



Alba Travel & Events

## Shetland & Orkney Tour

St Andrews – Perthshire – Speyside – Aberdeen –  
Shetland – Orkney – Edinburgh

**10-Day Package – tour must begin on a Wednesday or Friday only**

Day	Itinerary	Hotel Location
Day 1	Glasgow/Edinburgh	Edinburgh Area
Day 2	St Andrews – Perth	Perthshire
Day 3	Speyside/Royal Deeside	Aberdeen area
Day 4	Aberdeen – Stonehaven	Aberdeen-Lerwick, Shetland ferry
Day 5	Shetland	Shetland
Day 6	Lerwick, Shetland to Kirkwall, Orkney	Shetland-Orkney ferry
Day 7	Orkney	Orkney
Day 8	Orkney, Kirkwall	Kirkwall, Orkney–Aberdeen ferry
Day 9	Aberdeen – Edinburgh	Edinburgh area
Day 10	Departure	

Package Price 2012	B&B	B&B Single Person	3 star Hotel	3 star Hotel Single Person
Apr, May Jun Sep & October	£698.00	£1,123.00	£909.00	£1,375.00
July	£745.00	£1,200.00	£956.00	£1,453.00
August	£794.00	£1,251.00	£969.00	£1,466.00

Child Policy – based on sharing with 2 adults

0-4 years – No charge; 5-12 years – 50% of adult price; 13 years and above – Adult price.

### Price includes

- 7 nights in the above style of accommodation sharing a twin/double room with facilities inclusive of Scottish breakfast.
- 2 nights accommodation in a 2 berth outside cabin (no breakfast or dinner included)
- Ferries as per itinerary, based on 1/2 people & 1 car
- Welcome Pack
- Service & VAT at 20%

### Price does not include

- Car Hire (can be booked separately through Alba Travel & Events)
- Entrances detailed in itinerary (see tariff information on the Historic Scotland Pass)
  - Alba Travel & Events 30 Castlefield CUPAR Fife KY15 4DB Scotland UK •
  - Tel: +44 (0)1334 656548 • Fax: +44 (0)1334 652616 •
  - sales@alba-travel.co.uk • www.alba-travel.co.uk •

- Ferries other than stated in the offer (can be booked separately through Alba Travel & Events)
- Lunches, dinners and drinks.
- Personal expenses.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Edinburgh area

Arrive at Edinburgh/Glasgow Airport and pick up your self-drive car. Today you can visit Edinburgh Castle or do a short city tour. Overnight stay in Edinburgh area.

### Day 2 St Andrews – Perth



St Andrews East Sands

Spend the morning visiting St Andrews, the home of the oldest university in Scotland, it is the home of golf with its famous and prestigious Old Course. There remains of the 12th century Cathedral are the largest in Scotland and the medieval layout of the town is still visible. You will also see the 13th century castle, which overlooks the North Sea, where, during the Reformation, many evil deeds took place, in the "Bottle Dungeon". The traditional small shops and the beautiful sea views are very enjoyable.

In the afternoon you can visit Scone Palace, the home of the Earl of Mansfield. Scone is a castellated palace, enlarged and embellished in 1803, incorporating the 16th century and earlier palaces. The Moot Hill at Scone, known in the 8th century and earlier, was the site of the famous Coronation Stone of Scone (The Stone of Destiny), brought there in the 9th century by Kenneth MacAlpine, Kings of Scots. In 1296, the Stone was seized by the English and taken to Westminster Abbey. In 1997 the Stone was returned to Scotland and is now in Edinburgh Castle. Stay overnight in Perth Area.



### Day 3 Speyside/Deeside – Aberdeen

Today, drive towards Aberdeen, through Speyside and Deeside. You can visit Glamis Castle home of the Earl of Strathmore, famous for being the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and birthplace of Princess Margaret. The present castle was built in the 17th century. One of the oldest parts is Duncan's Hall, legendary setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth.

It is worth making a trip to Balmoral Castle, the Highland family home of the Royal Family since 1852. Queen Victoria visited the earlier castle in 1848 and Prince Albert bought the estate in 1852. The new castle was designed by Prince Albert and William Smith and was completed in 1855. You can see a display of carriages, an exhibition of paintings, works of art and royal tartans in the Ballroom, and the grounds and gardens.



Crathes Castle

You could also visit Crathie Church by Ballater, where the Royal Family attends services when at Balmoral Castle. And don't forget about Crathes Castle, a sixteenth century castle built on lands granted to the Burnett family, in 1323, by King Robert the Bruce. You will see the remarkable original painted

ceilings and a collection of Scottish furniture, some contemporary with the building of the castle. You will admire its famous walled garden containing eight separate gardens designed for colour combinations. Stay overnight in the Aberdeen area.

