

ALTON U3A / FRIDAY 9th TO THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025 (7 DAYS)



£1075
HALF BOARD

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

*Train Travel From London to Edinburgh
Unencumbered by Luggage - that follows on the Coach*

Glamis Castle

The New V&A Museum Dundee

Aberfeldy, Kenmore & Loch Tay

Stirling Castle

Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre

Scone Palace

Glen Shee

Dumfries House

*Opportunity to ride on the very scenic
Settle to Carlisle Line*

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

STAYING IN PERTH

AND COMBINING LUXURY COACH AND
TRAIN TRAVEL

This relaxed holiday features some of the best that Scotland has to offer including its dramatic Highland scenery, its ancient castles and its variety of newer attractions

First there's the train journey and then, on the group's first full day in Scotland, the visit **Scone Palace**, located just outside Perth, in the morning, and the wild beauty of **Glen Shee** in the afternoon and, if it's in operation that day, we hope to offer an optional trip on the **Cairnwell Chairlift**.

On Monday, by way of contrast, the programme combines the imposing, hill-top **Stirling Castle** and the **Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre**, while on Tuesday the group have their second trip into the **Highlands** visiting the renowned beauty spot of **Kenmore** at the eastern end of **Loch Tay**, with a photo stop at the stunning **Queen's View** on the way.

On Wednesday the coach drives eastward as the programme combines visits to **Glamis Castle**, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother, and the new, strikingly designed **Victoria & Albert Museum** on the waterfront at **Dundee**.

Finally, the homeward journey also features some great holiday highlights. First there is a visit to **Dumfries House**, the ancestral home of the Marquess of Bute that was rescued by a consortium led by the then Prince of Wales. Then, on the final day the group takes a ride on the **Carlisle to Settle Railway** and visit a National Trust property like **Packwood House** en route back to Alton.



*Glamis
Castle*



*The New Victoria & Albert Museum in Dundee
& the neighbouring RRS Discovery*



Glen Shee



Scone Palace, just outside Perth

THE 3* ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL - PERTH

Excellent situated in the centre of Perth, on the banks of the River Tay, and having previously welcomed Queen Victoria, the Royal George makes a brilliant sightseeing base for a Scottish Highlands holiday. All the bedrooms offer a very high level of comfort with private bathrooms, flat-screen tvs and wifi. The hotel also has a lounge bar and a restaurant focused on Scottish dishes and, whenever possible, using locally sourced ingredients.



THE TRAIN JOURNEYS

(Unencumbered by main luggage - that follows on the coach)

Traveling by train offers passengers speed, comfort and both the opportunity to admire the scenery and to move around.

Going up to Scotland the journey will be with LNER from London Kings Cross to Edinburgh. Passengers have the choice of standard class or first class. The former is very comfortable as the Hitachi 800 trains have been built for long distance travel. The latter offers more space, a bigger seat, lunch & refreshments served to your seat, and access to the First Class Lounge at Kings Cross.

PLUS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE ON THE SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY AS PART OF THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY



WHAT'S INCLUDED

Luxury coach travel throughout

Rail ticket from London to Edinburgh

Five nights at the 3* Royal George Hotel in Perth

One night in Cumbria area on the way home

Full Scottish/English breakfasts in the hotel each morning

3 course evening meals in the hotels each evening

Visit to Scone Palace & trip into Glen Shee

Visit to the multi-award winning V&A Museum in Dundee

Ticket for Glamis Castle

Visit to Stirling Castle & the Battle of Bannockburn Centre

Scenic outing taking in Aberfeldy, Kenmore & Loch Tay

Entrance ticket for Dumfries House & Garden

Visit to Packwood House (NT)

Provision for coach driver's gratuity

Optional supplements

Single supplement - £180

First class train travel to Edinburgh - £65

Optional ride on the Cairnwell Chairlift - tba

Ride on the Settle to Carlisle Railway - £16

THE ITINERARY

NB - Dinner will be at 19.15 each night in the hotel restaurant.

Friday - The coach will depart Alton at 08.00 and drive to **London Kings Cross Station** where there will be time to have a late breakfast / early lunch before boarding the train for the 4 hour journey to Edinburgh on the East Coast Mainline, with the coach following with the bags. On arrival a local coach will meet you and drive to the Royal George Hotel in Perth where there will be time to freshen-up before dinner. Meanwhile the original coach will be making its way up to Scotland with the luggage and is scheduled to arrive before dinner.

Saturday - In the morning the group visit Scone Palace that is located just 5 miles outside Perth. In the afternoon the coach will drive to the wild and stunningly beautiful Glen Shee and, if it's in operation, there will be an option of taking a ride on the Cairnwell Chairlift. The coach will leave the hotel after breakfast and return by late afternoon.

Sunday - Today the group drives 30 miles south to **Stirling Castle** a formidable, ancient, hill-top fortress with a fascinating history. The day will also feature a coffee stop at the excellent **Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre** just outside Stirling. The coach will leave the hotel after breakfast and return by mid-afternoon.

Monday - Driving into the Highlands to visit **Kenmore**, a renowned beauty spot situated at the eastern end of Loch Tay. The day will also include a visit to Aberfeldy and an optional tour of a Whiskey Distillery (subject to demand). The coach will leave the hotel after breakfast and return by mid to late afternoon.

Tuesday - Heading eastwards today the first stop is **Glamis Castle**, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother. From here the group continue to Dundee to visit the new, strikingly designed **Victoria & Albert Museum**, the key element in the city's waterfront redevelopment, along with the adjacent RRS Discovery. The coach will leave the hotel after breakfast and return by late afternoon.

Wednesday - The journey home does need managing, and that is what we have done. Firstly the group has an extended visit to **Dumfries House**, the former ancestral home of the Marquess of Bute, rescued from being demolished and having its art works sold-off by a forward looking consortium led by the then Prince of Wales. The group will continue south, overnighing in the Cumbria area.

Thursday - The group complete the journey home, breaking the journey with a train trip on the celebrated **Carlisle to Settle Railway** and at the **National Trust's Packwood House** in Warwickshire. The expected time of arrival back at the departure point is 19.30, allowing for a further, shorter comfort stop on the motorway.