular Rhododendrons, Azaleas and conifers, offer a selection of walks and glimpses of local wildlife and beautiful scenic views. Fieldsports are also available and a gift shop and tearoom complete the Inveraray castle experience.

Seaplane Tours
Passengers can board the seaplane from the landing pontoon at Holy Loch with no need to travel to Glasgow or Loch Lomond. The plane can be waiting as guests leave the ship. The seaplane can whisk guests away to Loch Lomond, Oban, Mull, Jura and many more, allowing passengers to experience Scotland’s amazing beauty from the air. The options open to guests are endless.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park
Loch Lomond is only 45 minutes drive by coach from Holy Loch where you can view Scotland’s scenery at its most magnificent. Loch Lomond shores with it’s aquarium, shops, cruises and woodland trails is a great full day excursion, with the most amazing drive through the National Park. Loch Katrine lies at the heart of the wild beauty of the Trossachs and was the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott’s famous poem “Lady of the Lake”.
The small friendly village with the big cruise liner port, Invergordon lies near the head of a Firth (or fjord), and is surrounded by mountains and rolling farmland.

Invergordon is seen as the gateway to the Scottish Highlands, and offers a very large number of different and exciting excursions, including Loch Ness and its famous monster Nessie; Cawdor, Brodie and Dunrobin Castles; Dornoch Cathedral; Fort George and Culloden Battlefield; the Falls of Shin; Glenmorangie Distillery; Royal Dornoch Golf Course; and the City of Inverness.

Invergordon itself has a famous mural trail with 11 large colour wall paintings representing life in the Highlands past and present.

Contact:
Capt. Iain Dunderdale, Cruise Highlands Ltd, Admiralty Pier, Shore Rd, Invergordon IV18 0RE
T/F: +44 (0)1349 853743
E: iain@cruisehighlands.co.uk
W: www.cfpa.co.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Invergordon

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Loch Ness and Inverness
This is the most popular of the Shore Excursions from the Port of Invergordon. Loch Ness is world famous, and “Nessie” the monster is even more so. Set amongst magnificent Highland mountains and scenery, this area will leave a long-lasting impression. On the way visit the small village of Drumnadrochit and the renowned if ruined Urquhart Castle.

The City of Inverness lies at the mouth of the River Ness, 10 miles away. (Half Day or Whole Day)

Dunrobin Castle
Located near the village of Golspie to the North of Invergordon, Dunrobin Castle is the most Northerly of Britain’s great houses, and also has beautiful gardens, as well as a museum, restaurant/tea room, falconry display and its own railway station.

Owned by the Sutherland family for many centuries, it is still their family home. (Half Day)

Glenmorangie Distillery
One of the most well known Highland Scotch Whiskies, the Distillery is located close to the ancient Royal Burgh of Tain, which dates from 1066. The Distillery has been producing Whisky on the banks of the Dornoch Firth for more than 170 years. The name comes from the “Glen of Tranquility” and it is renowned for having the tallest stills of any Distillery in Scotland, which produce a purer spirit. (Half Day)

Cawdor Castle and Gardens
Located near Nairn to the East of Inverness, Cawdor is also a private family home owned by the Cawdor family as well as a popular tourist attraction. Mentioned in Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” the castle is very atmospheric and surrounded by beautiful gardens which are well worth a visit. In addition there is a tea room, gift shop, and nine hole golf course. (Half Day)

Fort George and Culloden Battlefield
Culloden Battlefield has an award-winning Visitor Centre and exhibition which features interactive characters who witnessed or were involved in the 1746 battle which helped determine Scotland’s fate.

As a result of that defeat the British Government built three Forts at Fort William, Fort Augustus and Fort George. Fort George which is 5 miles from Culloden is today still a British Military Barracks as well as a fine Museum. (Half Day)
The Harbour Master should be contacted by all visiting vessels to confirm any tidal restrictions on proposed berthing dates.

The Port can accommodate ships either alongside or at anchor where the adjoining Inverness Marina can offer a secure point of entry for a tendered visit. On arrival there is the chance that passengers will be accompanied ashore by bottlenose dolphins from the resident school in the Moray Firth.

A compulsory pilotage service is operated for vessels in excess of 50m in length.

Inverness is one of the most sheltered harbours in the UK. Serving the Capital of the Highlands, the port’s historic links with the city can be traced as far back as the 12th century.

With Loch Ness literally on the port’s doorstep and Speyside Whisky Trail, the home of the Whisky Industry within easy reach these alone would make a compelling case in the port’s favour but add to those Cawdor Castle, Culloden Battlefield and Fort George Military Museum means the port is essential for any itinerary.

The city centre offers a vibrant, diverse experience for visitors with top quality award winning restaurants and retail facilities, including the covered Victorian Market, on offer.

Contact:
Sinclair Browne, Inverness Harbour Trust,
Harbour Office, Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU

T: +44 (0)1463715715
F: +44 (0)1463 715705
E: hm@portofinverness.co.uk
W: www.portofinverness.co.uk
Shore Excursions

The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Inverness

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**Loch Ness – half day**

Within 15 minutes of the port lies Loch Ness, the second deepest loch in Scotland in whose depths is rumoured to be Nessie – the Loch Ness Monster! Loch Ness lies at the northern end of The Great Glen which follows a large geological fault that bisects the Scottish Highlands into the Grampian Mountains to the southeast and the Northwest Highlands to the northwest. Take a boat trip leaving from Inverness to explore the loch and search for Nessie. The trip can include visits to the ruins of Urquhart Castle that overlooks the loch as well as The Loch Ness Monster Exhibition where you can learn more about the monster and the various sightings throughout the years.

**Cairngorm National Park – full day**

Created in 2003 The Cairngorm Mountain National Park is a spectacular landscape, similar in appearance to the Hardangervidda National Park of Norway in having a large upland plateau. The Cairngorms provide unique alpine semi tundra moorland that is home to a variety of rare plants and wildlife. You will be able to take a trip on the mountain funicular railway that was completed in 2001 to high up on the mountain side where you will be able to enjoy refreshments as well as taking in the stunning scenery. There is also the possibility of taking a trip on the Strathspey Steam Railway that runs from Aviemore at the foot of the mountains.

**Scotland’s Malt Whisky Trail, Speyside – full day**

Enjoy a visit to the world’s only Malt Whisky Trail on a journey through Speyside for the opportunity to see a number of working distilleries, a cooperage and historic distillery. The trail is home to over half of the malt whisky distilleries in Scotland and all offer visitors a warm welcome and an insight into the unique tradition of blending whisky and malt. World-famous distilleries including Benromach, Glenfiddich, The Glenlivet, Strathsisa and Camdhu are all well worth a visit as is the Speyside Cooperage. The surrounding countryside is some of the most scenic in Scotland with woods, glens and rivers all in abundance.

**Cawdor Castle – Macbeth Country – half day**

A castle steeped in history, mystery and intrigue is well worth a visit. It lies less than 15 miles from the port and offers an ideal half day excursion. Made famous by being home to Macbeth when he was Thane of Cawdor, the castle is still owned by the Cawdor family today. Internally the castle has an excellent collection of furniture and artefacts and has three gardens as well as a nine hole golf course. The castle is recognised as a 5 star visitor attraction by Visit Scotland and is sure to leave a lasting memory with visitors.

