

# Jamie Laval

## Scotland Music and History Adventure

12-Person Exclusive Tour of Argyll and the Isle of Mull

September 25 – October 5, 2024

### Day 1

Wed Sept 25

Arrive Glasgow and check into hotel, 4:30 orientation meeting, 6:00 dinner.

### Day 2

Thur Sept 26

Checkout of hotel. 9:00 board minibus to Inveraray via Rest and Be Thankful viewpoint, 11:00 private guided tour of Inveraray Castle, 1:00 lunch at castle café. You are free to explore village and/or hike to Dun na Cuaiche viewpoint. 4:00 check into The George Hotel, 6:00 dinner, 8:00 music with special guest performers.

### Day 3

Fri Sept 27

Morning in village, 11:00 board minibus with packed lunch, 12:00 stroll Ardkinglas Woodland Gardens and/or visit Louise Day art studio and/or tour Fyne Ales artisan brewery, 3:30 Ardkinglas Manor Estate tour, 5:30 catered dinner in Ardkinglas, 8:00 concert in drawing room with special guest performers.

### Day 4

Sat Sept 28

Checkout of hotel. 9:00 board minibus for Lachlan (45-min drive), explore Old Castle Lachlan and graveyard, 12:00 lunch Inver Restaurant, 2:00 Old Smiddy blacksmith demonstration, 4:00 check into The Creggans Inn, 6:00 dinner, 8:00 Ceilidh dance with special band and caller (dance open to public).

### Day 5

Sun Sept 29

Checkout of hotel. 9:00 board minibus to Glencoe Loop via Rannach Moor, Buachaille Etive Mór, tea and scones at Kingshouse, Glencoe pass, Glencoe Visitor Centre, proceed to Glenfinnan, 4:00 check into The Prince's House Hotel, 6:00 dinner.

## **Day 6**

Mon Sept 30

Checkout of hotel. 9:45 board boat for Loch Shiel Cruise with packed lunch, 2.5-hr cruise down loch to Archaracle. Board minibus to Isle of Mull via Lochaline ferry. Check into Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory, 6:00 dinner, 8:00 music t.b.a.

## **Day 7**

Tue Oct 1

Day on Mull. You may choose from a multitude of activities including exploring village of Tobermory, boat excursion to Lunga ("Puffin") island and Fingal's Cave (book ahead), minibus with ferry excursion to Iona Abbey (book ahead), mountain hike up Ben More for heart-stopping views. 6:00 dinner in Tobermory, 8:00 music t.b.a.

## **Day 8**

Wed Oct 2

Checkout of hotel. 9:00 board minibus for tour around the circumference of Mull via Dervaig, Calgary Bay, Torosay transmission station viewpoint. Ferry from Craignure to Oban (50-min crossing). 4:00 check into Perl Oban Hotel, 6:00 dinner, 8:00 music t.b.a.

## **Day 9**

Thur Oct 3

Day in Oban and Isle of Kerrera. You may choose to take the 5-min foot ferry onto Kerrera with or without a rental eBike and traverse the island to Horseshoe Bay and Gylen Castle and/or choose to remain in Oban to visit the Folly, Oban Distillery, village shopping and tea. 6:00 dinner, 8:00 music t.b.a.

## **Day 10**

Fri Oct 4

Checkout of hotel. 9:00 board minibus to Ben Cruachan, tour Hollow Mountain, lunch at Cruachan Visitor Centre. Continue to Kilchurn Castle viewpoint. 3:00 continue into Glasgow via Tyndrum and Inverarnan, 5:00 check into Holiday Inn Glasgow City Centre Hotel, 6:00 dinner, evening music event t.b.a.

## **Day 11**

Sat Oct 5

Checkout of hotel and depart.

## **Cost**

Tour price \$3,900 per person.

### Included

Hotels with breakfast for 10 nights (3.5 to 4-star), chartered minibus and driver for 9 days, ferry fares, cruise fares, private tour of Inveraray Castle, private tour of Ardkinglas Manor Estate, admission to all music events hosted by Jamie which include acclaimed guest performers, admission to the ceilidh dance at The Creggans with live ceilidh band, admission to Ben Cruachan Hollow Mountain, guided walks, artists' studio tours, and 5 packed lunches.

### Excluded

Airfares, airport shuttles, taxis, lunches in restaurants, dinners, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, bike rentals, excursions to Iona Abbey, Fingal's Cave, Lunga Island, Kerrera Island, and anything not listed in the "Included" section.

