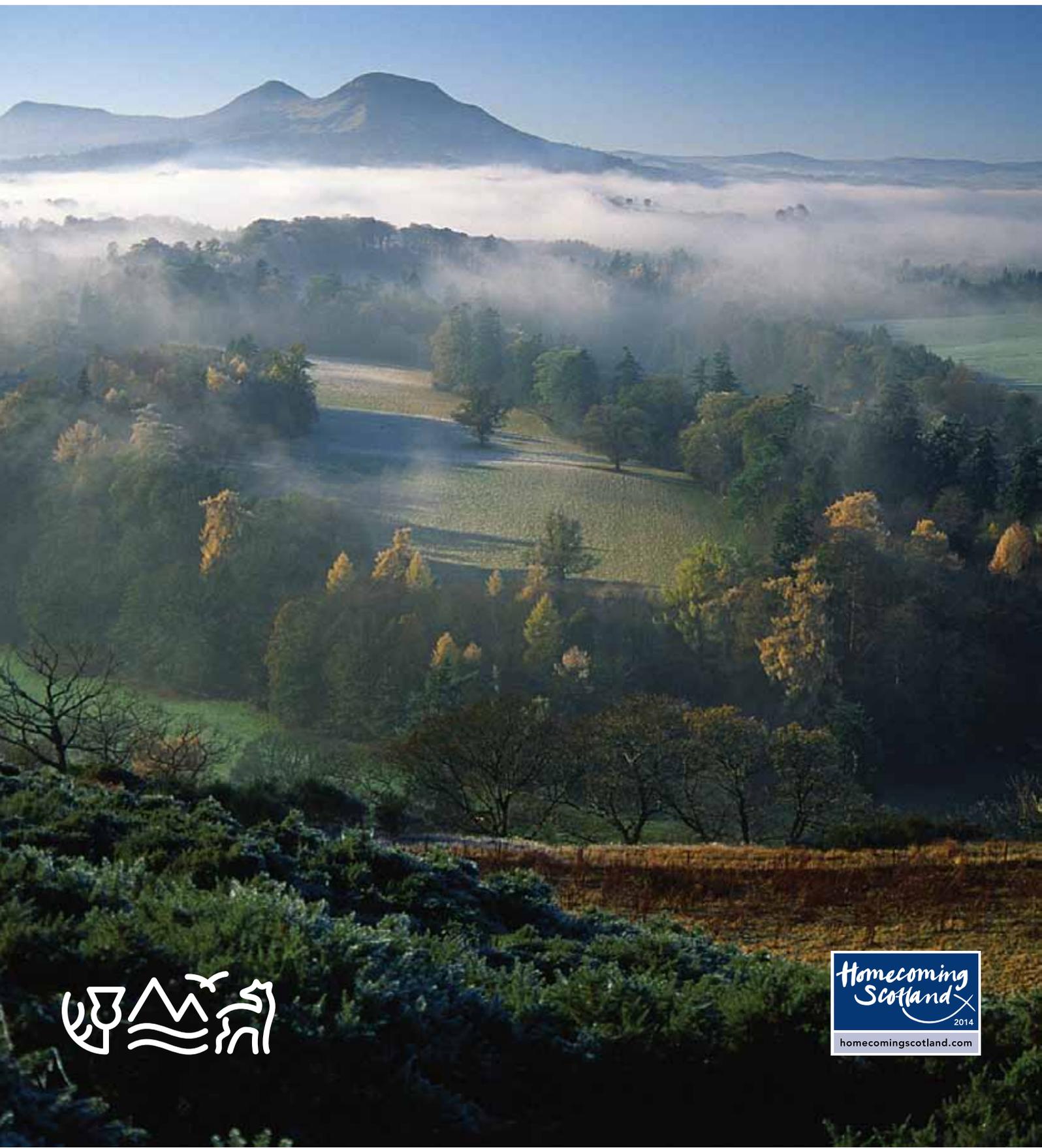


Scottish Natural Heritage

Explore for a day

Scottish Borders



Scottish Borders



Welcome to the natural beauty and colourful history of the Scottish Borders. Nestled within the Moorfoot, Lammermuir and Cheviot Hills, the Border country follows the path of the mighty River Tweed and extends to a spectacular stretch of coastline in the east. The river flows through the region from west to east, and forms part of the border with England.