**Culloden Battlefield & Fort George – Jacobite Defeat – half day**

Lying less than 9 miles from the port, both these attractions form a key part of Scotland’s history. Culloden was the last military battle on the UK mainland and put an end to the Jacobite dream of restoring a Stuart monarch to the throne. The government then built a series of forts throughout the Highlands to ensure there was no further insurrection. Fort George took three years to build and is the most impressive fortification in Britain. Culloden has an excellent visitor centre and Fort George is still a functioning military base. Both make an interesting half day tour from Inverness.
Lerwick, Britain's most northerly cruise destination, with its own intrinsic beauty and deep water sheltered harbour is located midway between Faroe, Norway and mainland Scotland.

Cruise ships up to 205m can berth alongside and larger ships are accommodated at anchor with passengers only minutes away via tender to a modern landing stage and dedicated welcome pavilion at the heart of Lerwick's town centre.

A warm and friendly Meet and Greet service provides local flavour with a personal onboard and onshore welcome for passengers and crew members complemented by traditional Shetland music played quayside.

Shetland offers visitors a unique blend of both Scandinavian and Scottish culture, world-class natural scenery, extraordinary archeological sites and encounters with vast seabird colonies, diverse marine life and distinctive native breeds.

The islands are renowned for their Viking heritage and are also home to the world famous Shetland Pony.

Key attractions include Mousa, an island boasting the best-preserved Iron Age broch in Scotland and Jarlshof, one of the most remarkable archeological sites ever excavated in the British Isles. Shetland Museum, a five-star visitor attraction, provides a fascinating insight into Shetland's diverse heritage.

Shopping in Lerwick is close by and passengers can easily access a variety of local shops hosting a collection of high quality exclusive gifts including Shetland knitwear, ceramics, jewellery, confectionery and crafts.

Contact:
Sandra Laurenson, Chief Executive, Lerwick Port Authority, Albert Building, Lerwick, Shetland Islands ZE1 0LL

T: +44 (0)1595 692991
F: +44 (0)1595 693452
E: info@lerwick-harbour.co.uk
W: www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Lerwick

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Lerwick as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

Jarlshof, Knitwear and Tammie Norie Vista – 4 Hours 30 Minutes
Meander through Lerwick, dating from the 1600s, en route to the most Southerly tip of the Shetland Mainland. View the world’s best preserved 2,000 year old Iron Age Broch on the Island of Mousa. In Hoswick, visit Laurence Odie Knitwear and the Hoswick Visitor Centre or wander along the peaceful foreshore. Then cross the 60 degrees North to enjoy the rugged Atlantic coast and a vista of St Ninian’s Isle, white sandy beaches, and possibly seals, from the cliff road. Travel through 5,000 years of Shetland history at Jarlshof, an archaeological site, ranging from the New Stone Age up to the 1600s. Then climb up towards Sumburgh Head RSPB Reserve, seabird colony (May – July) and Shetland’s first lighthouse built by Robert Stevenson in 1821. Hear more of Shetland’s culture and heritage from your qualified local guide, on your return journey to Lerwick.

Silver and Stone Vista – 3 Hours 30 Minutes
Meander through Lerwick, dating from the 1600s, en route to the Central & West Mainland. In Scalloway, the former Shetland capital, visit Scalloway Castle, built in 1600 by the tyrant Earl Patrick Stewart and Scalloway Museum, which houses a special “Shetland Bus” exhibition. Leaving Scalloway, travel through the Tingwall Valley with its Norse heritage with a visit to Carol’s Ponies. Heading Northwards through peat and heather covered landscape and Shetland’s largest plantation of trees arrive at Shetland Jewellery. En route back to Lerwick, photograph one of the spectacular vistas of many of the islands that make up the Shetland archipelago.

Flora, Fauna and Bird Vista – 4 Hours 30 Minutes
Meander through Lerwick, dating from the 1600s, then view the fertile limestone community of Fladdabister and the spectacular vista of wild flower meadows at Aithsetter. In Hoswick visit Laurence Odie Knitwear and the Hoswick Visitor Centre or wander along the peaceful foreshore. Travel South past Clumlie and Dalsetter for coastal vistas. Then climb up towards Sumburgh Head RSPB Reserve for panoramic cliff vistas, seabird colony (May – July) and Shetland’s first lighthouse built by Robert Stevenson in 1821. Circle the RSPB reserve of Spiggie Loch and onwards, hugging the rugged Atlantic coast before joining the main road once again.

Scenic Volcanic Vista – 4 Hours 15 Minutes
Head northwest through peat and heather covered landscape to Voe, with its Scandinavian influence, Brae, and Mavis Grind, where the North Sea almost meets the Atlantic Ocean. Northwards still, the scenery becoming more spectacular with every mile, viewing some of Shetland’s aquaculture industry. Visit the Tangwick Haa Museum and take a cliff-top walk at the Eshaness Lighthouse where fire and ice of volcano and glacier have forged Shetland’s world famous geology. Enjoy the refreshments on offer in the Braewick Café. Hear more of Shetland’s culture and heritage from your qualified local guide on your return journey to Lerwick.

Mousa Broch Vista – 4 Hours
Meander through Lerwick the only town in Shetland, passing the fertile limestone community of Fladdabister. Arriving at Sandwick, you will then board the purpose built, passenger ferry Solan IV. Cross to the Island of Mousa inhabited only by sheep and wildlife. There you will visit the world’s best preserved 2,000 year old Iron Age Broch, still standing to a height of 13m (43). A brisk walk across the island, through a plethora of wild flowers will take you to a seal colony. Hear more of Shetland’s culture and heritage from your qualified local guide on your return journey to Lerwick.
Location: 56° 25' N 005° 29' W  
No. of Berths: 1  
Berth details: North Pier, Depth 3 – 5 m  
Anchorage: Yes  

anchorage position: 56° 25.8' N 005° 30.0' W (outer)  
56° 24.95' N 005° 28.75' W (inner)  
Distance to landing stage: 1.0 NM (outer) 0.3 NM (inner)  
Tidal range/movement: 3.8 m  
Pilotage: No compulsory pilotage  
Town centre: Adjacent to landing stage  
Shuttle to town: Not required  
Nearest airport: Oban 8 km  

Early contact with the Harbour Master for all cruise vessels is essential to discuss any tidal restrictions on proposed berthing dates.

Cruise vessels wishing to land or collect passengers for larger vessels anchored in the bay can use the Oban Times Slip.

The pier and slipway are ISPS approved.

Oban lies on the West coast of Scotland, approximately 120 miles north of Glasgow and at the heart of Argyll. The ‘gateway to the isles’, with its ferries to the western islands, and the seafood capital of Scotland, Oban offers visitors the opportunity to see the glorious gardens of Argyll such as the spectacular woodland garden at Crarae or the coastal garden at Arduaine. There is the conservation village of Inveraray, with its fairy tale castle, or distilleries where visitors can sample the delights of malt whisky.

Coaches can be marshalled to take passengers from a point directly adjacent to the port.

