



LOCH NESS MARATHON

and Festival of Running

Baxters Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running

Loch Ness is one of the best-known destinations in the world and offers one of the most scenic marathons in the UK. With a route that hugs the southern shores of the loch, you may even catch a glimpse of the Loch's most famous resident – Nessie!



Whether you've come to the event alone or with family and friends, why not take the opportunity of being in the beautiful surroundings of the Highlands of Scotland to add on a few days sightseeing after the race? You could also head south to witness the stunning architecture of capital city Edinburgh or head west to take in the buzz of the city of Glasgow!

"It's the 4th time I've done the Loch Ness Marathon and it's well worth the journey from London to Inverness. Brilliant scenery. Brilliant organisation. Love it!"

Runner, London

The Baxters Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running in 2011

- Over 8300 entries across all events (Marathon, 10K, Corporate Challenge, 5K, Wee Nessie).
- Voted the 4th BEST marathon in UK by Runners World magazine.
- Attracts runners from across Scotland, the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, parts of Africa & Asia, Australia and New Zealand. A total of 37 nationalities were represented in 2011.

More about the event...

- Launched in 2002, it is widely recognised as one of the UK's most popular and well-organised marathons.
- Due to popular demand, organisers introduced additional events – the Baxters River Ness 10k, the 10k Corporate Challenge, the Baxters River Ness 5k Fun Run, and the Wee Nessie (for pre-school age children) – to offer a Festival of Running with an event for all ages and abilities.
- Marathon entry fees include: finishers technical T-shirt, transport to start of race, hot post-race meal, finishers medal, goody bag, energy drink & water on route and at finish, electronic timing, downloadable finisher's certificate.
- Other highlights of the Festival include a pre-race Pasta Party with live music the day prior to the race and a full programme on the day of the event including Baxters Food & Drink Fayre (delicious, local food on sale), live music, pipes & drums, charity and sports retailer expo and exciting kids activities.

How does it work for Tour Operators?

Date of 2012 event:

Sunday 30th September 2012

Entries open:

1st November 2011

Entries close:

Monday 10th September 2012 although early entry is greatly encouraged and a cheaper, early-bird rate is available until the 1st March 2012.

How to register:

Tour operators should enter runners by completing the online form for Overseas Entry on our website, choosing the 'tour operator' option in the drop down menu.

[All photography © VisitScotland / Scottish Viewpoint]



How much is it:

Overseas runners pay £46 'early-bird' rate up until 1st March or £49 from 2nd March – 10th September 2012.

How do I pay:

Pay using a credit card as part of online entry process.

How many runners can I register:

As many as you like – the more the merrier! We would be delighted to welcome as many overseas participants as would like to attend.

What happens next:

Once you, the tour operator, has registered we will send you email confirmation. You will be able to log in to the site and nearer the time of the race, retrieve your runners' race numbers and information to pass on to them. Runners will also individually receive a confirmation email, regular eNews bulletins and a link to download a copy of the event magazine.

What happens if a runner wishes to cancel:

We will accept cancellations up until the 20th August 2012. An administration fee of £5 will be charged in this instance (subtracted from the refunded entry fee). We regret we cannot refund entry fees after this date.

Come to Scotland and Experience the beauty of the Highlands!



[All photography © VisitScotland / Scottish Viewpoint]

Travel Advice & Itinerary Suggestions

The most useful website for Tour Operators planning on bringing visitors to Scotland is <https://traveltrade.visitscotland.org>. This site provides detailed travel information as well as suggestions for itineraries, practical details and facts about the country.

Inverness Airport (nearest airport to the event) - www.hial.co.uk/inverness-airport/

Getting to Inverness from overseas: At this time of year the only direct overseas flight is from Amsterdam. However you can fly to Edinburgh or Glasgow from numerous European, Scandinavian, US and Canadian cities and, from there, either fly, drive or get the train to Inverness. Other UK cities with flights to Inverness are: London Gatwick, London Luton, Birmingham, Manchester, Southampton, Bristol and Belfast.

If coming from Europe, you also have the option of catching a ferry to England or by Eurostar to London, with onward connections to Scotland. You can sail direct to Scotland from Northern Ireland. Visit <https://traveltrade.visitscotland.org/useful-info/getting-to/> to find out about all transport links to Scotland from anywhere in the world.