From rolling hills and moorland to lush woods and valleys, the area has some outstanding scenery and supports a variety of wildlife. Look out for red squirrels, otters, and all kinds of birds, including the mighty osprey, as you stretch your legs on one of the many paths and trails. Enjoy the seasonal splendour of spring flowers, autumn leaves and summer's purple heather blooms.

Soak up the area's enthralling history. Visit historic houses, ruined abbeys and castles as you travel through magnificent scenery. The magical landscape is steeped in myth and folklore, and has inspired many artists and writers, such as Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg.

This leaflet contains five suggested itineraries for you to follow or use to create your own special natural and cultural experience of the Scottish Borders.

For those who've never visited the area before, you're in for a treat; for the people who live here, you may discover new, amazing places. Once explored, the Borders are hard to forget. People find themselves returning again and again. We hope you will too.

Symbol Key

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Parking |  | Information Centre |
|  | Paths |  | Disabled Access |
|  | Toilets |  | Wildlife watching |
|  | Refreshments |  | Picnic Area |

Admission free unless otherwise stated.

1 View of Neidpath Castle

The view of Neidpath Castle from the banks of the Tweed is stunning. The castle is not open to the public, but the view should not be missed. From the car park, take the steps down to the river and turn right towards the old railway viaduct in the distance. As you turn to go back, the view of this 14th century, L-plan, rubble-built tower house is spectacular. Framed against the skyline and the surrounding trees, the castle looms above you from a rocky crag.

Grid reference: NT238404
www.neidpathcastle.co.uk



2 Dawyck Botanic Garden

Dawyck is one of the world's finest arboreta. Trees from all over the world have been nurtured in this woodland garden including a mighty silver fir planted in 1680. There are treasures to see in every season, from swathes of snowdrops and daffodils in early spring to spectacular displays of azaleas and rhododendrons in early summer. The ever-changing kaleidoscope of seasonal tones culminates in autumn, when the Garden's foliage provides a sensational backdrop of colour. To give you a flavour of the Garden, follow the yellow trail, then relax over a coffee in the award-winning visitor centre.

Admission charge - Garden & Pond.

Open daily, February to November; February/November 10am-4pm; March/October 10am-5pm; April-September 10am-6pm.

Grid reference: NT165351
Tel: 01721 760254

www.rbge.org.uk/the-gardens/dawyck



3 Scenic Drive by Talla Reservoir

Talla Reservoir extends along a picturesque valley surrounded by breathtaking scenery. Opened in 1899, the reservoir was designed to supply Edinburgh with water, which flows by gravity through a 28-mile (45-km) aqueduct. To your left (north) the highest hill in the Borders, Broad Law, towers above you at 2,756ft/840m, whilst to your right (south-southeast) the sheer side of Garelet Hill falls dramatically into the waters of the reservoir. As the road climbs towards Megget Reservoir, stop for a moment at a lay by to take in the spectacular views behind you. The road then follows rolling, open moorland before dropping down into the Yarrow Valley.

Grid reference: NT107227



4 St Mary's Loch & Loch of the Lowes

At the heart of the Southern Upland Way lie the majestic lochs of St Mary's and the Lowes. Rich in wildlife, heritage and culture, their dramatic beauty is a haven for photographers, walkers and cyclists. There are many paths and trails on which to stretch your legs, and in the summer months you might catch a glimpse of ospreys. Between the two lochs you can climb to the statue of poet and writer, James Hogg, the "Ettrick Shepherd" and friend of Sir Walter Scott, who was born just over the hill in the Ettrick Valley.

Grid reference: NT239205
www.visitstmarysloch.org.uk



5 Traquair House & Grounds

Dating back to 1107, Traquair prides itself on being the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. Originally a hunting lodge for royalty, it became a refuge for Catholic priests during the Jacobite rebellion. Tour the house and explore the extensive grounds, including a large hedged maze, a playground of willow tunnels and an amazing yew circle. Look out for all kinds of wildlife including otters, deer and red squirrels. There are woodland trails around the house including Lady Louisa's walk which takes you past the Quair water and on to the River Tweed.

