



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Belmond Royal Scotsman: Grand Taste of the Highlands, Northbound

5 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Five nights retracing the famed West Highland Line, with a thread of Scottish food and heritage running through it. Learn Highland foraging and survival skills with food writer Gillie Basan at Rothiemurchus, visit Strathisla Distillery, tour the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh, walk the Silver Sands of Morar, choose between Glenfinnan and the Steall Waterfall hike, and end with Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute and a gala dinner.

All meals, drinks and excursions included; dinners alternate informal and formal.

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

EDINBURGH

Depart Edinburgh Waverley in the early afternoon and travel north with afternoon tea through Perth, Dunkeld, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl. Beyond Aviemore, gateway to the Cairngorms National Park, the train stables at Boat of Garten.

Dinner showcases Scotland's larder - think wild halibut, Shetland lobster and Aberdeen Angus beef - followed by lively entertainment in the Observation Car.

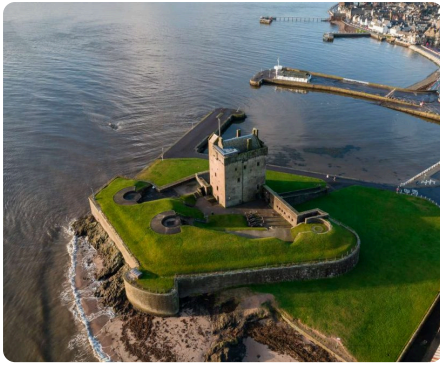
DAY 2

BOAT OF GARTEN

A short coach ride brings you to Rothiemurchus Estate, where food anthropologist Ghillie Basan and her son Zeki teach Highland wildlife and survival skills. A barbecue lunch is followed by a food-and-kombucha pairing by the fire; choose from clay-pigeon shooting, fishing, a guided hike or a foraging-focused nature walk in the Caledonian Forest.

Rejoin the train at Carrbridge and relax through Inverness to Keith, with an optional early-evening visit to Strathisla Distillery, home of the malt at the heart of Chivas Regal. Dinner is served on the coastal run through Aberdeenshire and Angus, with jazz in the Observation Car.





DAY 3

DUNDEE

Breakfast as the train returns through Fife to Edinburgh. Disembark for a guided tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia's five decks at Leith, then a light lunch at The Balmoral's Brasserie Prince or free time in the capital.

In the early afternoon the train heads west to Craigendoran and the West Highland Line: afternoon tea along Gare Loch, views of Ben Arthur and Loch Lomond, the climb up Glen Falloch and the crossing of wild Rannoch Moor. Dinner on the way to Spean Bridge, with musicians in the Observation Car.

DAY 4

SPEAN BRIDGE

Travelling west through Fort William, watch for Ben Nevis. Alight at Arisaig for a walk on the Silver Sands of Morar with views to Skye's Cuillin mountains; lunch is served returning to Fort William.

This afternoon, choose Glenfinnan with a local guide - the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie brought to life, with drinks at The Old Station Restaurant - or a ranger-led hike through Nevis Gorge to the Steall Waterfall, the UK's second-highest (a reasonable fitness level and sturdy boots required).

Dinner is served heading south to Bridge of Orchy.



DAY 5

WEMYSS BAY

South through the Highlands to Wemyss Bay, then the 35-minute ferry to the Isle of Bute. Visit Mount Stuart, Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic house, with afternoon tea in the Drawing Room and time in the grounds - stroll the Lime Tree Avenue to a secluded stretch of coast.

The gala dinner is served on the way to Kilmarnock, with coffee, liqueurs and traditional music in the Observation Car.

DAY 6

KILMARNOCK

After an early departure, a leisurely breakfast is served on the way east to Edinburgh Waverley, where the journey ends.



Tips & Travel Guide

A Day Aboard

Days follow an unhurried rhythm: a full Scottish breakfast, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea on scenic runs, then a three-course dinner with cheeseboard, coffee and petits fours. Dinners alternate between informal evenings (smart casual) and formal or gala nights, when a dark suit, tuxedo or kilt is customary for gentlemen and a cocktail dress or tartan for ladies. All meals, all drinks - including an extensive whisky selection - excursions and nightly entertainment in the Observation Car are included in the fare. Most evenings the train stables in a quiet country station, so you sleep to stillness rather than motion.

