

Highland Perthshire and Dundee

Follow the River Tay to the sea



© Dundee City Council



The Atholl Highlanders, Blair Castle



Dundee Contemporary Arts



Edradour Distillery, near Pitlochry



Looking over Dundee and the River Tay from The Law

Ideas to inspire

Enjoy a wonderful 4-day countryside and city break in the east of Scotland. Within easy reach of Scotland's central belt, the striking scenery, history and natural heritage of Highland Perthshire is perfectly complemented by the culture, parks, shopping and food and drink of a Dundee city break.

Starting in the Pitlochry area, explore the history of elegant Blair Castle, then head for Loch Tummel and admire the wonderful Queen's View with its delightful Forestry Commission Scotland visitor centre. Neolithic history is the next stop as you marvel at the reconstructed Iron Age crannog at the Scottish Crannog Centre. End the day with a visit to Dewar's World of Whisky, where a tour of Aberfeldy Distillery blends perfectly with displays showcasing how Dewar's has become one of the world's favourite whiskies.

Day two begins with a stroll through the woodlands of The Hermitage near Dunkeld, towards the impressive Black Linn waterfall. Next, stop off at Stanley Mills and discover Perthshire's fascinating industrial heritage, before heading to Perth to explore the absorbing Black Watch Museum. The day ends with a visit to Scone Palace, the historic crowning place of Scottish kings.



Magdalen Green Bandstand, Dundee

The trip moves to Dundee, the UK's first UNESCO City of Design, on day three, to explore the cultural and historic gems of this compact and superbly situated city. Don't miss the exciting exhibits of the McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum and

learn about Captain Robert Falcon Scott's Antarctic expeditions aboard RRS Discovery. Building has now started on the V&A Museum of Design, which will add to the city's enviable cultural assets when it opens in 2018.

Relax and explore Dundee's urban green spaces on day four with visits to Camperdown Country Park, the beautiful University of Dundee Botanic Garden and the pretty seaside town of Broughty Ferry, where you can enjoy a restful break. There are also plenty of independent cafés, bars and restaurants across the city, offering local produce including renowned Dundee Cake.

Brilliant events in Perthshire

May - Atholl Highlanders Parade & Gathering, Blair Castle

July - Kenmore Highland Games

July - GWCT Scottish Game Fair, Scone Palace, by Perth

August - Aberfeldy Show & Games

August - Blair Castle International Horse Trials & Country Fair, Blair Atholl

October - Perthshire Amber Music Festival, various Perthshire venues

October - The Enchanted Forest, Pitlochry

Find out about these and other events at www.visitscotland.com/perthshire

Brilliant events in Dundee

Monthly (third Saturday) - Dundee Farmers' Market, City Square

May - Ignite Festival, various venues across Dundee

June - Almost Blues Festival, various city centre venues

June - Strathmore Highland Games, Glamis Castle, by Forfar

July - Broughty Ferry Gala Week

July - Scottish Transport Extravaganza, Glamis Castle, by Forfar

August - Alba Ale Fest, Royal Tay Yacht Club, Broughty Ferry

September - Dundee Flower & Food Festival, Camperdown Country Park

October - Dundee Literary Festival – various venues across the city

October - Oktoberfest, Discovery Quay

November - Dundee Mountain Film Festival, University of Dundee

November - Dundee Science Festival, Dundee Science Centre

November - Christmas Lights Night – City Square

Find out about these and other events at www.dundee.com/whats

Highland Perthshire and Dundee

Day 1 - Pitlochry & Aberfeldy



1
BLAIR CASTLE & GARDEN, BLAIR ATHOLL – Discover the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home of Europe's last private army, the Atholl Highlanders. More than 30 rooms are full of Scottish cultural history, architectural design and period furnishings. Highlights include the Victorian ballroom which features 175 pairs of antlers and the entrance hall containing weapons used at the Battle of Culloden.



