



TRIP GLOBAL

5 Days in Scotland: Edinburgh & the Highlands

Edinburgh, United Kingdom & Fort William, Scotland, United Kingdom · June · 5 days

Tailored for groups - includes group activities, social dining, and group-friendly options

Two days in Edinburgh, then three based in Fort William. Look forward to Calton Hill at the end of day one, a drink at the Clachaig Inn after Glencoe, and a full day on the Ben Nevis Mountain Track.

Open the interactive trip: live map, photos and links

Before you go:

Get a United Kingdom eSIM: data on landing

What this trip might cost, per person for 5 days, flights extra:

Budget \$370-490 · Mid-range \$610-860 · Comfort \$1,000-1,200

Opening hours, prices and transport change. Please double-check bookings and times before you go.

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

1

DAY 1

Castle Esplanade, Greyfriars Bobby and Calton Hill

Edinburgh · 2 nights

2

DAY 2

Glenkinchie, Haddington and Tantallon Castle

3

DAY 3

Urquhart Castle and Loch Ness to Fort William

Fort William · 3 nights

4

DAY 4

Glencoe, Bidean nam Bian and Signal Rock

5

DAY 5

Ben Nevis, Corpach Basin and The Lime Tree

?

AFTER THE LAST DAY

Before you go: Edinburgh, Fort William

Castle Esplanade, Greyfriars Bobby and Calton Hill

Arrival day: an easy start close to your stay

Sunrise 4:27 AM

Golden hour 8:57 PM

Sunset 10:01 PM

Your base for 2 nights: Edinburgh

Walk up to the castle esplanade, pass the Writers' Museum and Greyfriars Bobby, then finish with the view from Calton Hill.

GO

12:30 PM · 45 minutes

Edinburgh Airport to Royal Mile

Take the Airlink 100 bus (runs every 10 minutes, £5.50 single) straight to Waverley Bridge in the city centre, then a 5-minute walk uphill to your base on the Royal Mile. Journey takes about 30 minutes total.

- Rental car (already have) · 20-30 minutes depending on tra · Parking \$3.75-6.25/hour at Waverley
- Taxi · 20-25 minutes · \$23-32 per vehicle
- Bus (Airlink 100) · 30-40 minutes · \$9-10 per person

[Book a rental car](#)

[Book a transfer](#)

1

1:45 PM · 45 minutes

Castle Esplanade

Free

Drop your bags, then head straight to this wide stone plaza in front of Edinburgh Castle. You'll get a proper feel for the scale of the castle and the city sprawling downhill below. It's a 5-minute walk from most Royal Mile accommodation.

Insider tip: Stand at the western end of the esplanade for the best unobstructed view down the Royal Mile towards Holyrood.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2

3:00 PM · 1 hour

Writers' Museum

Free · Open 10 AM-5 PM

A small, free museum in Lady Stair's Close honouring Burns, Scott and Stevenson. The close itself, a tight medieval alleyway, is atmospheric and mostly tourists miss it. Walk up from Lawnmarket, about 10 minutes from the esplanade.

Insider tip: Go inside for 20 minutes (no crowds on a June afternoon) to see the period rooms and first editions, then linger in the close for photos.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3

4:15 PM · 20 minutes

Greyfriars Bobby Statue

Free

A tiny bronze dog statue outside Greyfriars Kirk, famous from the Victorian tale. It's touristy but quick, and you'll pass the atmospheric 17th-century graveyard. 5 minutes downhill from the Writers' Museum.

Insider tip: Rub the dog's nose for luck (everyone does it). The graveyard itself is genuinely eerie and worth 10 minutes of wandering.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

DAY 1: CASTLE ESPLANADE, GREYFRIARS BOBBY AND CALTON HILL (CONTINUED)

4

8:15 PM · 1.5 hours

Calton Hill

Free

Walk east from the Royal Mile through Waverley towards this viewpoint crowned with neoclassical monuments. At 8:57 PM in June the light is golden and the city glows. It's a steep 10-minute climb but worth every step.