Know Before You Go

Boarding: journeys depart from Edinburgh Waverley station. Check-in is at The Balmoral Hotel beside the station; deposit your luggage with the concierge between 11:00 and 12:15 and it will be transferred to the train for you.

Luggage: cabins are compact - one suitcase and one carry-on per guest is recommended. Under-bed storage measures roughly 71 x 23 cm; larger cases can be stored at The Balmoral for the duration of the journey.

Packing: bring a warm waterproof jacket and sturdy shoes for Highland excursions, comfortable clothing for the train, and formal wear for gala evenings. UK electricity is 220/240V - pack an adaptor.

Wi-Fi: available in the Observation Car, though coverage drops in the remoter stretches of the Highlands.

Mobility & health: excursions involve coach transfers, uneven ground and some walking; optional guided hikes require a reasonable level of fitness. There are no medical facilities on board. If you or a companion need special assistance, contact us before booking and we will advise on the best-suited departures.

Children & pets: children may travel at the Train Manager's discretion (infants under two travel free); the atmosphere is geared to adults, and families are advised to book interconnecting cabins or a Grand Suite. Pets are not permitted, with the exception of assistance dogs.

Dietary requirements: vegetarian, vegan and allergy-aware menus are available when requested at the time of booking.

Smoking: not permitted anywhere on board, including electronic cigarettes.

Documents & insurance: overseas visitors need a passport valid for at least six months beyond the journey; check UK visa requirements for your nationality. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended. Fares do not include gratuities or insurance.

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Jul 21, 2027	Double Cabin (Matrimonial Bed)	£36,600	£18,300
	Grand Suite	£71,000	£35,500

Rates shown in British Pound GBP (GBP). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.



Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.

Visit <https://www.palacetours.com/tour/belmond-royal-scotsman-grand-taste-highlands-north> for the latest information.

Terms & Conditions

Booking Conditions

Deposit: 25% of the total fare confirms your booking. **Balance:** due 120 days before departure; bookings made within 120 days of departure are payable in full at booking.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing and take effect when acknowledged. Charges apply as a percentage of the total fare for the person(s) cancelling:

- 120 days or more before departure: 25%
- 119–90 days before departure: 50%
- 89–30 days before departure: 70%
- 29 days or less before departure, or no-show: 100%

Date changes follow the same charge schedule as cancellations. A booking may be transferred to another guest up to 14 days before departure (an amendment fee plus any supplier costs apply); name changes require at least 7 days' written notice. No refunds are made for unused services or no-shows.

Important

Comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation is strongly recommended. Schedule per Belmond's Trains & Cruises booking conditions (world excluding EEA/UK, last updated 11 February 2026). Palace Tours' terms and conditions also apply.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Royal Scotsman Grand Taste of the Highlands Northbound journey?

It is a five-night, six-day journey starting and ending at Edinburgh Waverley. Each night is spent aboard the train, which stables at Boat of Garten, Dundee, Spean Bridge, Bridge of Orchy and Kilmarnock along the way.

How much does the Grand Taste of the Highlands cost?

Fares start from around USD 24,466 per person sharing, with sole occupancy from around USD 48,931. The price depends on the cabin type, and the exact fare is shown on this page.

What is the route of the Grand Taste of the Highlands Northbound?

The train heads north from Edinburgh to Boat of Garten in the Cairngorms, then via Inverness and Keith to Dundee. It returns to Edinburgh, then takes the West Highland Line past Loch Lomond and Rannoch Moor to Spean Bridge, Fort William and Arisaig, before heading south to Wemyss Bay and Kilmarnock.

Who is Ghillie Basan and what happens at Rothiemurchus?

Ghillie Basan is a food writer and food anthropologist who, with her son Zeki, teaches Highland wildlife and survival skills at Rothiemurchus Estate on day 2. A barbecue lunch follows, and you can choose clay-pigeon shooting, fishing, a guided hike or a foraging walk in the Caledonian Forest.

