



THERE'S MORE TO THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND THAN PEAK SEASON.

There's no denying that the summer months bring some fantastic highlights to the South of Scotland - our historical Common Ridings and the chance of sunnier days to name just a couple. But the story doesn't end there. From Moat Brae to Bruce's Stone, this region is bursting with new experiences all year round, with each season telling its own unique tale.

WINTER STARTS HERE

If you're looking for a little magic during the winter months, then the South of Scotland needs to be on your list. While the days may be shorter, there's certainly no shortage of things to enjoy during this enchanting time of the year.

Event

Big Burns Supper Festival

A Burns supper is a vibrant celebration unique to Scottish life that takes place annually in January. Parties and events erupt within Scotland and beyond to "Slàinte Mhath" (cheers in Scottish Gaelic) to the life and work of Robert Burns. There is no better place to celebrate this day than in Dumfries, the final resting place of the national bard. Dumfries is also home to the biggest Burns Night celebration on the planet - the Big Burns Supper.

This festival runs for 11 days at the end of January featuring music, art, and performances from national and international names. In between performances, be sure to check out Burns' favourite pub, The Globe Inn for a wee dram of whisky. His favourite pub, The Globe is within walking distance of the Spiegeltent, and the farm - Ellisland - that he built is on the outskirts of the town.



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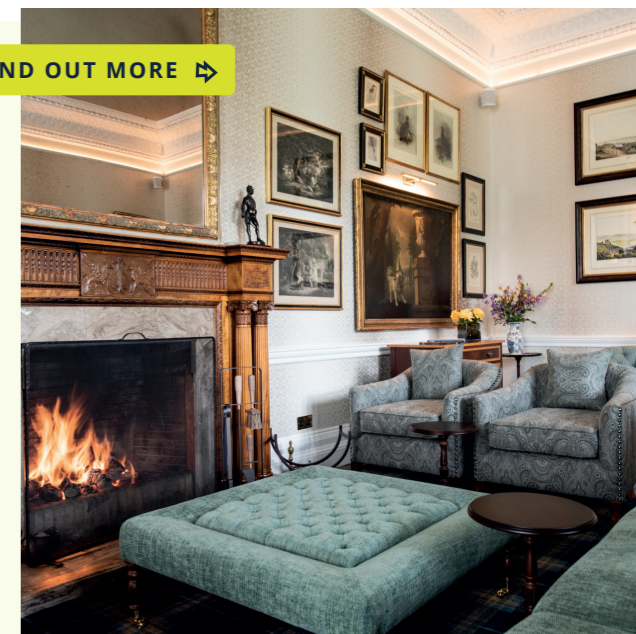
Experience

Schloss Roxburghe

A fairytale escape in the South of Scotland starts at Schloss Roxburghe.

This 20-bedroom luxury hotel is beautiful at any time of year, but especially cosy in the winter months thanks to the grand open fireplaces, opulent suites, and fine dining. Walk amidst decorative stucco, Scottish tartan and beautiful textiles within the manor house, or stroll through their impressive grounds - which features a championship golf course to enjoy in the warmer months. Relax and restore - time stops when you are at Schloss.

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Activity

Walking Art Tour with Fiona

Kirkcudbright is called Scotland's Artist Town for a reason! This colourful and picturesque town was made famous by artists and eccentric characters of all kinds, from Glasgow Boy E A Hornel to Jessie M King, Dorothy L Sayers and a host of their contemporaries. A private arts tour is the perfect way to learn about the town's past and present with gallery tours and studio visits. Join Fiona Lee on an entertaining and informative tour (public or private) to discover the secret stories of this special place.

An entertaining and informative introduction to the arts and heritage of Scotland's Artist's Town.

Fiona offers scheduled tours but also private tours for those who are looking for an exclusive experience.

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Visit

Galloway Hoard

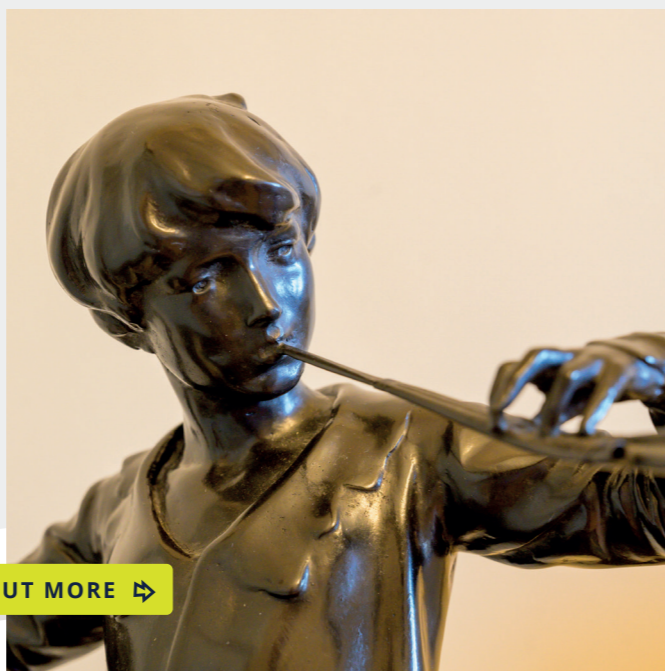
The Galloway Hoard is one of the most important archaeological finds of the century, and it started right here in the South of Scotland. This collection of more than 100 gold, silver, glass, crystal, stone, and earthen objects from the Viking Age was discovered in Kirkcudbrightshire and is currently on display at the Kirkcudbright Galleries. Browse artifacts from around AD900, including a gold-mounted rock-crystal flask and three golden jewels often referred to as 'aestels', amongst other Viking treasure.



