

SCOTTISH BORDERS ITINERARY - 4 DAYS

01

The Scottish Borders are home to a series of magnificent ruined abbeys which are linked by the Borders Abbeys Way: a 107km circular route, featuring some of the Borders' oldest historic abbeys in the region, including Melrose, Dryburgh, Jedburgh and Kelso.

Jedburgh Abbey

Jedburgh Abbey was founded by David I in around 1138 for Augustinian canons. Remains of the cloister buildings have been uncovered and finds from the excavations, including the 12th-century 'Jedburgh comb' and an 8th-century shrine are on display. Your clients can compare the Romanesque and early Gothic styles of architecture of the huge abbey church or walk in the recreated cloister garden famous for its sweet scent of herbs – the same ones used in the past in the medieval abbey.

Abbey Bridgend

Jedburgh

Borders, TD8 6JQ

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Jedburgh Abbey and Kelso Abbey is 12.2 miles/19.6km



Kelso Abbey

Kelso Abbey was built in 1128 and in the years following and it is one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Scotland. Once the grandest of Border Abbeys, Kelso was subject to cannon fire by Henry VIII's

armies during the Ragh Wooing of the 1540s. However, even in its fragmentary state, Kelso Abbey is a superb piece of architecture where your clients can enjoy a free visit and walk among the remains of this spectacular church.

Kelso

Roxburghshire, D5 7JF

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Kelso Abbey and Dryburgh Abbey is 10.4 miles/16.8km



Dryburgh Abbey

First established in 1150, Dryburgh Abbey became the premier house in Scotland of the Premonstratensian order and today continues to have a peaceful atmosphere. Despite having been set on fire three times, the chapter house features paintwork that dates back to its construction and boasts some of the best Gothic architecture in Scotland. Your clients can explore this remarkably complete medieval ruin surrounded by beautiful grounds by the River Tweed to grasp the appeal of old monastic life.

St Boswells

Melrose

Roxburghshire, TD6 0RQ

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Dryburgh Abbey and Melrose Abbey is 7.2 miles/11.6km

Melrose Abbey

Probably the most famous ruin in Scotland, Melrose Abbey was founded by David I in 1136 for the Cistercian Order, and it was largely destroyed by Richard II's English army in 1385. Your clients will discover that the exterior of this magnificent ruin is decorated by unusual sculptures, including hobgoblins, cooks with ladles and a bagpipe playing pig. The abbey is also thought to be the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart, marked with a commemorative carved stone plaque within the grounds.

Abbey Street

Melrose, TD6 9LG

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Melrose Abbey and Priorwood Garden & Dried Flower Shop is 430ft/130m

The details provided above are subject to change from time to time. We suggest contacting establishments directly for up to date information.



Groups
8–12
people



Groups
up to 24
people



All groups
all sizes



Free
independent
travellers



Languages
spoken



Seasonal Opening
(as noted)
Winter by
appointment



Open all year



Accessible
access



Green Tourism
Business
scheme



Coach
parking
available

Priorwood Garden & Dried Flower Shop

Located in the ancient precinct of Melrose Abbey, Priorwood Garden is cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. Your clients can enjoy a free visit of Scotland's only dedicated dried flower garden and discover the history of this lovely walled garden, admire David Annand's beautiful bronze dove sculpture, and spot over 90 different kinds of apple grown organically, including 70 heritage varieties. Visitors can also savour a picnic or amble around the tranquil old orchard and woodland area.

Melrose, TD6 9PX

www.nts.org.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



(April-October)

Distance between Priorwood Garden & Dried Flower Shop and Abbotsford House is 3.3 miles/5.3km

Abbotsford House

Located on the banks of the River Tweed, Abbotsford is the ancestral home of Sir Walter Scott, the 19th-century novelist and poet of "Waverley", "Ivanhoe", and "Lady of the Lake". Your clients will discover a treasure trove of intriguing objects which inspired his greatest poems and novels. They can explore the permanent exhibition on the life and legacy of Sir Walter Scott in the visitor centre. Ochiltree's Café also offers stunning views over the Walled Garden and the historic house.