Contact:  
Vicki McKenzie, Harbourmaster, Argyll and Bute Council, Oban North Pier, Oban  
T: 01631 562892  
F: 01631 563550  
M: 07920 543555  
E: obannorthpier@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Oban

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Oban as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

Arduaine Gardens – Half Day
Travel through stunning coastal scenery on the way to the National Trust for Scotland Gardens of Arduaine, situated on a south-facing slope overlooking Asknish Bay and the Sound of Jura. The Gulf Stream creates a micro-climate along this coast, enabling rare plants to survive and offering delights for garden aficionados. Arduaine is best known for the wonderful collection of rhododendrons which has been built up here over a period of eighty or ninety years, but this atmospheric 20-acre garden is home to a diversity of plants with something from every continent with the exception of Antarctica.

Inveraray Castle – Half Day
Enjoy the drive through dramatic scenery with lochs, magnificent mountains, ancient woodland and stunning castles. Situated on the loch-side and laid out in the 18th century, Inveraray remains one of the most complete and picturesque towns in Scotland with its imposing black and white houses. Stretch your legs here before visiting the nearby castle which is the home of the Duke of Argyll. The present Castle was built in the 18th century and its impressive edifice perfectly complements the grandeur of the surrounding scenery. The magnificent interiors were completed between 1770 and 1789 to the design of Robert Mylne for the 5th Duke of Argyll and are home to magnificent displays of weaponry, tapestry and art.

Neolithic Scotland – Half Day
Travel back over 3,000 years to discover the mystery of the ancient Neolithic monuments of Kilmartin Glen. There are an incredible 350 ancient monuments within six miles of the village of Kilmartin, 150 of which are prehistoric. Your tour begins with a visit to the Kilmartin House Museum which will give you an insight into the life of the inhabitants of the Glen. You will then enjoy a guided walking tour to three of the most dramatic monuments in this remarkable area.

Scottish Highlands and Glencoe – Half Day
Travel north through the impressive scenery of the Scottish Highlands with mountains, sea lochs and islands and arrive in majestic Glencoe – scene of the infamous 1692 massacre. The glen provides some of Scotland’s most dramatic scenery and is a paradise for climbers, walkers and skiers. Visit the award-winning Glencoe visitor centre to learn more about the history, geology and nature of this region. Continue your journey through Glencoe and over Rannoch Moor on the way back to your ship.

Dunstaffnage Castle – Half Day
Built before 1275 on a huge rock overlooking the Firth of Lorn, just outside Oban, Dunstaffnage was the mighty stronghold of the MacDougalls. The castle, with its huge curtain wall, was captured by Robert the Bruce in 1309 and remained in royal possession for some years. Dunstaffnage became the temporary prison of Flora MacDonald in 1746. Enjoy a guided visit and learn the story of this dramatic castle which looks out to the Inner Hebrides.
For over 30 years, Orkney has been welcoming cruise ships to its shores. Such has been the growing popularity of Orkney that it has become the United Kingdom’s most popular cruise ship destination. In 2011, Kirkwall, Orkney’s capital city was named the best cruise port in the UK by the www.cruisecritic.com website and in 2013 the port of Kirkwall was awarded the runner up prize in port of the year in the Seatrade Global Awards in Hamburg.

Variety is certainly key when it comes to shore excursion itineraries with a World Heritage site dating back to 3100BC which includes Skara Brae, a Stone Age Village (circa 3100BC), Maeshowe Chambered Cairn, The Ring of Brodgar (Orkney’s own Stonehenge, circa 2000BC) and the Standing Stones of Stenness.

Amongst Orkney’s War Relics there is the Italian Chapel constructed and hand painted by Italian Prisoners of War, a Naval Museum with war relics and artifacts, in Lyness on the beautiful Island of Hoy, and Scapa Flow, the resting place of the Royal Oak and the scuttled German Fleet in World War 2.

There is a wealth of local arts and crafts shops across many of the Islands and Orkney is renowned for its local quality fish and meat products which are sought by many of the best restaurants across the UK.

With up to 25 comfortable, modern 45-seater coaches, skilled local drivers and over 30 accredited and highly-trained local guides, you are assured of a highly informative, relaxing and enjoyable visit.

Contact:
Michael Morrison, Business Development Manager, Marine Services, Harbour Authority Building, Scapa, Orkney, KW15 1SD

T: +44 (0)1856 873636
F: +44 (0)1856 873012
E: Michael.morrison@orkney.gov.uk
W: www.orkneyharbours.com
Shore Excursions

The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Orkney

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Orkney as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

Skara Brae

This tour passes through the gentle rolling landscape of Orkney and into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of prehistoric archaeology. This tour will stop at the Ring of Brodgar; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5000 years before continuing on to the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae. See the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago and also visit the nearby manor house of Skall House, built in 1620 on top of an ancient graveyard.

This tour then concludes by following the coastline of Scapa Flow, made famous for its role in both World Wars.

St Magnus Cathedral

Leave Orkney’s largest island and follow the coast of Scapa Flow to the smaller South Isles. Driving over the Churchill Barriers, built during the Second World War to protect Scapa Flow, we visit the beautiful, hand-painted Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners of war who were interned on this small island during World War Two.

The tour then continues to Highland Park distillery to discover Orkney’s highly acclaimed 12-year-old malt whisky at the world’s most northerly whisky distillery. This tour also visits the beautiful 12th century sandstone St. Magnus Cathedral, built by the Vikings and allows time to explore Kirkwall’s exciting craft and knitwear shops.

Crafts

Leave Orkney’s biggest island and follow the coast of Scapa Flow to the smaller South Isles. Drive over the Churchill Barriers, built during the Second World War to protect Scapa Flow and visit the beautiful, hand-painted Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners of war who were interned on this small island during World War Two.

Next this tour stops at Hoxa Tapestry Gallery where we can view the beautiful large handwoven tapestries before continuing to Sheila Fleet Jewellery. Sheila’s collection of gold, silver and enamel jewellery is crafted in this country workshop where you will be shown the processes involved in crafting one of her highly acclaimed pieces.

Rings Of Brodgar At Sunset

This tour takes a leisurely drive through the rolling countryside of the islands and enjoys superb views towards the Northern Isles of Orkney. We will pass Eynnhallow Sound; a dramatic stretch of water where the Atlantic Ocean meets the North Sea and then pause at the small tidal island at the Brough of Birsay to view the dramatic scenery before continuing on to a local tearoom to enjoy refreshments.

Next we journey into the Neolithic Heartland of Orkney, stopping at the Standing Stones of Stenness, a 5000-year-old circle of stones, before returning to your ship along the north shore of Scapa Flow, where we hear some of the wartime stories which make this one of the most well known stretches of water in the world.

Palaces

We depart on foot with our guide from the picturesque harbour and stroll along the ancient shoreline of Kirkwall that dates back to when the town was first founded by the Vikings. Enroute we shall hear stories of times gone by in Kirkwall.

Arriving at St Magnus Cathedral, a beautiful red and yellow sandstone building which dominates the skyline of Kirkwall, we will tour the interior of the Cathedral. Next, we visit the neighbouring Earl’s and Bishop’s Palaces, once belonging to Earl Patrick Stewart, who had the Earl’s palace built using forced labour. Our walking tour ends at the Orkney Museum and there is free time to visit the museum, browse the shops and stroll back to your ship at your leisure.
Peterhead is the cruise gateway to the best of what Scotland is world-renowned for. Stepping ashore, your passengers find themselves on the edge of Scotland’s castle and whisky country, an area for the discerning visitor.