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Moat Brae

Explore the house and gardens that inspired JM Barrie's famous book, Peter Pan. Moat Brae is the perfect place to relive your childhood memories and enjoy a magical day out. Who needs Disney World? Moat Brae offers interactive experiences, a museum, café and a beautiful garden to explore all year round.



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***STORIES
START HERE***

Sustainability

Dark Sky Park

Did you know that the South of Scotland boasts one of the best stargazing hubs in the UK? Tick exploring the Milky Way off of your bucket list by visiting the Galloway Forest Park's Dark Sky Park. Thousands of stars stretch across the night sky in a glorious display of cosmic artistry. Visit any of the three visitor centres in the forest park (Clatteringshaws, Glentool or Kirroughtree) for easy access and information points. You can even arrange for a trained dark sky ranger to accompany you on your galactic voyage.

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Did you know?

The Ba' Game

The Ba' Game is a medieval type of football played around Christmas and New Year, and native to the Scottish Borders. The action packed game moves through town, up alleyways, into yards and through the streets. Duns and Jedburgh in the Borders are especially well known for their games, which can be traced back to the 1700's. Like any sporting event, the games can be epic, intense and a bit rowdy – but if you're really looking to engrain yourself in the culture and heritage of the South of Scotland, the Ba' Game could be for you.



SPRING STARTS HERE

See the South of Scotland come alive during springtime. With an explosion of vibrant colours and thriving new wildlife, this is the perfect place to visit if you're looking for that flush of energy for the year ahead.

Event

Gravel Biking events

The variety of landscapes, rolling hills, and charming townscape stops make the South of Scotland a dream destination for those who love a thrill on two wheels. Ignite your sense of adventure and exploration with routes to suit every level of experience. There are lots of special events for this sport, such as the Muck n' Mac Fest at Traquair House and Raiders Gravel in the beautiful Galloway Forest Park. You'll find yourself pedalling through some of the most epic gravel trails the country has to offer.



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ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Experience

The Seabirds Return to St Abbs

The spectacular cliffs and sea stacks at St Abbs and along the Berwickshire Coastal Path provide an ideal habitat for a gallery of birds like razorbills, kittiwakes, guillemots and plenty others. With so many breeds of seabirds and in such numbers, a trip to the coastline is an unforgettable one for the eyes and the ears! If you're on the hunt to spot a puffin, it might be a bit trickier, but those colourful beaks will be hiding somewhere...

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Activity

Esther of Galloway Cycling's Favourite Spring Route

One of the best ways to appreciate the transition from winter to summer is with a cycle or a walk in Carstramon Wood, just outside Gatehouse of Fleet. My favourite ride to see the bluebells can be anything from a small 6 mile loop, riding along the Big Water of Fleet with views across to Rusko Castle, to a 16 miles loop up to the Big Water of Fleet Viaduct and the start of the 300 square mile Galloway Forest Park. There are several longer rides where you can take in the Laurieston Gallery and Cafe and travel on into the Glenkens. The whole area is a spider's web of quiet roads making this perfect place to explore by bike. Plan your ride to take in a cafe, or take a flask and cake with you, there are few better places.

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Visit

Distilleries

No trip to Scotland would be complete without popping in to one of its many distilleries. The South of Scotland is bursting with them and there's more than just whisky on display. Crafty Distillery in Newton Stewart is a good place to start. They produce gallons of multi-award winning tasty beverages and boast

panoramic views over the Galloway Hills. The Borders Distillery is another award winner you need to pop in to. Another is Dark Sky Spirits, a boutique blender of fine Scotch whiskies who offer in-person whisky tastings. Don't miss Ninefolds, the South of Scotland's first and only rum distillery. Cheers!

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Sustainability

Nithbank Country Estate

Back in 2016, owners, Mel and John, fell in love with Nithbank Country Estate, found amidst the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO designated area. After working hard to renovate the house and grounds, Nithbank is now a stunning 5-star Country B&B nestled in the tranquil Dumfries and Galloway countryside. Winning a GOLD Award from Green Tourism, the house prides itself on sustainability and conservation. Surrounded by well-kept gardens and ancient woodland, you can enjoy the river frontage and lovely views.

