



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 – Gargunnoch Show, The Showfield

Gargunnoch Farmers' Club is one of the oldest in Scotland. Founded in 1794, the club organises the annual Gargunnoch Show, held on the first Saturday in June every year.
www.gargunnochshow.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

Stirling

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 Kitchens which have 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 out 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: 44 01786 471917
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 472140
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

Day 2



1
Battle of Bannockburn – this new experience puts you in the heart of the action. Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with medieval warriors and armoured knights. Learn about the tactics of two opposing kings using state of the art 3D technology. Experience medieval combat like never before and learn about this crucial event in Scottish history. Book in advance online to avoid disappointment.
T: 01786 812 664
E: bannockburn2014@nts.org.uk
www.battleofbannockburn.com



2
Cambuskenneth Abbey – open from 1st April to 30th September. Founded in 1140, this is one of Scotland's most important abbeys and is home to a fine collection of medieval grave slabs and architectural fragments. A footbridge links the Shore to the Abbey of which only the Campanile, 1300, and west doorway survive. It is one of Scotland's greatest early Gothic belltowers.
T: 0131 668 8600
www.historicenvironment.scot



3
Church of Holy Rude – The church occupies a magnificent location on the shoulder of the city's highest hill and thanks to the short proximity to Stirling Castle it played a unique place in history. It was here that James VI was crowned King of Scotland in 1567 with the ceremony being performed by John Knox.



4
Dunblane Cathedral – established in 1836 and one of Scotland's most noble medieval churches, it dates back as far as the 12th century and incorporates the tower from the 11th century. It is a largely intact early Gothic cathedral with some early interior fixtures including fine examples of late 19th and early 20th century stained glass and woodwork.
T: 01786 825388
www.dunblanecathedral.org.uk



5
Bridge of Allan – located 3 miles from Stirling this former spa town is located at the foot of the stunning Ochil Hills, north of Stirling on Allan Water. The grounds of the town's Airthrey Estate, play host to the University of Stirling, founded in 1967. Browse through shops, restaurants and hotels as well a leisure centre and a golf club.

Day 3



1
Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park – Elephants? Giraffes? Rhinos? Get in the car or on the bus and drive through the safari park... watch out for the lions! Marvel at the birds of prey and sea lions. Take a boat trip round an island of chimps and fly with your heart in your mouth on the flying fox zip wire. Watch the animals from the viewing platforms and even get up close with a few.
T: 01786 841456
E: enquiries@blairdrummond.com
www.blairdrummond.com



2
Doone Castle – experience this 14th century courtyard castle in Doone, built as the home of Regent Albany, 'Scotland's uncrowned king'. His rich tastes can be seen clearly in the architecture of the medieval courtyard castle. It is also a popular filming location and has featured in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Game of Thrones* and *Outlander*.
T: 01786 841742
www.historicenvironment.scot



3
Deanston Distillery – located just 8 miles from Stirling, the distillery sits by the River Teith at the entrance to the dramatic Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Having been a cotton mill for 180 years, Deanston was transformed into a distillery in 1960. Experience the sights, smells and sounds of this impressive distillery on a tour.
T: 01786 843 010
www.deanstonmalt.com



4
Port of Menteith – located 15 miles from Stirling this village started life in 1457 as a barony created by King James III but today, is popular with anglers due to its location by the Lake of Menteith in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. While here, why not take the ferry to the peaceful, ruined island priory of Inchmahome in the centre of the lake?



5
Aberfoyle – located 19 miles from Stirling a charming village on the banks of the River Forth and within the magnificent Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The Lodge Forest Visitor Centre is located to the north of Aberfoyle and this impressive visitor centre allows you to get up close to a wide range of wildlife with live CCTV viewing.

Day 4



1
Loch Katrine – located 34 miles from Stirling a fresh water loch in the heart of the National Park and home to the SS Sir Walter Scott. The beauty of the loch has long inspired literary figures, including Sir Walter Scott who wrote his famed poem *Lady of the Lake* in 1810 after visiting Loch Katrine. The loch has also served as the main fresh water supply for the city of Glasgow for over 150 years.



2
Callander – located 16 miles from Stirling a bustling tourist town situated on the River Teith and is often described as the gateway to the Highlands. There are a number of popular walks in the area for visitors to explore. The beautiful Bracklinn Falls and the River Keltie have mesmerised people for generations and to the west footpaths and cycle tracks follow the old Callander to Oban railway.



3
Loch Venachar – located 19 miles from Stirling a fresh water loch stretching for 10km from Callander to Brig o'Turk. This is an excellent spot for fishing with the pristine waters of the loch being populated by stocks of trout and pike. Sailing is also popular with the Loch Venachar Sailing Club hosting regular races and events from the end of March until October.



4
Balquhider Church – visit the wonderful parish church in dressed stone, built in 1853 by David Bryce. The ruins of the old parish church are in the graveyard where there are many intriguing carved stones, including that of Rob Roy MacGregor, whose gravestone attracts many people to the region.



5
Falls of Killin – located 36 miles from Stirling in the village of Killin are a spectacular series of rapids, at the western end of Loch Tay. The village makes an excellent base for walks in the surrounding mountains of Breadalbane, while Loch Tay is a popular destination for both its salmon fishing and watersports. You can enjoy a lovely mix of wildlife spotting, outdoor activities and walking.

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

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