Abbotsford

Melrose

Roxburghshire, TD6 9BQ

www.scottsabbotsford.com

[Link to Trade Website](#)



(March-November)

Distance between Abbotsford House and Bowhill House & Grounds is 7.8 miles/12.5km



Bowhill House & Grounds

Bowhill House is home to the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry and part of the internationally renowned Buccleuch art collection. Your clients will discover masterworks by Canaletto, Raeburn, Reynolds and Gainsborough alongside beautiful silverware, porcelain and French furniture. They can also explore waymarked walks with stunning views and wildlife, beautiful gardens, tree trails, fishing and a fantastic adventure playground for little ones. The Ranger Service often offers woodland walks and will share with your visitors their knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife and conservation.

Selkirk

Scottish Borders, TD7 5ET

www.bowhillhouse.co.uk

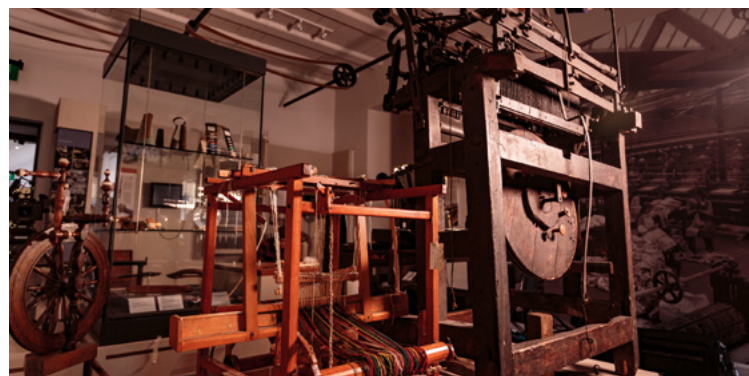
[Link to Trade Website](#)



(April-September)

Distance between Bowhill House & Grounds and Borders

Textile is 14.6 miles/23.5km



Borders Textile Towerhouse is a free 4-star visitor attraction that will give your clients a unique insight into the region's knitwear and tweed manufacturing history. Displays of fashion, artefacts, photographs and film bring to life over 200 years of tradition and innovation in the local woollen industries. Changing exhibitions showcase local companies' continuing presence in the world of quality textiles. Visitors will discover the fascinating story of the 500-year-old tower itself, the oldest building in Hawick, built at the time of the Borders Reivers.

Tower Knowe

Hawick

Roxburghshire, TD9 9EN

www.liveborders.org.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Borders Textile Towerhouse and Hermitage Castle is 15.8 miles/25.5km

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Hermitage Castle

A vast and eerie ruin of the 14th and 15th centuries, Hermitage is associated with the de Soulis, the Douglasses and Mary Queen of Scots. Your clients will discover that the castle has a romantic past, with the Mary Queen of Scots visiting her secret lover, the 4th Earl of Bothwell when he was injured and on his sickbed. Sir Walter Scott was also fond of this castle and had himself painted with it in the background.

Hawick

Roxburghshire, TD9 0LU

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Hermitage Castle and Beirhope Alpacas is 30.2 miles/48.6km

Beirhope Alpacas

A hidden gem located in the heart of the Cheviot Hills, Beirhope is a family owned smallholding home to a growing herd of Alpacas. Your clients can take the alpacas out for a stroll around the stunning countryside and enjoy the scenery. Walks can be arranged to suit your clients' needs, from short walks to long treks. The female Alpacas and their babies also love to be fed treats, so lots to do for everyone.

Beirhope Farmhouse

Hownam

Kelso

Roxburghshire, TD5 8AP

www.beirhope.co.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Beirhope Alpacas and Fluffy Moos is 6.1 miles/9.8km



Fluffy Moos

Fluffy Moos has developed a unique offering at a working farm in the beautiful Scottish Borders. Your clients can view the farm's cattle, the famous Romany Poll Herefords, established in 1955, and now one of the oldest, largest and most valued herds in Europe. Fluffy Moos offers farm trailer tours and bespoke group experiences with activities, including pig agility, lassoing and sheep dog demos. The farm can also provide for high quality catering, home-grown & local produce in a converted stable block.