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Did you know?

Drumlanrig Castle and Estate

If you are looking for somewhere that expertly blends history, culture and scenery then you'll need to visit Drumlanrig Castle. The estate is ideal for walks and cycles with numerous trails from the gentle to the more strenuous. For the more adventurous there are even off-road mountain bike trails if you really want to get away from it all.

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SUMMER STARTS HERE

Summer in the South of Scotland never disappoints. From lush nature to rich cultural traditions, this season brings with it a whole host of exhilarating experiences.

Event

Common Ridings

Each year the towns of the Borders host the Common Ridings. The ridings have a long heritage shaped by the tumultuous history of the borderlands. In fact, they are one of the oldest equestrian festivals in the world. But it's not just about the pageantry and horsemanship. They play an important role in the identity of the region and are proudly celebrated each year with real passion. Towns such as Selkirk, Lauder, Hawick and Langholm come alive with colour and festivities. This is one event you do not want to miss.



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Experience

Dinner at The Allanton Inn

Scotland does have beautiful summer days (it's true!) and there's nowhere better to enjoy them than the country's southern reaches. The South of Scotland is replete with fantastic beer gardens and restaurant terraces to soak up the sun when it arrives. From cocktail bars to traditional pubs, to romantic evening meals when the sun goes down, it's all here.

One to try is the Allanton Inn, a coaching inn dating back to the 18th century. It's found in the charming conservation village of Allanton, and is an example of the quintessential Scottish hostelry where you can tuck into the likes of an Eyemouth fish platter, rump of local lamb, and a lavender and raspberry brûlée - all while enjoying a beautiful sunset.

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Activity

Beach Walks

Coldingham Bay is one of Scotland's finest beaches. Found midway between Eyemouth and St Abbs, its sheltered surroundings make it ideal for a day at the seaside. Another southern beach to try is Pease Bay, a unique sandy bay surrounded by sandstone cliffs. Alternatively venture to the Mull of Galloway and find Scotland's most southerly point, as well as a number of lovely beaches, some even boasting views across to Ireland!



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Visit

Botanic Gardens

Some of the country's finest gardens are found in the South of Scotland. One such green place is Dawyck Botanic Garden. The sister site to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, Dawyck is beautiful all year round, but summertime is when the rainbow of colours really come into bloom. Thanks to the warmth of the Gulf Stream, Logan Botanic Garden in the south west is also alive with tropical displays and palm trees at this time of year. Threave Gardens should be on your list, too. Divided into a number of small gardens you'll discover a range of plants and gardening styles to delight the green fingered.

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**NATURE
STARTS HERE**

Sustainability

Galloway Forest Park

If you're looking for something a little different, you can explore the South of Scotland landscape with a Biosphere Dark Sky Ranger. Elisabeth's experiences are designed for visitors to this beautiful part of Scotland. Darkness and stargazing experiences, rock-pooling and environmental art, she offers it all from the glorious surroundings of the Galloway Forest Park. From dinner round the campfire to hands-on encounters with the flora and fauna, your clients will come away with a new understanding of this part of the world.

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Did you know?

Crawick Multiverse

Crawick Multiverse is a unique land art installation for your clients to explore and enjoy. It's a one-of-a-kind experience that is sure to delight anyone with an interest in cosmology, science, art or just the outdoors. A land restoration project, it has turned an old open cast mine into an artistic treasure for the community. Something that really needs to be seen in person, it makes for an unforgettable visit.

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AUTUMN STARTS HERE

Autumn is a truly spectacular time of year to visit the South of Scotland. The landscape ignites with flaming golds and crimsons as the trees begin to shed their leaves for another year. The season is filled with moments unlike any other.

Event

Festivals in the South of Scotland

From September to early November, the Scottish Tree Festival offers one of the best ways to experience the beautiful autumnal shades of the Borders. And if you find yourself in this part of the world in September you can't miss taking in some culture at the Wigtown Book Festival. Held in Scotland's National Book Town, it plays host to over 130 literary events. Another autumnal event not to miss is the Stranraer Oyster Festival where you can taste some of the region's finest produce.



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Experience

Kitchen Coos and Ewes

Why not take the opportunity to find out about Scotland's most charismatic farm animal: the famous Highland coo? Afterwards on this authentic farm experience you can enjoy the hospitality of your hosts with some traditional farmhouse baking, something they take very seriously in the South of Scotland! Pancakes, crumpets, bannocks, scones—and then wash it all down with a cup of tea!

