

Scottish Highlander

CRUISING THE CALEDONIAN CANAL OF SCOTLAND

The Barge Connection
2036 Nevada City Highway #311
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone 888.550.8580
Phone 530.274.0764
Fax 530.274.0825
www.bargeconnection.com
Email info@bargeconnection.com

08/08/08



T H E B A R G E

C O N N E C T I O N

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Scottish Highlander

SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	117"X16'6"
Capacity:	8
Crew:	4
Cabins:	4
Accommodations:	3 Twin/Doubles & 1 Double Suite
Heat & Air:	Central Heat
Cruising Region:	Caledonian Canal / Scotland
Length of Cruise:	6 Nights
Departure Day:	Sunday
Electricity:	240/110 volts, 24 Volts AC/DC
Engine:	120 HP, Gardner 6LX, maximum speed 10 knots
Water:	3.5 tons of water and 2500 Litres Fuel
Meals:	All Included
Beverages:	All Included
Entrance Fees:	All Included
Hairdryers:	Supplied
Laundry Facilities:	Not available
Transportation:	Transfers to and from Inverness & Private Motorcoach for excursions
Pick-Up Location:	Glenmoriston Town House Hotel, Ness Bank Inverness IV2 4SF
Pick-Up Time:	4:00 PM
Drop-Off:	Fort William
Drop-Off Time:	10:00 AM
Recreational Items:	8 Mountain Bikes, TV, Video, Library of books & games
Theme Cruises:	Family, Fishing, Golf, Cycling, Christmas & New Years
Cruising Season:	April until January

BOAT DIAGRAM



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SAMPLE ITINERARY

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STANDARD CRUISE
INVERNESS TO BANAVIE

Sunday, Classic cruise Day 1

Inverness to Dochgarroch At 4pm we meet at the Glenmoriston Town House Hotel in Inverness and transfer to Scottish Highlander moored at Dochgarroch. Champagne welcome followed by a short evening cruise along the heather lined canal to the Kennels. Dinner aboard.

Monday, Classic cruise Day 2

Dochgarroch to Fort Augustus This morning we visit the 14th century fairytale Cawdor Castle immortalised by Shakespeare with Macbeth, housing a superb collection of tapestries, pictures and furniture with beautiful landscaped gardens. We also visit Culloden Moor made famous by the MacDonald's and Campbell Battle in the 13th Century. After lunch we cruise to Fort Augustus passing Urquhart Castle and the South Shore of Loch Ness where there is an abundance of wildlife, and moor near Fort Augustus Abbey. Tonight we often invite the local piper on board. Dinner aboard.

Tuesday, Classic cruise Day 3

Fort Augustus After breakfast we cruise up the staircase of five locks, through the village of Fort Augustus, which gives us plenty of time to look around this pretty Caledonian gem. After lunch we visit Urquhart Castle or with family charters explore the Nessie Museum. There is also a picnic opportunity today. Fort Augustus has a charming heather-laced 9 or 18 hole golf course, where the official green keepers are sheep! We dine out tonight at the Caledonian Hotel, which has bowling and putting greens.

Wednesday, Classic cruise Day 4

Fort Augustus to Culloch Lock We leave Fort Augustus this morning and cruise to Culloch Lock via Kytra. After lunch we drive through Glen Moriston and stunning highland countryside to romantic medieval Eilean Donan Castle, setting for the film Highlander. Eilean Donan Castle has an idyllic island setting with commanding views of three sea lochs. Following the abortive Jacobite rising of 1719 the ruins were abandoned for 200 years until the 20C when a complete reconstruction was undertaken. Dinner aboard.

Thursday, Classic cruise Day 5

Cullochy Locks to Gairloch Leave Culloch Locks for a morning cruise via two locks at Laggan through Lochs Oich and Lochy to Gairloch. In the afternoon there is a chance to see either the World War II Commando memorial, the woollen mill at Spean Bridge selling traditional knitwear and tweeds or the Clan Cameron museum. Dinner aboard.

Friday, Classic cruise Day 6

Gairloch to Banavie Morning visit to the mystic battlefields of Glencoe. On the way back visit the Glen Nevis distillery for an insight into the secrets of the various stages of Whisky prepara-

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STANDARD CRUISE
INVERNESS TO BANAVIE

tion and taste a wee dram or two. In the afternoon we cruise to Banavie and Neptune's Staircase, a flight of eight locks that is a spectacular feat of engineering. Farewell Captain's Dinner on board.