Does the journey include the Royal Yacht Britannia?

Yes. On day 3 you disembark in Edinburgh for a guided tour of the five decks of the Royal Yacht Britannia at Leith, followed by a light lunch or free time in the capital before the train heads west to the West Highland Line.

What will I see on the West Highland Line?

From Craigendoran the train runs along Gare Loch with views of Ben Arthur and Loch Lomond, climbs Glen Falloch and crosses wild Rannoch Moor to Spean Bridge. The next day it continues west through Fort William, where you can watch for Ben Nevis.

What are the Silver Sands of Morar?

On day 4 you alight at Arisaig for a walk on the Silver Sands of Morar, a stretch of pale beaches with views across to the Cuillin mountains of Skye. Lunch is served on board as the train returns to Fort William.

What choice of excursions is offered on day 4?

On the afternoon of day 4 you choose between Glenfinnan with a local guide, who brings the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie to life, or a ranger-led hike through Nevis Gorge to the Steall Waterfall, the second-highest waterfall in the UK.

How fit do I need to be for the Steall Waterfall hike?

The ranger-led hike through Nevis Gorge to the Steall Waterfall requires a reasonable fitness level and sturdy boots. If you prefer a gentler afternoon, the guided Glenfinnan excursion is offered at the same time.

What is Mount Stuart and when is it visited?

On day 5 you take the 35-minute ferry from Wemyss Bay to the Isle of Bute to visit Mount Stuart, one of Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic houses. Afternoon tea is served in the Drawing Room, with time to stroll the Lime Tree Avenue to the coast.

What cabins are available on the Grand Taste of the Highlands?

Three cabin types are offered: a Double Cabin with a matrimonial bed, a Twin Cabin with two twin beds, and the Grand Suite. Our specialists can help you choose and check availability for the July departure.

What is included in the Grand Taste of the Highlands fare?

The fare includes five nights aboard with dedicated cabin service, all meals including breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas and dinners, all beverages throughout, the full programme of excursions and visits, onboard entertainment and use of the spa car.

Is there a dress code on the Grand Taste of the Highlands?

Dinners alternate between informal evenings, when smart casual is fine, and formal nights. On formal and gala nights a dark suit, tuxedo or kilt is customary for gentlemen and a cocktail dress or tartan for ladies. The gala dinner is on the fifth night, on the way to Kilmarnock.

What entertainment is there on board in the evenings?

Each evening ends in the Observation Car, with lively entertainment after the first dinner, jazz on the coastal run to Dundee, musicians on the way to Spean Bridge, and traditional music after the gala dinner.

How much deposit is required for the Grand Taste of the Highlands?

A deposit of 25% of the fare secures your cabin, and the balance is due 125 days before departure. Our team confirms the exact amounts in writing when you book.

Can children travel on the Grand Taste of the Highlands?

Child rates exist in two bands based on age at departure: under 5, and 5 to 11. Please contact us before booking so we can confirm suitability and cabin arrangements for your family.

Can I book the Grand Taste of the Highlands as a solo traveller?

Yes. Sole occupancy fares start from around USD 48,931, depending on cabin type. The exact single fare is shown on this page, and our team can confirm availability.

Where does the Grand Taste of the Highlands start and finish?

The journey starts and ends at Edinburgh Waverley station, departing in the early afternoon of day 1 and returning after breakfast on day 6. Check-in is at a hotel beside the station, and hotel nights before or after the journey are not included.

How do I ask a question or book the Grand Taste of the Highlands Northbound?

Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at <https://wa.me/17864080610>, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. The departure list on this page is bookable directly, with the current fare and availability for each cabin type.

When does the Grand Taste of the Highlands Northbound depart?

The journey departs from Edinburgh Waverley on 21 July 2027 and returns on the morning of 26 July. The exact fare and availability for each cabin type are shown in the departure list on this page.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

 travel@palacetours.com |  786-408-0610

www.palacetours.com

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