



Ideas to inspire

Perthshire

A place of remarkable natural beauty with its tranquil glens, lush forests and a vibrant, ancient city which is also Scotland's most recent, Perthshire offers visitors centuries of history, enthralling attractions, delicious food and drink, an incredible array of wildlife to spot and some of the most exciting events and festivals to enjoy.

Starting from Scotland's newest city Perth, discover Perthshire's unique connections to fascinating historical figures. Visit the crowning place of Scottish Kings at Scone Palace, uncover the story of the elite Black Watch military regiment and enjoy the 'Fair City' of Perth on the banks of the River Tay.

Delight in Perthshire's spectacular scenery as you head to Blair Castle and Gardens to the ancestral home of the Dukes of Atholl. Find out how Queen Victoria's famous stay here led to the creation of Europe's only private army, the Atholl Highlanders. Then enjoy one of the finest views in Scotland from Queen's View.

Experience whisky tours and tastings at some of Perthshire's incredible selection of whisky distilleries. Delight in some of the most glorious gardens and experience some of the most exquisite shopping to add to your groups' memories of Perthshire.

Use this four day itinerary to help you and your group experience the essence of Perthshire and take home truly brilliant memories.

Events:

May - Perth Festival of Arts, various locations

One of the highlights in Scotland's cultural calendar, this 11 day festival is a feast for the senses. Enjoy classical music, opera, rock, jazz, dance as well as arts and crafts stalls by the River Tay.

www.perthfestival.co.uk

May - The Atholl Highlanders Parade and Gathering, Blair Castle

Join Europe's only remaining private army for their annual parade and traditional Highland games. Enjoy piping competitions, Highland dancing and family activities.

www.blair-castle.co.uk

October - The Enchanted Forest, Faskally Wood near Pitlochry

Explore the stunning autumn woodland setting of Faskally Wood near Pitlochry. Using the forest as a natural backdrop, you will experience a sound and lighting show that is, quite simply, out of this world.

www.enchantedforest.org.uk

October/November Perthshire Amber- The Dougie MacLean Festival

Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Dougie MacLean fulfilled his dream with the creation of The Perthshire Amber Festival, a festival that lights up the autumn across some of Scotland's more beautiful countryside. Featuring the finest of Scotland's musical talent as well as some international guests in a range of iconic venues.

www.perthshireamber.com

November - Glenfiddich Piping and Fiddle Championship, Blair Atholl, Perthshire

Enjoy the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping and Fiddle Championships as musicians battle for the ultimate accolade of piping and fiddle events taking place throughout the year.

www.blair-castle.co.uk

Perthshire

Day 1



1
SCONE PALACE - Scone Palace has an exciting and colourful history. Fifteen hundred years ago it was the capital of the Picts. It has also been the seat of parliaments 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 renowned throughout the world. Excellent coach parking.



2
BLACK WATCH MUSEUM - The Black Watch Castle and Museum tells the unique story behind Scotland's premier Highland regiment. Located in the city of Perth, The Black Watch Castle and Museum offers an excellent café, shop, free parking, guided tours and changing programme of events and exhibitions. Coach parking must be booked in advance of visit.



3
PERTH ART GALLERY & MUSEUM - One of the oldest museums in the UK with more than half a million objects. The permanent displays explore the artistic, social and natural history of Perthshire. Visitors can also find some more surprising objects on display such as the fragments of a meteorite that crashed into Tayside almost 100 years ago.



4
FERGUSSON GALLERY - The gallery celebrates the life and work of the Scottish Colourist John Duncan Fergusson and his wife Margaret Morris, a groundbreaking modern dancer. Sketchbooks, costumes and photographs illuminate the fascinating lives and love of these two remarkable artists, whose marriage lasted almost half a century.



Optional extras
BRANKLYN GARDENS - Discover a magnificent garden with an impressive collection of rare and unusual plants. Among them is the Himalayan blue poppy, Meconopsis x sheldonii and rare golden cedrus. Seasonal highlights include the renowned collection of primulas, alpines and rhododendrons in May and June while in the autumn the garden comes to life with the fiery red Acer palmatum.

Day 2



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



2
BELL'S BLAIR ATHOLL DISTILLERY - Experience the production of a single malt whisky and learn the Blender's Art. Taste the 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky made from the water of the Allt Dour burn, with a mellow deep-toned aroma, a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish. Complete your visit by looking around the well-stocked shop.



