



THE RUGGED WEST – OUTBOUND		
Brief Descript'n	A trip out to Scotland's north-western mountainous regions. You cross the Great Glen at Fort Augustus and head over to the magnificent, isolated peaks of Suilven and Stac Pollaidh, along the way you can see one modern "castle" (built by a Swiss national) and the "classic" castle of Eilean Donan an iconic image of Scotland. The outbound journey ends in the pretty town of Plockton.	
Flight Time @ 120Kts	90 Mins	
HIGHLIGHTS ALONG THE WAY		
Geography & History	Schiehallion Mountain	You will pass to the north of this 3,553 feet high volcanic dome shaped mountain famous for the experimental determination of the mass of the earth in 1774. See Wikipedia "Schiehallion Experiment".
Geography	Glendoe Airstrip and Fort Augustus	Although this strip looks "high" as it sits 300 feet up the side of the hill to the southeast of Fort Augustus it's lower than the 395-foot elevation of Perth EGPT from which you departed this morning. The town of Fort Augustus sits at the southern tip of Loch Ness and is the gateway to the Caledonian Canal
Geography	Ross and Cromarty County	As you fly north-west, the landscape is dominated by many mountain ridges thrust upwards by geological activity with their many intervening glens and lochs carved out by glacial activity during the ice age.
Geography	Ullapool	Ullapool was founded in 1788 as a herring port by the British Fisheries Society. The community was rated as among the "20 most beautiful villages in the UK and Ireland" by Condé Nast Traveller in 2020. In the 1970's and 80's at the peak of the mackerel fishing boom many Russian "Klondyker" factory processing ships would anchor in the bay off Ullapool. A huge trade in western goods went on between the ships and the shore!
Geography	Suilven	Pronounced SoolVen, English translation: Pillar Mountain, Suilven lies in a remote area in the west of Sutherland, it rises from a wilderness landscape of moorland, bogs, and lochans known as Inverpolly National Nature Reserve. Suilven forms a steep-sided ridge some two kilometres in length and is a geological mix of Lewisian Gneiss and Torridonian Sandstone. The distinctive shape was produced by glacial erosion
Geography	Stac Pollaidh	The peak of Stac Pollaidh (Stack Polly, the "Polly" element is of Norse origin, derived from "Pollå" meaning "pool river") displays a rocky crest of Torridonian sandstone, with many pinnacles and steep gullies
Geography	Achiltibuie (ach-ill-tee-boo-ay)	Achiltibuie (Scottish Gaelic: Achd Ille Bhuidhe or Field of the yellow-haired boy) is a long linear village. In the 1980s The Hydroponicum, a facility for growing fresh fruit and vegetables indoors using hydroponics, was built in the village by Robert Irvine, then owner of the Summer Isles Hotel. The Hydroponicum was known for growing exotic fruit such as bananas all year round. It attracted up to 10,000 visitors a year until it was sold in 2007. The building has now been demolished. Some of the former staff of the Hydroponicum run a small-scale activity known as The Achiltibuie Garden, situated nearby. Achiltibuie is also the setting of a humorous German book about Scotland by Reiner Luyken, Schotten dicht (2015) published by Ullstein Verlag, Berlin.



Geography	The Summer Isles	Tanera Mòr the largest of the Summer Isles is home to a salmon fish farm, several holiday cottages, a small sailing school, a café, and a post office. The Post Office has operated its own local post and printed its own stamps since 1970 (very collectable) . The island previously had no roads, and the only recognisable path went around the sheltered bay on the east side of the island. Since 2017, the redevelopment of the island has involved the creation of several roads. Tanera Mòr, like the other Summer Isles, can be reached by boat from either Achiltibuie, or Ullapool.				
Geography	Eilan Donan Castle	The "classic" image of a Scottish castle, set out in the waters of Loch Duich with a short connecting bridge. The name Eilean Donan, or island of Donan, is most probably called after the 6th century Irish Saint, Bishop Donan who came to Scotland around 580 AD. There are several churches dedicated to Donan in the area and it is likely that he formed a small cell or community on the island during the late 7th century.				
Geography	Plockton	Situated on a sheltered inlet of Loch Carron, and due to the series of New Zealand cabbage palm trees which have dominated Harbour Street since the 1960s, Plockton has a distinctive 'sub-tropical appearance'. It faces east away from the prevailing winds; this, together with the North Atlantic Drift, gives it a mild climate despite the far-north latitude, allowing the Cordyline australis palm to prosper.				
Landing Site Plockton	Runway	Length	Surface	Approach Frequency	Tower Frequency	ATIS
	02 LH	597m	Hard	Plockton Radio 131.910	N/A	N/A
	20 RH					
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Brief Descript'n	Taking off from Plockton you will head over to the isle of Skye via the Isle of Raasy where one of Scotland's youngest distilleries has been recently built. From there to the island's capital Portree and then out to Dunvegan home of the MacLeod clan and down to Carbost where the Talisker distillery resides. From there to the Black Cuillin mountains and over the top of the highest peak Sgurr Alasdair. Then down the west coast towards Mull taking in the distillery and the famous Glenforsa Airstrip before heading over to Oban, From Oban via Glenfinnan to Fort William, Glen Coe and home to Perth.					
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HIGHLIGHTS ALONG THE WAY						
Whisky!	Isle of Raasay Distillery	Founded in 2014 this wee distillery is nearly 10 years old now. It is owned by R&B (Raasay and Borders) Distillers Ltd. co-founded in 2014 by whisky blender Alasdair Day and online dating entrepreneur Bill Dobbie.				



