



History, Heritage and Culture

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History, Heritage & Culture Starts Here...



Traquair House



Common Ridings



Abbotsford

Heritage, culture and Scotland's capital all go together: iconic venues such as Edinburgh Castle and the National Museum of Scotland set the tone. Not far from the city, Rosslyn Chapel is unique and thought provoking, while Newbattle Abbey had a special role in the story of Scotland. The National Mining Museum is a reminder of the industrial heritage of Scotland. This theme is picked up again at Hawick's Textile Tower House, which neatly links wool and weaving back to the monks of the Border Abbeys. Finally, no visit to the Scottish Borders & Midlothian is complete without becoming acquainted with Scotland's champion: Sir Walter Scott and his extraordinary house at Abbotsford. History Starts Here... there is an abundance of Peel Towers, castles, historic houses and so much more to explore.

Why not delve into the past to experience the world-renowned Common Ridings in The Scottish Borders and Midlothian. These celebrations are modelled on the traditional [Border Common Ridings](#), which are held annually and are used to commemorate important events in the history of the Scottish Borders. In many Border towns the ceremonies and events which take place are held with very high regard in the community. They are a custom upheld with real fervour by locals in homage to the region's unique identity, shaped in part by its tumultuous past. They also happen in [Midlothian](#).

Day 1



Jedburgh Abbey



Borders Textile Towerhouse



Dryburgh Abbey

Travel to Hawick to discover the textile heritage of the Borders at the [Borders Textile Towerhouse](#). As the monks were the first to introduce sheep

and weaving to the area, it would be ideal to go on to Jedburgh to explore the life of the Border abbeys, [Jedburgh Abbey](#) returning to the Tweedbank/Galashiels area via [Dryburgh Abbey](#) and [Melrose Abbey](#). Fantastic Border market towns surround you with amazing local shops and eateries showcasing real provenance.

Overnight in Melrose area. Experience the warm welcome at [Burts Hotel](#) or head to [Dryburgh Abbey Hotel](#) located on the River Tweed. There really is plenty of places to choose from.

Day 2



Abbotsford



Big House Group Map



Smailholm Tower

To pick up on another key cultural theme, take the short journey to [Abbotsford](#) the home of Sir Walter Scott, who played such an important role in creating an image of a romantic and heroic Scotland. Enjoy lunch at Abbotsford and their restaurant [Ochiltrees](#) to sample delicious local cuisine. There are so many Historic Houses in the Scottish Borders to explore – delve deeper and explore more with – [The Big Houses Group](#). Enroute to any of these fantastic houses you are sure to pass one of the many Peel Towers and other Historical sites, statues, ruins and places connected to obscure history.

Overnight in the Scottish Borders- why not stay in Peebles – there are many lovely accommodation providers – whatever you may be looking for. Suggestions include [Cringletie](#), [Windlestraw](#), [Tontine Hotel](#) or [Caddon View](#).

Day 3



The Great Polish Map of Scotland



The Granites B709



Arniston House

One of the hidden gems in this area and not to be missed is '[The Great Polish Map of Scotland](#)' which is located within the grounds of [Barony Castle](#). The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a large (50 m x 40 m) three-dimensional, outdoor concrete scale model of Scotland. It is also known as the Mapa Scotland (derived from Polish mapa Szkocji) or the Barony Map. The brainchild of Polish war veteran Jan Tomasik, it was built between 1974 and 1979 and is claimed to be the world's largest terrain relief model. Enjoy lunch or refreshments at the Barony Castle Hotel.

Head back towards Innerleithen and take the B709 over the granites towards Gorebridge in Midlothian for breath-taking weaving roads through the hills and spectacular views over Midlothian, Edinburgh and you can even see as far as Fife.

Meandering down to Gorebridge why not book a tour at [Arniston House](#) (pre-booking essential and only open on certain days) who were selected for Outlander Season 4. Or you head along to view the amazing [Crichton Castle](#) – which is a ruined castle situated at the head of the River Tyne filled with history.

Overnight in the Dalkeith area (lots of fantastic options available from bed & breakfasts, exclusive use/self-catering – why not stay in a castle yourself with 2 castles in the area having been converted into hotels. [Dalhousie Castle](#) and [Melville Castle](#)

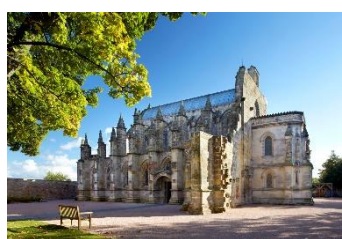
Day 4



[National Mining Museum](#)



[Newbattle Abbey](#)



[Rosslyn Chapel](#)

In the morning discover another aspect of Midlothian heritage, this time industrial at the [National Mining Museum](#). Why not go on to book a tour at [Newbattle Abbey](#) to hear about its remarkable 900 year history?

A must visit following here is [Rosslyn Chapel](#) – one of Scotland's most remarkable medieval buildings. By the late 18th-century, it was starting to appear on itineraries and its profile significantly increased after the publication of Dan Brown's novel, The Da Vinci Code, in 2003, and the subsequent film.

Enjoy lunch in their coffee shop explore the wooded glen nearby. [Roslin Glen Country Park](#)

Overnight in Roslin or Penicuik – suggestions include [The Original Rosslyn Inn](#) or [The Craigie Hotel](#) in Penicuik.

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



Gunsgreen House



Manderson House



Cousland Smiddy



Mary Queen of Scots House



Thirlestane Castle



Paxton House