Admission charge.

Open daily April to September 11am-5pm; daily in October 11am-4pm; weekends only in November 11am-3pm.

Grid reference: NT330354

Tel: 01896 830323

www.traquair.co.uk



6 Tweed Valley Wild Watch, Glentress Forest

Fascinating and educational, the Wild Watch Centre facility at Glentress Forest allows visitors to watch live CCTV pictures of nesting ospreys (May – August) and recorded highlights out of season. Artificial nest platforms have been constructed all over the Tweed Valley Forest Park to attract these magnificent birds back into the Borders to settle and breed. This modern, spacious, well thought-out visitor centre also has a bank of cameras trained on nest boxes, ponds, bird feeders and even bees! After viewing the wildlife, why not explore more of the forest along one of the many walking and mountain bike trails.

Parking charges.

Wild Watch Room open daily, 10am – 4pm.

Grid reference: NT283397

Tel: 01750 721120

www.forestry.gov.uk





7 Robert Smail's Printing Works, Innerleithen

Listen to thunderous, clanking noises and watch belts and pulleys whirr, as you discover how we used to print everything from news sheets to books in this authentic Victorian print shop. Get your hands inky and have a go at setting and inking your own type, and even get a proof sheet of your efforts. Robert Smail's Printing Works has changed little since the 1860's, so you can truly experience a vital part of our industrial heritage and social history by watching hands-on demonstrations throughout the fascinating and entertaining tour of this living museum.

Admission charges.

Open April-October, Thurs-Monday 12 noon -5 pm
(Sun 1am – 5pm)

Grid reference: NT332367

Tel: 08444 932259

www.nts.org.uk



8 Glenkinnon Burn

Glenkinnon Burn is a beautiful place and a rare local example of ancient woodland that's home to red squirrels, butterflies, insects and many breeding birds. Wild flowers, grasses and mosses can be found here throughout the year. It's a protected site with over 190 species of flowering plants and over 160 species of lichen; it's regarded as the finest place in the Borders for woodland lichens. Find out more about the flora and fauna by following the waymarked Biodiversity Trail that starts from the impressive Glenkinnon Oak in the car park. It's suitable for all ages, takes about 30 minutes and includes some fine viewpoints.

Grid reference: NT438350

Tel: 01750 721120

www.forestry.gov.uk



9 Abbotsford House

Abbotsford is the former home of Sir Walter Scott, the 19th century historical novelist and poet. Unlike the homes of other great writers, this is a house that the writer himself designed and, as such, uniquely embodies a physical representation of the Romantic Movement that he helped to create. Tour the house or visit the excellent visitor centre with its exhibition about Scott's life and legacy. Explore the beautiful formal gardens, or take a scenic walk through the wider estate. There's also a new Family Play Trail inspired by Scott's novel *Ivanhoe* that follows a winding route through the trees.

Admission charges to House and Gardens

Open daily April to September 10am-5pm;
October/November 10am-4pm.

Grid reference: NT508343

Tel: 04896 752043

www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk



10 Smailholm Tower

Smailholm is a 15th century, roofed and floored, four-storey tower house with adjoining buildings and barmkin (courtyard) wall, all in extraordinarily good condition. Standing on a rocky outcrop, its battlements command spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Climbing the narrow stone staircases gives you a real sense of how people used to live. The upper three floors house a permanent exhibition of costumed figures and beautiful tapestries that recall Sir Walter Scott's collections of ballads, *The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, and the turbulent past of the area.

Admission charges.

Open daily April to September, 9.30am - 5.30pm.

Grid reference: NT638346

Tel: 01573 460365

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk





11 Scott's View & Wallace's Statue

No visit to the Borders would be complete without seeing Scott's View overlooking the Tweed Valley. The sight of the Eildon Hills from Bemersyde is an iconic feature of the Borders landscape and was one of Sir Walter Scott's favourite vistas. It's said his horses were so used to stopping here that, when his funeral procession passed en route to his burial at Dryburgh Abbey, they stopped of their own accord to allow their master a last look at the Borders landscape. The dramatic 31 feet/9.5 metre high sandstone statue of William "Braveheart" Wallace is well worth seeing. It's a pleasant 5-10 minute walk along a good-surfaced path from the small parking area. Erected in 1814, the monument is reputedly the first to be raised in memory of Scotland's famous son.