2
QUEEN'S VIEW VISITOR CENTRE, LOCH TUMMEL – Situated in Tay Forest Park, this is one of the finest and most photographed views in Scotland and is said to have been named after Queen Victoria, following her visit to the area in 1866. The visitor centre includes a shop, café, an accessible trail to the viewing platform and detailed information about Highland Perthshire's forests and the surrounding area.



3
THE SCOTTISH CRANNOG CENTRE, LOCH TAY – An award-winning visitor centre on the shores of Loch Tay, near Kenmore. Step inside an authentic Iron Age loch-dwelling and learn how its inhabitants lived 2,500 years ago. Guides in period clothing bring the past to life! Experience hands-on ancient crafts or visit the gift shop and café. Open April to October but group bookings can be made by appointment.



4
DEWAR'S WORLD OF WHISKY, ABERFELDY – Hear the extraordinary tale of John Dewar & Sons and discover the inspiring story behind America's top selling Scotch whisky. Distillery and warehouse tours available throughout the day, along with a unique heritage centre providing interactive exhibits and access to fascinating archives. The brand store offers exclusive bottlings and there's also a café.



5
KILLIECRANKIE VISITOR CENTRE – This National Trust for Scotland visitor centre is situated in an impressive wooded gorge and popular beauty spot, which is well known for the Jacobite battle that took place nearby. One soldier escaped by making a spectacular jump across the River Garry at the spot now known as Soldier's Leap. The visitor centre features hands-on natural history exhibits, models and maps of the battle.

Day 1 overnight suggestions: Kenmore Hotel, Atholl Palace Hotel, Fisher's Hotel, Green Park Hotel, Scotland's Hotel. See www.visitscotland.com for more options.

Day 2 - Dunkeld & Perth



1
THE HERMITAGE, DUNKELD – A walk in the delightful woodlands leads through a cathedral-like canopy of Douglas firs to the folly of Ossian's Hall perched above impressive Black Linn waterfall. Continue along the trail and see the Hermit's cave, once inhabited by an actual hermit who was paid to live in the woodlands. Follow in the footsteps of notable visitors including Queen Victoria, Wordsworth and Mendelssohn.



2
STANLEY MILLS, STANLEY – Stanley Mills is one of the best-preserved sites of the 18th-century Industrial Revolution. It was established as a cotton mill by local merchants in 1786 and produced textiles for 200 years. The visitor centre with its hi-tech interactive exhibits tells the stories of those who worked here and the products they made. See if your fingers are as nimble as a child's and hear the clamour of the factory.



3
THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE & MUSEUM, PERTH – This captivating museum, housed in 16th century Balhousie Castle, tells the unique story behind Scotland's premier Highland regiment. Located close to Perth city centre, this 5-star attraction also offers an excellent café, shop, free parking, guided tours and a changing programme of events and exhibitions. Coach parking is available but must be booked in advance.



4
SCONE PALACE, BY PERTH – Scone Palace has an exciting and colourful history. 1500 years ago it was a Pictish capital. It has also been the seat of parliament and the crowning place of the Kings of Scots, including Macbeth and Robert The Bruce. It houses an outstanding collection of antiques, paintings and rare artefacts and the grounds are world-renowned. Excellent coach parking facilities available.



5
THE FAMOUS GROUSE EXPERIENCE AT GLENTWORTH DISTILLERY – A 5-star rated attraction open all year for guided tours of Scotland's oldest distillery, which dates back to 1775. Enjoy a range of tours, an award-winning interactive show, café, shop and even a dram of whisky or two. The Glentworth Distillery is the source of The Glentworth Malt, one of the key whiskies used in The Famous Grouse blend.

Day 2 overnight suggestions: Hilton Dunkeld House, Royal Dunkeld Hotel, Premier Inn Perth City Centre, Murrayshall Hotel, Royal George Hotel, Ballathie Country House Hotel.

Day 3 - Dundee Culture & History



1
THE MCMANUS: DUNDEE'S ART GALLERY & MUSEUM – The exhibits at this award-winning free-to-enter attraction are housed within a magnificent Victorian, Gothic-revival style building where art, history and regular exhibitions combine to offer a fascinating insight into Dundee, spanning 400 million years. The museum also contains an extensive retail area and a welcoming café with an outdoor terrace.



