



SCOTLAND STARTS HERE

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5-day itinerary covering the best of the Scottish Borders and Midlothian, starting in Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Leave the country's central belt behind and spend five days exploring where Scotland truly starts.

Day 1



[Secret Herb Garden](#)



[Stewart Brewing](#)



[Rosslyn Chapel](#)

Start your journey mid to late morning and head south to enjoy coffee and cake at the [Secret Herb Garden](#). Explore the specialist herb nursery, greenhouse and onsite distillery and enjoy browsing their shop for vintage home and garden goodies. If beer is more your tippie, go on a brewery tour at nearby [Stewart Brewing](#). Here, you will discover the creative process of designing award-winning beer recipes and flavours.

A visit to the stunning [Rosslyn Chapel](#) is unmissable. You may have heard of it in Dan Brown's international bestseller *The Da Vinci Code*. The 15th-century chapel is located in the village of Roslin, overlooking the local country park. Explore the mysteries of the chapel or head into the country park for a look at the ruins of Roslin Castle.

As you continue south towards Peebles, ensure to stop en route to see the [Great Polish Map of Scotland](#). An accurate relief map of Scotland rendered in concrete, the map is the brainchild of a Polish war veteran and is hidden in the grounds of Barony Castle, Eddleston.

Arriving into [Peebles](#), take time to explore the Royal Burgh and its picturesque High Street. Wander along the Tweed and explore the local walking paths before settling in for the night.

Overnight in Peebles: Accommodation options are Tontine Hotel, Windlestraw, Caddon View, Peebles Hydro, Cringletie House Hotel.

Day 2



GoApe



Traquair House



Lochcarron of Scotland

Thrill-seekers can spend the morning at **Glentress**. Awaken your inner Tarzan as you tackle the treetop course and zip lines at **GoApe** or embark on a downhill mountain biking adventure at **7stanes**. If you're looking for a guided mountain bike tour, **Ridelines** offer a variety of options and coaching for all skill levels.

Those after a gentle start to the day can head to **Kailzie Gardens**. Throughout the season, the gardens offer a vibrant display of colour – snowdrops claim the slopes early in the year, and bluebells take over in May. Both keen gardeners and those simply looking for a stroll will enjoy a visit.

Continue to **Traquair House**, Scotland's oldest inhabited house, and explore the 900-year-history on a tour; see the gardens, maze and taste Traquair Ale at the in-house brewery.

From Innerleithen, it is a wonderful short drive to Selkirk and **Lochcarron of Scotland**. With a heritage dating back to 1892, Lochcarron is the world's leading manufacturer of tartan – the variety of colours will amaze you. See the production process up close (Monday to Thursday only) and stay for a spot of shopping.

Then, head to the picturesque market town of **Melrose** just around the corner. Small independent shops, the magnificent ruined abbey, and colourful gardens all add to the town's character.

Overnight in Peebles: Tontine Hotel, Windlestraw, Caddon View, Peebles Hydro, Cringletie House Hotel.

Day 3



Scott's View



Born in the Borders



Beirhope Alpacas

Today, travel further east and along country roads to reach **Scott's View**. Named after the famous author Sir Walter Scott, the scenic spot is said to have inspired his writings. The enchanting view over the valley of the River Tweed and towards the peaks of the Eildon Hills certainly adds to this story. Continue to the village of St Boswells in the Scottish Borders to visit **The Main Street Trading Company**. Here, you will discover a world of books, coffee, and delicious cake in the main shop. Head across the courtyard to the deli and homeware shop for a browse or explore their calendar of literary and musical events.

Later, make your way to **Born in the Borders** near Jedburgh. The visitor centre celebrates all things food and drink, being home to the Scottish Borders Brewery and Lilliard Gin. Browse the food hall for local foods and gifts, and pick up a few things for a riverside picnic. Alternatively, enjoy a coffee or meal in the restaurant.

After indulging in the treats and specialities of South Scotland, continue on to **Hawick**, the centre of the Borders' famous textile industry. Now known as the cashmere, tweed and whisky town, its world-famous producers are worth exploring.

Visit **Johnstons of Elgin**, for a free tour and discover the story of cashmere from fibre to finished garment. Nearby you find **The Borders Distillery**, the first Scotch Whisky distillery in the Scottish Borders since 1837. Dedicated to capturing the spirit of the Borders in their whisky, gin and vodka, it is certainly worth a tour.

Finish the day with a visit at **Beirhope Alpacas** (pre-booking essential) for your chance to explore the hills with an Alpaca by your side. Exclusive walks can also be booked.

Overnight in Kelso or area: Ednam House, Queen Head Hotel or if you are looking for something extraordinary, Schloss Roxburghe.

Day 4



Mellerstain House



Eyemouth



St Abbs

Start your day with a visit to **Mellerstain House**, the home of the 14th Earl of Haddington (open Friday to Mondays only). Take a stroll in the grounds or explore the exquisite Robert Adam designed interiors.

From here, take the scenic drive to the Berwickshire Coast, to **Eyemouth**. Its natural harbour and fine coastal scenery are perfect for a stroll, and the Berwickshire Coastal Path passing through the town offers the ideal route to for exploring. Similar to other coastal communities, smuggling was rife in Eyemouth, with sea caves and underground tunnels providing cover. Here, however, you can discover **Gunsgreen House**, a mansion built on the proceeds of the illicit trade in wine spirits, tea and tobacco. Why not spend some time taking in the colourful fishing boats bringing in the catch of the day. If you fancy trying some of it yourself, pop into **Giacopazzis** for some fish & chips or award-winning ice cream! Or, if you prefer exploring further at sea, head out with Eyemouth Rib Trips and take in the coastal scenery. If you are lucky, you might spot dolphins or orcas.

You can also continue following along the coast to the quaint town of **St Abbs** to discover **St Abbs Head Nature Reserve** with its sea bird colonies or dive deeper with an exploration of the **Berwickshire Marine Reserve**.

When it is time to head back inland, explore Duns and its surrounding area. These are the roads where motorsports legend Jim Clarke learned to drive and the Jim Clarke Motorsport Museum in Duns explores his extraordinary life and incredible racing accomplishments further.

Overnight in Kelso or area: Ednam House, Queen Head Hotel or if you are looking for something extraordinary, Schloss Roxburghe.

Day 5



Floors Castle



Dalkeith Country Park



Restoration Yard

Floors Castle and Grounds head to **Floors Castle**. Scotland's largest still inhabited castle, and certainly one of its grandest is a sight to behold. Take a tour of the sumptuous interiors or stroll the perfectly manicured gardens and expansive estate on the banks of the Tweed.

Then head north to Dalkeith. Here, take the time to discover **Dalkeith Country Park and Restoration Yard**. With over 300 years of history, the country park combines beautiful walks through ancient woodlands, along burns and passing by Dalkeith Palace. Take a wander before heading into Restoration Yard at the centre of the country park. The restored stables house a store stocking a curated range of homeware, books, clothes as well as deli, a restaurant and the wellbeing lab. Take some time out for a browse and enjoy afternoon tea or lunch.

After your visit, it's on to Edinburgh and beyond.

If you like the above, you might also enjoy the below suggestions:



Dive St Abbs



Paxton House



Smailholm Tower



Newbattle Abbey



**Borders Textile
Towerhouse**



**National Mining
Museum**