

# INVERNESS

## SCOTLAND | HOSTED

★★★★★



**New this Year!**



**INCLUDES DAILY BREAKFAST & TWO DINNERS!**

**28 NIGHTS**

Experience an exclusive unrivalled winter escape in Scotland! Spend a month on the grounds of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Achnagairn Estate Lodges only seven miles from Inverness. Discover spectacular scenery and enjoy walking tours through local villages while exploring stunning landscapes, including the Isle of Sky and iconic Loch Ness. Visit beautiful castles, tour Scotland's famous whiskey distilleries and sample local delicacies. An array of activities including hiking, cycling, whisky trails and a cruise down Loch Ness can be enjoyed with Achnagairn Estate Lodges as your base. Glen Affric, Urquhart Castle, the Caledonian Canal and three Championship Golf courses lie within a 45-minute drive. This adventure will inspire you with an insight into this magnificent natural wilderness and leave you with memories to last a lifetime!

### DEPARTS

**Mar. 1, 2020**

Toronto ..... **\$6,995\* p.p.**

Group size: 20 maximum

### INCLUDES

- **\*Round-trip airfare**
- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass<sup>†</sup>
- Airport transfers in country
- 28 nights accommodation at the luxurious Achnagairn Estate Lodges with breakfast daily (each Lodge consists of five – six bedrooms (sleeps max 10 or 12 guests) with private ensuite bathroom, shared

- modern kitchen with full cooking facilities, fridge freezer, kettle, toaster, crockery, wine chiller, microwave, ironing facilities, dishwasher and washing machine
- Welcome and farewell dinner
- Free WiFi, free parking, restaurant, bar, lounge, housekeeping daily
- Three km from Moniac Castle, six km from

- Beaulieu (small town) for restaurants and shopping, 10 km from Beaulieu Priory, Glen Ord Distillery and Muir of Ord Golf Club.
- Three full-day excursions, including Isle of Skye, Loch Ness and a visit to a whisky distillery with tasting
- All taxes and gratuities
- Merit Travel tour host\*\*

\*CDN\$ p.p. dbl. occ. Taxes included. Professional fee of \$65 plus HST per booking is not included. Single supplement: \$3,600. †Plaza Premium airport lounge pass applicable at Toronto airport only. Airfare available from most Canadian airports, please enquire. \*\*Minimum 15 passengers required for a Merit Travel tour host.. ON-4499356/4499372 | BC-34799 | 111 Peter Street, Suite 200, Toronto, ON. M5V 2H1 | Canadian owned ©Merit Travel is a registered trademark of Merit Travel Group Inc. All rights reserved.

## INVERNESS, SCOTLAND | HOSTED



### ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY PACE ●○○

Appropriate for travellers in good health with overall good mobility and comfortable participating in at least three hours of activity each day. Suitable for those with minor mobility issues.

**Location and local transportation:** There is a bus stop just outside the Estate – this links Achnagairn with Beaulieu and Inverness. In Beaulieu (a small town six km away) there are a few cafes and restaurants including, Corner on the Squares, Café Biagiotti and The Priority. The nearest shop is in Beaulieu – a Coop, and it is well stocked. Beaulieu was also a film spot for the famous Outlander series.

Inverness is seven miles away and there is lots to do – you may choose to visit the Castle, Tomatin Distillery, Highland museum, Cathedral and there is a great variety of shops, Eastgate Mall, Victorian Market and larger supermarkets as well as restaurants and bars. Black Isle Bar has a great beer selection, The Rockpool, Mustard Seed, Hootananny (has live traditional music most weeks) and there are many to choose from.

Transport links and bus time-table which links the Estate with Beaulieu and Inverness: There is approx. one bus per hour except at peak times when they are a little more frequent: Below is the transport link: <https://bustimes.org/services/28-inverness-dingwall?date=2019-04-10>

A taxi is approx. £35 to Inverness depending on the time of day (taxis are more expensive in the evening). The nearest pub/restaurant is The Old North Inn (one mile away) – this is a 300 year old Inn that was a coaching Inn that is now on the North Coast 500, it is like stepping back in time as it still has some of its original features and a cozy fire. There is a small shop opposite the Inn which also acts as a post office.

