

# The Splendours of Scotland



*The Splendours of Scotland:*  
*Edinburgh, the Highlands, and the Western Isles*  
*Designed and Led by Eddy Downpatrick*  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

EST. 1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS





# The Splendours of Scotland

Here you will find the home of the famed Scottish Enlightenment, the period between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century characterised by a spate of intellectual and scientific achievements, including those of the great Adam Smith, a capital city set amidst mountains and against sea. On this expedition you will discover the true brave heart of Scotland, her line of clans, kings, and queens, alongside her most celebrated heroes. The land of *Outlander*, *The Highlander*, *Outlaw King*, and *Braveheart* themselves brought to life. Here you will uncover lost ways of life, traditions and relics many thousands of years old, and the source of one of the great migrations to what was to become the United States of America.

In short, this is a land storied in song, fabled in history, replete with natural beauty. What you are about to see in these photos reflects the world inhabited by all those famous songs and stories, but it is only a teasing glimmer of what actually lies in wait.

Meet us in Edinburgh, Scotland for **The Splendours of Scotland from 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**.

We're happy to discuss anytime: [edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com) and [jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)

Alba gu Bràth! (Scotland forever!)

Eddy Downpatrick



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS



# The Splendours of Scotland

Scotland was a country that not even the Romans could conquer. The English tried and tried again to subdue her, perennially larger in fighting force and superior in equipment. For the Highland way of life, only musket, canon, and a series of calamitous events led to the defeat which would set her on the path of submission to the kingdom in the south.

This is a land that at its narrowest point is but 25 miles wide. She is a land of bounteous wildlife, natural beauty, hundreds of islands, thousands of lochs (lakes), and consequently, rarefied light. A land of druids, warriors, saints, and brilliant minds, she is imbued with a magic hitherto undimmed.





## *Day 1 - Arrival Day - Edinburgh – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

Arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland by Sunday, May 12. Some will fly into Edinburgh via Chicago or New York and others via London. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Our welcome dinner will be that night.

We'll find ourselves at the 5\* [Bonham Hotel](#) in the heart of the city.





## *Day 2 - Edinburgh – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May*

Our expedition begins in Scotland's capital, a city dominated by volcanic hillscape, a castle scratching the skyline, and iconic monuments, some of which looks remarkably similar to that of ancient Greece. The heart of the Scottish Enlightenment, where the likes of Adam Smith left his mark on the world, this is one of the finest cities anywhere to be found.



We will explore the city's historic heart, centred around sights which will look familiar to all those who glimpsed Her late Majesty the Queen's final procession through Edinburgh. Alongside the Royal Mile, St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh Castle, and Holyrood Palace, where we'll enjoy a private tour, we will head to the city's symbolic heights, Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat.





### *Day 3 – Edinburgh to Braemar – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May*

Today we travel northwards towards the hallowed realm of the Scottish Highlands. On our journey, which takes in some of Scotland's most spectacular scenery, we stop at the monument to the legendary William Wallace set beneath Stirling Castle, the culmination of Edward I's crushing of the Wallace-inspired rebellion. We will visit Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish kings, the stewards of which, the Earls of Mansfield, are old friends of Eddy's, for a private tour.

We venture east into the hallowed realms of Queen Victoria's chosen escape from the eyes of the world, the estate of Balmoral. We'll spend the night in the storied village of Braemar and catch the evening sun from Albert's Cairn (see below). Overnight at the 5\* Balmoral Arms Hotel.





## *Day 4 – Balmoral and Marr Lodge Estates – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May*

Her Late Majesty is known to have had some favourite walks around this magnificent estate and for anyone happy enough to do so, we will undertake a gentle walk around a section of Loch Muick and thereafter make our way to Queen Victoria's woodland waterfall.

Lunch in the Flying Stag before an afternoon at Marr Lodge Estate, the UK's largest national nature reserve. Home to the Linn of Dee, where the river Dee cascades through a narrow chasm, surrounded by Caledonian pines. At 29,000 hectares, home to a host of Scotland's most iconic wildlife as well as 15 of Scotland's 282 Munros (mountains over 3,000ft), this is a spectacular place.





## *Day 5 – Balmoral and the Highlands – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May*

After breakfast we head to Balmoral for a tour of the castle. As a royal household this is a treasure of the nation, its stories the stuff of legend. The beauty of the estate warrants Queen Victoria's express choice of it following the death of her beloved husband, Prince Albert.

After a shopping stop at the improbably placed 'Harrod's of the North', the House of Bruar, complete with its own waterfall, and a wee dram at a Highland distillery, we reach Newhall Mains, a luxury hotel created by Eddy's friend Euan Ramsay on his family's estate, complete with its own airfield and asado.





*Day 6 – Culloden Battlefield, Castle Leod, Fyrish Monument –  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May*

Eddy will give us a tour of Culloden Battlefield and explain the dynamics behind the Jacobite uprising, Bonnie Prince Charlie, and the end of the ancient Highland way of life.

