

## Tours from Craigvar

Tour 1

130 miles

4 hours 30 driving time

**Strathpeffer, Garve, Ullapool, Achilitibuie, Ullapool and return.**



Ullapool is a lovely ferry and fishing port and the stepping off point for Stornoway. Visit the renowned Ceilidh Place. Achilitibuie is a long drive on a single track road by way of Stac Pollaidh. Here are the Summer Isles. Be sure to visit the Hydroponicum. Return via Ullapool. At Braemore the Gorge of Corrieshalloch and the Falls of Measach lie near the roadside. Just before Garve on the left are the Falls of Rogie.

Tour 2

80 miles

2 hours 25 driving time

**Strathpeffer to Fort George, Nairn, Cawdor Castle, Culloden, Inverness and return.**

**Fort George** is the finest example of 18th-century military engineering to be found anywhere in the British Isles. The vast garrison fortress was begun in the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden (1746), which crushed the final Jacobite Rising. It took over 20 years to complete and remains virtually unaltered today, still serving as an important military base and housing a fantastic museum of militaria.

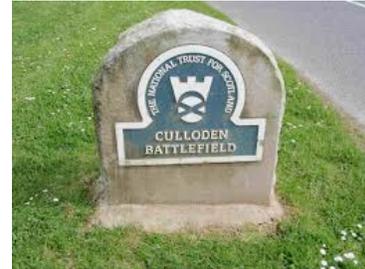


**Nairn** is a seaside town with a wonderful beach, where Charlie Chaplin used to holiday. It has a balmy microclimate with views across the Moray Firth to the Black Isle, Cromarty and Sutherland.



**Cawdor** is a magical name, romantically linked by Shakespeare to *Macbeth*. It is a fairytale Castle with history that you can touch and see and sense for yourself. Cawdor Castle is a splendid house and the home of the Cawdor family to this day. The Castle dates from the late 14th century and was built as a private fortress by the Thaners of Cawdor. The ancient medieval tower was built around the legendary holly tree.

On 16 April 1746 the last pitched battle to be fought on British soil took less than an hour to reach its bloody conclusion on what is now known as **Culloden Moor**. There is an excellent new visitor and interpretive centre and you could quite easily spend hours there without realising time passing.



**Tour 3**

**60 Miles**

**1 hour 35**

**Strathpeffer to Drumnadrochit, Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Inverness and return.**



This is a short half-day tour. The route passes by way of Beaulieu, which has a number of excellent shops as well as the House of Beaulieu centre. The A833 is a very interesting road, particularly on a motorbike. There is a steep ascent, then a series of bends over moorland before the descent into Drumnadrochit. Turn right for Urquhart Castle. You may want to continue on the A82, for three-and-a-half miles south of Drumnadrochit, to see the memorial cairn to

John Cobb, who died on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1952 attempting to break the water speed record. Return by the shores of Loch Ness, stopping for a while in Inverness, capital of the Highlands.

**Tour 4**

**60 miles**

**1 hour 50 driving time**

**Strathpeffer to Black Isle via Avoch, Fortrose, Rosemarkie, Cromarty  
Jemimaville, Culbokie and Dingwall.**

This is a short half day tour unless you include the Fortrose / Rosemarkie / Fairy Glen walk. The route passes by way of Fortrose with its ruined cathedral. There is a lovely 5 mile walk here which should take about 3 hours.



1. Park in Fortrose by the Cathedral ruins. Head up to the High Street, and turn left along it. There are some very fine arts and crafts style houses along the road, especially on the right. Continue along the pavement until there is a very sharp turn to the left (St Andrews walk), which leads down to the harbour (signed for the beach and sailing club). From the harbour, continue along the road, passing in front of some attractive cottages. The road then climbs back uphill; turn right at the junction by St Andrews Church.

2. Keep straight on, passing Fortrose Academy. Soon you'll see a picnic area with tables to the right of the road - go into this picnic area and follow the grassy path that continues from it; this leads you into Fortrose caravan park. Continue straight through the caravan park, keeping close to the sea; at the far end is a public footpath sign pointing three ways. Continue straight ahead, which is signed for 'Chanonry point - 1 mile'. The path heads through the gorse for a while before keeping close to the sea next to the golf course - so watch out for small white flying objects.



3. At the end of the golf course, pass behind the sixth tee to join a track leading into Chanonry Point car park. There is a memorial here marking the point where the Brahan Seer was burned to death in boiling tar - a warning to astrologers. The point also has a lighthouse and a fine view across to Fort George, but is much more famous today as the best place in Britain to watch dolphins. Continue along the pebbly shore to the right of the lighthouse to reach the point (if the tide is right in, you can follow a path which starts left of the bungalow next to the lighthouse). Dolphin-spotters usually watch from the furthest part of the point; if you are lucky and are here on an incoming tide, you'll see the dolphins jumping around and splashing their tails only a few metres out from the shore.



4. The east side of the peninsula is taken up by a fine sandy beach, stretching right to Rosemarkie. Either walk along the sand and pebbles or follow a path in the grass just alongside. Beyond the golf course, you'll pass Rosemarkie caravan site before entering the pleasant seaside village itself. Continue along the seafront to the end of the road; turn left here to emerge on the main road next to the Plough Inn. Turn right along the road (in the direction of Cromarty). From this point, you can extend the walk by detouring up into the Fairy Glen before returning here.



