



FROM BIRTH TO BURIAL

A ROBERT BURNS JOURNEY

FIT Itinerary for the Travel Trade





Robert Burns Statue



St Michael's Church



Jean Armour Statue

From Birth to Burial – Robert Burns, Privately Experienced

This FIT itinerary follows Burns not as a sequence of sites, but as a lived story — told through language, objects, performance, place and craft. Each experience is designed to feel unlocked rather than visited, offering moments normally hidden from public view and creating a sense of stepping briefly into Burns' private world.

DAY ONE – FINDING THE VOICE



Ellisland Museum & Farm – Language in the Landscape

The journey begins where Burns' voice was at its strongest and most confident. Ellisland was not simply Burns' home, but the place where land, labour and language came together. Here he wrote some of his best-known works including Tam o'Shanter and Auld Lang Syne.

Guests enjoy a guided visit to Ellisland Museum & Farm, where Burns brought his young family and built the home and working farm as it stands today—followed by our traditional Dram and Bannock tasting. Led by a local storyteller, this experience explores Burns as a working writer rooted in place, with a private introduction to his most prolific period, his use of the Scots language, and time to reflect on how the surrounding landscape shaped his writing. Your visit finishes with the food and drink enjoyed here—and celebrated by Burns in verse: Scotch whisky and bannock bread.

From Ellisland, guests make the short journey into Dumfries.

Alternatively, guests could be staying in the Auld Acquaintance Cottage, a luxury, renovated two-bedroom self-catering holiday home located within the grounds of Ellisland Museum & Farm.



Ellisland Museum & Farm



The Spence, Ellisland Museum & Farm



Auld Acquaintance Cottage





Dumfries – Rest and Renewal

Guests check in to the Cairndale Hotel & Spa, where time is set aside to unwind after the day’s exploration.

The award winning spa offers a range of experiences including the Exclusive Angels’ Share Full Body Massage, a signature spa treatment inspired by whisky heritage. This massage uses the Annandale x Cairndale Angel’s Share whisky and vanilla balm, designed to release muscle tension while enveloping guests in the warm aromas associated with Scotland’s whisky-making tradition.



Cairndale Hotel & Spa



Cairndale Hotel & Spa



Cairndale Hotel & Spa



Evening - The Globe Inn: Burns After Dark

The evening centres on Burns’ social world at The Globe Inn, his favourite “howff” — a traditional Scots public house established in 1610.

A private storytelling tour introduces the historic rooms Burns frequented during his Dumfries years. Guests discover a remarkable collection of Burns artefacts, including his bed, his razor and original verses etched onto the window panes. Visitors may even sit in Burns’ chair and recite lines from his poetry, bringing the poet vividly to life.

Following the tour, dinner is served at 1610 at The Globe Inn, a Michelin-listed restaurant known for its modern Scottish cuisine. Guests enjoy the Degustation Menu, a carefully curated tasting experience showcasing seasonal Scottish ingredients and the culinary creativity of the region.

This is Burns as he lived — among friends, words spoken aloud and ideas shared over good food and whisky.



The Globe Inn



The Globe Inn



Robert Burns' Chair, The Globe Inn





Jean Armour Statue



Robert Burns Centre



Burns Mausoleum

DAY TWO – MEMORY, PERFORMANCE AND SPIRIT



Burns House Experience – the Final Chapter

Day two begins with an exclusive guided experience exploring the final chapter of Robert Burns' life in Dumfries.

The visit starts at Burns House, where guests step inside the rooms where Burns lived, wrote and ultimately died, gaining a personal insight into his family life and enduring legacy.

From here, a short guided walk leads through St Michael's Churchyard, bringing to life the people and relationships that shaped Burns' world. Along the way, guests encounter the statue of Jean Armour, offering a deeper understanding of her life, resilience and role in Burns' story.

The experience culminates with exclusive access inside Burns' Mausoleum, Burns' final resting place, providing a rare and moving moment of reflection at one of Scotland's most significant literary pilgrimage sites.

From here it is a short walk to the nearby Theatre Royal Dumfries, where the next chapter of the story unfolds.



Robert Burns House



Robert Burns House



Theatre Royal Dumfries



Theatre Royal Dumfries – Backstage Sayings

Guests step inside Theatre Royal Dumfries, Scotland's oldest working theatre, built in 1792 and still presenting live performances today.

Burns had strong links with the theatre. He was among the original subscribers who helped fund its construction and wrote prologues for the Dumfries theatre company, including one for actress Louisa Fontanelle. His ballad opera *The Jolly Beggars* reflects his enthusiasm for the stage.

During the "Backstage Sayings & Superstitions" experience, guests go behind the scenes to discover the traditions and stories of theatre life. Visitors explore the auditorium and backstage areas, learn theatrical language and superstitions, and even try their hand at creating stage effects such as thunder and rain. The experience concludes on the stage itself, where guests may recite a short extract from Burns' work.





[Annandale Distillery – Words into Spirit](#)

Leaving Dumfries, the journey continues south to Annandale Distillery, where whisky provides a natural bridge between Burns' world and modern Scotland.

Guests enjoy a private guided distillery tour, including access to areas not normally open to visitors and the opportunity to speak directly with the Master Distiller.

The experience explores:

- Burns' role as an Exciseman, supervising distilleries and collecting duty
- Whisky's place in Burns' social and literary world
- The story behind Man O'Words, Annandale's single malt named in tribute to Burns and his mastery of language

A private tasting concludes the experience, bringing the journey full circle — pairing spirit with story.

The journey ends as Burns often did: in conversation, reflection and a shared dram. From here guests continue their travels within Scotland or onward into the North of England.



Annandale Distillery



Annandale Distillery



Man O'Words

For further information or support please contact: traveltrade@ssdalliance.com

7th May 2026

