

Upon arrival at **Inverness Bus Station** you will be greeted by both your friendly, kilted WOW Scotland guide and your experienced tour driver. You will board our spacious and well-appointed mini-coach ready for departure promptly at 8.30am. As we leave Inverness your guide will excite you with information about the day to come, and will make sure that you are ready for an action and information packed 12 hour bumper tour!

As we drive across the iconic **Kessock Bridge** you can enjoy views over coastal Inverness. Ahead you can admire **Ben Wyvis**, whose isolated position allows the mountain to dominate this area of the Highlands.

Our journey through the **Black Isle** initially takes us through rolling farmland and sleepy Highland villages. As we head west you can relax and enjoy your guide's entertaining commentary whilst the scenery becomes more dramatic around every corner. As you exclaim over the views of imposing mountains including **Sgurr a Mhuillin** and **Fionn**

Bheinn, and numerous roadside lochs including **Loch Garve**, **Loch Luichart** and Loch a **Chuilin**, just remember that this pales in comparison with the scenery that it still to come!

After one hour our first stop is in the village of **Achnasheen**, home of a scenic railway station. Here you will have 10 minutes to stretch your legs, use the facilities and snap a photo of the rugged mountains from the railway bridge.





As we continue driving west the scenery becomes increasingly impressive, and no more so than at our next photo stop; **Loch Carron**. Situated on the west coast we stop high above this fjord-like body of water for fantastic views down to the ruins of **Strome Castle**, and into the distance for our first glimpse of Skye!

As we near our destination, and the excitement levels rise, we are not quite finished with awesome scenery on the

mainland yet; we catch a glimpse of the mighty 5 Sisters of Kintail then, after weaving along the shores of the Lochalsh peninsula, we arrive in the village of Kyle of Lochalsh, gateway to Skye. We then cross over the iconic Skye Bridge, where there are incredible 360 degree views of Northern Skye and the surrounding islands of Pabay, Raasay and Rona. Welcome to the beautiful Isle of Skye!!



Our first stop on the Isle of Skye is in the sleepy fishing village of **Kyleakin**. Here you can enjoy great views of the **Skye Bridge, Eilean Ban lighthouse** and legendary **Castle Moil**. This rugged ruin has a fascinating history and stands tall on a rocky promontory on the South East corner of Skye. A short walk takes you to a viewpoint which offers stunning views of this beautiful part of the island. We will spend approximately 25 minutes in Kyleakin and there is an opportunity to pick-up coffee and cake from a great local cafe.

Our journey up the East Coast of Skye rewards us with magnificent views of Skye's

dramatic mountains and surrounding islands, but the best is yet to come: At **Sligachan**, we are welcomed by truly aweinspiring views of the **Red and Black Cuillin mountains**. Here, there is an opportunity to go on an **off-the-beaten-track hike** with the guide to one of our favourite little-known spots. Alternatively, perhaps you'd rather relax in <u>Seumas' Bar</u>, which is renowned for its collection of 400 malt whiskies, and even produces its own ale in the adjacent <u>Cuillin Brewery</u>. We spend around 40 minutes here.





As we venture further north we enter a supernatural and dramatic landscape which was created by volcanic activity millions of years ago. A short photo stop at a loch-side viewpoint gives you a chance to admire the unique rock formation of the **Old Man of Storr**; a 50 metre high pinnacle which juts out from the awe-inspiring **Trotternish Ridge** and will be widely recognised from feature films including Stardust, The Wicker Man, Prometheus and The BFG. We have

around 10-15 minutes here, and often stop at a second viewpoint too (weather permitting).

Our next stop is Kilt Rock; an exposed sea cliff, which resembles the traditional Highland kilt, and which wows our guests each and every time. It also boasts a waterfall that tumbles 60 metres (180 feet) into the Sound of Raasay below – a truly enthralling sight, and one made even more special when the wind blows the waterfall back up the cliff! We spend around 20 minutes here.





experience here will be unforgettable.

Our next stop is certainly one of the absolute highlights on Skye. **The Quiraing** is a series of landslides that have combined to create high cliffs, hidden plateaus, buttresses and rock pinnacles. When mist swirls around the volcanic rock, it can be a positively spine tingling experience and, on clear days, the views are phenomenal. We have 30 minutes here and would recommend taking a short hike to find a unique vantage point to enjoy the aweinspiring scenery. Whatever the weather, your

At around 3pm we will begin our journey back down Skye's most northerly peninsula; **The Trotternish.** This will give you the opportunity to marvel at the majestic scenery from a completely different angle, and also means that those enjoying coastal views on the way up will swop to mountain views, and vice versa. We will have different photo stops on the return journey, with our favourite being the **Sound of Raasay viewpoint**.



National Geographic experts voted Skye the fourth best island in the world in 2014, with their criteria being to find the most unique, picturesque and unspoiled places on earth. By this point in the journey we are confident that you will agree with their verdict!

Set within a pretty natural harbour, and surrounded by rocky cliffs and rolling hills, **Portree** is a beautiful place to explore. With its quirky shops, cute cafes and interesting sights you will certainly find plenty to occupy you during our 45 minute stop here.



Your guide will give you some top tips on the coach, and will also point you in the direction of the **harbour viewpoint**; from here you can admire the pretty **pastel-coloured houses** that the town is famous for. Alternatively, you may wish to take a short hike up to the top of the **Apothecary Tower**, where you can enjoy stunning vistas of Portree and The Old Man of Storr.

Once you are back on the coach we will serve a light Scottish-themed dinner onboard (optional extra) and will begin our journey back to the mainland. As we travel south we will stop on the coast for an enviable view of the **Red Cuillin**Mountains, and you will have the opportunity to wander down to the water's edge; this is a great place to spot wildlife and, on previous tours, we have spotted golden eagles and pilot whales from this



spot! Of course, we can't guarantee that the wildlife will co-operate with us, but the views definitely will!



As we cross back over the **Skye Bridge** we embark on an alternative route back to Inverness, with our next stop being the truly iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**; one of the most photographed castles in the world. Our evening arrival is perfectly timed as the castle is closed and its visitors (half a million in 2017!) have gone home. This means that, not only can we get much better photos, but we can usually walk over the bridge and onto the island itself. We will spend around 30 minutes at two classic viewpoints here.

After so many world-class sights ticked off your list today, you will have an hour or so to sit back, relax and enjoy yet more beautiful scenery before our final stop. We will meander

along the shores of **Loch Duich** before travelling up into the hills, where we will see legendary mountains; **The 5 Sisters of Kintail**. Your guide will keep you amused with tales of legend and lore as we pass various sights of Jacobite military interest, including a spot where the Spanish battled the Dutch way back in 1719. As we tour alongside the shores of **Loch Cluanie** key an eye out for the historic bridge and buildings which lie submerged in the loch, and which you can catch glimpses of when the water level is very low.





Towards the end of our epic journey we travel along the northern shores of the legendary **Loch Ness.** Here, **Nessie** enthusiasts can keep an eye out for the legendary monster, while the rest of us soak up the great views across the loch. At **Urquhart Castle**, we have our last stop of the day, where we spend around 10 minutes viewing the loch-side castle ruins from above – an amazing end to an amazing day!