#### Day 4 Aberdeen area– Lerwick

Aberdeen, the Granite City, is a maritime city with a story going back to its foundation as a royal burgh in 1124. In bygone times, the city had strong trading links with Scandinavia and the Low Countries across the North Sea. Today, Aberdeen's harbour is a base for offshore oil and gas developments. Aberdeen has one of the most distinctive townscapes in Scotland, thanks to the silver granite used from the 18th century onward. You will see Duthie Park and its Winter Gardens, the largest covered display of roses (1 hectare) in Europe and Aberdeen University, one of the oldest in Scotland. In the afternoon you can visit Stonehaven, a former fishing village with a picturesque harbour, and Dunnottar Castle, a spectacular ruin 50 metres above the sea and an impregnable fortress to the Earls Marischals of Scotland. The castle was the site for the successful protection of the Scottish Crown Jewels against the might of Oliver Cromwell's army. The castle was also the scene of Zeffirelli's Hamlet. After a full day touring Royal Deeside or Speyside check into your private cabin on the ferry to Lerwick. Relax in one of the well-stocked bars and enjoy a delicious dinner in the restaurant. Stay overnight on the ferry Aberdeen – Lerwick, 17.00 or 19.00 Hours)



#### Day 5 Shetland

On waking up in Lerwick, start your exploration of Shetland by travelling south where you will find the main tourist attractions. Visit Mousa Broch, the finest surviving Iron Age broch tower on its own little island. Step into the life of a Shetland crofter at the Shetland Croft House Museum and, one of the highlights of Shetland, explore the Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement. Back in Lerwick learn some of the history of the islanders at the Shetland Museum, or drink some of the local ale in one of the pubs. Stay overnight on Shetland.



jarlshof prehistoric and norse settlement

#### Day 6 Shetland – Orkney



A trip to Shetland would not be complete without looking at the wildlife. Its dramatic cliffs, sculpted by the sea are a perfect breeding ground for migrating birds, the most popular with the tourists being the Puffin. Seals are also plentiful and easily seen lazing on the rocks or the white sandy beaches, and a must is the famous Shetland pony, which always provide a good photo opportunity. Shetland is also known for its jewellery, it has a strong Viking influence, and you can visit the workshops to see the items being hand made. Late in the afternoon it will be time to board the ferry again for the 5 1/2-hour journey to Orkney (17.30 or 19.00). Overnight stay on Orkney.

**Day 7**

**Orkney**

Today you will have the opportunity to tour much of Main Island and visit the key prehistoric sites, the Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe, and Skara Brae. Standing within the circle of the Stones of Stenness preferably on an early spring day it is easy to imagine prehistoric people gathering here. A few yards away at Barnhouse Neolithic village, the entrance to the largest building was aligned to the setting of the mid-summer day sun. One mile distant, the burial chamber of Maeshowe is directly illuminated, only at midwinter solstice and the Ring of Brodgar, also part of this great ceremonial centre, may have been used to track the movements of the moon, such is the magic of this place. Travelling to Skara Brae on the west of Main Island you step back 5,000 years.



Stones of Stenness

Here, preserved for millennia under sand dunes, the prehistoric village of Skara Brae remained undisturbed until 1850 where a great storm revealed the village for the first time. What is so surprising are the parallels with modern man, there are box beds, stone seats, dressers and cupboards and damp proofing.

Departing Skara Brae you return to the 21st Century continue onto your accommodation for overnight on Orkney.

**Day 8**

**Orkney**



Old Man of Hoy, Orkney Tourist Board

After breakfast you will have the opportunity to visit St. Magnus Cathedral, the best example of Norman Architecture that has survived in Scotland. The cathedral dominates the town but only yards away are buildings of comparable significance in the ruins of the Bishop's Palace and the Earl's Palace. The Earl's Palace has been described as "the most mature and accomplished piece of Renaissance architecture left in Scotland". After visiting the historical sites in the centre of Kirkwall you can then enjoy a walk along the winding flag stoned main street, which is lined with houses dating from the 16th century. In

this bustling thoroughfare you can shop for jewellery, pottery, amber, traditional knitwear, and a vast variety of Orkney food. No visit to Kirkwall and the Orkneys would be complete without a visit to the island's only whisky distillery, Highland Park, which was established over two hundred years ago and still uses the same traditional methods. Enjoy a tour of the distillery with a tasting of one of Scotland's finest malt whiskies. Among the many attractions on Orkney is Scapa Flow, the scene of momentous events during both world wars. Visit the series of causeways known as the Churchill Barriers. Winston Churchill was responsible for the construction of the causeways between the islands and here the wrecks of a number of block ships can be seen as well as what is known as the "The miracle of Camp 60", The Italian Chapel. Among those who worked on the Churchill Barriers were Italian prisoners of war. Far from home, unhappy with the climate, they found religious consolation through the unlikely form of two Nissan huts. These were lined with plasterboard then painted with a beautiful fresco. With further embellishments the chapel became a moving monument to those lost in war. Late afternoon you re-board your ferry for the final leg of this extension back to Aberdeen. Overnight on ferry (23.45)