3
QUEENS VIEW VISITOR CENTRE - 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 the forests and area surrounding Highland Perthshire.



4
HOUSE OF BRUAR - Just off the A9, 8 miles North of Pitlochry with excellent coach parking. Superlative shopping awaits in the "Harrods of the North". Sitings like a castle at the foot of the spectacular Bruar Falls, and widely acknowledged as Scotland's most prestigious independent store, House of Bruar houses a great range of country clothing, gifts and food.

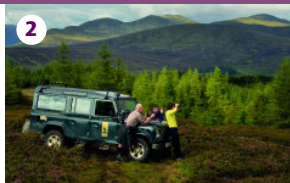


Optional extras
KILLECRANKIE VISITOR CENTRE - An impressive wooded gorge and popular beauty spot which is well known for the Jacobite battle which took place nearby. One soldier escaped by making a spectacular jump across the River Garry at the spot now known as Soldier's Leap. The Visitor Centre features 'hands-on' natural history exhibits, models and maps of the battle.

Day 3



1
DEWAR'S WORLD OF WHISKY - 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 challenges and access to fascinating archives. Brand store offers exclusive bottling and there's also a café serving local produce.



2
HIGHLAND SAFARIS - The winner of the "Best Visitor Experience" in Scotland, Highland Safaris combines Scotland newest wildlife attraction, the red deer centre with exhilarating land rover safaris, and Perthshire's only gold and gem panning centre. Relax and enjoy the award winning Highland Safaris café and shop set in a unique and stunning location.



3
THE SCOTTISH CRANNOG CENTRE - Award winning visitor centre on the shores of Loch Tay, 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 hand-on ancient crafts or visit the gift shop and café. Open April to October but group bookings can be made by appointment.



4
IAIN BURNETT HIGHLAND CHOCOLATIER - Sample award-winning chocolates of outstanding and exquisite quality. Explore all and learn of Iain Burnett's artisan chocolates in the fascinating exhibition about gourmet chocolate, browse the elegant showrooms and experience the magical coffee and chocolate house. Advance booking advised for coach tours.



Optional extras
CLUNY GARDENS - An exceptional woodland garden sustaining many unusual plants, red squirrels and the UK's widest conifer. Cluny House Gardens are a secluded, unique woodland garden situated in the heart of Scotland, overlooking the scenic Strathray valley. Advanced booking by contacting 01887 820795 for up to 36 seat coaches. Toilet facilities will be made available in the house to coach parties, again by prior arrangement.

Day 4



1
DRUMMOND CASTLE GARDENS - One of the finest formal gardens in Europe and largest of its type in Scotland. One of the most interesting features is the multi-faceted sundial designed by John Mylne, Master Mason to Charles I. The gardens featured as a setting in recent film "Rob Roy". Advance booking advised for coach tours. Familiarisation trips also welcome.



2
CRIEFF VISITOR CENTRE/ CAITHNESS GLASS - Popular visitor centre on the outskirts of Crieff with a garden centre, viewing area for the Caithness Glass factory and the Drovers' exhibition which gives a fascinating insight into the history of the area and its people. Follow in the footsteps of Scotland's cattle drovers and experience the life and times of the people who made Crieff the crossroads of Scotland at the turn of the 18th century.



3
FAMOUS GROUSE EXPERIENCE AT GLENTURRET DISTILLERY - A 5-star rated attraction open all year for guided tours of Scotland's oldest distillery. Enjoy a range of tours, an award winning interactive show, café, shop and even a dram of whisky or two. The Glenturret distillery is the source of The Glenturret Malt, one of the key whiskies used in The Famous Grouse blend.



4
LOCHLEVEN MILLS - Excellent cashmere outlet offering good value stylish shopping and café facilities located just minutes away from Junction 6 of the M90 motorway. View beautiful cashmere garments and accessories and a wide range of stylish clothing for men and women from a range of well known, popular brands. Groups welcome.



Optional extras
LOCHLEVEN CASTLE - This late 14th/early 15th century tower, now in the care of Historic Scotland, was the setting for the most traumatic year in the life of Mary Queen of Scots. It was here in 1567 that she was imprisoned and forced to abdicate before her dramatic escape a year later. Follow in the footsteps of Robert Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots as you take a boat ride to cross the loch to the island. Advanced booking advised.