## **Couples versus Singles**

The tour price is based on two people per hotel room. Most rooms have one large bed. In some cases, two twin beds may be available making it possible to share a room with another person. If you are interested in booking as a single, please make your interest known and Jamie will assist in matching you with another single with your approval. If you are a single and would like your own room, the single supplement is \$1,600.

## **Payments**

Deposit of 50% required to reserve. Balance due by June 15. Make check payable to Jamie Laval, PO Box 843, Tryon, NC 28782.

## **Cancellations and Refunds**

Up to June 15 100%

June 16 – July 15 50%

After July 15 0%

## **Indemnification**

Jamie Laval is not responsible for injuries, illness, lost or stolen items, or financial reprisals during the duration of the tour. You will be required to sign a release of liability form prior to the trip.

## **COVID-19 Policy**

Vaccinations are recommended but not required. Masks are optional. You must take a self-administered COVID-19 rapid test on the first morning before checking out of the hotel, so please make sure to bring a test kit with you when you leave the United States. Show your test strip to Jamie before boarding the minibus at the start of the tour. If you test positive, you must withdraw from the tour. If Jamie tests positive, he will withdraw. The tour will commence as planned with a substitute guide if possible.

## **Physical Wellness**

To get the most enjoyment out of the trip, you should be able to walk up to two miles per day on level ground at a reasonable pace (1.5 to 2 miles per hour). Collapsible walking poles are suggested. Several of the driving routes have somewhat limited public facilities. Restroom stops are scheduled approximately every 1–2 hours. The minibus does not have a toilet, so please plan accordingly.

## **Method of Payment While in Scotland**

It is recommended that you use Apple Pay or Google Pay on your smartphone for all purchases other than dinners. This method of payment is the most standard and secure in the United Kingdom. Although credit cards are still in use, they are less secure. Using cash on a regular basis is not recommended. It may, however, be handy to keep a few British Pounds with you for incidentals (such as tips for street musicians!). Exchange a small amount of cash at the airport or withdraw cash from an ATM.

Dinners will be paid in the following manner: prior to the start of the trip, you will pay a meal deposit of \$750 per person (Zelle to Jamie). After each dinner, Jamie will pay the entire dinner check himself, keeping a record of what each of you has ordered. The following morning you will receive a bill for your portion of the dinner. This amount will be deducted from your balance. At the end of the tour, the balance owed or refunded will be settled within one week (using Zelle).

Gratuities are not expected in Scotland. You may optionally tip 10% if you wish.

## **Mobile Phones**

You must carry a smartphone throughout the trip. This requirement is for your safety and will enable Jamie to contact you with updates or in case you go astray. In the Glasgow Airport, step into the WHSmith convenience store and purchase an inexpensive SIM card. £20 worth of minutes will be more than sufficient. Remember to bring a paperclip with you for the one-minute installation process.

## **Passports**

Make sure the expiration date of your passport is April 5, 2025 or later. You are required to have a minimum of six months remaining time on your valid passport after your planned departure date from the United Kingdom. If you need to renew your passport, make sure to allow at least eight weeks for delivery of the new one.

## **Insurance**

If you would like travel insurance for reimbursement in case of cancellation, you may consult Progressive Travel to take out a policy: [www.Progressive.com](http://www.Progressive.com)

## **Arriving in Glasgow**

Although you may choose to taxi or Uber from the Glasgow Airport to the hotel, a very inexpensive and convenient service is the purple Airport Express shuttle bus. Step out of the front door of the airport directly onto the bus which leaves every few minutes and takes you directly to the Buchanan Street Station. The hotel is a one-block walk from the station.

## **Early Arrivals and Extended Departures**

If you plan to arrive in Glasgow prior to September 25 or stay after October 5, please book your own accommodations.

## **Booking an Excursion on Mull**

While in Tobermory, Isle of Mull you will have the opportunity to take an excursion to Iona Abbey or a cruise to Fingal's Cave and Lunga Island. A third option is to take a whale watching sea cruise. Please make sure to book ahead.

Iona Abbey is a beautifully preserved Christian monastery built in 563 AD and is the burial place of Scottish kings. Lunga Island is known for its scenic beauty and habitation of puffins which are curious and friendly. Fingal's Cave is on Staffa Island and is famous for its unusual basalt columns. Please note that while it may be technically feasible to visit all three sites in a single day, most travelers will find it preferable to choose just Iona Abbey or Lunga/Fingal's Cave.

- For Iona Abbey, our minibus will take you on a 1-hr and 45-min scenic drive to the bottom of Mull. Here you will take a short, 5-min ferry ride to the Isle of Iona where you may enjoy the Abbey and surrounding island scenery for approximately two hours before returning to the minibus. Arrive back in Tobermory after approximately 6 hours.

