

# TOUR 1 SCOTLAND

This coast-to-coast culinary adventure takes in some of the best of the Highlands, from the city of Inverness, and the handsome fishing town of Ullapool to a staggering drive through the glacial landscape of mountains and lochs that lies between. It may be a stretch to complete the journey in one day but would provide the framework for a wonderful weekend jaunt.

Begin from Inverness, and if you need sustenance before you set out, try the **Castle Restaurant** (41 Castle Street, Inverness, Inverness-Shire IV2 3DU; 01463 230925) overlooking (yes, you guessed) Inverness Castle. Joining the A9 heading for Perth/Ullapool, cross the grand Kessock Bridge over the Beaully Firth, and at Tore, take a left onto the A835 towards Ullapool. Take the third exit at the roundabout, signposted as the A862 to Wick, and visit Dingwall – a small town that is the birthplace of Macbeth, and home to **George Cockburn & Son**, purveyors of award-winning haggis.

Once back on the A835, continue west in the deepening valley through the village of Contin, driving alongside the railway line around Loch Garve, with dark imposing hills on each side. Take the left turn to Gairloch (the A832), still following the railway line and touching the western edge of Loch Luichart. The road bends and twists through more lochs and through stunning, steep-sided glens, and eventually a left turn onto the B8056 will deliver you to Badachro, and lunch at the warm and welcoming **Badachro Inn**.

Doubling back, turn left onto the A832 winding around the shores of further lochs and through the pretty settlements of Drumchork and Badcaul. The road rises again before joining the A835 once more by the impressive Falls of Measach, where the river plunges 150 feet down the Corrieshalloch Gorge. A suspension bridge above the falls makes for a stunning photo. Pushing on down the valley

alongside Loch Broom, the road eventually drops you off in the fishing port of Ullapool, where you can find fabulous snacks and teas at the unique **Ceilidh Place**, a combined hotel, restaurant, bookshop and live music venue (14 West Argyle Street, Ullapool IV26 2TY; 01854 612103; [www.ceilidhplace.com](http://www.ceilidhplace.com)).

Heading out northwest on the A835, take the left turn just before the hamlet of Drumrunie, onto a narrow, winding unclassified road that again follows the lie of the lochs. Turn left again at the next junction, and nestling on the shore of Badentarbat Bay is the village of Achiltibuie on the west coast, where **The Summer Isles Hotel** will provide dinner and, if needed, a room with a romantic vista out across the isles from which it takes its name.

*This drive has been created in association with Andrew Cameron, a keen Scottish food champion who works with Scottish Food and Drink.*

