

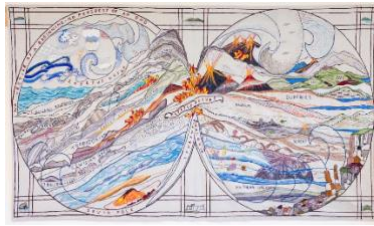


Literary Adventure

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A Literary Adventure for groups...



The Great Tapestry of Scotland



Tweed & Cashmere



Wigtown The Book Town

Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott both called the south of Scotland their home and their great works of literature live on for all to enjoy. The area inspired Peter Pan and is also home to Scotland's National Book Town, Wigtown, and has not one but two fantastic book festivals. Scotland's story will also soon be told visually through the [Great Tapestry of Scotland](#) in its custom-built home in the town of Galashiels, due to open in June 2021.

Visitors can undertake literary pilgrimages to visit the sites associated with these literary giants and many others underpinning the south of Scotland as the land of stories.

Day 1



Abbotsford



Bowhill House



Tweed Valley

Start your tour with a visit at [Abbotsford](#) near Melrose, Scott's 'palace of the imagination'. Abbotsford is the extraordinary home of the 19th century novelist and 'Great Scott' who popularised tartan, saved the Scottish Banknote and rediscovered his country's Crown Jewels. Discover a treasure trove of intriguing object which inspired his greatest poems and novels. Abbotsford do offer tailor made experiences for special interest groups.

Visit nearby majestic [Bowhill House](#), set deep in the heart of the Scottish Borders, beside winding glens and heathery hills. Sir Walter Scott, a kinsman and frequent visitor, admired the house so much he christened it 'Sweet Bowhill' in his famous poem, 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel'.

Bowhill's rich history is complemented by being home to an outstanding collection of paintings ranging from an exceptional series of family portraits by Thomas Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds including the latter's iconic Lady Caroline Scott as 'Winter', to fine landscapes by Claude and Ruysdael, including a set of Italian views by Guardi and Pannini and an exceptional Canaletto of London. Groups can be prebooked for private guided tours at Bowhill.

Travelling west, you can visit the small museum dedicated to [John Buchan](#) in Peebles. The John Buchan Story explores Buchan's life and legacy, showing the variety and scale of his personal experience and literary output, beyond "The Thirty Nine Steps". It also portrays his family's broader associations with Peebles - his parents had grown up in Tweeddale and family holidays were spent with relatives in the area, so Buchan developed a passion for the Borders countryside and its people.

For those groups seeking to be active, there is the 13 mile linear walk along the John Buchan Way. It runs between Peebles and Broughton through the hills and valleys of the Tweeddale. To include this an additional overnight in Peebles would be recommended.

Continue to travel via one of the most scenic routes in Scotland – the A701 – a true hidden gem. The journey will take you along some stunning views, such as the Devil's Beef tub, a dramatic hollow in the hills north of the Scottish town of Moffat.

Arrive for overnight in the town of Dumfries.

Day 2



The Globe Inn Dumfries



Ellisland Farm



Burns Statue

Dumfries is all about [Robert Burns](#), Scotland's national poet. He was born in Ayrshire in 1759 but spent the end of his life living in Dumfries since 1788. He started life as a farm labourer – a 'ploughman poet' writing in his spare time. He took over Ellisland Farm before moving to the town of Dumfries to work as an excise officer.

Robbie Burns left his mark on both Scottish culture and on Dumfries. There are numerous sights around the town which can be seen on a gentle [walking tour](#).

Start at the [Burns' Statue](#), which is opposite the Burgh Church of Dumfries (aka Greyfriars Kirk). The statue was carved by Italian craftsmen using marble from the city of Carrara in Northern Italy and unveiled in 1882.

Walking towards the River Nith you cross the river on the Devorgilla Bridge which was built in the 15th century and is one of the oldest in Scotland, so Burns would've used it while he lived in Dumfries.