2
DISCOVERY POINT & RRS DISCOVERY* – Come aboard the remarkable Royal Research Ship Discovery and learn about life in the Antarctic with Captain Scott and his crew, as they undertook one of the world's most heroic expeditions in 1901. Find out about the 'Heroes of the Ice' and enjoy state-of-the-art audio visual and multimedia exhibits, alongside displays of actual artefacts that belonged to Scott and his crew.



3
SCOTLAND'S JUTE MUSEUM @ VERDANT WORKS – For many in the 19th century, Dundee was a city of long working hours, poor pay and ill health. For a privileged few it was a city of opportunity and wealth. Hear the roar of the original restored machinery at this award-winning attraction and the Juteopolis film show and computer displays will transport you back over 100 years to an era when jute was king.



4
DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE – Home of Scotland's only full-time ensemble company and Scottish Dance Theatre, nationally-renowned Dundee Rep in the city centre, hosts an exciting year round programme of drama, dance, music and comedy. Enjoy a performance at one of Dundee's cultural gems, where you can savour delicious meals in the award-winning Encore Bar and Brasserie.



5
GLAMIS CASTLE, BY FORFAR* – The family home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Glamis Castle is one of the legendary settings for Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and was the childhood home of the late Queen Mother. Steeped in history, the castle has evolved over the years to become a stunning architectural treasure, where legendary tales and secrets are vividly brought to life by enthusiastic tour guides.

Day 3 overnight suggestions: Holiday Inn Express, Malmaison Hotel, Apex Hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton, Invercarse Hotel, Woodlands Hotel, Taypark Boutique Hotel.

*Royal Discovery Pass available, which offers discounted entry to these two attractions. Visit www.rrsdiscovery.com/index.php?pageID=18 to find out more.

Day 4 - Dundee Naturally



1
CAMPERDOWN COUNTRY PARK AND WILDLIFE CENTRE – Dundee's largest public park offering a range of activities including a wonderful wildlife centre, where you'll find European brown bears, ring-tailed lemurs, and more, an 18-hole championship golf course, a pirate-themed adventure playground and woodland trails. The park also hosts events throughout the year including Dundee Flower & Food Festival.



2
DUNDEE BOTANIC GARDEN – Visit this beautiful garden and walk amidst collections of plants, trees and shrubs from Scotland, the Mediterranean, America and Australasia. There are also tropical and temperate glasshouses and water and herb gardens to explore. Located in 9.5 hectares overlooking the River Tay, this is the perfect place to unwind. There's also a popular café and gift shop with plant nursery.



3
BROUGHTY FERRY BEACH AND TOWN – Guarded by historic Broughty Castle in the former fishing village of Broughty Ferry, this award-winning beach at the mouth of the River Tay, is the perfect place to relax. You might even spot seabirds, seals and the occasional porpoise or dolphin. After your visit to the beach, eat out in a fine selection of cafés, bars and restaurants in the town and browse charming boutique shops.



4
BROUGHTY CASTLE MUSEUM – Discover the history of Broughty Ferry in this 15th century coastal fort, which once faced many sieges and now houses a museum telling the absorbing story of the town. Enjoy spectacular views over the Tay Estuary, where you might spot dolphins. Refreshments and a gift shop are on-site and admission is free. The castle is not suitable for wheelchair users.



5
MILLS OBSERVATORY (EVENING VISITS) – This is Britain's first purpose-built public observatory. See the stars and planets through the impressive Victorian refracting telescope, whilst the reflecting telescope, with state-of-the-art 'go to' technology, allows you to hop from one object to another more quickly. Planetarium shows, family workshop events, talks and solar viewing are available depending on the time of year.

Day 4 overnight suggestions: Holiday Inn Express, Malmaison Hotel, Apex Hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton, Invercarse Hotel, Woodlands Hotel, Taypark Boutique Hotel.