



SOFT ADVENTURE

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Your Coach: Hardhill Executive Travel

Hardhill Executive Travel is a family business. They have a range of buses from 12 to 54 seats to suit different needs and offer a flexible service: executive hire, event travel, school trips, sports travel or club holiday. Based at the outskirts of Edinburgh, in Bathgate, this experience coach company has been a reliable partner on VisitScotland's previous Expo editions.

Hardhill Executive Travel

Unit 5 Easter Inch Industrial Estate
Bathgate
EH48 2FG

Contact: Ian Whatley
T: +44 (0)1506 656591
E: bookings@hardhillexecutivetravel.co.uk
W: www.hardhillexecutivetravel.co.uk



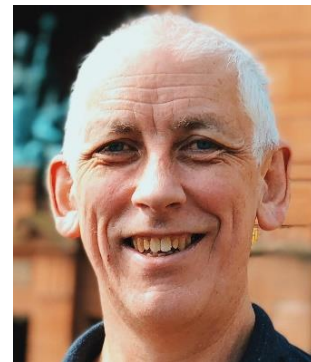
STGA: Scottish Tourist Guides Association

The STGA has over 400 members based in Scotland listed under different categories including Blue Badge Guides, Green Badge Guides and Yellow Badge Guides. Each guide brings a host of different skills ranging from languages to specialist areas of interest but what they all have in common is that they are great communicators.

SCOTTISH TOURIST GUIDES ASSOCIATION

Norrie's House
18b Broad Street
Stirling, FK8 1EF
T: + (0) 1786 447 784
E: info@stga.co.uk
W: www.stga.co.uk

Your Guide: Jim Leslie
T: 07397 160 363
E: kiltedguide@outlook.com
W: www.kiltedguide.com



Day One

Dinner and overnight stay at Malmaison Hotel, Dundee

Located in the former premises of the famous Tay Hotel, Malmaison Dundee is a beautifully reconstructed building. With a mixture of historic character and modern flair, the property has all the facilities for a comfortable stay. Only 100m from the riverfront, Malmaison Dundee provides stylish, boutique accommodation in the heart of the city. Just 500m from Dundee railway station with the shops, pubs and restaurants of Central Dundee all within a 10-minute walk. The hotel has its own cosy brasserie and Jospier Grill, open for lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch. The hotel's Malbar venue has a comprehensive list of classic and quirky cocktails, wines, ice cold beers and whiskies. Malmaison Hotel can offer cocktail masterclasses for groups.

Malmaison Dundee

44 Whitehall Crescent,
Dundee
DD1 4AY

Contact: Claire Macfarlane
T: 0844 693 0661
E: info.dundee@malmaison.com
W: <https://www.malmaison.com/>



09:00 Depart Malmaison

09:30 Meet Electric bike Scotland at City Quay

EBS Cycle Centre provide a range of bikes (traditional/electric/tandem/cargo) for hire. Also included are all accessories such as helmets, baskets, pannier bags, maps and disposable ponchos. EBS also offer a full drop off/pick up service from hotels. Cycling would be a great way for travellers to explore the local area and beyond as Dundee has a 26-mile green circular cycle route around the city as well as other routes in the area.

EBS Cycle Centre

City Quay,
Camperdown St,
Dundee
DD1 3JA

Contact: Barbara Donald
T: + 44 (0) 1382 884414
E: info@ebscyclecentre.co.uk
W: <http://electricbikesscotland.co.uk/>



11:30 Arrive at Sleeperz Hotel, Dundee

Sleeperz Hotel Dundee is a new 120-bed design-led hotel located directly above Dundee Railway Station, the gateway to the city. Guests will enjoy views over the nearby V&A Museum Dundee, the River Tay and onto the new Waterfront Plaza. The glass fronted restaurant and bar allows a relaxing and ambient place for any guest to enjoy.

Sleeperz

FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL TRADE NEED VISIT



2 South Union Street,
Dundee,
Dundee,
DD1 4BF

Contact: Aimie Beasley
T: 07469858725
E: aimiebeasley@sleeperz.com
W: www.sleeperz.com

13.30 Dark Dundee Tours for a walking tour in Dundee

Dark Dundee Tours run historical walking tours within Dundee City. Tours are presented by two local guides, a double act of storytellers bringing energy and humour. DD has a wide range of tours including underground vaults - all tours can be adapted to include locations and stories of interest to the group.