Saturday, Classic cruise Day 7

Corpach to Inverness Passengers disembark for the transfer to Inverness by minibus after a hearty Scottish Breakfast. Arrive to Inverness between 10:30-12:00.

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GOLF CRUISE

Sunday, INVERNESS TO BANAVIE

At 4pm we meet at the charming Glenmoriston Town House Hotel in Inverness and drive you directly to the Scottish Highlander. Champagne Welcome followed by a walk or cycle along the towpath before dinner aboard.

Monday, BANAVIE TO GAIRLOCHY

Morning cruise to the pretty hamlet of Gairloch. After lunch on board we take a short transfer to **Fort William Golf Course** (Tee Time 2.30pm). We doubt you will find a more beautiful or scenic course in Scotland. No two holes are the same. The course is a mixture of parkland and heathland and the deep rough makes this a very challenging course. After golf we return to Scottish Highlander for dinner aboard. **(18 holes, 5377m, Par 68)**

Tuesday, GAIRLOCHY TO CULLOCHY LOCKS

This morning we cross stunning highland countryside via tiny lochs before taking a morning excursion to the woollen mill at Spean Bridge which sells traditional knitwear and tweeds and the Glen Nevis distillery for an insight into the secrets of the various stages of Whisky preparation (with a wee dram or two). Following lunch we cruise across enchanting Lochs Lochy and Loch Oich before heading for our mooring below Cullochey Locks.

Wednesday, CULLOCHY TO FORT AUGUSTUS

Morning cruise to Fort Augustus with time to wander the village and visit antique and craft shops. In the afternoon we have a round of golf at nearby **Fort Augustus Golf Course**, (Tee Time 2pm) probably the only course in the world kept manicured by a herd of sheep! Featuring 18 tees and 9 holes in a challenging canal side setting. **(18 tees, 9 hole, 4970m, Par 67)**

Thursday, FORT AUGUSTUS

We make our descent through the 5 lock flight and tie up at our mooring overlooking Loch Ness. Taking a packed lunch, we journey to **Nairn Golf Club**. (Tee time around midday). Nairn's reputation is well founded, hosting many professional and amateur events. Several holes border the North Sea and whilst Scotland's driest course, it is possibly the windiest! Return to the barge to prepare for dinner on shore at a local restaurant. **(6113 yards Par 73, Clubs and electric trolleys available).**

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GOLF CRUISE

Friday, FORT AUGUSTUS TO DOCHGARROCH

We take a morning cruise across fabled Loch Ness passing 13th century Urquhart Castle arriving at our mooring in Dochgarroch. Setting out with a packed lunch, we arrive at **Royal Dornoch Golf Course** where we play a round on one of Scotland's famous links courses designed by Tom Morris. (Tee Time of 1pm). Dornoch dates from 1616 and is internationally acclaimed. We return to the barge for Captain's Dinner on board. **(6514 yards Par 73 + pull trolleys available).**

Saturday, DOCHGARROCH TO INVERNESS

Passengers disembark for the journey to Inverness after a hearty Scottish breakfast The minibus aims to arrive in Inverness at approximately 11am.

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change

On alternative weeks the cruise is in the reverse direction

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FISHING CRUISE

Sunday - Fishing cruise Day 1 - INVERNESS TO BANAVIE

At 4.00 p.m. we meet at the Glenmoriston Town House Hotel in Inverness and transfer to Scottish Highlander moored at Banavie. Champagne Welcome followed by a short cruise to Neptune's Staircase of locks. Dinner on board

Monday - Fishing cruise Day 2 - BANAVIE TO GAIRLOCHY

Sea Angling in Oban (6 hours). After breakfast we transfer you for the first time to meet your ghillie. For a complete Scottish fishing experience, you will sail from Oban, to perhaps hook a cod, pollack or gigantic skate. The scenery is breathtaking and the fishing equally awe inspiring as the most extraordinary fish are landed. Return to the barge for a cruise past the 13th century Urquhart Castle and Bay and our mooring at Gairloch. Return to the barge for dinner on board