Our aim is to assist you in delivering a memorable Scottish experience to your passengers. We provide cruise vessels with a Scottish pipe band. The berth will be decorated with flags and bunting and a shuttle bus is provided to take passengers to the town centre. We work with tour operators and service providers to ensure the best possible visit.

Peterhead really is the best gateway into North-east Scotland and its wealth of different tourist experiences. The port offers a range of different berths which are used by cruise vessels.

Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels over 3,500 gross tonnes. Twelve hours’ notice of the ETA is preferred and one hour’s notice of arrival at the pilot station is required. Pilotage operates 24 hours per day.

Larger vessels are required to enter at slack water. Early contact with the Harbour Master will confirm any tidal restrictions which may apply.

Contact:
Stephen Paterson, Peterhead Port Authority, Harbour Office, Peterhead, AB42 1DW

T: +44 (0)1779 483600
F: +44 (0)1779 475715
E: Stephen@peterheadport.co.uk
W: www.peterheadport.co.uk
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Peterhead

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Peterhead as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

Stormy History and Fine Art

This full day excursion features two prominent sites on the Buchan coastline – the historic first lighthouse to be built in Scotland and Duff House, a magnificent example of Scottish Baronial architecture. The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses in Fraserburgh tells the fascinating story of the skills, dedication, science and romance of Scotland’s lighthouse. Preserved as it was left by the last keeper, it offers a fitting tribute to its 200 years of stormy history. Fraserburgh Lighthouse is also an ideal destination for a half day excursion.

The journey continues past the village of Pennan and on to Duff House. Set amidst beautiful parkland, close to the North Sea shores, Duff House is now a premier outstation of the National Galleries of Scotland from which it has drawn its rich collection of paintings.

Castles and Distilleries

This full day excursion combines a visit to two of the most traditional of Scottish attractions; the romantic Fyvie Castle and Glenfiddich – the world famous single malt whisky distillery. Fyvie Castle is undoubtedly one of the finest in Scotland. The five towers give the castle an air of majesty. Inside are fine collections of paintings and armour from the Kings and Queens who lived there. Special events such as battle re-enactments, or recounting ghostly stories can bring the castle’s history alive.

Glenfiddich Distillery is unique because the whole process of whisky production happens here. An excellent and evocative multi-lingual audio-visual display provides an introduction to the distillery. Guests see how the ‘water of life’ is made before being offered a ‘dram’ to conclude the tour.

Pitmedden Gardens

Originally laid out in 1675, Pitmedden Gardens have an elaborate and formal layout which incorporates no less than 30,000 annual plants and over five miles of box hedging. This maintains an abundance of interest and colour throughout the summer. Honeysuckle, jasmine and roses create a succession of fragrances, while fountains, topiary, sundials, and a fascinating herb garden add to the sense of discovery around the walled garden. The adjacent Museum of Farming Life boasts an extensive collection of domestic and agricultural artefacts of a bygone era.

A full day excursion combines the formal Gardens of Pitmedden with a visit to Aberdeen, the Silver City.

The Silver City

On the city tour guests will visit Old Aberdeen, with its cobbled streets, admire Aberdeen’s unique granite architecture, the ancient twin spires of St Machar’s Cathedral and Duthie Park’s Winter Gardens, the largest indoor gardens in Europe. Your guide will take you on a journey that describes Aberdeen’s development from the first settlers, through to a bustling fishing harbour and now to the oil capital of Europe.

Time is then available to explore some of the city’s excellent shops which are mostly conveniently located near the area of Union Street. Alternatively, more of the City’s attractions, such as the Art Gallery or Aberdeen Maritime Museum can be visited independently.

Golf

Peterhead is close to some of the world’s best golf courses. Set amidst the Great Dunes of Scotland, Trump International Golf Links lies along the spectacular North East coast of Aberdeenshire providing world class practice facilities including an exceptional driving range with multiple teeing areas, a short game area and the largest putting green ever seen on a single golf course. Designed by world renowned golf course architect, Martin Hawtree, Trump’s Championship Links offers breathtaking scenery and an unforgettable golfing experience. Cruden Bay Golf Club is also popular. The links course features as one of the world’s top 100 courses and the course creates unique challenges demanding skills of power, placement and fine judgement.
Portree is the principal town on the romantic Isle of Skye. A natural harbour, Portree is protected by the cliffs of Ben Tianavaig, offering a deep sheltered anchorage for cruise ships visiting the Isle of Skye. Wherever you go on the island you will find the Gaelic language and culture still thriving, giving Skye a distinctly different feel to mainland Scotland. Skye's Gaelic name is “An t-Eilean Sgitheanach” meaning the winged isle. Portree itself derives its name from the Gaelic “Port an Righ”, the King’s Port, following the visit in 1540 of King James V, father of Mary Queen of Scots.

Tender operations are easy. Journey time from the anchorage is around 10 minutes with passengers disembarking on to a pontoon at the picturesque quayside. Coaches are parked on the quayside for shore excursions. For passengers who simply want to explore the town, a short walk past a row of pretty pastel shaded houses, shops and restaurants takes you into town centre. As the island’s capital, Portree offers everything you’d expect of a bustling Highland town with a great selection of shops, restaurants and pubs.

The peninsula to the south of the harbour is known as “The Lump” and it once provided the dramatic setting for public hangings, the last of which took place in 1742. Nowadays it is where the annual Highland Games take place.

The rugged Cuillin mountain range dominates the skyline from many parts of the island. A few miles north of Portree, the Old Man of Storr, an extraordinary rock pinnacle, marks the start of the Trotternish Ridge – 20 miles of bizarre rock formations.

Contact:
Colin Alston, Harbour Master,
Harbour Office, Portree, IV51 9DE

T: +44 (0)1478 612926
M: 07771 958 102
F: +44 (0)1470 542796
E: colin.alston@highland.gov.uk

Location: 57° 24’ N 006° 11’ W
No. of Berths: N/A – Anchorage only
Anchorage: Yes

Anchorage Position: 57° 24.80’ N 006° 09.60’ W
Distance to Landing Stage: 0.5 NM
Tidal range/movement: None discernible at anchorages
Pilotage: Not required
Town centre: 0.4 km
Shuttle to town: Not required
Nearest airport: Inverness 200 km
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Portree

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Portree as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

**Eilean Donan Castle (half day)**
As one of the most iconic images of Scotland, Eilean Donan is recognised all around the world. Situated on an island at the point where three great sea lochs meet, and surrounded by majestic scenery, it is little wonder that the castle is now one of the most visited and important attractions in the Scottish Highlands. Although first inhabited around the 6th Century, the first fortified castle was built in the mid 13th Century. Since then at least four different versions of the castle have been built and re-built as the feudal history of Scotland unfolded through the centuries. The castle now has its own visitor centre with coffee shop, gift shop and toilets.

**Skye Museum of Island Life (half day)**
The Skye Museum of Island Life is an open-air museum which has preserved some of the “black houses” (thatched cottages) and workshops which were typical of a 19th Century crofting community. You can visit the croft houses where the family would have lived, the barn, weaver’s shop, smithy and the ceilidh house. Step through the doors and step back into history.

**Trotternish Peninsula (half day)**
Trotternish is Skye’s most northerly peninsula and offers a circular tour of around 50 miles through breathtaking scenery. The Storr is an impressive mass of rock rising to a height of 2,358 feet. Right in front of it stands an extraordinary basalt pinnacle 165 feet high, known as “The Old Man of Storr” which can be seen for miles around. On the coast, Kilt Rock is formed of black basalt columns creating the folds which give the cliff face its name. The Quiraing is possibly one of the most unexpected and exciting rock formations anywhere in the British Isles.

**Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles (half day)**
Armadale Castle was the principal home of the MacDonalds of Sleat from 1870. Although the main structure is now a ruin, the impressive Museum of the Isles will take you on a journey from the Lordship of the Isles through the clans and Jacobite period to the story of the Highland Clearances. Genealogy research is also available. The magnificent gardens date back to the 17th century and visitors can enjoy 40 acres of exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.

**Dunvegan Castle (half day)**
Dunvegan Castle, Skye’s most famous landmark, is a fortress stronghold in an idyllic lochside setting on the northwest side of the island. The castle has been home to the MacLeods since the 13th Century and it is believed to be the oldest inhabited castle in Britain. Here you can get a taste of the rich inheritance of the Clan MacLeod, the great clan battles, legends, tragedies, murders most foul and great loves and romances.
The Caithness story stretches over 10,000 years, back to the time of the dinosaurs. It’s a region of scenic variety – white sand beaches, spectacular red sandstone cliffs and the green expanses of the Flow Country, an internationally important habitat for many rare birds.

Your passengers will be amply rewarded by the magic that is Caithness, with easy access to the Flow Country, the spectacular coastline to Dunnet Head, the most northerly point on the British mainland and John O’ Groats, the farthest point north-east.

Nearby Thurso offers many fascinating attractions including fine views over Orkney and is fast developing a reputation as the world’s cold water surfing capital. A short drive away is the ancient fishing community of Wick with a heritage forged in the heyday of the herring boom in the 18th & 19th centuries. Visitors can wander through Old Pulteneytown, visit the distillery and admire the planning genius of Thomas Telford who built the harbour town.

With dozens of small shops offering everything from high quality local food and whisky to original clothing, jewellery, arts and crafts, visitors are never short of things to do in this unique and exciting area.

Contact
Sandy Mackie, Trust Manager
Scrabster Harbour Trust, Harbour Office, Scrabster, Caithness, Scotland, KW14 7UJ

T: +44 (0)1847 892779
F: +44 (0)1847 896680
E: sandy.mackie@scrabster.co.uk
W: www.scrabster.co.uk
Shore Excursions

The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Scrabster

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Scrabster as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

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**The Royal Castle and Gardens of Mey**

This half-day excursion visits the Royal Castle and Gardens of Mey, the holiday home of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother for over fifty years. The castle is still used annually as a summer residence by HRH Prince Charles, The Duke of Rothesay.

The Castle of Mey is situated on the shores of the Pentland Firth, overlooking the Orkney Islands and is a half hour drive from Scrabster Harbour. The tour is fully guided throughout and the visit includes a conducted tour of the Castle, the Royal Gardens and an opportunity to call at the Castle Visitor Centre for souvenirs, refreshments and snacks, if desired. This is a quality excursion steeped in Highland history.

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**Dunrobin Castle, Golspie and The Royal Castle of Mey, Thurso**

A full-day tour visiting two of the most impressive castles in the far north of Scotland. Dunrobin Castle, one of Scotland's great houses and also one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses has been home to the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland since the 13th century.

The impressive gardens were laid out 150 years ago and still retain their design as a formal Victorian garden. The Sutherland Museum in the garden grounds contains an important collection of archaeological items and other interesting artefacts collected by the family during their many expeditions around the world. The programme includes a falconry display and lunch enroute to the Royal Castle of Mey.

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**Old Pulteney Distillery and the Award Winning Wick Heritage Centre**

A half-day tour to the most northerly distillery on the Scottish mainland. Established in 1826, The Pulteney Distillery is found in the heart of ‘Pulteneytown’, the town created to house fishermen during Wick’s ‘herring boom’.

The fascinating story of Wick’s maritime history is revealed during a conducted tour of the nearby Heritage Centre which is the largest multi-award winning museum in the north of Scotland. It portrays life in this northerly town, focusing on Wick’s links with the sea and the way in which the wealth from the fishing industry led to the character of the town as it is today.

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**The Mackay Clan and Strathnaver Museum**

An hour’s drive west of Scrabster, on a spectacular stretch of northern coastline in the land known as Mackay Country, lies the fascinating Strathnaver Museum, located in the former parish church of St Columba, built in 1700.

This small intimate museum tells of the vibrant culture of the people of this remote community, inherited from Norse and Gaelic ancestors. The upper floor of the church houses the Clan Mackay Room which describes the very rich and varied history of the Clan and their numerous Clan Societies throughout the world. The Strathnaver area abounds with archaeological sites and the graveyard outside contains an impressive 8th century carved Christian stone slab.

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**The Land and Its People**

The 150-year old Laidhay Caithness Croft is a well-preserved example of a longhouse – the style of dwelling which was home to large numbers of simple farming, or crofting, families many years ago.

It is a long single-story stone building with thatched roof and a cattle shed, or byre, at one end. The croft house has been furnished with many traditional items which would have been in regular use when the building was built and the rooms of the dwelling are furnished exactly as they were originally, giving a fascinating insight into the remarkable lifestyle of the hardy crofters of Caithness before the development of mechanised farming.
The harbour town of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, situated 30 miles off the northwest coast of Scotland, is the primary port in the Outer Hebrides. The island has a diverse history dating back thousands of years to the Neolithic settlers and the later Viking inhabitants. The culture and traditions of the Isles are kept alive today through everyday use of the Gaelic language and weaving of the world famous Harris Tweed.

There are many opportunities for visitors to explore the town of Stornoway, including strolls through the Lews Castle Grounds or around the scenic harbour, exhibitions of Harris Tweed being woven, or local art exhibitions on display in the modern An Lanntair arts centre.

Upon arrival, cruise passengers visiting the town are greeted by the Stornoway Cruise Ambassadors who are on hand to offer information about the town’s vibrant history and advice on the many attractions to explore during their visit to the Isle of Lewis.

Contact
Alex Macleod, Chief Executive, Stornoway Port Authority, Amity House, Esplanade Quay, Stornoway, HS1 2XS

T: +44 (0)1851 702688
F: +44 (0)1851 705714
E: Alex.macleod@stornowayport.com
W: www.stornowayport.com
Shore Excursions
The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Stornoway

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Stornoway as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.

The Callanish Stones
Believed to have been constructed around 5000 years ago, the Standing Stones at Callanish offer a fascinating insight into the intelligence, strength and dedication that characterized the early inhabitants of the Outer Hebrides. It is also widely believed to have been a site of high importance to the Celtic settlers in the area. A visitor centre is situated nearby, offering refreshments, a gift shop, and an exhibition about the history of the stones.