Insider tip: Arrive by 8:50 PM to catch the light on the castle and the Forth bridges. Bring a camera; every angle works.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5

9:45 PM · 2 hours

Book ahead

The Witchery by the Castle

\$38-62 for dinner per person · Open 6 PM-11 PM (fine dining)

A restaurant inside a restored 16th-century townhouse on Castlehill, just below the castle gates. Expect posh Scottish fare (venison, seafood) and a medieval vibe. Book a table by the window if you can. It's a 15-minute walk downhill from Calton Hill.

Insider tip: Order the Scottish oysters and the venison, reliable and seasonal. Mains run £22-28.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

If you land early (optional, close to your stay, before the plan above)

Portobello Beach: A 3-mile sandy beach southeast of the city centre, reachable by a 20-minute bus ride or 30-minute drive. Quiet on a June morning, good for a walk and coffee before heading to the Royal Mile.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh: On the north slope above Waverley, 15 minutes walk from the Royal Mile. The glasshouses and wild Scottish plants are worth an hour if you land early and want green air before the city proper.

[Open Day 1 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to stay in Edinburgh

Book a guesthouse or hotel on or just off the Royal Mile itself, Castlehill, Lawnmarket, or the lower mile near Holyrood. You're steps from everything, no need for buses, and the narrow streets feel proper Edinburgh.

Travelodge Edinburgh Central

Budget · Hotel · \$

Budget-friendly near Waverley Station. No frills but clean. Three-minute walk to Old Town.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Castle Rock Hostel

Budget · Hostel · \$

Top floor bar views, budget group rooms. Young vibe, free walking tours.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Ibis Edinburgh Centre Royal Mile

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Solid mid-range on the Mile itself. Modern rooms, noisy street but central for everything.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Mercer House

Mid-range · Guesthouse · \$\$

West End townhouse. Quiet street, walkable to everything, genuine hosts.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

The Witchery Hotel

Luxury · Hotel · \$\$\$

Medieval luxury on the Royal Mile. Four-poster beds, Gothic drama. Book one night to ease in.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

The Balmoral Hotel

Luxury · Hotel · \$\$\$\$

Iconic Princes Street location. Grand but worth it for central base.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

[All stays in Edinburgh](#)

[Holiday rentals](#)

Where to eat

Brew Lab

Cafe/Brunch · Breakfast · \$

Espresso and fresh pastries. Right on Bristo Square, grab and go before exploring.

[Google Maps >](#)

Witchery by the Castle

Scottish/Fine Dining · Dinner · \$\$\$

Lamb, game, rich sauces. Candles and dark wood. Reserve ahead, just off the Royal Mile.

[Google Maps >](#)

The Real Mary King's Close

Scottish/Casual · Lunch · \$\$

Haggis neeps and tatties below street level. Eat where 17th-century Edinburgh lived.

[Google Maps >](#)

DAY 1: CASTLE ESPLANADE, GREYFRIARS BOBBY AND CALTON HILL (CONTINUED)

TOURS & DAY TRIPS FROM EDINBURGH

FULL DAY

Glencoe hiking day trip

Three Sisters or Lost Valley gets you into proper Highland terrain with dramatic rock faces and lochs without needing mountaineering skills.

[Book now](#)

2-3 HOURS

Dalmore or Glenmorangie distillery tour

Skip the touristy south-coast distilleries. These are en route to the Highlands and give you a real working distillery with group tastings and often a dram to take home.

[Book now](#)

HALF DAY

Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle drive

Castle ruins on the water are dramatic, and the east-side road is quieter than the main A82, with proper wild scenery and fewer coach tours.

[Book now](#)

2-3 HOURS

Edinburgh Castle skip-the-line ticket

June crowds are heavy. Book timed entry online to skip the queue and get good light inside the Crown Room.

[Book now](#)

FULL DAY

West Highland Way day hike (Fort William to Kinloch Leven section)

A proper long-distance trail with mountain views, lochs, and real isolation if you're up for 6-8 hours on foot.