Tuesday Fishing cruise Day 3 - GAIRLOCHY TO INVERGARRY

Wild Brown Trout (8 hours). This morning you are transferred once again to meet your ghillie. Depending upon the time of year and conditions, guests will either fish a local river or a loch. You spend the day with excursions to different local lochs and or rivers with guidance throughout. The Scottish Highlander crew provide a picnic lunch, with wine, by the Loch half way through your day. When the fishing has finished you will return to Scottish Highlander late afternoon and enjoy a cruise along the tree lined canal avenue and across Loch Lochy, past forest and mountain scenery, to Invergarry and moor beneath the Invergarry Castle ruins. Dinner on board

Wednesday Fishing Cruise day 4 - INVERGARRY TO FORT AUGUSTUS

A day off from fishing today. This morning we cross stunning highland countryside via tiny lochs and Glen Morriston and Shiel to romantic Eilean Donan castle, setting for the film Highlander. On our return we stop for a dram or cup of tea at Tom Doun Trout Fishing Inn overlooking spectacular Glen Garry. We then cruise across enchanting Loch Oich and to the village of Fort Augustus where we ascend the 5 lock flight. We moor opposite 14th century Fort Augustus Abbey at River Oich pier with time to wander the village and visit antique and craft shops. We also show you the Caledonian Canal Heritage Center and see an original '30's film of the Gondolier, one of the fastest passenger paddle steamers of its time. Dinner ashore at Inchnacardoch Lodge built in 1878 as a Hunting Lodge for Lord Lovat of Lovat The Gaelic meaning of "Inch na Cardoch" is "Island of the Cherry Tree" and the man made island, or crannog, of the name is the only island on Loch Ness

Thursday - Fishing Cruise day 5 - FORT AUGUSTUS TO DRUMNADROCHIT

Wild Atlantic Salmon Fishing (8 hours). After breakfast the crew transfer you once again to

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FISHING CRUISE

meet your ghillie. Scottish lochs are ideal hunting grounds for salmon, a wild, rugged and exciting fish to catch, which is why Loch Oich has been chosen for today. Many of the rivers in this part of Scotland can be adversely affected by afforestation and hydroelectric power projects. Nevertheless, salmon of at least 10lbs are frequently caught in this neck of the woods. Picnic lunch is again provided by the crew, next to the loch. Depending on when you decide to finish fishing you may be able to join Scottish Highlander as she cruises Loch Ness. Since 565 AD, when St Columbus saved a swimmer from a hungry but somewhat shy monster, regular sightings have been recorded! Dinner on board.

Friday - Fishing cruise day 6 - DRUMNADROCHIT TO DOCHGARRACH

Loch Ness trout, salmon and ferox Boat Fishing (6 hours). After breakfast the crew will transfer you to the loch for a boat fishing excursion on the Loch Ness with tuition and guidance on tactics and flies to catch trout, salmon and ferox. The morning is spent practising the techniques of fly fishing. Round off the day with a few more casts and maybe a fish or two to take back for dinner. Tonight we are often entertained by our local piper and a enjoy a wee dram before the Captain's Farewell Dinner Aboard

Saturday - Fishing cruise day 7 - BANAVIE TO INVERNESS

Passengers disembark for Inverness after a hearty Scottish breakfast and are transferred to Inverness by minibus

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change. Available for Charter of 6,7 or 8 passengers only. Includes 6 nights on board Scottish Highlander, full board, open bar, all wines, excursions, entrance fees, local transfers, use of barge facilities, fishing fees, permits, tackle, flies, bait, access, wellies and a full time ghillie. Experienced anglers are welcome to bring their own fishing tackle, waders etc should they prefer.

Guest will have the opportunity to experience casting with the BRUCE & WALKER British made hand built rods of the very best produced graphite and carbon. Bruce and Walker rods are the most frequent choice of professional anglers, ghillies, gamekeepers, casting instructors and coaches

In the interest of conservation we maintain a policy of returning all wild Atlantic salmon and wild brown trout to their natural habitat, but for 1 brown trout per day.

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3 NIGHT HOGMANAY CRUISE

Dec 31-January 2nd

30th December Inverness Fort Augustus

At 4pm we meet at the Glenmoriston Town House Hotel in Inverness and transfer to Scottish Highlander moored at the beautiful canal side village of Fort Augustus. Champagne welcome and time for a walk or cycle along the towpath before dinner aboard.

