Stirling

Ideas to inspire

The city of Stirling is steeped in history and surrounded by spectacular scenery which can be enjoyed from Stirling Castles’ esplanade, high above the city. Its strategic location set the scene for epic battles, such as The Battle of Bannockburn. Today, you can relive some of the action with a visit to The Battle of Bannockburn centre where 3D technology allows you to experience medieval combat like never before and even command the knights and soldiers who fought so bravely in 1314.

Wander the cobbled streets of Stirling’s Old Town from the castle down to the city centre where you will find an impressive food & drink offering, from a wee dram at a whisky bar to local produce at the farmers’ market. Nearby you will find local beers at Allanwater Brewhouse in Bridge of Allan and warming whisky at Deanston Distillery in Doune. Browse the independent boutiques found in The Stirling Arcade as well as Bridge of Allan for the perfect gift to take home.

Stirling is the ideal base to explore the surrounding areas and the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park is only 30 minutes from the city centre. Take a boat trip to Inchmahome Priory found on the only lake in Scotland, hop on board the SS Sir Walter Scott for a cruise on Loch Katrine, or simply sit back and soak up the impressive scenery.

Use this 4-day itinerary to help you and your group experience the wonders of Stirling and take home memories that will last a lifetime.

Events

JUNE – Gargunnock Show, The Showfield
Gargunnock Farmers’ Club is one of the oldest in Scotland. Founded in 1794, the club organises the annual Gargunnock Show, held on the first Saturday in June every year.
www.gargunnockshow.co.uk

AUGUST – Bridge of Allan Highland Games
One of Scotland’s biggest Highland games of the year. Thousands gather to watch a packed programme of traditional, cultural and sporting events along with pipers and Highland dancing.
www.bofagames.com

SEPTEMBER – Bloody Scotland, Stirling
Scotland’s International Crime Writing Festival. This 3-day event celebrates crime writing along with discussions on the books.
www.bloodyscotland.com

SEPTEMBER – The Shindig, Stirling
A 3-day arts extravaganza in the grounds of Stirling Old Town Jail hosting live music, street performances, comedy, storytelling, art, cinema, cabaret and much more.
www.stirlingfringe.com

DECEMBER – Stirling Winter Festival, various venues
A series of special events are held throughout the festive season. Don’t miss the Hogmanay Parade from the city centre to King’s Park where entertainment and an impressive fireworks display is on offer.
www.stirlingwinterfestival.com

For more ideas and contacts go to www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com or email traveltrade@visitscotland.com
Day 1

1. Stirling Castle – Stroll through the Royal Palace of James V, restored to its Renaissance magnificence and described as the jewel in Stirling Castle’s crown. Wander through the Great Hall, the largest built in Scotland and visit the Great Kitchen which has been reconstructed to show the cooks at work. Stirling Castle is located in the Old Town, an uphill climb from the city centre. Catch the Castleview Park and Ride bus from Murray Place if you don’t want to walk.

T: 01786 450000
E: stirlingcastle@hes.scot
www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk

2. Old Town Jail – Located in the heart of Stirling’s Old Town, the jail paints a frightening picture of what it would have been like to be imprisoned in the 1800s. As you explore the dark corridors, inspecting the small cells, you’ll experience the imposing atmosphere of jail life. On your tour of the jail, watch for escaping prisoners and follow the instructions of your warder.

T: 01786 464640
E: info@destinationstirling.com
www.destinationstirling.com

3. The Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum – This excellent free attraction boasts the world’s oldest football. The Stirling Story exhibition includes Scottish history collections, fine art and archaeology and explores the history of the city. The paintings of Thomas Smith, the museum’s founder and art dealer are on display alongside a variety of ever changing exhibitions, ranging from Titanic to Bannockburn.

T: 01786 471317
E: museum@smithartgalleryandmuseum.com
www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk

4. The National Wallace Monument – Looking over Stirling for over 140 years, this is a must-visit attraction. Climb the 246 steps to the top and marvel at the spectacular views. Be sure to look out for the soldier who tells the thrilling story of William Wallace and the Battle of Stirling Bridge. On the second floor gallery you will see Wallace’s sword proudly on display in the Hall of Heroes.

T: 01786 972140
E: info@nationalwallacemonument.com
www.nationalwallacemonument.com

5. The Kelpies – Located 14 miles from Stirling these two 30-metre-high horse head sculptures by Andy Scott, are a true feat of engineering. You can enjoy The Kelpie Experience with a guided tour. Pop in to browse the gift shop and sample some tasty home baking or lunch. Free parking is available at the Helix Park car park and also at Falkirk Stadium (a short two minute walk across the road from Helix Park).

T: 01324 590600
www.thehelix.co.uk

For more information on things to see and do in Stirling go to www.visitscotland.com/stirling

Please note some attractions have seasonal opening hours. Please check opening times with the attraction.