DD Tours

Dundee,
Scotland

Contact: Louise Murphy
T: 07446625682
E: admin@ddtours.co.uk
W: www.ddtours.co.uk/



14:35 Travel to Stirling

15:45 Arrive at Stirling Distillery

16:00 Tour of Stirling distillery

Stirling Gin was founded in October 2015 by husband and wife team June and Cameron McCann. Their vision was to produce a spirit that reflected the unique countryside of Stirlingshire and by using locally foraged nettles as well as fresh basil they created a distinctly smooth and spicy herbal gin. What began as a project of passion quickly became a national treasure and June and Cameron took over the “Old Smiddy” in 2018 to build Stirling's first legal distillery. Situated at the foot of Stirling's beautiful castle, the distillery building has existed since 1888 and began life as a church temperance hall. From its humble roots, Stirling Distillery now produces a variety of spirits from gin to liqueurs and is planning on distilling the city's first whisky in 2019.

Stirling Distillery

9 Lower Castlehill,
Stirling,
Stirlingshire,
FK8 1EN

Contact: Charlie Fletcher
T: +44 (0) 1786596496
E: hello@stirlinggin.co.uk
W: <http://www.stirlinggin.co.uk/>



17:15 Travel to Novotel Glasgow City Centre

18:30 Arrive Novotel Glasgow City Centre Hotel for dinner and overnight stay

Conveniently located in the heart of Glasgow, the hotel offers twin, double and family rooms furnished to a high standard, as well as a newly opened restaurant and our bar serving a variety of local delights. Guests can rejuvenate after busy days in our fitness centre or relax completely in the sauna and steam room. The proximity to the M8 motorway makes them an ideal base for accessing the airport, The Highlands and more.

Novotel Glasgow City Centre Hotel

181 Pitt Street,
Glasgow,
Glasgow,
G2 4DT

Contact: Amy Sutherland
T: 0141 222 2775
E: H3136-sb@accor.com
W: <https://all.accor.com/hotel/>



Day Two

08:45 Depart Novotel Glasgow City Centre Hotel

10:00 Arrive at New Lanark World Heritage Site for tour

The village of New Lanark, by the banks of the River Clyde, grew up around 18th century mills where cotton was manufactured. The last mill closed in the 1960s but a subsequent restoration programme resulted in New Lanark becoming a World Heritage Site attraction. At the visitor centre your clients can learn the story of the village while nearby is the Falls of Clyde wildlife reserve with its peregrine falcons and waterfalls. About 200 people currently live in the village in restored houses. The New Lanark Conservation Trust owns many buildings in the village. The village has a three-star hotel, the New Lanark Mill Hotel which has a restaurant while other eating facilities can be found in nearby Lanark. The town has a large free car park and while the nearest train station is in Lanark, regular buses travel through to the village.

New Lanark World Heritage Site

Lanark,
South Lanarkshire,
ML11 9DB

Contact: Melissa Reilly
T: 01555 661345
E: trust@newlanark.org
W: www.newlanark.org/



11:15 Depart New Lanark New Lanark World Heritage site

12:30 Arrive The Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

The Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel is a traditional yet stylish country hotel in the picturesque town of Thornhill. Situated three miles from Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfries and Galloway and only 90 minutes from Edinburgh or Glasgow. The BQA offers great food, both in the relaxed hotel restaurant as well as the classic pub environment of the back bar. The Hotel has 12 bedrooms, private dining room, function room and herb garden. Dumfries and Galloway boast unspoilt countryside and is set in one of the least discovered areas of Scotland. The surrounding region is bursting with stunning coastlines, extensive forests, beautiful rivers and rugged hills. Enjoy long walks, cycling, riding, canoeing and fishing on the Nith as well as the many field sports on our doorstep.

The Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

112 Drumlanrig Street,
Thornhill,
Dumfriesshire,
DG3 5LU

Contact: Alasdair Knight
T: 01848 323101
E: info@bqahotel.com



14:15 Depart the The Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

15:15 Arrive at Galloway Activity Centre

The award-winning Galloway Activity Centre is situated in the heart of the Galloway Forest Park offering authentic and unique experiences on the shores of Loch Ken. A large choice of land and water-based activities are complimented by fantastic Scottish food and a range of exciting accommodation options. Activity choices from wilderness kayak trips for those wanting to explore nature, to Scotland's first 40-foot Giant 3G swing for the adrenaline junkies! Suitable for large groups.

Galloway Activity Centre,

Loch Ken,
Castle Douglas,
Dumfries and Galloway,
DG73NQ

C: Richard
T: +44 (0) 1556502011
E: gac@lochken.co.uk
W: www.lochken.co.uk



17:30 Depart Galloway Activity Centre

18:30 Arrive at Cairndale Hotel and Leisure Club

The Cairndale Hotel is a family owned business and has been run by the same family since 1983. It is one of South West Scotland's leading hotels and offers 91 suites and bedrooms, all en-suite, as well as extensive function facilities and a private leisure club. Located in the Scottish town centre of Dumfries, this Victorian hotel has plenty of charm and character and offers guests a welcoming and relaxing place to stay. With two restaurants as well as an informal café bar, the hotel also

offers individuals a choice of areas in which to dine. Entertainment is a regular feature at the hotel and various events are held regularly throughout the year.