[Book now](#)

Glenkinchie, Haddington and Tantallon Castle

Sunrise 4:27 AM

Golden hour 8:57 PM

Sunset 10:01 PM

Sleep in Edinburgh · night 2 of 2

Leave the city for a distillery tour at Glenkinchie, stop in Pencaitland and Haddington's High Street, then end at the clifftop ruins of Tantallon Castle.

1



10:00 AM · 2.5 hours

Book ahead

Glenkinchie Distillery

\$18-23 per person · Open 10 AM-4 PM (last tour 2 PM in June)

Scotland's only distillery in the Lowlands. Tour the copper stills, walk through the malting floors, and taste their signature single malt in the tasting room. A 25-minute drive south from Edinburgh centre; book the 11 AM tour to beat afternoon crowds.

Insider tip: Book the tour ahead online (£16 per person). Skip the gift shop and grab a dram in the tasting room instead.

Book tickets

Open in Google Maps >

2

1:00 PM · 1.5 hours

Pencaitland

Free

A quiet Lowland village with a 13th-century church and stone cottages lining the Water of Tyne. Stretch your legs with a 20-minute walk along the riverside path toward Tyneholm Mill. A 10-minute drive from Glenkinchie.

Insider tip: Park near the church and walk upstream; the path is flat and good for photos, especially in June light.

Open in Google Maps >

3

2:45 PM · 1.5 hours

Haddington High Street

Free

The Lowlands' most handsome market town, with Georgian buildings, a working farmers market (Saturdays only; check if open your date), and a 14th-century kirk. Pop into Court Street for lunch or a coffee. A 15-minute drive from Pencaitland.

Insider tip: The Waterside Bistro does excellent seasonal food if you want a sit-down lunch; otherwise grab a pie from Franklins bakery.

Open in Google Maps >

4

4:45 PM · 1.5 hours

Tantallon Castle

\$8.25 per person · Open 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

A red sandstone fortress on a headland above the Firth of Forth, 14th-century and dramatic. The cliff-top walk and views over the water are worth the entry fee alone. A 20-minute drive from Haddington; head north toward North Berwick.

Insider tip: Arrive by 5 PM to walk the outer walls in the best light. The east-facing cliffs catch golden hour perfectly from 8:30 PM onward.

[Book tickets](#)

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5

6:30 PM · 1.5 hours

North Berwick

Free

A seaside village with a sandy beach, the Law (a steep volcanic plug for views), and fish and chips. Golden-hour light bounces off the sand and water. A 5-minute drive from Tantallon; return toward Edinburgh along the coast.

Insider tip: The Scottish Seabird Centre (timed entry) overlooks the beach, but skip it and just walk the shore instead. Buy takeaway fish and chips from Rocco's and eat on the sand.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

[Open Day 2 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to eat

The Witchery by the Castle

Modern Scottish · Breakfast · \$\$

Rich breakfast before heading out. Smoked salmon and eggs hit the spot.

[Google Maps >](#)

The Drovers Inn

Scottish Pub · Lunch · \$

In Doune en route to distillery. Haggis pie and ale, proper roadside stop.

[Google Maps >](#)

The Conservatory at Glenkinchie

Scottish · Dinner · \$\$

On-site restaurant. Local venison and whisky-soaked bread. Book ahead.

[Google Maps >](#)

Urquhart Castle and Loch Ness to Fort William

Sunrise 4:28 AM

Golden hour 9:09 PM

Sunset 10:15 PM

Your base for 3 nights: Fort William

Head north to Urquhart Castle and the Loch Ness Centre, then walk a stretch of the Great Glen Way and have dinner at The Gantry.

GO

11:30 AM · 3 hours 30 minutes

Edinburgh to Fort William

Drive north via the A9 through Perthshire, then A82 into the Highlands. Stop briefly at Stirling Bridge viewpoint if you want one last look south before the mountains take over. 3.5 hours, 100 miles. Arrive Fort William around 3-3:30 PM.

- Rental car (your transport) · 3 hours · Fuel only, roughly \$32-44 depending on
- Coach/Bus · 3.5-4 hours · \$38-63 per person

[Book a rental car](#)

1

2:00 PM · 1 hour 30 minutes

Urquhart Castle

\$15 per person · Open 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Ruined 13th-century fortress overlooking Loch Ness with the iconic view of the water and surrounding hills. A short walk from the car park gets you to the best vantage. The castle sits 45 minutes south of Fort William on the A82; stop here on the drive north.