Cowbog

Morebattle

Kelso

Scottish Borders, TD5 8EH

www.fluffymoos.com

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Fluffy Moos and Smailholm Tower is 15.1 miles/24.2km

Smailholm Tower

Smailholm is a 65 ft towerhouse built by a well-known Scottish Borders family, The Pringles, in the first half of the 1400s. It was the place that inspired Sir Walter Scott when he was sent by his parents to Smailholm as a young infant. Your clients will discover the Pringles residence and a collection of tapestries relating to Sir Walter Scott's Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders. Visitors can also admire stunning views of the surrounding countryside from Smailholm Tower's battlements.



Sandyknowe Farm

Kelso

Roxburghshire, TD5 7PG

www.historicenvironment.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Smailholm Tower and Robert Smail's Printing Works is 23.5 miles/37.9km

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Robert Smail's Printing Works

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, this living museum of a thriving printing firm has remained virtually unchanged for over a century. Robert Smail's Printing Works is an important part of Scotland's industrial heritage. Your clients can test their typesetting skills, learn the traditional art of letterpress printing, and see authentic Victorian machinery in action. In an age where electronic communication has come to dominate daily life, Robert Smail's will give them a fascinating insight into earlier and simpler times.

High Street
Innerleithen
Borders, EH44 6HA

www.nts.org.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Robert Smail's Printing Works and Traquair House is 1.3 miles/2.1km

Traquair House

Dating back to 1107, Traquair is Scotland's oldest inhabited house. Visited by 27 Scottish Kings and Queens, it has been lived in by the Stuart family since 1491. Your clients can explore the extensive grounds and woodlands, including the maze or simply relax for lunch or tea in the 1745 Cottage Restaurant. Traquair House also has a Brewery that lies in the wing of the house underneath the Chapel. It produces a multi-award-winning selection of traditional strong, dark Scottish ales fermented in oak.

Innerleithen
Peeblesshire, EH44 6PW

www.traquair.co.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Traquair House and Glentress Peel Visitor Centre, Café & Bike Shop is 5.5 miles/8.8km



Glentress Peel Visitor Centre, Café & Bike Shop

Glentress Peel Visitor Centre is often described as the Gateway to Tweed Valley Forest Park. It is one of the world class 7stanes mountain bike venues and home to great walks and fantastic wildlife watching. Your clients can explore five lovely waymarked walking trails, covering over 25 miles, with views of the valley. The Tweed Valley Wild Watch offers the opportunity to see wildlife such as buzzards and roe deer. Visitors can also enjoy the award-winning Go Ape high wire forest adventure.

Peebles

Peeblesshire, EH45 8NB

www.forestryandland.gov.scot

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Glentress Peel Visitor Centre, Café & Bike Shop and Dawyck Botanic Garden is 10.4 miles/16.8km



Dawyck Botanic Garden

Dawyck Botanic Garden has a stunning collection of trees and shrubs which includes some of Britain's oldest and tallest trees. The 65-acre five-star garden is renowned for its seasonal displays of snowdrops, bluebells, Himalayan poppies, rhododendrons, azaleas and offers woodland and burnside walks. Your clients can experience themed trails, follow the adventures of plant explorers such as David Douglas, after whom the Douglas fir is named and have a tea at the beautiful café, which is part of Dawyck's award-winning visitor centre.

Stobo

Peebles

Peeblesshire, EH45 9JU

www.rbge.org.uk

[Link to Trade Website](#)



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FOOD & DRINK SUGGESTIONS

The Blue Coo Bistrot & Bar

Locally sourced produce and high-quality ingredients are used to create delicious dishes offering a taste of the Scottish Borders land and sea.

Seasons Restaurant

Seasonal menus always feature carefully sourced local produce from handpicked local suppliers meaning that they genuinely reflect what is available throughout the changing seasons.

Orchiltree's Dining at Abbotsford House

Located at the first floor of the Visitors Centre, the café serves freshly prepared meals and refreshments made with locally sourced ingredients.