Travel within Scotland: You have several modes of transport available to you once in Scotland, namely air, train, coach, hire car/bus, ferry. For full information on all of these, plus distances between locations, visit <https://traveltrade.visitscotland.org/useful-info/getting-around/>

Scotland's rail network (www.scotrail.co.uk/content/timetables-connections) is at its most dense in the central belt and links to most of the major ferry ports to the west coast islands (www.calmac.co.uk).

Castles • Islands & Beaches • Hill Walking • Battlegrounds • Whisky • Mountains • Fishing • Culture • Architecture • Ancient Forests • Secluded Lochs • Historic Monuments • Arts & Crafts • Stunning Landscapes • Picture-Postcard Views • Golf • Engineering • Clans & Tartans • Wildlife • Highland Hospitality • Folklore • Delicious Local Produce • Outdoor Activities...

just some of the many attractions awaiting visitors to the Highlands of Scotland!

Itinerary Suggestions

Inverness & Loch Ness area

Inverness, capital of the Highlands, is a bustling city and the perfect base for exploring the area. It is an excellent shopping centre with a range of quality restaurants and accommodation for all budgets. Itinerary suggestions include: dolphin-watching in the Moray Firth; Cawdor & Brodie Castles; Caledonian Canal at Fort Augustus; Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness plus Loch Ness Visitor Centre & Exhibition Experience or Jacobite Cruise on the Loch (more Nessie spotting opportunities!); Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre; distillery tours (there are plenty to choose from); walks in the ancient woodlands of Glen Affric; visits to the pretty market towns and coastal villages nearby.

Inverness Accommodation

<http://guide.visitscotland.com/vs/guide/5,en,SCH1/objectId,RGN299vs,curr,GBP,season,at1,selectedEntry,home/home.html> (copy and paste address to your browser) for examples of a range of accommodation in Inverness to suit all budgets, e.g. from hostels, B&Bs, guest houses, apartments, small hotels and four star hotels.

Venturing Further Afield

The Cairngorms National Park – an area of outstanding natural beauty and the area's 'outdoor playground' with numerous opportunities for outdoor activities, walking and wildlife spotting; Glencoe – incredible mountains, outdoor activities, history; Ben Nevis – Britain's highest mountain; Isle of Skye & Dunvegan Castle; Eilean Donan Castle; the stunning and often remote communities of the west Coast; deserted, sandy beaches, dramatic mountains and rugged coastline of the north coast; Falls of Shin; Castle of Mey; East coast villages and harbours.

City of Edinburgh

The striking and cosmopolitan capital of Scotland has a wealth of places to go and things to see but is compact enough to discover on foot: Edinburgh Castle; The Royal Mile; Holyrood Palace & Park; ghost & history tours; The Scottish Parliament; Scotch Whisky Experience; National Museum of Scotland; the Royal Yacht Britannia; Edinburgh Zoo; numerous art galleries, exhibitions & theatres; Edinburgh International Climbing Arena; open top bus tours.

City of Glasgow

Scotland's biggest city (one hour on train west of Edinburgh) is vibrant and energetic with an array of incredible attractions, shops and restaurants, museums, galleries, culture and nightlife. Several sightseeing and walking tours are available.

Tour Companies

The following are just a few of the tour companies in existence who offer a varied range of one to five day tours of the Highlands and areas around Inverness, Edinburgh & Glasgow.

Mountains2Sea –

range of flexible Highland tours departing from Inverness. www.mountains2sea.co.uk

Highland Explorer Tours –

variety of 1-5 day, award-winning tours in the Highlands, Loch Ness and elsewhere. www.highlandexplorertours.com

The Highland Experience –

award winning, small, friendly tours (from 1 – 5 days) departing from Edinburgh or Glasgow. www.highlandexperience.com

The Internet Guide to Scotland –

useful website listing a variety of day trips & tours in and from Inverness. www.scotland-inverness.co.uk

Timberbush Tours –

1-3 day tours on luxury coaches, departing from Edinburgh or Glasgow. www.timberbush-tours.co.uk

Rabbie's Trail Burners –

small group, 1-5 day tours all over Scotland, departing Edinburgh or Glasgow. www.rabbies.com

Wilderness Scotland –

walking & adventure holidays in Scotland. www.wildernessscotland.com



www.lochnessmarathon.com