Insider tip: Skip the visitor centre queue; the view from outside the walls is the whole reason to stop.

[Book tickets](#)
[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2

3:45 PM · 45 minutes

Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition

\$11 per person · Open 9:30 AM-5:00 PM

Museum in Drumnadrochit village exploring the loch's geology, history and the monster legend. More substance than the tacky gift shops around it. A 5-minute walk from Urquhart Castle across the village.

Insider tip: The sonar exhibits are genuinely interesting; spend your time there, not the gift shop.

[Book tickets](#)
[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3

7:30 PM · 1 hour

Great Glen Way at Fort William

Free

A long-distance footpath running the length of the Great Glen. Walk 20-30 minutes from the town centre along the canal towpath toward Neptune's Staircase (a series of eight canal locks). Flat, scenic, and full of Highland history. You'll pass old fortifications and get views up the glen.

Insider tip: Walk it now while the light is still high; the six-week daylight days mean you can walk late without needing a torch.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

4

8:45 PM · 1 hour 30 minutes

Book ahead

The Gantry Restaurant

\$32-44 per person for dinner · Open 5:30 PM-10:00 PM

Riverside restaurant in the old converted railway station, serving Scottish seafood and steaks. Waterfront seating overlooks the loch and the hills. Ten-minute walk from Neptune's Staircase back toward town centre.

Insider tip: Book ahead for a riverside table; request one facing north for views toward Glencoe as it gets dark.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

PREFER A GUIDE? · 2-3 HOURS

Loch Ness boat trip

The loch is massive and mist-clad. A boat tour from Urquhart gives you Nessie-spotting atmosphere and views of the castle ruins.

[Book this tour](#)

[Open Day 3 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to stay in Fort William

Stay on the south end of Fort William town centre, near the waterfront and High Street: walkable to dinner and the morning's Ben Nevis views. Book a spot with parking included; you'll need the car for Glencoe tomorrow.

Fort William Backpackers

Budget · Hostel · \$

High Street location, friendly crew, kitchen access, budget-friendly with private rooms.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Grange Guest House

Budget · Guesthouse · \$

Quiet street in Fort William. Scottish breakfasts, cosy rooms, owners know the hills well.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Grange Fort William

Budget · Guesthouse · \$

Friendly owner, hearty breakfast, quiet residential street near town centre and distillery tours.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

The Lime Tree Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Fort William centre, log fires, local art. Good base for mountain days ahead.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Achintee Farm Guesthouse

Mid-range · Guesthouse · \$\$

Glen Nevis foothills. Rural, quiet, full breakfast. Close to tomorrow's hikes.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Lime Tree Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Fort William centre. Contemporary rooms, good breakfast, friendly staff. Walking distance to pubs.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

DAY 3: URQUHART CASTLE AND LOCH NESS TO FORT WILLIAM (CONTINUED)

All stays in Fort William

Holiday rentals

Where to eat

The Scallop Shell

Seafood · Lunch · \$\$

Inverness spot for fresh fish and chips. Sit outside, watch the river.

[Google Maps >](#)

Crannog Seafood Restaurant

Seafood · Dinner · \$\$

Fort William. Local catch, loch views. Book ahead for a window table.

[Google Maps >](#)

TOURS & DAY TRIPS FROM FORT WILLIAM

2 HOURS

Oban distillery tour and tasting

It's a coastal distillery with character, and the tour walks you through the whole process before you taste proper whisky in a bar overlooking the harbour.

[Book now](#)

2-3 HOURS

Highlander museum and clan history

The Highlander Museum in Kingussie tells the real story of Highland culture and the failed Jacobite rebellions. It grounds all the dramatic landscape you're walking through.