Osso Restaurant

Contemporary award-winning café and restaurant focusing on quality, local and seasonal produce in a friendly and relaxed environment. The restaurant is a mainstay of the Peebles food scene.

Sutherland Restaurant at Cringletie House

Located in Peebles, the restaurant serves lunch and dinner featuring locally sourced produce. The chef endeavours to create original dishes based on a Scottish base with an international addition.

Café at Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre

The café serves a range of hot meals and home-baked treats and offers a warm, friendly welcome. They work with amazing farmers, artisans and producers.

Award-winning café at Dawyck Botanic Garden

The café's scones are renowned for being delicious, especially the cheese scones. Vegetarian, vegan and allergy aware meals, snacks and baking are all homemade. The café offers stunning views of the Garden.

The Garden Café, 1745 Cottage Restaurant at Traquair House

Situated in the old walled garden, the café has won a superb reputation for its delicious homemade soups and lunches as well as its tempting scones and home baking.

Carfraemill Restaurant

Fresh ingredients are sourced from the outstanding local food producers. Famous for their incredible steaks, fish & chips, Sunday roasts, sticky toffee puddings, Carfraemill meringues and homemade soups.

Firebrick Brasserie

Firebrick is a family-run restaurant passionate about cooking the best seasonal ingredients with style and simplicity. Everything is cooked on the premises and they offer a relaxed and informal environment.



ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

Best Western Plus

Philipburn Country House Hotel, 4-star hotel and wedding venue in Selkirk with 20 individually styled rooms and a meeting and events space. It sits in 4 acres of private woodland grounds.



Cringletie House Hotel

4-star castle style hotel set in 28 stunning acres, just outside Peebles with 13 rooms, a 2-bedroom cottage, a meeting space and a stunning, 2 Rosette award-winning restaurant. Taste Our Best award.

Tontine Hotel

3-star hotel with 36 ensuite bedrooms and function rooms for conferences and business meetings. Excellent cuisine in the Adam Room Restaurant or Bistro ensures a rewarding, memorable visit. Taste Our Best award.

Carfraemill

4-star restaurant with 10 beautifully designed rooms in Lauder. Carfraemill has reception areas for meetings and weddings and an award-winning restaurant. Taste Our Best award.

Barony Castle Hotel

3-star hotel in Peebles with 72 rooms. This Hotel, Conference & Wedding venue offers event spaces and a leisure spa with a 10-metre swimming pool and a gym. Taste Our Best award.

Fauhope Country House

Award-winning 5-star Gold B&B near Melrose with 3 rooms. Set in 15 acres of beautiful bluebell woodland, with walking trails and stunning views across The Eildon Hills. Taste Our Best award.

Peebles Hydro

4-star hotel in Peebles with 132 rooms. This iconic hotel building offers a great view of the Tweed Valley, a spa, leisure facilities and meeting and private dining rooms.

Ednam House Hotel

3-star hotel in Kelso with 33 rooms and a choice of function suites; small, groups can stay in the Orangery. A beautiful Georgian Mansion located right on the banks of the River Tweed.

Dryburgh Abbey Hotel

3-star hotel in St Boswells with 38 rooms, heated swimming pool, sauna and an excellent business venue. Your clients can also enjoy stunning views over the river Tweed and Dryburgh Abbey.

Schloss Roxburghe Hotel & Golf Course

Luxury 4-star hotel in Kelso with 20 rooms and suites, a meeting space, a championship golf course and a full range of sporting pursuits on the estate including archery and clay pigeon shooting.



Taste Our Best

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy great quality Scottish food and drink, prepared with care and delivered with passion, is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme.



Green Tourism Award

Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold

VISITSCOTLAND'S WEBSITES

Our travel trade website offers the travel industry a one-stop-shop for Scotland information, inspiration and tool kits. 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 websites:

- 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 Bus information	www.scotrail.co.uk www.citylink.co.uk
Historic Environment Scotland	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
National Trust for Scotland	www.nts.org.uk
Scottish Tourist Guides Association	www.stga.co.uk