Dun Carloway
The remarkably well-preserved Broch at Carloway provides visitors with a chance to step inside a building first used around 2000 years ago. It is believed that the Iron Age dwelling was home to wealthy landowners when it was first built around 100AD. The nearby Doune Broch Centre offers more information about the structure and its history.

Gearrannan Blackhouse Village
Experience what life was like in a typical Lewis crofting township in the 20th Century in Gearrannan Village. The blackhouses in the village were occupied as recently as the 1970s when it was declared a conservation area. Double drystone walls, low ceilings and thatched roofs make up these fascinating dwellings where visitors can witness traditional activities such as weaving of the world-famous Harris Tweed.

Bosta Iron Age Village
In Bosta, on the island of Great Bernera in Lewis, lies an Iron Age village dating from 600-700AD. The site was uncovered in 1992 after a severe storm on Bosta Beach eroded the sand dunes and revealed the village buried beneath. Archaeologists excavated the site and discovered a total of nine buildings connected by tunnels. Due to the site’s exposed location, it has since been backfilled with sand to protect it from weather damage but a reconstruction of one dwelling is open to visitors and offers a first-hand view into how island villages looked some 1500 years ago.

An Lanntair
An Lanntair (Gaelic for ‘Lighthouse’) is situated in Stornoway town centre overlooking the Harbour and is an art gallery, cinema, bar/restaurant and music venue. The centre offers a contemporary take on the history and heritage of the Outer Hebrides and displays artwork created by local artists or inspired by the islands. A strong Celtic influence can often be identified in the artwork and a number of Celtic-inspired products including art prints, books and jewellery are available from the Arts Centre.
Carved out by glaciers during the last Ice Age, Ullapool boasts one of the best natural deepwater harbours in the country. With its dramatic backdrop of mountain ranges and picture-postcard setting, the village is the gateway to one of the most wild and vast remaining areas of true wilderness in Europe.

A warm Highland welcome awaits visiting passengers on the pier where a dedicated cruise pontoon leads to a marquee reception area with luxury restroom. Meet and greet personnel are available throughout the visit to share local information and distribute brochures and local maps.

Ullapool’s surrounding natural beauty and laid-back atmosphere offers a true flavour of Highland life at its relaxing best.

The traditional and historic fishing village of Ullapool lies mere minutes from the pier. There are plenty of opportunities for browsing the local museum, art galleries and shops selling books, crafts and gifts. Passengers can relax in the many cafes, bars and restaurants sampling locally sourced excellent food or enjoying a dram of whisky.

More energetic visitors can enjoy a variety of local river walks while a moderate climb up Ullapool Hill affords fantastic views over the local area.

The local coastline is stunning with excellent opportunities for sea and wildlife-spotting. We enjoy regular visits from seals, porpoise, dolphins and whales. Magnificent sea eagles, kestrels, red-throated divers and puffins have made their homes here.

Boasting world-beating natural scenery, fascinating history and a proud Gaelic culture, Ullapool and the surrounding area is a perfect destination for passengers seeking a relaxing yet absorbing visit to a truly special place.

Contact:
Kevin Peach, Harbourmaster, Ullapool Harbour Trust, Harbour Office, The Pier, Ullapool, IV26 2UH

T: +44 (0)1854 612724
F: +44 (0)1854 613245
E: kevin@ullapool-harbour.co.uk
W: www.ullapool-harbour.co.uk
Shore Excursions

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North West Highlands Geopark and Knockan Crag

A visit to this Unesco-endorsed Geopark affords tantalising views of a last great European wilderness. The area offers the opportunity to explore and experience a flavour of over 2000km² of stunning mountain ranges, pristine sandy beaches, deep lochs, ancient settlements and thriving communities. Awe-inspiring rugged scenery lies around every corner of this magnificent North West Highland landscape. The turf-roofed Knockan Crag Visitor Centre is a great starting point from which to learn more about this precious area which also includes the ruins of Ardvreck Castle and fascinating Ice Age caves. Suitable for full and half-day trips with activities for all abilities.

Glen Ord Distillery

Founded in 1838 and situated on the edge of the Black Isle, west of Inverness, Glen Ord Distillery is one of the oldest in Scotland. The distillery continues to malt its own barley and uses the long fermentation and slow distillation methods that have been followed for generations. Take a tour and watch the distillers at work as they create a sweet, malty dry whisky and follow up with a browse through the distillery shop. This is a half-day trip but with many other points of interest and stopping-off places along the route, a full day trip is also possible.

Castle Leod

A half-day trip allows for a visit to the magnificent Castle Leod. Built around 1606, Castle Leod is the seat of Clan Mackenzie and is home to the current clan chief, John Mackenzie who offers personal tours of the castle and grounds. The gardens boast stunning tree species including Giant Sequoia and a Spanish Chestnut planted in 1550 for Mary of Guise, mother of Mary Queen of Scots. Refreshments can be enjoyed at the neighbouring picturesque Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer.

Inverewe Gardens

This lush tropical oasis set amidst the bare rocks of the rugged Highlands is regarded as one of Scotland’s most beautiful gardens. This trip is a must for garden lovers with stop-off points en-route including Leckmelm Arboretum, the dramatic Falls of Measach and Corrieshalloch Gorge, Lael Forest and Gruinard Sands. Despite the northerly latitude, colourful and exotic plants such as Himalayan blue poppies, Tazmanian eucalyptus and Chinese rhododendron flourish at Inverewe Gardens thanks to the Gulf Stream’s warm currents and 100 acres of specially planted wooded shelter. Suitable for both full and half-day trips.

Castle Urquhart – Loch Ness

This full day trip gives visitors the chance to explore the impressive ruins of Urquhart Castle which lie on a rocky promontory on the northern banks of Loch Ness. What was once an ideal fortress site now offers outstanding views of the world-famous loch and Great Glen. The castle’s history is recounted in the exhibition and audio-visual display in the nearby visitor centre which also contains a tearoom. As a bonus, it’s also the perfect look-out spot for monster spotting!
European Cruise Service UK Ltd, premier cruise tour operator for the UK & Ireland, has built up a formidable reputation over many years for providing quality ground handling and destination management services to the specialist cruise ship market. This prowess stems from our long-standing connections with the cruise lines and the experience some of our staff have of working on board cruise ships giving a great understanding of the product and what is required plus our tourism expertise with many of our staff coming from a tourism background. With offices in Leith (Edinburgh), Kirkwall (Orkney Islands) and Market Harborough (Leicestershire) we can provide first class quality service across the whole of the UK and in Ireland.

Our highly experienced and passionate team offers a full service in cruise itinerary and excursion planning, specialist and niche tour products as well as pre and post cruise programmes. We can provide services for English speaking and foreign language passengers, as well as special interest and VIP tours.

European Cruise Service UK Ltd has an extensive portfolio of tours and services and we are always striving to produce new and innovative products to bring to the cruise market. Our primary purpose is to provide superb value for money, outstanding customer and guest services, quality ground-handling services and a one-stop shop to cruise operators choosing to sail within British and Irish waters.

No matter how small or how large the ship we aim to give an attentive and personalised service, combined with the latest technology that ensures a high degree of quality and first class delivery to our customers.