[Book now](#)

Glencoe, Bidean nam Bian and Signal Rock

Sunrise 4:28 AM

Golden hour 9:09 PM

Sunset 10:15 PM

Sleep in Fort William · night 2 of 3

Start at the Glencoe Visitor Centre, spend the day on the paths around Bidean nam Bian, and stop at Signal Rock and the Clachaig Inn.

PREFER A GUIDE? · FULL DAY

Glencoe hillwalking day

You get dramatic ridges and lochs without needing mountaineering skills. The Pap of Glencoe or Lost Valley trails are iconic for good reason.

[Book this tour](#)

1

8:30 AM · 45 minutes

Glencoe Visitor Centre

Free · Open 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Start here to understand the geology and history: the ice age carved these U-shaped valleys, and the Massacre of Glencoe happened here in 1692. Grab a map and the rangers' advice on conditions. A 30-minute drive south from Fort William on the A82.

Insider tip: Ask staff which peaks are safe to ascend today; afternoon weather can turn fast in June.

[Book tickets](#)
[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2

9:30 AM · 5 hours

Bidean nam Bian

Free

The highest peak in Argyll at 1,150 metres, with three ridges that offer scrambling routes rather than hiking. The views into the glen and across the Highlands justify the effort. A 10-minute walk from Glencoe Visitor Centre to the trailhead at Coe River car park.

Insider tip: Start early; the scramble is fun but exposed on ridges, so you want daylight and dry rock. Pack water.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3



2:30 PM · 1.5 hours

Clachaig Inn

\$19-32 per person for lunch/drinks · Open 11:00 AM-11:00 PM

A legendary hiker's pub at the mouth of Glencoe Glen, built in 1740. Order fish and chips or steak pie, and sit in the lounge with other climbers swapping stories. A 20-minute drive from Bidean car park, at the A82.

Insider tip: The bar gets busy Saturdays; the lounge is quieter. The real ale is good, but you're driving.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

4

9:00 PM · 1 hour

Signal Rock

Free

A viewpoint above Glencoe village with a steep but short walk (20 minutes up) to a rocky outcrop. The views back into the glen are clearest in late afternoon, and the rocks glow gold just before sunset. A 10-minute drive north from Clachaig Inn.

Insider tip: Arrive by 9:10 PM to catch golden hour; the light on the ridges peaks around 9:15 PM in mid-June.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

[Open Day 4 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to eat

Clachaig Inn

Scottish pub food · Lunch · \$\$

Deep in Glencoe valley. Venison stew, real ale, mountain views from the beer garden.

[Google Maps >](#)

Crannog Seafood Restaurant

Seafood · Dinner · \$\$

Fort William waterfront. Fresh fish, casual vibe. Book ahead for a window table.

[Google Maps >](#)

Ben Nevis, Corpach Basin and The Lime Tree

Sunrise 4:28 AM

Golden hour 9:09 PM

Sunset 10:15 PM

Sleep in Fort William · night 3 of 3

Climb the Ben Nevis Mountain Track, refuel at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre Cafe, then wander Corpach Basin and eat at The Lime Tree.

1

7:30 AM · 5 hours

Ben Nevis Mountain Track

Free

Britain's highest peak at 1,345m. The Mountain Track (tourist route) is 10km return, steep but no scrambling, taking 4-5 hours. Start before 8 AM to beat crowds and finish in daylight. Parking at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre, 2km from Fort William town centre.

Insider tip: Start early to claim parking and avoid afternoon mist. Bring waterproofs and layers; weather changes fast at altitude.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2

1:00 PM · 45 minutes

Glen Nevis Visitor Centre Cafe

\$10-19 per person for food · Open 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Grab lunch with views of Ben Nevis after your hike. Soups, sandwiches and coffee refuel tired legs. Inside the visitor centre at the car park where you started.

Insider tip: Their tablet (Scottish toffee) and coffee hit different after 5 hours on the mountain.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3

3:30 PM · 1.5 hours

Corpach Basin

Free

The northern gateway of the Caledonian Canal where it meets Loch Linhe. Walk the towpath for reflections of Ben Nevis on calm water, or watch fishing boats and yachts pass through the locks. 3km west of Fort William town centre, 10-minute drive.