Grid reference: NT594343 and NT592326



12 Dryburgh Abbey & River Tweed Walk

Dryburgh Abbey on the banks of the Tweed dates from the 12th century and has some of the best Gothic church architecture in Scotland; it also contains the grave of Sir Walter Scott. The atmosphere of peace and tranquillity makes it easy to appreciate the attractions of medieval, monastic life. Food is served daily at the nearby Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, but on a fine day it's the perfect setting for a picnic. For a very pleasant 30-45 minute walk, head to the entrance of the hotel, then left downhill at a sign for "Cycle Route 1". Just before reaching the suspension bridge, look out for The Temple of the Muses on the right. Cross the bridge, turn left and follow part of St Cuthbert's Way for a view of the abbey from the opposite riverbank. Back at the bridge, if time, ascend steps to reach a seat with a magnificent view of the Eildon Hills and the Tweed. Return by the same route.

Admission charges to abbey.
Open all year.

Grid reference: NT591316
Tel: 01835 822381
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



13 Melrose

The picturesque town of Melrose is full of unique and interesting historic properties. Take a leisurely wander around the magnificent 12th century Melrose Abbey and grounds. It has close associations with St Cuthbert and is the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart. You'll find historic walled gardens on each side of the abbey: Priorwood is Scotland's only dedicated dried flower garden, and Harmony Gardens is beautiful at any time of year, but particularly so in spring and summer when the long established herbaceous borders burst into colour.

Admission charges.

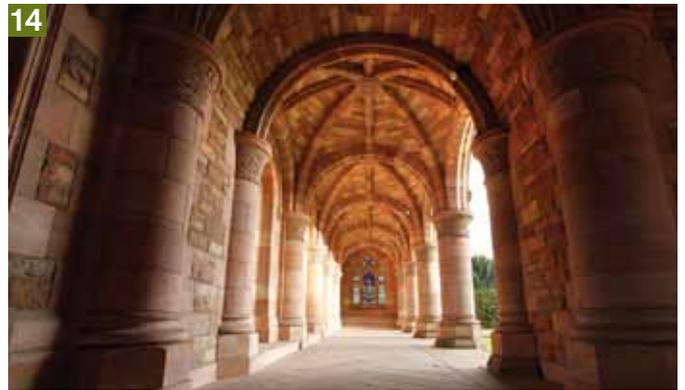
Abbey open all year: April – September daily 9.30am – 5.30pm;
October – March daily 9.30am – 4.30pm.
Priorwood Garden open 1 April – 24 December.
Dried Flower Shop 5 January – 24 December;
Harmony Garden open 1 April – 31 October; Please check NTS website for detailed Garden opening hours.

Grid reference: NT548341

Tel: Abbey 01896 822562 / Priorwood and Harmony Gardens 01896 822493

Abbey: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Gardens: www.nts.org.uk



14 Kelso Abbey

The ruins of Kelso Abbey are one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture surviving anywhere in Britain. Built in 1128 by Benedictine monks from Tiron Abbey, near Chartres in northern France, it was once the grandest of the Border abbeys. The remains include part of the nave, the western transept and half of the great west front and porch. Marvel at what remains of the great western door and imagine how intricately sculptured it once was. Although Kelso became one of the largest and wealthiest of Scotland's religious houses, its proximity to the English border exposed it to frequent attack.

Open all year.

Grid reference: NT728338
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



15 Hume Castle

Although Hume Castle looks more like a crusader fortress, it is in fact a genuine medieval castle that formed the basis for a folly in later years. Hume is a rare example of a simple courtyard castle of the 13th century and was said to be one of the most formidable defensive castles in the Scottish Borders. From the top of the curtain walls you can see the whole of the Borders spread out around you in every direction.

Open all year.

Grid reference: NT705414



16 Duns Castle Nature Reserve

Duns Castle Nature Reserve is a little known gem! It consists of two man-made lakes, Hen Poo and Mill Dam, and extensive woodland areas that form part of the Duns Castle Estate. The stunning wetland provides a habitat for wildfowl, mute swans and many species of native duck, and the surrounding woods are home to green and spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches, badgers and roe deer. Stretch your legs along one of several paths, or choose one of the many seats around the lake where you can sit and watch the world go by.

Open all year.

Grid reference: NT778550
www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk



17 Edin's Hall Broch

Edin's Hall Broch is one of very few Iron Age brochs (circular dry-stone towers) found in southern Scotland and well worth a visit. It sits within an earlier prehistoric hill-fort which is surrounded by impressive ramparts and ditches. Edin's Hall has most of the features of a broch, including a massively thick (over 16 feet/5 metres) circular stone wall, a long narrow entrance passage, guard chambers flanking the doorway, wall chambers and a stone stairway rising to the top of the wall.

Open all year.

Grid reference: NT772603
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



18 The Hirsell Country Park, Coldstream

This attractive country park in the grounds of Hirsell House has something for everyone. It's a haven for wildlife including otters, badgers and native birds that you can observe from the comfort and secrecy of a purpose built hide. Colour coded walks take you along a variety of routes through woods, along the river Leet and around the Hirsell Lake. There's also a museum about estate life, arts and crafts workshops and a tearoom.

Car parking charge.

Grounds open all year (house not open to the public)

Grid reference: NT833405
www.dandaestates.co.uk



19 St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve

The craggy landscape of St Abb's Head is a haven for birdwatchers, walkers and wildlife lovers. The dramatic cliffs provide spectacular vantage points from which to watch thousands of nesting seabirds, including guillemots, kittiwakes and razorbills. Enjoy the fresh air and spectacular scenery with a walk along the grassy cliff tops – there are a choice of waymarked routes from the car park. Learn more about the area's flora and fauna, its history and culture, by visiting the St Abb's Head Visitor Centre.

Car parking charge.

Nature Reserve open all year

Nature Centre open April to October, daily 10am-5pm.

Grid reference: NT913674

Tel: 0844 493 2256

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk
www.nts.org.uk



20 Coldingham Sands

Search the rock pools for anemones, watch hermit crabs battle over shells and see if you can spot a shrimp. This award-winning beach within Coldingham Bay is full of marine life and is part of the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve. The area is popular with surfers, body boarders and walkers who come to enjoy the delights of this sandy bay and rocky shore. Coldingham is fringed by dunes and grassland that provide a habitat for a whole host of coastal species.

Grid reference: NT917667





21 Eyemouth – Maritime Centre & Gunsgreen House

The Eyemouth Maritime Centre is housed in what looks like an 18th century frigate set against the side of the harbour. Inside you'll find a large collection of seafaring items that help to paint a picture of what life must have been like for a sailor in times gone by. Try your hand at tying knots, look inside a sailor's bedroom, open up gun turrets and find out about Eyemouth's notorious smuggling history.

Built by local smuggler and merchant John Nisbet in the 1750s, Gunsgreen House gives a fascinating insight into the smugglers trade and is great fun for all the family. Uncover the secret hiding places built into the house, especially the Tea Chute, a unique survivor of the days when tea smuggling could make fortunes; dress up, do the Rat Trail, or even follow the Smuggling Trail and smuggle your own tea!

Admission charges.

Maritime Centre open daily April to November, 10am-5pm.
Gunsgreen House open April to November, Thursday-Monday, 11am-5pm.

Grid reference: NT947643

Tel: Maritime Centre – 018907 51020

Tel: Gunsgreen House – 018907 52062

www.worldofboats.org

www.gunsgreenhouse.org



22 Paxton House & Gardens

Paxton House has been hailed as the finest example of neo-Palladian architecture in Scotland. It was designed by John Adam and completed in 1763. Inside the house you can view one of the best collections of Chippendale furniture in Britain alongside paintings by Reynolds, Raeburn and Wilkie. Outside, there are 80 acres (32 hectares) of woodland, riverside, park and gardens to explore along a variety of walks and nature trails. Look out for salmon, heron, cormorants, mute swans and sometimes even seals along the riverbanks.

Admission charges.

Open 1 April-2 November -
House 11am-5pm (guided tours only),
Grounds 10am-sunset.

Grid reference: NT931520

Tel: 01289 386291

www.paxtonhouse.co.uk



Itinerary 1

– Tweedsmuir Hills

This almost circular route traverses part of The Upper Tweeddale National Scenic Area and includes a stretch of the Southern Upland Way. Starting from Peebles, you travel close to the source of the River Tweed before turning east through some of the Borders' most impressive scenery.

Start your day with a spectacular view, before visiting one of the world's finest arboreta. Take a dramatic scenic drive and experience the remoteness of the landscape. As you drop down into the Yarrow Valley you'll be greeted by lochs that perfectly reflect the hills that rise all around you. Take a moment to climb a pele tower, before completing your day at a former hunting lodge for kings and queens.

Neidpath Castle (1)

From Peebles take the A72 west towards Blyth Bridge. After 1 mile/1.6 km you'll see a car park signposted for Neidpath Castle on the left-hand side.

Dawyck Botanic Garden (2)

Continue west along the A72 for a further 3 miles/4.8 km and then turn left onto the B712. The entrance to Dawyck Botanic Garden is 4.3 miles/6.9 km on the left. There is plenty of car parking, a café, toilets and a shop on site.

Talla Reservoir (3)

From Dawyck, continue southwest along the B712. After 3.4 miles/5.4 km turn left onto the A701 and follow the course of the River Tweed southwards. After travelling for 6.8 miles/10.9 km, look out for a minor road on the left signposted 'Talla Fruid'. Take particular care along this undulating single track road with passing places; it continues for 12 miles/19.2 km and has several steep climbs and descents.

St Mary's Loch & Loch of the Lowes (4)

Continue until you reach Cappercleuch and the junction with the A708. Turn right here and drive for half a mile (0.8 km) to the public car park between St Mary's Loch and the Loch of the Lowes, where you'll also find public toilets.

Traquair House (5)

From the car park turn right and retrace your route back along the A708. After 3.9 miles/6.2 km you've the opportunity to visit the 16th century Dryhope Tower; entry is free and it's one of the few ruined 'pele' towers that you can climb as an internal staircase has been installed. Park in a lay-by on the left just past the entrance to Dryhope Farm. A short distance along the road, follow the Southern Upland Way uphill to the tower.

From the lay-by continue for 2.3 miles/3.7 km, then turn left at the Gordon Arms Hotel onto the B709. Continue for 7.1 miles/11.4 km before turning left onto the B7062. The entrance to Traquair House is half a mile/0.8 km further on the right.

Itinerary 2

– Tweed Valley

This route follows the course of the River Tweed in an easterly direction as it winds its way towards Melrose. The Tweed Valley has an abundance of mature woodland, riverside walks and wildlife to enjoy as well as many historic and cultural sites to visit. Enjoy the delights of Glentress Forest and watch magnificent birds of prey before stepping back in time and getting a taste of a day in the life of a Victorian printer. Take a leisurely walk through an ancient wooded valley and learn about its wildlife, before visiting the former home of a famous Scottish historical novelist.

Glentress Forest (6)

1.5 miles/2.4 km east of Peebles on the A72 you'll find the entrance to Glentress Forest on the left. Follow the signs for the Peel car park, which is on the right.

Robert Smail's Printing Works, Innerleithen (7)

Return to the A72 and turn left towards Innerleithen. 1 mile/1.6 km further on at Cardrona, you'll pass the turning for the B7062 and the chance to visit Kailzie Gardens, a well-established walled garden; turn right and follow the Kailzie signs for 2.5 miles/4 km. Otherwise, continue for 3.5 miles/5.6 km to Innerleithen. Parking is available outside Robert Smail's Printing Works on the High Street or around the corner on Leithen Crescent; there's also a car park situated 5 minutes away on Leithen Road.

Glenkinnon Burn (8)

Continue east along the A72 for 7.2 miles /11.5 km to a roundabout and take the A707 (2nd exit) towards Selkirk. After only 0.2 miles/0.3 km, turn right onto a minor road. Cross the bridge over the Tweed and after 200m turn left into Glenkinnon Burn car park.