To earn our sumptuous lunch, we will take a gentle walk up to Fyrish Monument, an amazing stone structure atop a ridgeline with stunning views over the Cromarty and Moray Firths (a firth is an estuary).

That afternoon we will enjoy a private tour of Castle Leod from The Earl of Cromartie, Chief of Clan Mackenzie and a wonderful storyteller. Eyes to the sky for giant redwoods too!





## *Day 7 – The road to the Isle of Skye – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May*

On our way Skyewards, we visit Urquhart Castle, spectacularly situated on the flanks of Loch Ness and among the more significant Highland fortifications of Robert the Bruce, the outlaw King of Scotland.

After a water's edge lunch, we come to Eilean Donan Castle – a sea-lochside gem, one of the most picturesque sites in the world, surrounded by the Kyle of Rhea (Rhea being a Celtic mythological hero and a kyle being a strait or sound).

Our next resting place is another friendly refuge, the beautiful home of Eddy's friends Jimmy and Stella, just a few miles down the shoreline from Eilean Donan.



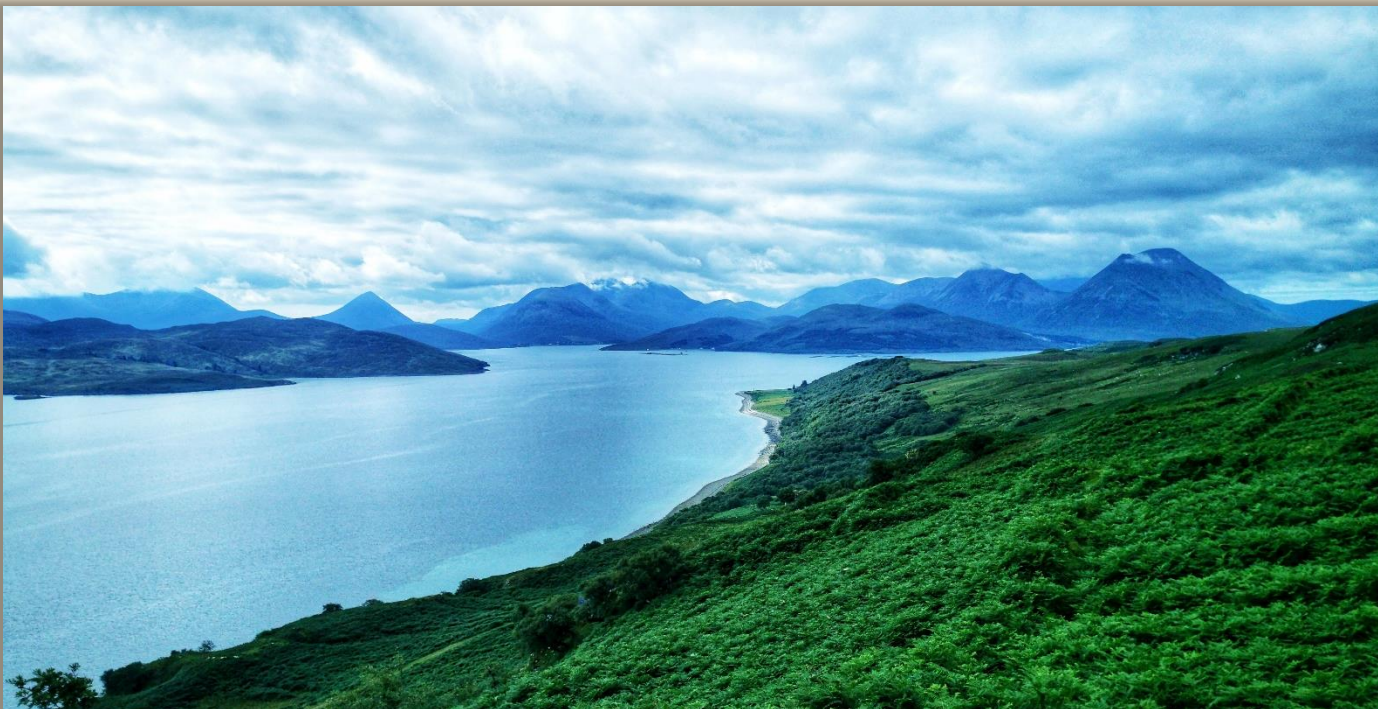


## *Day 8 – Isle of Skye – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May*

The Camasunary walkway – quite simply one of the most beautiful any of us will do – what lies beyond the ridgeline will melt the heart and blow the mind. The gradient is gentle.

We visit and lunch at Talisker, *the* Skye distillery.

After lunch we take a private walk through history with Skye's premier naturalist. He'll take us around Celtic ruins and remnants of the traditional dwellings of Highland crofters before the Clearances. He will also teach us how to start a fire and forage like our ancestors.





## *Day 9 – Isle of Islay – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May*

We take off in a sturdy Islander aircraft flown, as it stands, by the inimitable Yak Tuna (his real name!), soaring over majestic loch- and hillscape southwest over the Inner Isles and Lower Hebrides towards Islay (pronounced ‘Ai-la’).