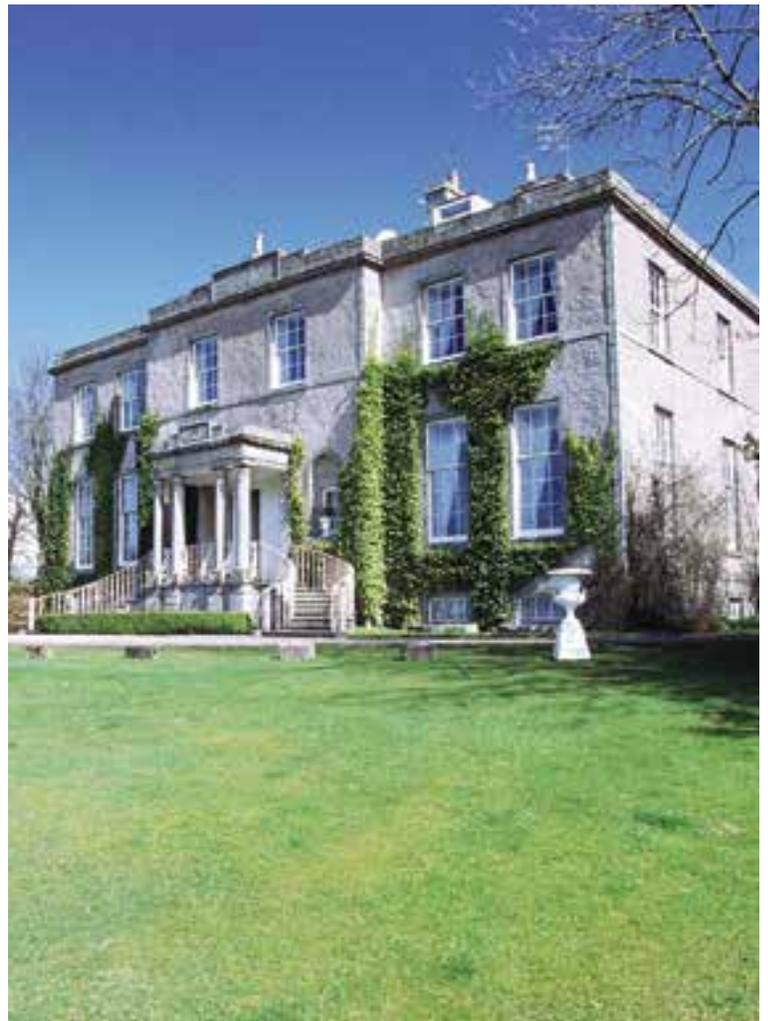
## FACILITIES

### Notes for you to keep in mind during your stay.

**Accommodations:** The luxurious Achnagairn Estate Lodges lies only seven miles from Inverness and consists of seven Lodges on the grounds of the Estate which totals around seven acres. Two Lodges have been allocated for your group – Life's Pleasures and Antho-Lodge-Y – the first sleeps up to 10 people (five bedrooms) and the second sleeps up to 12 people (six bedrooms).

The Lodges are spacious and there is free WiFi as well as free parking available at the front of each Lodge. Each Lodge has its own theme and no two bedrooms are the same. Each bedroom is fully ensuite with its own bathroom with hair dryer and free toiletries are provided. Each room has a TV and tea/coffee trays with biscuits.

**Amenities & Services:** The kitchens are fully equipped with full cooking facilities, fridge freezer, kettle, toaster, crockery, wine chiller, microwave, ironing facilities, dishwasher, and a washing machine. The Estate provides starter packs of milk, juice, tea and coffee (this can be extended to guests wishes at an extra cost), they also provide the little things like kitchen towels, dishtowels, and dishwasher soap. There is a large lounge in each Lodge with a TV. Table Manors restaurant is next to the Lodges and serves daily Scottish breakfast. Dinner (three-course) can also be served at guests request at an extra cost. The chefs have built up a reputation for their quality and standard of food and were awarded two Rosettes (they are aiming for a third) and AA Best Breakfast Award. The Estate has won a Gold Service Award.



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### ITINERARY | BREAKFAST/DINNER = (B, D)

#### Day 1 Mar. 1, 2020 | TORONTO - EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Board overnight flight to Edinburgh.

KLM Airlines flight 692 departs Toronto 6:05 p.m. arrives Amsterdam 7:25 a.m. (following day). Then connects to KLM Airlines flight 1281 departs Amsterdam 12:20 p.m. arrives Edinburgh 12:50 p.m.