Insider tip: Visit between 4 and 6 PM when the light softens and fewer tour groups crowd the locks.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

4

6:30 PM · 2 hours

Book ahead

The Lime Tree at Achintore

\$38-57 per person for dinner · Open 5:30 PM-9:30 PM

Local-focused restaurant with Loch Linhe views and Scottish fare: venison, seafood, locally roasted coffee. Relaxed and reasonably priced. On the waterfront at Achintore, 2km south of Fort William centre, 5-minute drive from Corpach.

Insider tip: Book a table for the 9 PM golden hour; the dining room faces the loch and catches the long June evening light.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5

8:45 PM · 1 hour

Fort William Waterfront

Free

Stroll the High Street and waterfront promenade after dinner. The town wraps around a working harbour with views back to the Nevis range. Walk off dinner and soak in the long Highland dusk. On foot from The Lime Tree, 10 minutes back to the town centre.

Insider tip: The light lasts until after 10 PM in June. Stop at a bench near the loch pier and watch the mountains glow.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

PREFER A GUIDE? · FULL DAY

Ben Nevis guided ascent

The mountain's doable solo but a guide keeps you safe in changeable weather and cuts the guesswork on the boggy middle section.

[Book this tour](#)

[Open Day 5 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to eat

Café Beag

Breakfast/Brunch · Breakfast · \$

Packed early risers before Ben Nevis. Order porridge with whisky cream and strong coffee.

[Google Maps >](#)

The Lime Tree An Ealain

Scottish Contemporary · Lunch · \$\$

Artist-run spot with Highland views. Fish cakes or game pie, sit by the window facing the mountain.

[Google Maps >](#)

Crannog Seafood Restaurant

Seafood · Dinner · \$\$

Waterfront views, Loch Linnhe's catch. Book the window table for golden hour at 9pm.

[Google Maps >](#)

What should I know about driving in United Kingdom?

Drive on the left

Miles; speed limits in mph

Licence: A licence in English (or with an official translation) is usually all you need; an International Driving Permit is cheap and avoids questions at the rental desk. Most rental companies need you to be 21 or older and charge extra under 25.

- Speed cameras everywhere. 20-30 mph in city centres, 60 on single-track roads in Highlands, 70 on motorways.
- Single-track roads in the Highlands: pull into passing places to let oncoming traffic through. No phone use while driving, handsfree only.
- No parking on yellow lines or double yellows. Parking enforcement is strict in Edinburgh.

[Book a rental car](#)

Can we do Glencoe and Loch Ness in one day?

Technically yes, but you'll spend 6+ hours driving and see neither properly. The drive alone (Edinburgh to Glencoe to Loch Ness to back) is exhausting. Choose one, or split your group and meet up later, or add a night in Fort William or Inverness.

Which distillery should we visit?

Dalwhinnie (on the way to Loch Ness, 45 mins from Aviemore) or Glenmorangie near Inverness suit the Loch Ness route. Book ahead by phone; tours run 1.5 hours and cost around £18-20 per person, often with a dram included.

Do we need to book Urquhart Castle ahead?

No, walk-ins are fine even in June, but arrive before 2pm to avoid the worst coach tours. Parking fills by mid-afternoon. It's worth an hour, and the views over Loch Ness beat the loch-side walk.

What's the best route to fit both Glencoe and Loch Ness?

Edinburgh to Glencoe (2.5 hrs), explore 2-3 hours, then north to Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle (2.5 hrs from Glencoe), then Inverness for the night or drive back if you must. That's a long 12-hour day. Better to stay overnight in Fort William or Aviemore between them.

What's the weather like in Edinburgh in June?

Expect 12-15°C (54-59°F) with frequent rain. Pack layers, a proper waterproof jacket, and waterproof trousers for hiking. Midges are starting to emerge in the Highlands, so bring insect repellent.

What language do people speak in Edinburgh?

Spoken here: English. You'll hear Scottish accents and some Scots language (words like 'braw' for good), but everyone speaks English.

Is Edinburgh safe for visitors?

Scottish mountain weather changes fast. Check conditions before hiking Glencoe and always tell someone your route. The A82 towards Loch Ness is stunning but winding and can get busy in June.

