

FRIDAY 5th JUNE

We leave for **Edinburgh** (just over an hour away) visiting **The Georgian House** in Charlotte Square for a Guided Tour.

In the late 1700s, this grand townhouse was at the heart of Edinburgh's New Town development. The house was designed by acclaimed architect Robert Adam and was a true statement of luxury in an era of enlightenment.

The house has been magnificently restored to show a typical Edinburgh New Town house of the late 18th and early 19th century. The fine collections of period furniture, porcelain, silver and glass reflect the social and economic context of the time. The kitchen and servants' room give a glimpse of the arduous 'below stairs' life of the servants.

There is then free time in Edinburgh for you to use as you please: the Royal Mile, the National Gallery of Scotland, Royal Yacht Britannia etc. (If it is your first visit then one of the many hop-on-hop-off buses are recommended.)

Last visit of the day is the **Palace of Holyrood House**. There is no official guide but a multi-media handset is available.

The Palace as it stands today was built between 1671–1678 in a quadrangle layout, with the exception of the 16th-century north-west tower built by James V. Sir William Bruce designed the 3-storey plus attic classical palace for Charles II, upon the restoration of the monarchy.

The rooms open to the public include the 17th-century former King's apartments and Great Gallery, and the 16th-century apartments in the north-west tower. The gardens of the palace extend to some 10 acres set within the much larger Holyrood Park. In the 16th-century a privy garden was located to the north of the palace. In the 19th century, Prince Albert took an interest in the grounds, forming a new carriage drive to the north to avoid the Canongate slums and laying out the garden in its present form.

SATURDAY 6th JUNE

Depart for Brushford .

On our journey south we will call at **Shugborough Estate** for a two hour break. This is a National Trust property so *please bring your membership card* if you have one. There is a tea room and shop.

We aim to arrive at Brushford Parish Hall at approximately 5.30pm but you may wish to phone ahead to anyone expecting you when we get close. Remember this journey is on the M6 & M5 on a Saturday in June!

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A TOUR OF THE SCOTTISH LOWLANDS TUESDAY 2nd TO SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2020

We will be travelling by **Blakes Coaches** of East Anstey. There will be plenty of room to spread out as we are aiming for 25 members and friends in a 53-seater coach.

We will be staying at the 3-star Tinto Hotel near Biggar. The Hotel is set in 5 acres of gardens. All rooms are en-suite. We begin the day with a full Scottish breakfast and end the day with dinner (including wine).



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All entry fees are included but please bring your National Trust membership card which is often accepted.

Please also bring your mobile phone and have it switched on at all times.

TUESDAY 2nd JUNE

Depart from Brushford Parish Hall at 8.30pm (cars may be parked at the Hall for a small charge.)

On the journey north we will be stopping at **Dunham Massey** for a 2 hour break. This is a National Trust property so *please bring your membership card* if you have one. There is a cafe, restaurant, shop, garden, stables and mill.

WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

This morning we travel 42 miles west to **Dumfries House** where we take the 90 minute guided grand tour where in addition to the principal floor we have extended access to the interiors. Our visit will include a light lunch.



Dumfries House is a Palladian country house located within a large estate. It is one of the few such houses with much of its original 18th-century furniture still present, including specially commissioned Thomas Chippendale pieces. Owing to its significance and the risk of the furniture collection being distributed and auctioned, in 2007 the estate and its entire contents was purchased for £45m for the country by a consortium headed by Charles, Prince of Wales.

Later in the day we visit the **Blackstone Clydesdales** - a centre for the rare breed of Clydesdale Heavy Horses.

THURSDAY 4th JUNE

We set out east for about an hour's drive to **Traquair House**, where we will have a guided tour.



Traquair is Scotland's Oldest Inhabited House. Visited by 27 Scottish Kings and Queens, Traquair dates back to 1107 and has been lived in by the Stuart family since 1491.

Originally a royal hunting lodge, Traquair played host to Mary Queen of Scots and later as staunch Catholics they supported the Jacobite cause without counting the cost.

Visit the house, grounds, maze, craft workshops, Garden Cafe and the world famous Traquair House Brewery situated in one of the wings of the house and sample the ales in our brewery shop and museum.

Our next visit is to **Abbotsford House** (a short distance away) where we might want to take a lunch break in the cafe and explore the gardens. A guided tour will be available.

Abbotsford is the extraordinary home of Sir Walter Scott, the 19th century novelist and 'Great Scott' who popularised tartan, saved the Scottish banknote and rediscovered his country's Crown Jewels. It is a treasure trove of intriguing objects which inspired his greatest poems and novels.



Our final visit takes us 15 miles to **Hawick** where we may either visit **The Borders Distillery** or **Borders Textile Towerhouse** before returning to Biggar.