

KELPIES & CLYDESDALES, PUFFINS & PONIES May 13-25, 2023

Photography Tour of Scotland with Debra
Garside & Paul Tomkins

Open to 4-5 guests.



Day 1 Arrivals: Our journey begins in Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland situated on the shoreline of the Firth of Forth. Here we can find a plethora of photographic opportunities including the medieval Old Town (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Edinburgh Castle, and walk up to Author's Seat in Hollyrood Park, giving us sweeping views of this hilly city steeped in history.

Day 2: We will spend the morning photographing thoroughbred horses at a racing stable near Edinburgh. Following lunch, we will enjoy a day at the races at Perth Racecourse. Overnight at The Lodge Perth Racecourse.



Day 3: Morning visit to a Clydesdale farm to photograph the amazing Scottish heavy horses. Visit a distillery or brewery. Travel north to Deeside for overnight accommodation.



Day 4: Morning visit to Invercauld Estate to view and photograph Highland Ponies which work on the Estate during the shooting season. Lunch and travel to Aberdeen Airport. Fly to Shetland Isles.

Day 5/6/: Accommodation at the Kveldsro House Hotel for 2 nights.



Shetland is a UNESCO World Heritage International Geopark because of its fascinating features. Our guide for this portion is a photographer from the islands and very knowledgeable of the area. This sub-Arctic archipelago is teeming with birdlife and home to the iconic Shetland Pony.



Small horses have been kept on the islands since the Bronze Age. People who lived on the island probably crossed native stock with ponies imported by Norse settlers. The Shetland breed was also influenced by the Celtic pony and has developed into a hardy breed due to harsh climate & scarce food.



The Atlantic Puffin is widely considered to be the clown of the avian realm, not only for its appearance but for its funny and awkward behavior on land. Don't let their land legs fool you though, at sea these wonderful little birds are voracious fisherman and speedy in the air. May is just the beginning of nesting season and we hope to see these colourful creatures along the dramatic shore cliffs.

Day 7: Fly from Shetland to Aberdeen and drive to Inverness for overnight. Sites along the way. Easy day.

Day 8: This morning we will have an optional 2-hour ride through the beautiful countryside and trek through parts of the Scottish Highlands not usually seen. Pony trekking from Cougie is a wonderful experience for all levels of riders.



In the afternoon we will take the ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway and overnight near Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides Islands.



Day 9: Early morning visit to the Callanish Stones, one of the most famous stone circles in the UK. Often seen in the TV series Outlander, this stone circle dates back to Neolithic times.

In the afternoon we will meet with the owner of some Highland ponies and set up a shoot at Luskentyre. Few people expect to find a beach like Luskentyre on the remote western side of the Isle of Lewis. With its turquoise waters it looks like something from the tropics.



Overnight Hotel Tarbert, boutique-style hotel. Mote Lounge Bar has an extensive selection of whiskies and traditional Scottish Music!

Day 10: Early morning photoshoot at Luskentyre. Afternoon ferry from Tarbert to Uig (Island of Skye) for dinner and overnight.



Day 11: Travel through Skye stopping for photos at leisure. Take ferry from Armadale to Mallaig. Evening ride or photoshoot on the beach. Overnight at The Morar Hotel with scenic views of the Silver Sands of Morar and the Inner Hebridean islands of Rum & Eigg.



Day 12: Travel back to Edinburgh via Glencoe and the Trossachs enjoying the amazing Scottish Highlands scenery.



We will visit the world-famous Kelpies monuments and overnight near Edinburgh. The Kelpies, located in Falkirk, Scotland tower 30 meters above the Forth and Clyde Canal and form a dramatic entrance to the east side of Scotland. Created by Scotland's leading sculptor Andy Scott, The Kelpies are a tribute to Scotland's horse empowered history. Farewell dinner.



Day 13. Departures from Edinburgh.

Our local guide, Paul Tomkins, is a world class photographer and one of the most sought-after guides in Scotland. Paul and I have worked together very carefully with Spirit Journeys, our logistics team with great horse contacts, to offer you this wonderful equi-tour.

The price of the tour will be \$9750 CAD based on double occupancy and includes everything except tips, alcohol and flight to Edinburgh. The deposit for the tour is \$1500. **Due to COVID-19 the temporary deposit will be \$500 to hold your place on the tour. Once we get the green light for safe travel you may pay the rest of the deposit, but in the meantime the \$500 pre-deposit is fully refundable for any reason. Pricing is based on current monetary values as of March 15, 2020 and subject to change.**

Regarded by Lonely Planet as one of the best places to visit in Europe 2019, Shetland is a sure addition to your travel bucket list.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUmcqDJEsPY>