

Scotland



The magical highlands

Loch Lochy, Caledonian Canal



- Crown Blue Line & Connoisseur Base
- Airport
- Navigable waterways

Surrounded by breathtakingly beautiful hillsides clad in silvery heather, the Caledonian Canal stretches between Inverness, the capital of the Highlands in the north, down to Fort William in the south.



Be prepared for a magical journey through the vast Loch Ness, home to the most famous monster in the world; the islets of the shallower Loch Oich and the wild Loch Lochy, at the foot of which lies Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. En route, canoeing, windsurfing and water-skiing are readily available while on-shore, the Scottish Highlands offer

“The memories of our Caledonian Cruise will stay with us forever. The scenery is absolutely stunning.”

something for everyone. Have fun eagle-spotting, walking and pony trekking, or get on your mountain bikes and cycle the tracks that line the length of the canal. Harry Potter fans can enjoy a magical day out travelling on the West Highland Railway line - one of the world's most scenic rail journeys as used by Hogwart's Express! Wherever you choose to cruise, you can be sure of tasting fine cuisine at lakeside and village restaurants - wild salmon, game and venison are regional specialities, and don't pass up the chance to try some Haggis, accompanied of course by a glass of fine Highland malt whisky.

Regional highlights



- Spectacular views and amazing scenery
- Championship mountain biking paths alongside the water's edge
- Salmon fishing
- A chance to see the Loch Ness Monster!

Some cruising ideas to help you choose...

The Highland Fling
Laggan - Inverness - Banavie - Laggan

1 or 2 Weeks - Return trip
193kms - 10 locks - 35hrs

Cruise the Caledonian Canal for a true taste of the Highlands. Take in the sights at Loch Oich and the great watersports facilities at the Great Glen Water Park. Learn about Highland life at the Clansman Centre at Fort Augustus, one of the most picturesque villages on your route. See if you can spot the monster in Loch Ness and visit Drumadrochit - the centre of monster-spotting activities and a great base for pony-trekking. Visit Urquhart Castle which perches on the edge of Loch Ness and spend time in Inverness - Britain's youngest city. Return via Gairloch under the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain and on to Neptune's Staircase at Banavie overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Fort William.

Cruising Note: Only return-to-base cruises are possible from Laggan.

Highland Fling Excursions

If you want to spend longer cruising the Caledonian Canal, treat yourself to some classic Highland excursions. At Banavie, take a trip to Mallaig, a small fishing town on the wild western coast of Scotland, using the West Highland Railway line. This is renowned as one of the world's most scenic rail journeys and not to be missed. Spend time in Inverness, sightseeing, shopping (get kitted out in a kilt!) and even dolphin watching - you can take a trip from Inverness harbour to watch bottle-nosed dolphins in the Moray Firth. Anglers may like to spend a day fly-fishing for salmon on the River Oich or trolling for salmon on Loch Ness - a 'Ghillie' or gamekeeper can be hired for the day to help you. Cruise to Banavie where you can experience the magic of the mountains by taking a gondola up Anoch Mor beside Ben Nevis to admire the breathtaking scenery of the Highlands overlooking Loch Linne, the Caledonian Canal and in the distance, the Outer Hebrides. The Snowgoose restaurant awaits you at the top along with the Mountain Discovery Centre and the World Cup Downhill mountain bike track. Cycle down here at your peril!



- History & heritage
- Culture
- Gastronomy
- Cycling
- Horse-riding
- Watersports
- Fishing
- Golf
- Wildlife
- Swimming

The Scottish Fleet

Match a boat to your choice of cruise

- Crown Blue Line Fleet
- CONNOISSEUR Fleet

Comfortably sleeping 8+

- Classique
- Magnifique

Comfortably sleeping 6+

- Crusader
- Elegance

Comfortably sleeping 4+

- Braemore, Clipper, Consul, Osprey

Comfortably sleeping 2+

- Consort



Please see pages 50-74 for more details