



Textiles in the Scottish Borders

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World-class Textiles Start Here...



Kelso Ram Sale



Selkirk Yarn Bombing



Textiles start here

The Scottish Borders– a land of rolling hills, fabulous forests, and fast-flowing rivers – is rightly famed for the creation of first-class fabrics, woollens and tweeds that are favourites with everyone from local farmers to the world's top fashion designers. Quite how one small corner of Scotland came to clothe the world is a story worthy of a great writer and today's visitors.

Although the history of weaving in the Borders dates back to the Middle Ages, it was not until the 1700s before linen production became a local cottage industry. This began in 1777 when the Manufacturers' Corporation of Galashiels was formed. Although it had just 23 members, they were filled with ambition and had built their first mill by 1800.

The Borders hills have long been famed for their sheep, and the fast-flowing tributaries of the River Tweed water gave the mills the power they needed to drive the industry forward. Hundreds of years later, this formula hasn't faltered!

Day 1



Famously Hawick



Abbotsford



Peebles Hydro Hotel

Start your trip in either Edinburgh or Glasgow, making your way south, into the Scottish Border, and straight into the heart of the textile making region – to Hawick. When Bailie John Hardie introduced the first stocking frames to Hawick in 1771, little did he realise what he was about to create. In less than 100 years the town was the very centre of the knitwear and Tweed trades in Scotland. Walk the numerous bridges spanning the Teviot that powered the mills in times gone by and immerse yourself in the rich history of the town. Cashmere and Tweed brought great

prosperity to Hawick. In fact, in the 1960's it was the highest-earning town in the United Kingdom per head of population.

Famously Hawick offers experiences in the town to varying degrees of detail. The five hour '[Famously Hawick Experience](#)' includes a visit to five local businesses. You will be looked after by a specialist guide and there will be the ability to tailor the experience or elements of the tour to the your and your group's specific interest. From the Johnstons of Elgin Mill Tour to a visit to the private viewing rooms at Hawico, the experience will also include a 2-course lunch as well as a visit to the [Borders Distillery](#) – including a tasting at the distillery. Opened in 2018, this is the first distillery in the region since 1837, and is dedicated to making great whisky that captures the spirit of the Borders.

If time allows, pay a visit to [Borders Textile Towerhouse](#), a 4-star visitor attraction, which gives visitors a unique insight into the region's knitwear and tweed manufacturing history. Displays of fashion, artefacts, photographs and film bring to life over 200 years of tradition and innovation in the local woollen industries. Changing exhibitions showcase local companies' continuing presence in the world of quality textiles.

Travel to Peebles for overnight accommodation; [The Tontine Hotel](#) offers excellent 3-star accommodation in a traditional Inn setting, [Cringletie](#) might be a 4-star exclusive use option for a group up to 26 pax and the 4-star [Peebles Hydro Hotel](#) can accommodate larger groups.

Day 2



[Cringletie](#)



[Beirhope Alpacas](#)



[Borders Distillery](#)

Travel towards Galashiels and Melrose today, starting with a viewing of [The Great Tapestry](#) of Scotland. This incredible attraction, new for summer 2021, tells the story of Scotland, its history, people and culture through an intricately detailed 143-metre long tapestry, stitched by over 1,000 volunteers.

Continue to [Abbotsford](#), the home of the famous writer Sir Walter Scott. It is claimed that Scott achieved social and political rehabilitation of tartans and kilts, made them fashionable and turned them into symbols of Scottish national identity. On request, Abbotsford can collaborate with Border Kilt School, who give talks and

demonstrations at Abbotsford. Lunch can also be booked at Abbotsford at Ochiltree's Bistro.

If time allows, there may be the chance to pop into award-winning [FRIBÉ Knitwear in Melrose](#). From sweaters to hats and gloves, Rosemary Eribé, the CEO and founder of the eco-friendly firm, puts a innovative spin on traditional Scottish knitwear, bringing together excellent craftsmanship and contemporary styles.

The highlight for the afternoon will be a visit to [Beirhope Alpacas](#). Escape the hustle and bustle of daily life and spend some time in the tranquillity of the breathtaking Cheviot Hills in the company of a fluffy alpaca. Not only can you take these lovely creatures for a walk, on request Wet Felting Workshops with alpaca wool are available. Enthusiasts can even purchase yarn which comes from the alpacas and sheep from the neighbouring hills. It does not get more local and unusual than this!

Return to your accommodation for the night.

Day 3



Tartan



Hawick



Johnstons of Elgin

Today, continue your journey onto other parts of Scotland, following the textile trail North.

Alternatively, stay a bit longer and consider a workshop day of knitting, felting or other activities, arranged at your hotel, followed by a further overnight in the region.

Read more [here](#) on the history of textiles in the Borders and where it is going today.

Other textile related companies in the Scottish Borders can be found on the following link - <http://www.borders-export.co.uk/category/textiles>

Follow the [Textile Trail](#) or build a custom made programme for your clients with some of the ideas outlined below.

If you like any of the above, you may also like the below suggestions:



Floors Castle



Traquair



Cocoa Black



Lochcarron of Scotland



Rosslyn Chapel



The Secret Herb Garden