

Scotland's North Highlands

Sutherland, Caithness, Easter Ross and Wester Ross

June 13-26 2025



Led by Iain MacLeod

2025 Itinerary

Join native Scot Iain MacLeod for a very personal, small-group tour of Scotland's Northern Highlands. We will focus on the regions known as Wester Ross, Sutherland, Caithness and Easter Ross. The hotels are chosen by Iain for their comfort, ambiance, hospitality, and excellent food. Iain personally arranges every detail.

Friday, June 13: Our official meeting location will be Inverness Airport. Iain will suggest optimal flights and establish a particular meeting time (likely late morning) based on flight choices.

Saturday, June 14: We will load up the van and head west towards the spectacular west coast passing by Lochluichart, Achnasheen, Kinlochewe along the way. We'll visit Robie Falls and have lunch there before continuing past beautiful Loch Maree. We will arrive in the late afternoon at the [Gairloch Hotel](#) which will be our base for four nights.

Sunday, June 15: We will spend the day exploring the Torridon area. We will visit the [Beinn Eithe National Nature Reserve](#) and take a woodland walk and view beautiful Loch Maree. Then we will travel south to the Torridon Countryside Center where we will visit their wildlife hide and explore the woodlands and shoreline. We will continue our loop around to Lochcarron and back through Achnasheen before heading west again back to Gairloch.

Monday, June 16: Today, we'll head north along the coast towards Ullapool. We'll make some viewing stops along the way and have some time in the town to explore and then have lunch before boarding a boat at 1:30 for a trip out to the Summer Isles on [Shearwater Summer Isle Cruises](#). We'll have several opportunities to see White-tailed Eagles, Golden Eagles, Black-throated Divers as well as Otters and Seals.

Tuesday, June 17: Today we will visit the [Inverewe Gardens](#) and explore the coast roads around Aultbea and Mellon Udrigle.

Wednesday, June 18: We'll head north along the west coast of Wester Ross and Sutherland past Loch Assynt and Ardreck Castle, through Elphin, Scourie, and Rhiconich all the way up to the north coast. This is some of the most remote and scenic driving in the UK. We'll arrive at the [Bettyhill Hotel](#) which will be our base for four nights.

Thursday, June 19: Today we will attempt a real adventure! Cape Wrath is one of the most remote areas in the UK. To get there we have to take a passenger ferry across the Kyle of Durness, then take a guided tour by bus across the wild moorland to the Cape Wrath Lighthouse. The ferry crossing is



dependent on weather and tides (and doesn't take prebookings) and access to the point is sometimes restricted by the military, but . . . we'll give it a go.

Friday, June 20: Today we will explore the interior of Caithness with a big loop through the magnificent “flow country”. We'll visit the Forsinard RSPB reserve to look for birds and take the remote B871 west across to Syre, then north following the River Naver to Invernaver and then back to Bettyhill.

Saturday, June 21: Today we head east along the north coast. Highlights will include Duncansby Head, Castle of Mey and Dunnet Head. At Dunnet Head we'll look for Puffins, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Guillemots on the cliffs at the RSPB Reserve.

Sunday, June 22: We'll load up and head south through interior Caithness and down to Easter Ross to [Coul House Hotel](#) in Contin. This will be our base for four nights. Along the way we'll take a short detour to visit Loch Shin.

Monday, June 23: Today we will explore the Black Isle and the Cromarty Firth. We'll spend some time at Udale Bay and Nigg Bay to view hundreds of feeding Curlews, gulls, and Shelduck. We'll look for Red Kites and learn about the reintroduction of this spectacular raptor here on the Black Isle and throughout the UK.

Tuesday, June 24: We'll head north and explore eastern Sutherland including Loch Fleet, Dornoch, and Dunrobin Castle (includes falconry demonstration). We should see Ospreys at Loch Fleet.

Wednesday June 25: This will be our last full day and we'll cover any areas that we missed over the last few days, and explore close to the hotel.

Thursday, June 26: We'll head back to Inverness and fly back to Boston.

Cost includes hotel accommodations and all meals, van transportation in Scotland, ferry and boat trips and admission fees to nature reserves and other destinations listed on the itinerary. It does not include airfare.

Cost per person: \$6,950 (assumes double or twin occupancy room. There is an additional \$750 single room supplement).

For details or to book a space, call Iain at 603-968-7194.