Cairndale Hotel & Leisure Club

English Street
Dumfries,
DG1 2DF

Contact: Suzanne Mitchell,
T: +44 (0) 1387 254111
E: suzanne@cairndalehotel.co.uk
W: www.cairndalehotel.co.uk



Day Three

09:30 Visit to Drumlanrig Castle

Set in the 120,000-acre Queensberry Estate, complete with a country park and Victorian gardens, this 17th century castle is one of the most important Renaissance buildings in the country. The Dumfriesshire home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, Drumlanrig Castle with its magnificent rooms and spectacular collections of silver, porcelain, French furniture and art - including Rembrandt's Old Woman Reading - is perhaps one of the most rewarding and romantic of Scotland's great houses.

Drumlanrig Castle

Thornhill,
Dumfries & Galloway,
DG3 4AQ

Contact: Claire Oram
T: +44 (0)1848 331555
E: info@drumlanrigcastle.co.uk
W: <https://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk/>



10:45 Leave Drumlanrig Castle

12:00 Lunch and Show round at Hampton by Hilton Hamilton Park

Set amongst the beautiful grounds of Hamilton Park Racecourse, Hampton by Hilton Hamilton Park will be opening its doors in summer 2019, and we can't wait to welcome you. When you stay with us, you can sit back and relax in one of our 118 air-conditioned bedrooms and watch over the beautiful grounds including the racetrack below. Located just 15 miles from Glasgow City Centre. The amenities include over 100 complimentary car parking spaces, Free Wi-Fi, casual dining and bar facility with 24h service available for residents, complimentary fitness centre access and quiet work zone.

Hampton by Hilton Hamilton Park

Bothwell Road,
Hamilton,
South Lanarkshire,
ML3 0DW

Contact: Georgia McKay
T: 01698 478 555
E: Georgia.mckay@hilton.com
W:<https://www.hamptonhamiltonpark.hamptonbyhilton.com/>

13:30 Leave Hampton by Hilton

14:00 Arrive at Glasgow City Centre



VisitScotland's Themed Years

Year of Scotland's Coasts and Waters 2020

In 2020, Scotland celebrates its Coasts and Waters with a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

From our beautiful natural features including coasts, lochs and rivers to our industrial heritage such as our canals, mills and the creation of our national drink – whisky, Scotland's Coasts and Waters have shaped our culture, our stories and our way of life.

So, whether you want to navigate your way around distant isles or canals, experience Scotland's maritime heritage at a visitor attraction, enjoy Scotland's abundant natural larder or discover Scotland's wildlife on a local boat trip - Scotland's coasts and waters are perfect for get-away-from-it-all adventures.

For more info www.visitscotland.com/ycw2020 and join the conversation using #YCW2020



Year of Scotland's Stories 2022

Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 will shine a spotlight on the richness of our stories, past and present; celebrating our literary Icons and heroes, diverse voices, stories that have leapt from page to screen and stage, the richness of our myths, legends and local tales - and the places that have inspired them.

The words of Robert Burns are known and celebrated across the world, as are works by Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, while stories by modern Scottish authors, such as JK Rowling's Harry Potter tales, are inspiring today's generation.

The story of real life legends such as King Robert the Bruce, Sir William Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots have inspired poems, books and even Oscar winning movies.

Stories of magic, ghosts, witches, haunted castles and tales of mystical figures such as Kelpies abound, and there are the oral traditions handed down through generations in Scotland's many diverse communities. We invite visitors to joins us in exploring the rich history of Scotland's stories in 2022, including a programme of events which will take place across the year



VisitScotland Websites

Our travel trade website offers the travel industry a one-stop-shop for **Scotland information, inspiration and tool kit**. The site is designed to assist tour operators and agents to sell destination Scotland more effectively to their clients.

Travel trade website www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com

Destination Education Programme www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent

VisitScotland consumer site www.visitscotland.com

Information on travel trade website

- Inspirational itineraries
- Downloadable e-brochures and maps
- Link to multimedia library for images and videos
- Online destination education programme
- Opt-in to receive our monthly travel trade e-newsletter.
- A comprehensive directory of Scottish companies who have committed to special rates, discounts and commissions exclusively available for the travel trade.

General websites

Britrail	www.britrail.com
News & Weather information	www.bbc.co.uk/weather
British Train information	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Scottish Train information	www.scotrail.co.uk
Bus information	www.citylink.co.uk
Historic Environment Scotland	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
National Trust for Scotland	www.nts.org.uk