BEFORE YOU GO (CONTINUED)

What's the emergency number in United Kingdom?

Call 999 or 112 for police, ambulance, fire or coastguard. If you can't speak, you can text 999 after registering: text "register" to 999 before you need it.

Do you tip in United Kingdom?

Tipping isn't expected but 10% is appreciated for good service. Round up pub bills or leave £1-2 on smaller orders.

What do only locals know about Edinburgh?

- Skip the Royal Mile's main drag and duck into the underground vaults (Blair Street Vaults) for actual medieval history, not just tour crowds.
- Book distillery tours ahead in June. Dalmore and Glenmorangie are on your way north and do excellent group visits with tastings included.
- Glencoe's best light is early morning or late evening. Park at Glencoe Visitor Centre and hike the Lost Valley trail (one hour, moderate) for views without the Three Sisters crowds.
- Loch Ness isn't about spotting monsters. Drive the quiet B862 on the east side for empty glens and a chance to stop at Foyers waterfall without tour buses.

BEFORE YOU GO: FORT WILLIAM

What should I know about driving in United Kingdom?

Drive on the left

Miles; speed limits in mph

Licence: A licence in English (or with an official translation) is usually all you need; an International Driving Permit is cheap and avoids questions at the rental desk. Most rental companies need you to be 21 or older and charge extra under 25.

- Don't overtake on single-track roads; use passing places.
- Speed limits: 48 km/h (30 mph) in towns, 97 km/h (60 mph) on A-roads, 113 km/h (70 mph) on motorways.
- Mobile phones are banned while driving. Seatbelts mandatory. Headlights on in poor visibility, even during the day in June.

[Book a rental car](#)

Can I do Ben Nevis in June?

Yes, conditions are good, but it's still a proper mountain at 1,345m. The main tourist path is busy and eroded. Start early, bring a map, and be ready to turn back if weather closes in. Allow 6-8 hours.

Which distillery should I visit?

Ben Nevis Distillery is in town (easy if time is tight) but crowded. Dalwhinnie (45 minutes south toward Loch Ness) is quieter and high-altitude with good views. Book a tour in advance.

Will I see the Loch Ness Monster?

No, but the loch is vast and atmospheric. The A82 hugs the water for 30km; stop at Urquhart Castle (ruins with views) or the Loch Ness Centre museum if weather is poor.

What's the best Glencoe hike for our group?

Three Sisters of Glencoe is iconic but technical and exposed. For a solid day without scrambling, try the Lost Valley (2-3 hours round trip) or the walk from Glencoe Visitor Centre. Check your group's fitness first.

What's the weather like in Fort William in June?

Expect 13-15°C (55-59°F), often wet. Pack layers, a good waterproof jacket, and hiking boots. Midges are starting to bite in the evenings, so bring insect repellent.

What language do people speak in Fort William?

Spoken here: English. You're in Scotland, so expect regional accents but everyone speaks English fluently.

Is Fort William safe for visitors?

Mountain weather changes fast, especially on Ben Nevis. Check forecasts before heading out and tell someone your route. Stick to marked paths.

What's the emergency number in United Kingdom?

Call 999 or 112 for police, ambulance, fire or coastguard. If you can't speak, you can text 999 after registering: text "register" to 999 before you need it.

Do you tip in United Kingdom?

Tipping isn't expected but locals appreciate 10% in restaurants if you're happy. Pubs: round up or leave a quid or two.

What do only locals know about Fort William?

- Ben Nevis looks deceptively easy from town but takes 4-5 hours return. Start early, bring layers, and expect bog. The Mountain Track is the main route.
- Stop at Glencoe visitor centre before exploring the glen itself. They've got good context on the 1692 massacre and can point you to the best short walks.
- Loch Ness isn't that scenic from the main road. Pick a small village like Urquhart on the east side and take a boat trip instead. You'll see more water and less tour bus crowds.
- Buy whisky at a distillery rather than a supermarket. Oban or Glen Moray near Speyside are within driving distance and they do proper tours with tastings included.