#### Day 2 Mar. 2, 2020 | EDINBURGH - INVERNESS (D)

Upon arrival, your local representative will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your luxury Lodge in Inverness (approx. a three hour drive).

Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner at the manor restaurant.

**Overnight at Achnagairn Estates Lodges (28 nights)**

#### Days 3 - 28 Mar. 3-28, 2020 | INVERNESS (B)

Enjoy your days at leisure in Inverness. A Scottish breakfast is included daily. An array of activities including hiking, cycling, whisky trails and a cruise down Loch Ness can be enjoyed with Achnagairn Estate Lodges as your base. Glen Affric, Urquhart Castle, the Caledonian Canal and three Championship Golf courses lie within a 45-minute drive. The following three excursions are included with the option to add more excursions locally.

**Included full-day excursion of whisky distillery with tasting: (March 10, 2020)**

No tour of Scotland is complete without having a dram of Scottish Whisky. Board your coach for a day trip through the beautiful scenery of the Highlands. With live commentary from your local expert guide this immersive tour will allow you to explore Scotland's largest geographical whisky producing area. From rich and textured to fragrant and floral, the visits to Tomatin and The Macallan estate will let you explore the best this region has to offer. In the morning explore Tomatin distillery with a guided tour followed by a tutored nosing and tasting of six different whiskies, trailed by lunch and time at leisure in the picturesque and quaint Grantow – On-Spey. In the afternoon visit Macallan distillery and visitor experience in the heart of The Macallan Estate and get insight into the method of maturation of this Single Malt.

**Included full-day excursion to Isle of Skye: (March 17, 2020)**

Board your coach and prepare for a long, and rather magical day trip to one of Scotland's most iconic retreats – the Isle of Skye. Its scenic landscapes will take your breath away, combining craggy outposts, luscious stretches of coast and evidence of unique volcanic activity. Your expert guide will narrate the stories that took place in this unique part of the world, including between the Clan warfare, the Jacobite Rebellion, and tales of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Your first port of call is in the south of the island, at Armadale Castle. The spiritual home of Clan Donald, it is now mostly a romantic ruin, replete with woodland trails and delightful formal gardens, as well as the Museum of the Isles, which takes visitors on a 1500-year

journey through the life of the MacDonald's, once the proud owners of the estate. The exhibit includes a look at emigration, tracking the journeys of Scottish people all over the world.

The afternoon will present you with a number of possibilities, including visiting local towns such as Portree, natural wonders such as the fairy pools, and the Old Man of Storr. The legendary Scottish weather may dictate the direction somewhat, but you're guaranteed a spectacular and unique adventure, before returning to the estate.

**Included full-day excursion to Loch Ness: (March 24, 2020)**

Scotland's most famous loch welcomes you today, as shrouded in mystery as it ever was. Just a half-hour drive from the estate is the north shore of Loch Ness. You'll set sail on a cruise over the mysterious waters, and your guide will provide expert commentary on the Loch and the stories it has to tell. From the building of Urquhart Castle, to the legends of the monster, to a fascinating series of hoaxes and attempts to prove the beast's existence, the human stories of this natural beauty are every bit as interesting as the fantastical myths. After your cruise, you'll head down to Urquhart Castle, where a number of excellent photo opportunities await you.

#### Day 29 Mar. 29, 2020 | INVERNESS (B, D)

This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your group.

#### Day 30 Mar. 30, 2020 | INVERNESS- EDINBURGH - TORONTO (B)

After breakfast check out of your Lodge and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

KLM Airlines flight 1278 departs Edinburgh 9:10 a.m. arrives Amsterdam 11:45a.m. Then connects with KLM Airlines flight 695 departs Amsterdam 5:55 p.m. arrives Toronto 7:50 p.m.



## TERMS & CONDITIONS

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### RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- (a) Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- (b) Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- (c) Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- (d) Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- (e) Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- (f) Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- (g) Personal injuries or death;
- (h) Force Majeure – an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

### PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

### INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Deposit requirements for some tours may vary. You will be advised of such cases at time of booking.

### LIABILITY

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times.

Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

### TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are

required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

### REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited.

There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services.

Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- (A) 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- (B) 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- (C) 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.

### TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

### REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

### PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

### DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.

### CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Vacations in writing upon your return.