We walk a bonnie (=pretty) beach and head on to Islay’s beloved, iconic distilleries for a private tour and tasting.

After a seaside lunch and a swim in her turquoise waters, we fly back Skywards to rest ourselves before a sunset dinner and a distinctive Highland tradition.





## *Day 10 – Glenfinnan and Ben Nevis – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May*

Having your rather-mountainous country's highest come in at a mere 4,400ft might be considered a touch meagre, but when most else sits at sea level, a mighty lady Ben Nevis is. We'll stop at a monument to some of the finest soldiers the world has ever known, the Commando Memorial, to gaze on Nevis some ten miles away.

Today we'll take a very scenic road trip (not only by land) that passes us by some of Scotland's most dramatic loch-and landscape, including some of its notorious white-sand beaches. At the halfway-point of this lovely loop stands one of Scotland's (and now the world's) most iconic sites, the Glenfinnan Viaduct, more recently known as the highlight of the Harry Potter railroad.





## *Day 11 – Departures – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

Having had a sumptuous farewell dinner in our seaside roost, watching the sun come down over Rhea's mystical waters one last time, we'll have our breakfast and make for Inverness for our onward connections.

Inverness Airport has six direct flights a day to London and Inverness Railway Station has fifteen trains to Edinburgh and another 15 trains to Glasgow every day for those flying back to the US or elsewhere from those two airports.





## Meet Your Expedition Leader for “The Splendours of Scotland”

**Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick, (“Eddy Downpatrick”)** Eddy is an explorer and adventurer who takes great pleasure in designing and guiding exclusive expeditions.

Eddy’s experience, intellect, and great passion for exploring our wondrous planet and sharing it led to the formation of **Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions (“WWX”)** when he joined forces with Wheeler Expeditions, a pioneer in adventure travel since 1976.

Favorite expeditions he’s led include water-borne ski touring trips to the Norwegian Arctic, land-borne ski touring trips to Macedonia, and encounters with bears and whales in Canada. His love of mountains took him to the remote wilds of the Rockies, the Alps, and WWX’s exclusive Himalaya Helicopters to the eight highest Nepal Himalayan mountains.

He has especially enjoyed leading expeditions around historic sites and surrounded by natural wonders of Central Asia, Ethiopia, Jordan, British Columbia, New Zealand, Australia, the Scottish Highlands, wild West Coast of Ireland, and extensively across old-world Europe. In addition to extensive travel, Eddy is an avid hiker, skier, cold-water swimmer, linguist, and is adept on a horse.

After receiving his Master’s Degree in Modern Languages from the University of Oxford, he continues to speak French, German, Italian, and now studies Spanish, Portuguese, Gallic, and Norwegian. After University, he set up Highlands-inspired clothing and apparel brand to reflect the mood created by nature.

His unbounded curiosity for the world will always lead you down beautiful paths and those less trodden with levity and humour. Most important, it’s often noted that he’s great fun and enjoys exploring enthusiastically.

The Wheeler-Windsor partnership opens up an even wider range of travel experiences for our WWX Client-Members, especially with the “invitation-only,” exclusive-access events that stem from Eddy’s uniquely broad network.

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Windsor](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Windsor)

Contact to discuss: [edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS



# THE SPLENDOURS OF SCOTLAND DETAILS - *Designed & Led by Eddy Downpatrick*

*Dates: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024*



**Register:** [WWX The Splendours of Scotland 2024 May 12-22](#)

**All Inclusive per person:** US\$12,450 (Double Occupancy) Register \$4,500 deposit; balance by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS

*The Splendours of Scotland* was personally designed by Eddy Downpatrick exclusively for Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions. It is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value.

**All Inclusive:** \*All accommodation, as specified in itinerary. \*All 3 meals with group (B-L-D), including bottled water and soft drinks.

\*All transportation: internal air flights, and ground transport. \*All activities and excursions with the group in the itinerary.

**Does Not Include:** \* International air travel. \* Hotel Single Supplement: US\$1,500. \* Meals, snacks, services, and activities not with group or in itinerary. \* Personal expenses for incidentals, laundry, internet, gratuities, and alcoholic drinks. \* Visa fees, if needed.

*Note:* Refundable in full on the condition of a fully-paid replacement for you. We strongly advise you consider “Cancel for any Reason” trip cancellation insurance. Your travel agent can assist.

*Important caveat:* Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the vagaries of weather in this region, though typically beautiful at this time of year, and of adventure travel in general, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. Participants agree that, if itinerary must be altered to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.

To apply for participation in this wonderful adventure, please contact us immediately. The trip is limited to a small number of curious, and open-minded travelers who like to see and experience more of our world.

Contact to discuss: [edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:edward@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com) or [jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:jack@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)



EST.  1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR  
EXPEDITIONS

*Our mission is to guide you to live an adventurous life by designing and leading unique,  
engaging journeys integrating culture, history, and adventure.*

Contact us:

[explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)