Geography	Portree	Portree is the largest town and the capital of Skye. Enjoy the view of the colourful harbourfront buildings as you fly over and compare with Tobermory on the Isle of Mull which you will see later in this trip. Portree is considered to be in the top 20 most beautiful villages in the UK according to Conde Nast Traveller. It also had the last manual telephone exchange in the UK which closed in 1976.
History	Dunvegan Castle	The ancestral seat of the clan MacLeod (Mac Cloud) and home of the "Fairy Flag" an extremely aged silk pennant believed to originate from Syria or the Greek Isle of Rhodes and to be imbued with the mystical power of the Celtic Fairies.
Whisky!	Talisker Distillery - Carbost	Opened in 1831 after the purchase of a lease from the Clan MacLeod. Now owned by Diageo the distillery's whisky regularly wins accolades and has appeared by name in numerous books, films, and TV shows. The distillery was completely rebuilt to its original design after its destruction by fire in 1965.
Geography	The Cuillins	Two Cuillin ranges dominate the landscape on Skye: The Black Cuillin and the Red Cuillin separated by Glen Sligachan. The iconic ridge of the Black Cuillin is the UK's most challenging mountain range. Over 11 kilometres long and above 3,000 feet in places, the ridge contains 11 Munros and 16 other summits. The highest point is Sgurr (Gaelic for Rocky Peak) Alasdair at 3,255 feet. The route takes us over the top.
Geography	The Isle of Soay	Just south of the Cuillins you will cross the small Island of Soay (it looks like two small islands, but they are connected). The name Soay means "Island of Sheep" in Norse language, but the famous Soay sheep breed is found on another island of Soay much further west, beside the island of St Kilda. There was however a basking shark oil factory on this island built by the locally famous Scottish author Gavin Maxwell which sadly folded after only 3 years (1946-49).
Geography	Mallaig, Arisaig and Ardnamurchan	Mallaig is the terminus of the West Coast Main Line scenic train route which departs from Fort William and traverses the Glenfinnan Viaduct, famous from its appearance in the Harry Potter films. The route to Arisaig will take you down the coast over some spectacular beaches and from there you will cross the Ardnamurchan peninsula before arriving at Mull.
Geography	Tobermory	Tobermory was built as a fishing port in the late 18th century and is now the main town on Mull. It is a picture-postcard of a place with the brightly painted buildings along the main street to the pier and the high woodland-fringed hills surrounding the bay.
Whisky!	Tobermory Distillery	The distillery sits on the south side of the harbour you should be able to see it approaching from the North, it's more hidden approaching from the south. Unpeated Tobermory whisky and their peated brand Ledaig (pronounce Letch-ick) which is the name of the precise location of the distillery, are produced here. The distillery opened in 1798 and is now owned by Distell, a South African wine and spirits group.
Aviation	Glenforsa	You will fly past one of the most popular landing sites in Scotland along the shore at the Glenforsa Hotel. The annual Glenforsa fly-in in May attracts aircraft from all over the UK.



Aviation	Oban Information 118.055	A stop-off in Oban for Avgas for those who may need it and a chance to meet some of the Connel Flying Club if they are around. The runway is hard surfaced and 1,246m long with 01 Left Hand and 19 Right Hand. Frequency 118.055.
Geography & History	Strontian and Glenfinnan viaduct	The small town of Strontian (pronounced Stron-tee-an) is where the Chemical element Strontium, Atomic Number 38, gets its name from. It was discovered there in 1790. From Strontian you will head north to view the Glenfinnan railway viaduct. You can also see the Glenfinnan monument on the shoreline at the head of loch Shiel. The monument was built in 1815 as a tribute to 'the generous zeal and undaunted bravery' of those Highlanders who 'fought and bled in that arduous and unfortunate enterprise' – the 1745 Jacobite Rising.
Geography	Fort William & Ben Nevis	As you turn for home you will pass by the town of Fort William nestling below the looming mass of Ben Nevis. You will turn and fly down Loch Linnhe to the narrow straits at the Corran Ferry. Here, you will turn and head east, passing over the towns of Ballachulish (Balla-hoo-lish) and Glencoe and along the valley of Glen Coe itself.
Geography	Ballachulish, Glencoe village, Glencoe	Ballachulish (Balla-hoo-lish), is a small village at the mouth of Loch Leven where there used to be a ferry across the narrows there, eliminating the need for the long drive around the head of the loch. There is now a very distinctive box girder bridge as a good VRP. Heading east lies the village of Glencoe itself. This was the scene of a massacre between two Scottish clans in 1692 with the Campbells (as members of the Earl of Argyll's army) killing around 30 of the local MacDonald clansmen. The Glen itself then heads due east with impressive mountain ridges along each side, culminating in the Buchaille Etive Mor (Book - ale etiv more), a 5-mile-long ridge of 4 peaks running South-west to North west and ending nearest the road with Stob Dearg a distinctive 3,351 feet high conical topped mountain.
Geography	Rannoch Moor and Ben Lawers	Leaving Glencoe, you will head out over the approximately 130 Km2 of boggy moorland that is Rannoch Moor. Heading back direct to Perth you will pass over Ben Lawers just before Loch Tay. At 3,983 feet high Ben Lawers is the highest mountain in Perthshire and the 10th highest in Scotland.

SKY DEMON – THE RUGGED WEST