31st December NEW YEARS EVE Fort Augustus to Foyers

In the morning you can tee off at Fort Augustus Golf Course, where the official green keepers are sheep! Alternatively, we can take a trip out to Moniack Castle wineries. After lunch we cruise across Loch Ness to Foyers where it is possible to take a delightful country walk to the gentle waterfalls and the possibility of seeing some deer.

We begin our Hogmanay celebration with a pre dinner dram or two before a special traditional Scottish dinner on board. After dinner we leave the barge for the Hogmanay firework celebrations in Inverness Castle, where you can welcome in the new year.

1st January NEW YEARS DAY Foyers to Drumnadrochit

This morning after breakfast we cruise across the loch to Urquhart Castle for photos and a saunter around the village. After lunch on board we continue to the Loch Ness Visitor Centre where the myth of the Loch Ness monster is explained, along with an interesting exhibition on her sightings and the search for her over the years. Entertainment. Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard.

2nd January Drumnadrochit to Loch Dochfour

Morning circular cruise to Loch Dochfour and passengers disembark from Drumnadrochit for the transfer to Inverness by minibus after a hearty Scottish breakfast.

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CHRISTMAS CRUISE

23rd December Inverness to Drumnadrochit

At 4pm we meet at the Glenmoriston Town House Hotel in Inverness and transfer to Scottish Highlander moored at Drumnadrochit. Champagne welcome and dinner aboard, followed by good old-fashioned Scottish entertainment.

24th December, Christmas Eve- Drumnadrochit to Foyers

In the morning we take a trip up to Moniack Castle, famous for its wines, liqueurs and preserves. On returning to the barge, we cruise past Urquhart Castle on our way along the northern shore of Loch Ness, then cross the loch to the village of Foyers. On arrival in Foyers we can enjoy a small Whisky tasting with the captain before lunch. In the afternoon we take a trip into the Inverfarigaig forest for a delightful walk to the Falls of Foyers and a drive into the hills to see the deer. It will also be possible to attend a Christmas Eve service at a local church. Dinner on board and entertainment while presents can be put round the Christmas tree.

25th December, Christmas Day – Foyers to Fort Augustus

After breakfast we cruise to Fort Augustus, a charming village at the south western end of the Loch Ness, its prominent feature being a splendid lock staircase. Lunch and Christmas present opening are followed by jolly accordion music. The afternoon can be spent with a gentle saunter around the village or maybe a game of croquet or putting. Scottish afternoon cream tea. CHRISTMAS DINNER ON BOARD.

26th December, Boxing Day – Fort Augustus to Drumnadrochit

After breakfast we cruise up the loch to Drumnadrochit where we visit the Loch Ness Visitor Centre where the myth of the Loch Ness monster is explained, along with an interesting exhibition on her sightings and the search for her over the years. Captain's Farewell Dinner aboard followed by a trip out to a local inn for live music.

27th December - Drumnadrochit

Passengers disembark for the transfer to Inverness by minibus after a hearty Scottish breakfast.

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2009 PRICES

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	VALUE	REGULAR
Stateroom Per Person	\$3,490	\$3,990
Suite Per Person	\$3,990	\$4,590
Single Supplement	\$1,350	\$1,500
Charter for 6 guests	\$25,200	\$28,600
Charter for 7 guests	\$26,200	\$29,800
Charter for 8 guests	\$27,200	\$31,000

VALUE SEASON DATES: Jan, Feb, March, April 5, 12, 19, 26; October 4, 11, 18, 25, November & December

REGULAR SEASON DATES: May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; September 6, 13, 20, 27

Golf Charter - \$800 supplement per golfer - available for charter groups or a minimum of 4

Fishing Charter - Price available upon request for charter groups only
(supplement will include the services of a Professional Ghillie and all the fishing equipment)

Cycling Cruise: \$3,000 supplement for charter - available for charters groups only
(supplement includes the services of a Professional Cycling Guide and an upgrade of bicycles on board)

Walking Cruise: \$3,000 supplement per charter - available for charter groups only
(supplement includes the services of a Professional Walking Guide)

Family Charter - for charter groups only and \$300 discount offered to children aged 0-17

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