Contact
Tim Barnwell
T: +44 (0) 1858 288494
E: tbarnwell@europeancruise.no
Knoll House, Union Wharf,
Market Harborough LE16 7UW

Contact
Richard Alexander
T: +44 (0)131 561 0520
E: ralexander@europeancruise.no
4 Shore Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6SW
Founded in 1999, Excursions Ltd is an inbound tour operator specialising in shore excursions for the Luxury and Expedition cruise lines from all ports in the British Isles.

With offices in central England, Edinburgh and Orkney, Excursions Ltd prides itself on up to date specialist knowledge of all areas, adopting a ‘Hands On’ approach for the management of shore excursions throughout the country.

Excursions Ltd has experience of handling ships of every size in over 100 ports around the UK.

Mission Statement
“Combining creative tour planning with seamless operations, we provide our clients with unique tour product and ensure their guests have the most memorable experiences possible throughout the country, thereby creating unique and lasting memories.”

Excursions Ltd is a proud member of The World’s Leading Ground Operators.

Testimonials
“It is such a pleasure to work with a company that is forward-thinking and dynamic in terms of creativity and innovation, but which presents alongside that old-fashioned values of honesty, integrity and sincere care for the reputation of its partners. If it’s all about the deal, go elsewhere, but if you have clients who expect more, Excursions is the perfect partner.”

Edwina Lonsdale
Managing Director
Mundy Cruising plc

“Excursions Limited is one of the finest DMCs that I have had the privilege to be associated with. They are creative, efficient in their responses, price competitive etc. Under the direction of Rupert Woodard, Managing Director; he has a superb team of professionals.

At the recent Seatrade in Barcelona, Excursions Limited was awarded the International Innovative Shore Excursion of the Year Award. Without hesitation, I would recommend Excursions Limited.”

Bob Morgan
Vice President Product Development
THOMAS P. GOHAGAN & COMPANY

“I want to take the opportunity to personally thank you for your support during the year. Your dedication is unprecedented. It is always a pleasure to work with you and your team at Excursions Limited.

“We have very high standards and with a ‘flexible’ product our needs change at short notice. It is a comforting thought to know that you and the Excursions team is there working hard behind the scenes to make our calls successful. You are truly the unsung heroes of our England, Scotland and Ireland programs. It is hard to imagine operating at these levels in these remote parts of the world without your team.”

Conrad Combrink
Director Expeditions
Silversea Expeditions
Excursions Ltd is proud to manage operations for the following cruise lines and charterers.

- Aurora Expeditions
- Fred Olsen Cruises
- G.Adventures
- Hapag Lloyd Kreuzfahrten
- Hurtigruten
- Iceland ProCruises
- Institute for Shipboard Education (Semester At Sea)
- Lindblad Expeditions
- National WW2 Museum
- Noble Caledonia
- Polar Quest
- Poseidon Expeditions
- Quark Expeditions
- Saga Cruises
- Sea Cloud Cruises
- Sea Dream Yacht Club
- Silversea Expeditions
- The World, Residences at Sea
- Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
- Travel Dynamics
- US Navy
- Viking Ocean Cruises
- Windrose Finest Travel
- Windstar Cruises
- Zegrahm Expeditions

Head Office
Excursions Ltd
4 Barton Court
11/12 High Street
Highworth
Wiltshire SN6 7AG, UK.

T: +44 (0)1793 765 222
F: +44 (0)1793 861 032
E: info@shore-excursions.net
W: www.shore-excursions.net

Scotland Office
Excursions Ltd
3 John’s Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EL
Scotland

T: +44 (0)131 554 4500
F: +44 (0)1793 861032
E: info@shore-excursions.net
Cruise Liners Visiting Edinburgh – Cruise Forth can be of service to you.

Cruise Forth supports the welcome arrangements for cruise passengers visiting the three arrival ports for Edinburgh – Leith, Newhaven, South Queensferry and Rosyth. We collaborate with excursion companies, port operators and local tourism businesses to offer a unique and authentic experience at each of the ports. Our objective is to add value for passengers seeking personal tourism advice at no additional cost.

The uniformed volunteers of the Forth Bridges Tourist Group provide a warm welcome to cruise ship passengers, staff on-board hospitality desks and manage supportive information displays in the port terminal buildings. Cruise passengers have benefitted from contacting us in advance for independent advice on their travel plans. Our main interest is to provide introductory information for arriving visitors and to promote a wide variety of local attractions or events for those visitors who are looking for something different to do. Our local knowledge of a wide range of services has also been found to be invaluable – for example to those seeking to make a particular purchase, access local health services or simply find places of worship.

We can suggest options for passengers wanting to make onward travel arrangements and identify travel options into Edinburgh St Andrews or elsewhere.

At Rosyth we provide a courtesy bus to Dunfermline, the Ancient Capital of Scotland and in Queensferry assistance is provided to reach Hopetoun House with a drop off on South Queensferry High Street on the way back to encourage local exploration.

Additionally, Cruise Forth is in touch with new and developing tourism offers in the east of Scotland helping cruise planners look forward for the next three years. We would be delighted to help with any enquiries.

Contact
Peter Wilson, Manager
Cruise Forth

M: +44 (0) 7974 923791
E: info@cruiseforth.com
W: www.cruiseforth.com
Eilean Donan Castle is one of the most recognised castles in Scotland, and probably appears on more shortbread tins and calendars than any other. It is, without doubt, a Scottish icon and certainly one of the most popular visitor attractions in the Highlands. When you first set eyes on it, it is easy to understand why so many people flock to its stout doors year after year. Strategically located on its own little island, overlooking the Isle of Skye, at the point where three great sea-lochs meet, and surrounded by the majestic splendour of the forested mountains of Kintail, Eilean Donan’s setting is truly breathtaking.

Crossing the bridge to today’s castle, the fourth version, you can clearly understand why Bishop Donan chose the tranquil spot back in 634AD to settle on it and create a monastic cell. The first castle was later established in the 13th century by Alexander II in an effort to help protect the area from Viking incursions. At this stage in history the original castle encompassed the entire island and is believed to have been constructed with seven towers connected by a massive curtain wall. Over the centuries, the castle contracted and expanded for reasons that still remain a mystery to this day, until 1719 when it was involved in one of the lesser known Jacobite uprisings. When the British Government learned that the castle was occupied by Jacobite leaders along with a garrison of Spanish soldiers, three Royal Navy frigates were sent to deal with the uprising. On the 10th of May 1719, the three heavily armed warships moored a short distance off the castle and bombarded it with cannon. With walls of up to 5 metres thick, these cannon had little impact, but eventually the castle was overwhelmed by force. Discovering 343 barrels of gunpowder inside, the Commanding officer gave orders to blow the castle up; following which Eilean Donan lay in silent ruin for the best part of two hundred years.

The castle that visitors enjoy so much today was reconstructed as a family home between 1912 and 1932 by Lt Col John MacRae-Gilstrap, and incorporated much of the ruins from the 1719 destruction. At this point the bridge was added; a structure that is as much a part of the classic image as the very castle itself.

Visitors now have the opportunity to wander round most of the fabulous internal rooms of the castle, viewing period furniture, Jacobean artefacts, displays of weapons and fine art. Historical interest and heritage are in abundance with informed guides happy to share a wealth of knowledge. Wildlife surrounds the island too, with regular viewings of porpoise, dolphins, otters and birdlife.