Turn left at the end of the bridge past the Old Bridge House Museum, formerly an inn where Burns liked to drink.

Along the banks of the river you'll find the [Robert Burns Centre](#) in a converted 18th century watermill. The Centre tells the story of Burns' time in Dumfries with objects and artifacts on display. And the building is home to Scotland's smallest film theatre, which holds regular screenings.

From here turn down Burns Street where you'll find the [Robert Burns House](#) and a memorial garden outside. Burns and his family moved into this 18th-century sandstone house in May 1793, when the street was known as Mill Street. It is where Burns spent the last three years of his life living and working. You can see the study he wrote in and the bedroom where he died of rheumatism at the age of 37 on 21 July 1796. The house is furnished with beds, chairs and tables from the period.

Carry on along Burns Street and you'll see a [statue of Jean Armour](#), Robert Burns' wife. They met when she was 19 and ended up having nine children together, the last one born on the day of his funeral. It was a turbulent relationship though – her parents disapproved, six of their children died, Burns fathered at least four more illegitimate children (including one with the barmaid at the Globe!) and had a habit of disappearing.

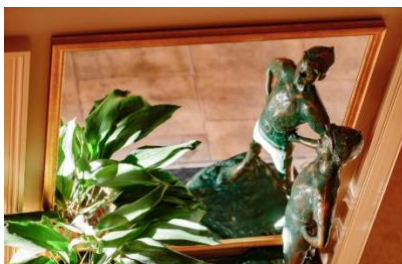
Cross the road to St Michael's and South Parish Church – Robert Burns' final resting place, you find his [mausoleum](#) at the back of the graveyard, a bright white dome among the more sombre red sandstone graves. Inside there's a sculpture of Burns with a plough and his muse Coila hovering over him. Also do call into the church to see the family pew and stained-glass windows of Robert Burns and Jean Armour.

In the afternoon you can continue the story of Robert Burns by visiting Ellisland Farm, a short drive north of Dumfries - some of Robert Burns' best loved nature poems were inspired by the tranquil setting of [Ellisland Farm](#), the house built by Robert Burns in 1788 as his home to bring his family together for the first time is today a much-celebrated museum housing one of the world's most important collections of Burns treasures.

In the evening why not pay a visit to [the Globe Inn](#), which can be found down a narrow passageway lined with murals depicting Burns' poems. The Globe was established in 1610, making it one of the oldest pubs in Scotland. It was also one of Burns' favourite watering holes. The pub has Burns memorabilia like handwritten letters and plaster busts on show, and lines of his poems are etched into the window panes of the bedroom he used to stay in upstairs. You can even sit in Burns' favourite chair next to the fireplace – though anyone who does has to recite one of his verses or pay the forfeit of buying a round for the whole pub.

Drink a toast to Burns with a dram or two in The Globe – you can book your groups for dinner here as well.

Day 3



Peter Pan



Afternoon Tea



Moat Brae House

Before you continue your journey today, heading further north or indeed south, we recommend a last literary visit in Dumfries.

Moat Brae House and Garden is the 'enchanted land' where **Peter Pan** began... This inspiring place has been saved from demolition, restored and opened in Spring 2019. Celebrating Peter Pan and the 'enchanted land' that so inspired its author Author JM Barrie, visitors can discover the heritage and secrets of the beautiful Georgian House and its Neverland Discovery Garden by the River Nith.

“When shades of night began to fall, certain young mathematicians shed their triangles, crept up walls and down trees, and became pirates in a sort of Odyssey that was long afterwards to become the play of Peter Pan. For our escapades in a certain Dumfries Garden, which is enchanted land to me, were certainly the genesis of that nefarious work, Peter Pan.”

JM Barrie – creator of Peter Pan

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



Galloway Forest Park



Melrose Abbey



Gretna Green



Scott's View



Border Common Ridings



Annandale Distillery