The glen is well wooded with beech, rowan, ash and oak, and carpeted with blue bells and primroses in the spring. The path soon crosses a wooden bridge and continues up the far bank. You'll soon see a millpond to the right - this is at least a couple of hundred years old and was once a source of ice for the fish-houses in the village. Look out for dippers bobbing in the stream around here - the ones we saw seemed not to be bothered by the presence of people. Further on the path crosses back over the stream on another bridge. Just beyond here is the first of the Fairy Glen's waterfalls; an attractive twin falls. The path climbs a series of steps to the left of the fall and then crosses a steep slope - there's a rope handrail to help. Just a short distance further on is the second and final falls, another twin fall. The path from here used to cross the stream on a bridge and ascend to the main road, but this is busy with traffic and it is better to retrace your steps.

5. To continue the walk back to Fortrose, turn left onto a waymarked path just beyond the last house (signed Swallow Den walk). This path climbs steeply uphill through the trees. As you gain height, there are good views down into a ravine on the right, and better ones of Chanonry Point and the walk so far over to your left. Continue along the path, which eventually joins a minor road. Turn left down this road which returns you to Fortrose.



Cromarty is a former fishing port with a charming atmosphere. Visit the East Church which was in the final of the 2006 TV Restoration programme. Cromarty also provides a wealth of attractions: sandy beaches, unusual architecture, Bottlenose Dolphins, eating places, a multi-award winning museum, beautiful countryside, wildlife, and bird reserves of international importance.

**Tour 5      62 or 81 miles      2 hours 20 or 2 hours 40 driving time**

**Strathpeffer to Glen Affric (and return) via Beaulay, Cannich, Milton, Beaulay, or Drumnadrochit, Inverness and Dingwall.**



This is a short half-day tour. The route passes by way of Beaulay, which has a number of excellent shops. The A833 is a very interesting road, particularly on a motorbike. There is a steep ascent, then a series of bends over moorland before the descent into Drumnadrochit. Turn right for Cannich. At Cannich you may turn right for Loch Mullardoch or left for Loch Affric. Both are single-track roads which are dead ends. Return via Struy, calling at Kilmorack Art Gallery and Muir of Ord.

Glen Ord distillery has guided tours between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. The last tour during the season is at 3.00 p.m. You may also return via Drumnadrochit. Turn left for the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition or right for Urquhart Castle. You may want to continue on the A82, for three-and-a-half miles south of Drumnadrochit, to see the memorial cairn to John Cobb, who died on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1952 attempting to break the water speed record. Return by the shores of Loch Ness, stopping for a while in Inverness, capital of the Highlands.

**Tour 6                                      240 miles                                      5 hours 30 driving time**

**Wick, John O'Groats, Castle of Mey, Thurso and return.**



Wick is en route to John O' Groats, reputedly the most northerly point on the British mainland but in fact coming second to Duncansby Head. On the way north you may decide to break your journey at Tain, Dornoch, Brora or Dunrobin Castle before arriving in Wick. John O'Groats has little to offer but head for the castle of Mey where the Queen Mother had her summer residence. Thurso offers a chance for short stroll around the town centre before returning by the Causeymire to rejoin the A9 south.

**Tour 7**

**230 miles**

**5 hours 45 driving time**

**Strathpeffer to Skye (and return) via Garve, Achnasheen, Strathcarron, Stromeferry, Kyle of Lochalsh, Portree, Kyle of Lochalsh, Dornie (Eilan Donan Castle), Shiel Bridge, Invermoriston, Drumnadrochit, Inverness and Dingwall.**

When you reach Strathcarron you may want to drive on the steepest and second highest main road in Britain. The Bealach na Ba (Pass of the cattle) lies to the north of Kishorn and runs to Applecross with its ancient sanctuary. The 'new' bridge to Skye is at Kyle of Lochalsh.



The onward excursion to Portree takes you alongside the Cuillins on the coast road between Broadford and Sligachan. Once back at Kyle return by way of Dornie, making sure you stop at Eilan Donan Castle.



Following Loch Duich takes you to Shiel Bridge where there are several places of interest in the area. It is worth going to just beyond Glenelg, by way of steep Mam Ratagan with its arresting views of the mountains of Kintail, to visit the well preserved Pictish brochs. From Morvich there is the opportunity to visit the Falls of Glomach (glomach means 'gloomy'). At 375 feet it is the highest waterfall in Scotland and can be reached by a 2.5 miles moderate uphill route. Allow about 5 hours return if you are moderately fit.

From Shiel Bridge the route passes by the 5 sisters of Kintail then through Glen Moriston. At the head of the glen there is a monument to Roderick MacKenzie, the Highland officer who was mistaken for Bonnie Prince Charlie after the battle of Culloden in 1746. He chose to die rather than admit his true identity, thus allowing the prince to elude his pursuers.



Follow Loch Ness until you arrive at Urquhart Castle. Continue up the shores of the loch to Inverness and home via Dingwall.