

Destinations - Scotland - Perth



Discover Perthshire on your visit through the various towns and villages and choose everything from traditional museums to innovative and interactive visitor attractions and unique and exciting natural attractions. Whether your special interest is historical sites, genealogy, flora and fauna, speciality shopping or culinary delicacies, you will find places to expand your knowledge, feed your imagination and delight your senses. This variety gives you the wonderful freedom of choosing exactly the holiday experience you are looking for.

On the banks of the silvery River Tay, in the very heart of Scotland, you'll find yourself in the Fair City of Perth, winner of the 2000 "Champion of Champions" Britain in Bloom award. Welcome to the town that inspired Sir Walter Scott to pen 'The Fair Maid of Perth' which in turn inspired Bizet's opera. Once Scotland's Capital City, you will find that Perth enjoys an air of elegant prosperity and retains the genuine atmosphere of a true county town with a rich history and tradition of welcoming visitors. A climb or drive through the wooded slopes of Kinnoull Hill is an ideal introduction to Perth. Enjoy the breathtaking views to the north and west. Otherwise explore Perth on foot; perhaps you could follow the Old Perth Trail. Perth has been a market town for hundreds of years. Today, long established family businesses, specialist retailers and familiar chain stores sit alongside one another on the traffic-free High Street and in St Johns Shopping Centre.

History lovers will find that Perth offers unsurpassed delights. Not to be missed is Scone Palace (pronounced Scoon) original home of Scotland's Stone of Destiny where 42 of Scotland's Kings were crowned. Other wonderful houses to visit include Elcho Castle, Huntingtower Castle, Megginch Castle at the Carse of Gowrie and last, but not least, Balhousie Castle, - home to the Black Watch Museum. Colourful floral displays and wonderful lush green parklands enhance Perth. These parklands survive today as the North and South Inches; superb public parks. While here, also enjoy the kaleidoscope of colors at Perth's many gardens including Branklyn and Rodney Gardens.

Reminders of medieval times are plentiful and in the city centre you will find the striking St John's Kirk. Around St John's Kirk is the perfect place to pause and soak up the atmosphere in one of the many restaurants and coffee shops of the Café Quarter. Indeed, the new £20 million state of the art Perth Concert Hall sits on the site of the original Horsecross - Perth's 17th century horse market.

This ambitious and modern venue doesn't simply mean there's somewhere new to go in Perth. It marks the beginning of a new cultural life in the city and an opportunity for the people of Perth and the surrounding area to indulge in the very best in music, drama, new media, comedy, family events and much more.

A wide variety of touring shows and in-house productions also take place at the much loved Perth Theatre, one of the oldest theatres in Scotland.

If you'd like to find out more about the area's rich agricultural heritage, a visit to the Perth Mart Visitor Centre on the outskirts of Perth is a must, while in the town centre, Perth's Museum and Art Gallery offers a collection of fine and applied art. More paintings and works of art are to be found at The J.D. Fergusson Collection, situated within Perth's historic Round House.

Before leaving this wonderful area visit Abernethy; home to an 11th century Round Tower and local history Museum. Glenalmond is especially picturesque in Spring and Autumn while nearby Pitcairngreen is a pretty hamlet with an English-style village green. The hamlet of Rhynd on the outskirts of Perth is home to Elcho Castle and at Abernethy the Scottish Antiques & Art Centre and Rait Antiques Centre are treasure troves of artefacts and curios.

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