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[Visit South West Scotland](#)

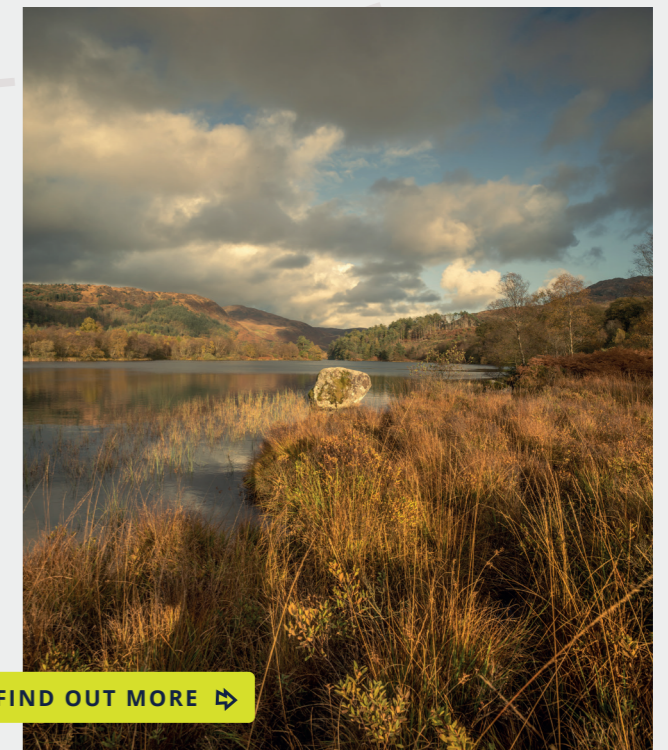
Activity

Loch Trool and Bruce's Stone

Take in some of Dumfries and Galloway's finest scenery with a walk along Loch Trool and across Glentrool—all within the confines of the beautiful Galloway Forest Park. This area is near the Merrick, which as the highest point in southern Scotland is a favourite with hill walkers. Near Loch Trool you'll find Bruce's Stone; a granite boulder commemorating Robert the Bruce's victory over the English in 1307. The stone is also the starting spot for one of the best hikes up the Merrick.



[Visit South West Scotland](#)



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Visit

Melrose

Don't miss a chance to visit the quintessential bonny Borders town of Melrose on your travels. Take a walk along the banks of the river Tweed and visit its historic Abbey. While you're there, visit Trimontium Museum and step back in time as you discover the story of the northernmost reaches of the Roman Empire. Be sure not to miss the new visitor centre for The Great Tapestry of Scotland, which tells a visual story of Scotland's culture and past. Another point of interest is the grand house of Abbotsford, the famous home of Sir Walter Scott.

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Sustainability

Harvest Season in the South of Scotland

With an enviable setting in the ancient precinct of Melrose Abbey, Priorwood Garden is a horticultural delight. Well known for its many historical apple varieties, it also boasts harvests of plums, pears, damsons and greengages. On a trip in October don't miss Traquair's Apple Day. The festival at Traquair House in Innerleithen offers a great way to celebrate the fruit, with the house's walled garden replete with trees laden with apples for your picking pleasure. There will be delicious apple treats and more available at its Garden Café.

[FIND OUT MORE ↗](#)

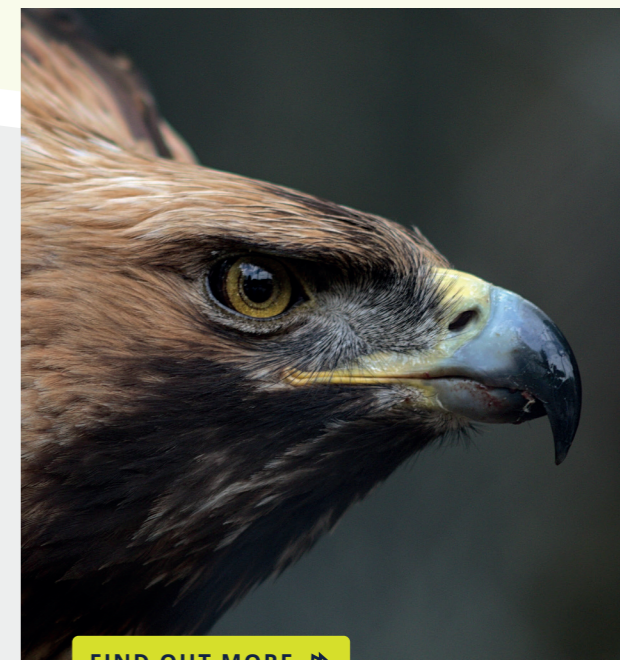


Did you know?

The Golden Eagle Project

Did you know - Golden Eagles have a long history in the South of Scotland. This apex predator plays a crucial role in the local ecosystem, but unfortunately, the species has seen a decline in population through the years. The South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project aims to increase numbers and prevent the loss of this glorious and unique animal from Southern Skies.

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***SUSTAINABILITY
STARTS HERE***