



# LUXURY TRAINS

BY ODYSSEY

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**TRAIN :** The Royal Scotsman

**JOURNEY :** Grand Western Scenic Wonders - Northbound

**Journey Duration :** Up to 7 days

## Day to Day Itinerary

### DAY 1 EDINBURGH

The train departs from Edinburgh in the early afternoon, crossing the Firth of Forth by means of the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge. Enjoy afternoon tea as you journey through the former Kingdom of Fife. The train follows the east coast, passing through Arbroath, Montrose and Aberdeen before arriving in the market town of Keith. Enjoy an informal dinner followed by entertainment in the Observation car.

### DAY 2 KYLE OF LOCHALSH

This morning you'll travel west along the Moray Firth towards Inverness, capital of the Highlands. Lunch is served on the way to Kyle of Lochalsh, one of the most scenic routes in Britain. The line passes Loch Luichart and the Torridon mountains. Alight in the picturesque fishing village of Plockton, which boasts an incomparable location in a sheltered bay of Loch Carron. Take a boat trip to see the colony of wild seals and enjoy magnificent views across the bay to the Applecross Mountains. Set off on a woodland walk, with time afterwards to enjoy a traditional Highland welcome in the Plockton Hotel. Return to the train in Kyle of Lochalsh. A formal dinner is served this evening, followed by coffee and liqueurs in the Observation Car.

### DAY 3 BOAT OF GARTEN

Join your onboard Host for an invigorating early-morning walk over the bridge that links the mainland with the Isle of Skye. Alternatively, take a short drive before breakfast to marvel at Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most iconic sights. Depart from Kyle of Lochalsh as breakfast is served, retracing part of yesterday's route. Travel around the edge of the Beaulieu Firth, across the northern end of the Caledonian Canal before reaching Inverness. Relax over a leisurely lunch on the way south to Carrbridge. Here you'll visit Ballindalloch, one of Scotland's most romantic castles. Take a tour of the building and grounds, or take the opportunity to play a round of golf on the castle's 9-hole course. Optionally you can visit the castle's single estate whisky distillery. Return to the train at Boat of Garten and prepare for an informal dinner. Afterwards, make your way to the Observation Car, where local musicians are waiting to entertain you as you sip a nightcap or two.

### DAY 4 ROTHIEMURCHUS

After breakfast, transfer to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms

National Park. Choose from a number of activities including fishing, clay pigeon shooting or an estate tour. Afterwards refreshments are served in their hunting lodge. Return to the train in Kingussie and enjoy a leisurely lunch during the journey south. At Dunkeld you'll disembark for a private tour of Glamis Castle and its beautiful gardens. Rejoin the train in Perth and prepare for a formal dinner en route to Dundee. Let the after-dinner musicians inspire you to partake of some lively Scottish country dancing.

## **DAY 5 EDINBURGH**

Breakfast is served as the train leaves Dundee and crosses the Tay Bridge. Disembark in Edinburgh where you will be escorted to the Royal Yacht Britannia for a guided tour followed by a light lunch on board. Alternatively, enjoy some free time to explore Scotland's vibrant capital city. Rejoin the train in the early afternoon and travel west. Near the mouth of the Clyde estuary lies Craigendoran, the starting point of the West Highland Line. Enjoy afternoon tea as you travel along the edge of Gare Loch. Continuing north, the train passes through Crianlarich and Bridge of Orchy then onto Rannoch Moor, one of the last truly wild parts of Scotland. An informal dinner is served on the way to Spean Bridge followed by lively entertainment by local musicians in the Observation Car.

## **DAY 6 GLENFINNAN**

As the train travels west don't miss the views of Ben Nevis, the UK's highest peak. Disembark at Arisaig for an evocative walk along the beautiful Morar Sands, with breathtaking views across the Sound of Sleat. Lunch is served back on board as the train retraces its route towards Fort William. Disembark here and visit historic Glenfinnan in the company of our local guide. Enjoy cream tea in the elegant drawing room at Inverlochy Castle Hotel before returning to Fort William. Alternatively go on a guided hike of Nevis Gorge, weather permitting. Relax on board before an informal dinner is served as you travel south.

## **DAY 7 MOUNT STUART**

Leaving Bridge of Orchy this morning, savor the dramatic Highland scenery en route to Glasgow. Board the ferry in Wemyss Bay for the 35-minute crossing to the Isle of Bute, which boasts a mesmerizing variety of landscapes. Visit Mount Stuart, one of Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic houses and the architectural fantasy of the third Marquess of Bute. Mysterious interiors reflect the Marquess' passion for art, astrology, mythology and religion. Following afternoon tea in the Drawing Room, explore this magnificent house and gardens. Back on board, take time to relax and prepare for a formal dinner. Afterwards, head to the Observation Car for entertainment and farewell drinks. The next day, travel east towards Edinburgh.