Abbotsford House (9)

Retrace your route back to the A707 and turn right towards Selkirk. After 2.7 miles/4.3 km turn left onto the B7060 towards Galashiels. This 2.3 mile/3.7 km stretch of road has one of the most stunning views of the Tweed Valley; after you climb the hill, stop at one of the lay-bys and take a look. At the junction with the A7 turn right, cross the bridge over the Tweed, then immediately turn left onto the B6360. Abbotsford is 2.1 miles/3.4 km further along this road.

Itinerary 3

– Scott's Country

Today's route follows country roads through the Eildon and Leaderfoot National Scenic Area. Dominated by the dramatic landscape of the volcanic Eildon Hills, it's an area of romance and legend, of historic buildings and breathtaking scenery.

Begin at a former Border stronghold and climb to the battlements for fine views over the surrounding countryside. Admire the three Eildon peaks from a world-renowned viewpoint and be astounded by a gigantic statue. Enjoy the peaceful serenity of a beautiful riverside monastery, then take a leisurely stroll along the banks of the mighty Tweed. If time, there's chance for an energetic hill-walk before completing your day at historic Melrose.

Smailholm Tower (10)

Smailholm Tower is well signposted either from the village of Smailholm, or from the B6404, 4 miles/6.4 km northeast of St Boswells. A minor road leads you through a working farm and along a track past an old millpond to the parking area at the foot of the tower. From here you have a choice of steep or less steep grassy paths for the final hundred yards.

Scott's View & Wallace's Statue (11)

Drive back down through the farm and keep left towards Smailholm village. At the T-junction, turn left and continue for 3.7 miles/5.9 km until you reach the junction with the B6356. Turn left here following signs for Scott's View which is 1.5 miles/2.4 km from the junction. From this viewpoint continue south on the B6356 for a further 1 mile/1.6 km to a small parking area on the right to see Wallace's statue.

Dryburgh Abbey (12)

Continue south on the B6356 for a further 0.3 miles/0.5 km, then turn right at a T-junction to Dryburgh Abbey (0.5 miles/0.8 km). Follow the road round to the left at the entrance to the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel and continue to a parking area with public toilets.

Melrose (13)

From Dryburgh continue along the B6356 for 2.4 miles/3.8 km to a T-junction where you turn right onto the B6404 for the historic village of St Boswells; here you'll find a café/bookshop and public toilets on the left. At the busy junction with the A68, turn left and then right onto the A699 Selkirk road. After 2.8 miles/4.5 km turn right onto the B6359 and continue for 1.6 miles/2.6 km until you reach Bowdenmoor Reservoir. This is the place to park (roadside) if you'd like an exhilarating climb to the top of the Eildon Hills. There's a footpath that runs along the south side of the reservoir and your efforts will be rewarded with some fine views from the summit of Mid Hill (1,385 feet/420m). Continue along the B6359 for 1.6 miles/2.6 km to reach the historic town of Melrose.

Itinerary 4

– Blackadder, Whiteadder and the Tweed

This route starts in Kelso and takes you through the eastern Borders northwards to Duns before heading back south to Coldstream on the border with England. The area lies between the waters of the Blackadder, Whiteadder and the River Tweed. Marvel at the remains of a 12th century abbey before enjoying panoramic views from the top of a more fortified ruin. Take in the delights of a little-known nature reserve, then head south to where the British Army's oldest regiment originated to explore the grounds of a former Prime Minister.

Kelso Abbey (14)

Kelso Abbey is situated at the edge of the town centre on Abbey Row, just off the A699, a short distance from the road bridge over the River Tweed. There's plenty of parking in Kelso and the Abbey is well signposted.

Hume Castle (15)

From the Abbey take the A699 (Roxburgh Street/Edinburgh Road) towards Edinburgh. At the roundabout take the left exit onto the A6089 and after 0.4 miles/0.6 km turn right onto the B6364 towards Greenlaw. After 4.8 miles/7.7 km take the signposted left turn for Hume Castle where there's a parking area.