Booking: <https://www.calmac.co.uk/destination/iona>

- For Lunga and Fingal's Cave, depart from Tobermory at 9:45 AM, cruise for one hour to Lunga Island where you will enjoy the island for one to two hours. The boat will then continue to Fingal's Cave on Staffa Island, returning to Tobermory at approximately 4:00 PM.

Booking: <https://www.staffatours.com/tours/staffa-and-treshnish-isles-wildlife-tour/>

- For a sea cruise to watch whales, dolphins, seals, and other marine wildlife, depart from Tobermory at 9:30 AM, returning at approximately 1:30 PM.

Booking: <https://www.staffatours.com/tours/wildlife-adventures-with-sealife-surveys/>

# 2024 Tour Overview

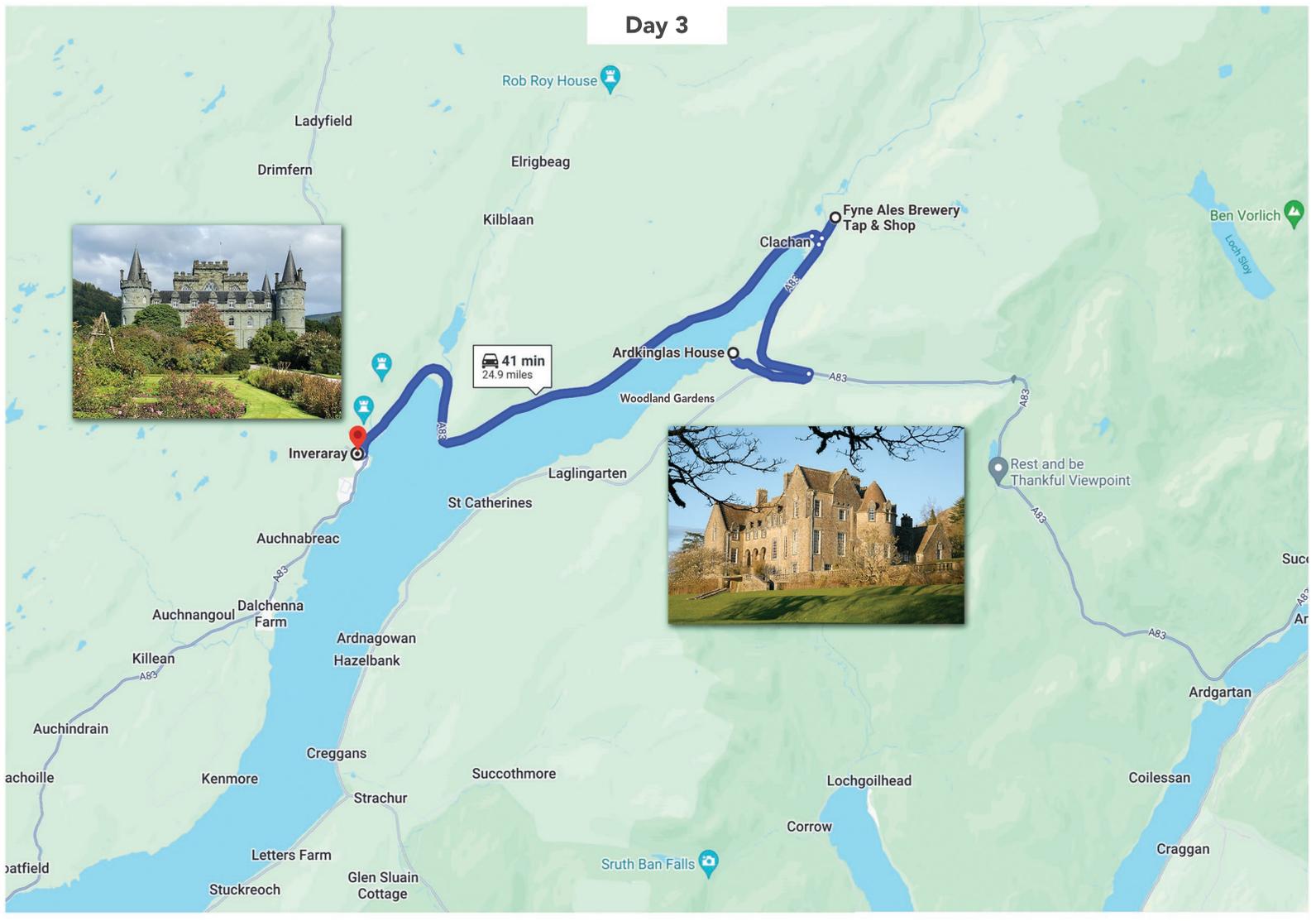




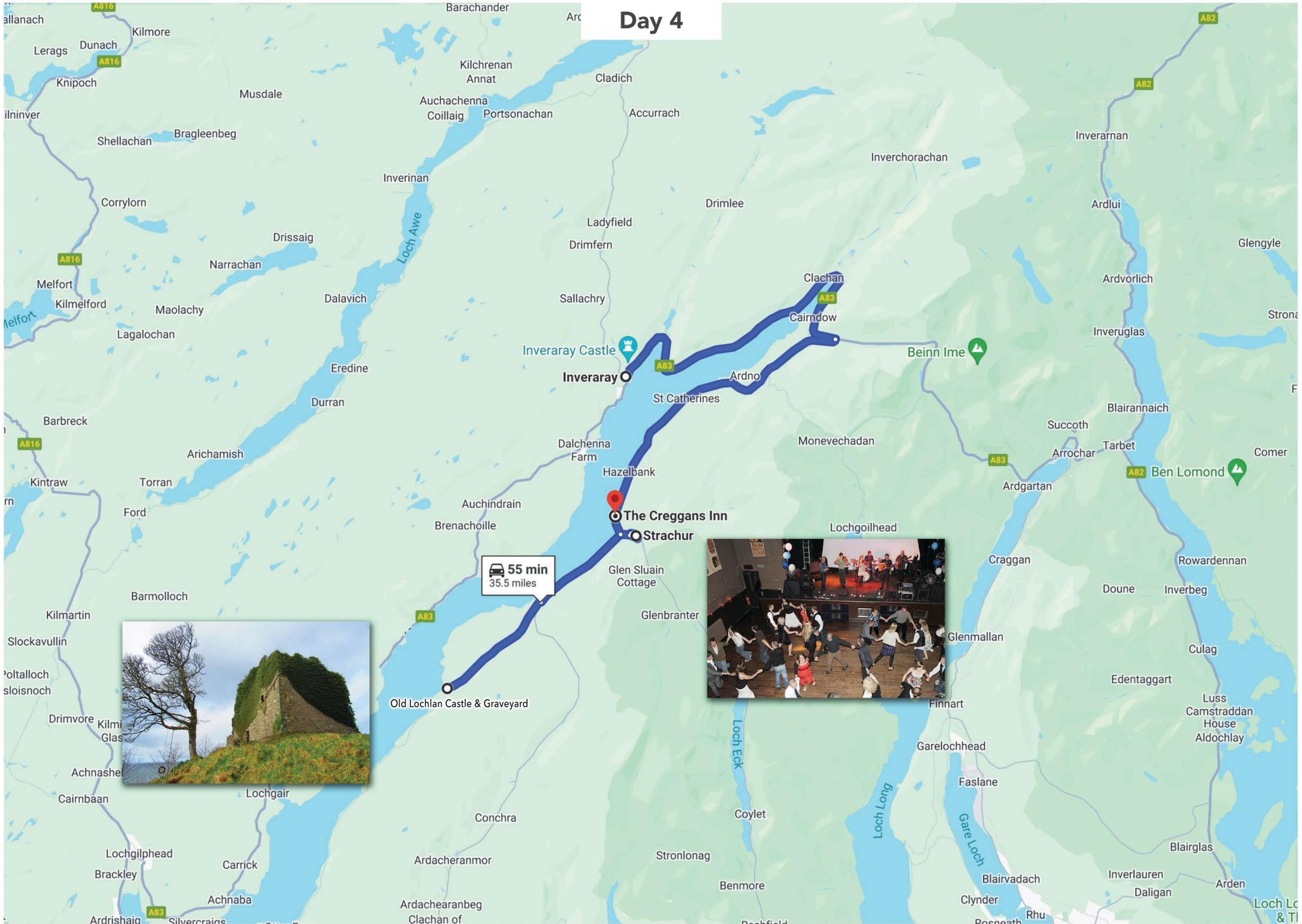
# Day 3



41 min  
24.9 miles



# Day 4





# Day 6



2 hr  
51.2 miles

Cruise  
2.5 hrs

**Isle of Mull**

# Day 7



Lunga Island

Fingal's Cave  
(Staffa Island)



Iona Abbey

## Isle of Mull

🚗 1 hr 36 min  
48.2 miles



Ben More



# Day 8



# Isle of Kerrera



Loch Nell

