PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

Isle of Skye Weekend from Edinburgh

Our completed August 2025 trip via Glasgow and Inverness with two full hikes, five scenic stops and an actual cost of £118 per person.

2 days	£118 pp	Scotland	2 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	For two	Per person
Edinburgh → Glasgow train via Airdrie	£26	£13
Coach: Glasgow → Inverness and Inverness → Edinburgh	£50	£25
One night in Inverness	£35	£17.50
Enterprise Car Club hire	£90	£45
Fuel for the Skye return drive	£35	£17.50
Food brought from home	£0	£0
Parking and attractions	£0	£0
Total	£236	£118

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Train	ScotRail via Airdrie	Edinburgh Waverley / Haymarket	Glasgow Queen Street	£13 one-way per person on our trip	Use the slower booked route via Airdrie.
Coach	Booked Glasgow–I nverness coach	Glasgow Buchanan Bus Station	Inverness Bus Station	Included in £25 return coach fare per person	Use the operator and service number on the booked ticket.
Private vehicle	Enterprise Car Club vehicle	Inverness pickup bay	Eilean Donan, Sligachan, Storr, Kilt Rock and Quiraing	£90 hire plus £35 fuel for two on our trip	The completed Skye circuit was by hire car; there is no single public bus reproducing the full day.
Coach	Booked Inverness–Edinburgh return coach	Inverness Bus Station	Edinburgh Bus Station	Included in £25 return coach fare per person	Use the exact service shown on the return booking.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

Two people, one overnight stay and a very long return journey: we travelled from Edinburgh through Glasgow and Inverness, drove to Skye, completed two full hikes and returned to Edinburgh at 1 AM.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

Take the complete Skye weekend plan

Download the route, actual cost table, full hiking schedule and practical planning notes in a three-page PDF.

This was a compressed but memorable Highlands journey. On Friday evening we took the slower train from Edinburgh to Glasgow via Airdrie, continued overnight by coach to Inverness and checked into our Airbnb after 1 AM. On Saturday we collected an Enterprise Car Club vehicle and visited every stop in our planned Skye route before taking a direct night bus from Inverness back to Edinburgh.

Itemised budget: exactly what we spent

We kept this cheap Scottish Highlands road trip within budget by sharing the car and room, carrying every meal and choosing free walks and viewpoints.

These are our historical August 2025 costs rather than current quotations. Divided between two people, our confirmed cost was £118 per person.

Friday: Edinburgh to Inverness

We used the slower route via Airdrie. The two one-way tickets cost £26 in total, and we ate food brought from home during the journey.

We crossed central Glasgow to reach the coach station.

Our outward Glasgow–Inverness coach and direct Inverness–Edinburgh return were booked together for £25 per person.

We checked in late, rested briefly and had coffee at the Airbnb before starting early.

Saturday: our complete Skye road trip

We picked up our Enterprise Car Club vehicle and started the drive southwest.

We stopped outside for photographs from the viewpoint and did not pay to enter the castle.

After crossing the Skye Bridge, we stopped at Sligachan for the stone bridge and Black Cuillin views.

We completed the walk rather than stopping at the lower viewpoint, carrying our own lunch and water.

We continued north to the coastal viewpoint, where the waterfall drops over the basalt cliffs.

We completed the Quiraing walk and took in the Trotternish landscape before beginning the long drive back.

We refuelled, returned the vehicle and walked to the bus station.

We travelled directly from Inverness to Edinburgh and arrived at approximately 1:00 AM on Sunday, 10 August.

Edinburgh → Glasgow → Inverness → Eilean Donan Castle → Sligachan → Old Man of Storr → Kilt Rock and Mealt Falls → Quiraing → Inverness → Edinburgh.

Where we stayed: budget accommodation in Inverness

August accommodation on the Isle of Skye was expensive, so we stayed in Inverness and paid £35 total for one night. This kept the room cost to £17.50 per person and placed us near the car pickup and coach station. The compromise was a very long Saturday drive. Use the Inverness Booking.com comparison card below to check current prices for your own dates.

Could you do this trip without driving?

Yes, but not with the same one-day route. Public transport does not conveniently connect every stop on this itinerary. A guided Skye tour from Inverness is the practical alternative if you do not want to handle the hire car, navigation and long return drive. The verified GetYourGuide comparison link below shows current tour options; always check the pickup location, duration and included stops.

Eilean Donan Castle viewpoint

We used the exterior viewpoint rather than buying castle tickets. It was a scenic first stop before crossing towards Skye.

Sligachan Old Bridge

Sligachan gave us a classic Skye scene: the old stone bridge, river and jagged Cuillin mountains.

Old Man of Storr

We completed the full walk, making this one of the most physically demanding and rewarding parts of our short trip.

Kilt Rock and Mealt Falls

The waterfall and basalt cliffs made this an efficient roadside stop between the two longer walks.

The Quiraing

We completed the walk across the dramatic landslip terrain before returning to Inverness.

What to pack for this fast Skye weekend

The Amazon travel-kit section near the end of this guide contains our tagged affiliate links for relevant essentials.

Why the trip stayed affordable

Our main savings came from sharing the car and Airbnb, packing every meal, using the exterior Eilean Donan viewpoint and choosing free natural attractions. The trade-off was an intense schedule and a 1 AM arrival back in Edinburgh.

Compare guided Skye tours

If you do not want to drive the long route yourself, compare current Skye day tours and multi-day options. Check the pickup point, walking time, total price and cancellation terms before booking.

Affiliate disclosure: if you book through this link, Smart Budget Traveler may earn a commission at no extra cost to you.

Budget traveller’s quick summary

Trip: Edinburgh → Glasgow → Inverness → Isle of Skye → Edinburgh

Dates: 8–9 August 2025, arriving home at 1 AM on 10 August

Cost: £236 for two; £118 per person

Highlights: Eilean Donan, Sligachan, Old Man of Storr, Kilt Rock, Mealt Falls and the Quiraing

Walking: Full Old Man of Storr and Quiraing walks completed

More real Scottish budget trips

Choosing an Inverness base

Our new guide compares the most practical areas for late coaches, early car collection and a one-night stay before Skye.

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.