In short, there are numerous reasons why Eilean Donan enjoys such romantic and iconic status in the hearts of our nation and its visitors, but to understand what’s at its core you have to go and discover it for yourself.

Contact
David Win (General Manager)

T: 01599 555202
E: eileandonan@btconnect.com
W: www.eileandonancastle.com
Inveraray Castle Argyll’s “Jewel in the Crown” provides visitors with a fascinating historical insight into one of Scotland’s most famous ancestral homes and gives them a glimpse of Scottish heritage and the way our ancestors lived.

Inveraray Castle is a remarkable and unique piece of architecture incorporating Baroque, Palladian and Gothic styles. The castle is home to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll and spans many generations of the Campbell family. While the castle is, first and foremost, a family home, The Duke and Duchess are only too happy to welcome visitors to their majestic estate.

Indeed, although the castle is a very busy tourist attraction it has become even more than that. It has also become a popular venue for a whole host of events; weddings, corporate events and the ever popular “Best of the West” Festival now a firm fixture in the annual events every September.

This iconic castle has been central to many dramas – both historical and fictional – and most recently when the Grantham family of Downton Abbey fame visited their “Highland relatives” with the castle and grounds providing a spectacular backdrop and setting.

The formal garden has been recently opened to everyone and they reflect the temperate climate we enjoy thanks to the Gulf Stream. In spring they are alive with a carpet of bluebells and daffodils, in May and June, the rhododendrons and azaleas provide a riot of colour and are the envy of many a gardener and during late summer and autumn the gardens mellow and are a tapestry of rich autumn colours. Whatever the time of year there is much to enjoy.

No visit to Inveraray Castle would be complete without a visit to the Castle gift shop and coffee shop. In the castle shop each item is chosen by the Duchess and her team. There is a wide range of Scottish gifts, soaps, clothing, jewellery, books, food and toys. We place special emphasis on the Clan Campbell and have a number of books and memorabilia relating to the Clan as well as general interest publications, maps, DVDs and guides on Scottish history, the town of Inveraray and the Castle. You’ll pick up the perfect present or souvenir of your visit.

Run personally by the Duchess the Castle Tearoom boasts fabulous food, sourced from local suppliers, using Scottish ingredients with soups, quiches and scones made daily in the Castle. There are Scottish cheddars, cream teas and local baking to tempt you and don’t forget the Duke’s favourite hot chocolate!

A wide range of activities is also available on the Inveraray Estate and in the surrounding area.

www.inveraray-castle.com
Loch Ness is a natural wonder of the world that holds a fascination with people all around the globe. Thousands of tourists visit the Loch and the surrounding Great Glen each year, to admire its unique scale and beauty, while secretly hoping to catch a glimpse of the legendary Loch Ness monster!

Loch Ness by Jacobite is proud to be the only 5 star cruise and tour operator on world-famous Loch Ness.

With Loch Ness by Jacobite, you’ll discover that there is much more to this famous place than the mystery of our legendary monster…

Take a Loch Ness by Jacobite Tour that includes entrance to Urquhart Castle and feel Urquhart Castle’s turbulent history as you explore its ruins and ramparts. Imagine what went through the minds of its defenders and attackers in the heat of battle. Then be thankful that you’ll be going home safely to share your heroic tales of the day you invaded one of Scotland’s most famous castles.

Sail along the historic Caledonian Canal, built by the great engineer Thomas Telford, and take in the same stunning views that Queen Victoria enjoyed from her royal barge. It is the most breath-taking way of seeing Loch Ness for the very first time, as you leave the Caledonian Canal and sail into the deep, mysterious waters of Scotland’s greatest wonder – Loch Ness.

Venture further afield on one of our cruise and bus tours, and you’ll enjoy some of the most spectacular sights and views of the Great Glen and surrounding highlands.

Loch Ness by Jacobite has a monster reputation for customer service. Our fleet of vessels is the pride of Loch Ness, each with comfortable seating, heated decks and fully stocked bars for snacks and refreshment. And our friendly, experienced team ensure you enjoy the very best Highland hospitality during your visit.

With a choice of 9 cruises and tours from a choice of 4 departure points, including Inverness Bus Station, Loch Ness by Jacobite has an experience to suit every timescale and budget. And thanks to our partnership with Stagecoach, transport to and from Invergordon is all taken care of.

Our full menu of cruises and tours, plus prices and timetable, can be found on our website.

www.jacobite.co.uk
Admiralty Charts: 2380 plus Chart 2379 and 2389 for navigating from Oban. Transfer to shore may be by tender.

Lying at the foot of Ben Nevis, Great Britain’s highest mountain, Fort William is the ‘Outdoor Capital of the UK’. As one of the major resorts in the Highlands, this historic town is the gateway to the incredible Scottish Highlands, filled with towering peaks and the rich history of the Scottish clans. It is also a mecca for those looking for outdoor adventure in the UK with a vast array of outdoor activities on offer. There’s something to suit everyone, from high speed downhill mountain biking and extreme canyoning for the thrill seekers to the gentler guided walks and wildlife watching for those looking to relax and enjoy the incredible scenery.

The Waverley paddle steamer visits Fort William every year. If the timing is right you can take a day trip to the beautiful island of Iona famously ‘The cradle of Christianity’ in Scotland.

Shore Excursions

Mountains, Waterfalls & Whisky
Glen Nevis and the start of the path that takes you to the top of Ben Nevis are only 5 minutes away from the pier, allowing you to explore this famous and picturesque glen. From the magnificent Steall (water) falls at the head of Glen Nevis to the ancient vitrified fort, there is a wealth of things to do. Visit the “Dew of Ben Nevis” distillery, see the whisky being made and sample some of the finest ‘scotch’ in the world.

Spectacular Glencoe
Often considered one of the most spectacular and beautiful places in Scotland, the ancient remains of a supervolcano. Visit the multi- award winning visitor centre, hear the history of the dramatic ‘massacre of Glencoe’ and battle between the Campbell and the MacDonald clans. Plenty of photo opportunities from the viewing platform and dramatic northern ridges known as the ‘three sisters’.

Ski Resort Mountain Gondola Ride
Just a short drive from the pier, you will board the mountain gondola (seated) for a breath-taking ride to 655 metres and magnificent views to Ben Nevis, towering at a massive 1344 metres. Home cooking, fresh baking and full bar in ski resort’s Snowgoose restaurant and bar or Pinemartin café.

Harry Potter Viaduct on the Jacobite Steam Train
10 minutes walk from the pier you board the Jacobite steam train (Summer timetable). Cross the stunning 21 arch viaduct featured in the Harry Potter films. Sit back and enjoy the breathtaking mountain scenery and stunning white sandy beaches featured in films including Being Human, Braveheart, Highlander, Restless Natives, the Harry Potter series and Rob Roy.

Restaurants, Bars and Live Music
Fort William and surrounding towns serve a good selection of well-established eating out places, pubs, hotels and restaurants serving fresh local produce, salmon, lobster and langoustines, straight from the waters around Lochaber and local beef and venison feature of the highest quality possible on many local menus.

For full details of things to do in and around Fort William go to: www.outdoorcapital.co.uk