Duns Castle Nature Reserve (16)

Return to the B6364 and turn left towards Greenlaw. After 2.3 miles/3.7 km turn right onto the A6105 and follow this road through Greenlaw (by turning right and then left) until you reach Duns (7.9 miles/12.7 km). Approach Duns Castle from Castle Street, off the A6112, in the northern outskirts of the town; there's car parking before the lodge archway (through which cars are not allowed). To get to the reserve, walk down towards the castle and turn right just before the next archway.

You can reach Edin's Hall Broch by continuing north on the A6112 for a further 5.6 miles/9.0 km and turning left onto a minor road. From the designated parking area it's about a 45 minute walk (1.4 miles/2.2 km) along the private drive and across a spectacular stretch of the Whiteadder Water to the site.

The Hirsell Country Park, Coldstream (18)

Head south from Duns on the A6112 via Swinton to Coldstream (12.5 miles/20 km). At the junction with the A698, it's worth turning left off route to see the picturesque Coldstream Bridge across the Tweed, which marks the border with England. A memorial stone has been erected here to commemorate the raising of the famous Coldstream Guards in 1660. Return to the junction and keep left on the A697 for 0.6 miles/1.0 km before turning right into the Hirsell Estate.

Itinerary 5

– Cliffs, Smugglers and Golden Sands

This route explores the spectacular Berwickshire coastline before heading inland for a last visit to the River Tweed. It's an area with many hidden treasures including spectacular cliff-top walks, abundant sea bird colonies and beautiful beaches.

Take in the mystery of an intriguing Benedictine priory or head directly to the coast for a bracing walk along the dramatic rocky cliffs. Discover the strange and beautiful creatures that live in submerged, rock-pool worlds, then experience what it was like to be a smuggler. Round off your day in the elegant surroundings of a country house with fine furniture and paintings, or take a leisurely stroll through the extensive grounds.

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve (19)

In the centre of Coldingham, close to the junction of the A1107 and the B6438, Coldingham Priory is well worth a visit before heading for the coast. From there, continue along the B6438 for 1.1 miles/1.7 km following signs for the NNR and car park at Northfield Farm.

Coldingham Sands (20)

You can walk from the reserve car park and visitor centre via St Abb's and the coastal path to Coldingham Sands. If you prefer to drive, head back along the B6438 for 0.8 miles/1.3 km and turn left along a minor road to reach the beach-side car park (0.6 miles/1 km).

Eyemouth (21)

Retrace your route back to Coldingham and turn left following the A1107. After 2.6 miles/4.2 km turn left to Eyemouth on the B6355. Park in one of town's many parking areas and walk to the harbour. Here you'll find the maritime museum on the western side and Gunsreen House on opposite side. There are toilets and refreshments available at the harbour.

Paxton House (22)

Continue on the B6355 and turn left at a crossroads to rejoin the A1107. Follow it for 1.7 miles/2.6 km to the T-junction with the A1 where you turn left. Head southeast along the A1, crossing the border into England, for 5.6 miles/9 km to a roundabout. Turn right (2nd exit) onto the A1 Berwick-upon-Tweed bypass and after a further 1.5 miles/2.4 km turn right onto the B6461. Back in Scotland, Paxton House is signposted 2.6 miles/4.2 km from here, where you'll find a tea room and toilets available.

For further information on the area including where to stay and where to eat and drink visit www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/scottish-borders



Other visitor information

There are many other sites to discover in the area. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres, which are situated in:

Eyemouth	(seasonal)	information point
Hawick	(all year)	Tel: 01450 373993
Jedburgh	(all year)	Tel: 01835 863170
Kelso	(seasonal)	Tel: 01573 228055
Melrose	(seasonal)	Tel: 01896 822283
Peebles	(all year)	Tel: 01721 723159
Selkirk	(seasonal)	Tel: 01750 20054

Many sites are accessible by public transport. For bus times please contact Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33 or go to www.travelinescotland.com. There are also a great number of cycle routes in the area. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres.

Know the Code before you go...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly! Find out more at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

National Nature Reserves are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural world. Located throughout Scotland, National Nature Reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage is the government agency looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes, across all of Scotland, for everyone. Find out more at www.snh.gov.uk.



Scotland's
Protected Places

Explore and discover some of Scotland's natural and historic protected places.

www.scotlandspreservedplaces.gov.uk

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ISBN: 978 1 78391 148 6

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