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## **New 7-day Burns Trail** **Discover Robert Burns with the National Trust for Scotland**

Humanitarian, national hero, poet and musician, lover and international icon, **Robert Burns** is Scotland's most remarkable and best-loved son. His legendary artistic legacy contains more than 600 poems and songs gathered over a short lifetime. His song *Auld Lang Syne* is sung by people around the world, and he has been translated into almost every written language. His most popular works include the comic ghost story *Tam o' Shanter* and the romantic *Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon*.

You can celebrate the life and legacy of this world-famous figure and discover the best of Scotland by following our new 7-day Burns Trail, taking you from the dramatic cliffs of south-west Ayrshire to the spectacular Highlands in the north.

- Discover the intimate **Bachelors' Club** where Burns first tested his debating skills
- Stop off at **Souter Johnnie's Cottage**, the home of a character immortalised in Burns's famous poem *Tam o' Shanter*
- Visit the newly refurbished thatched cottage, where Burns was born over 250 years ago, at **Burns National Heritage Park**
- Follow in the footsteps of Burns at **Bannockburn** and **Brodie Castle**
- Discover the Old & New Towns of Edinburgh at **Gladstone's Land** and **The Georgian House**
- Walk the battlefield at **Culloden** as Burns did over 200 years ago

### **Day One:** Glasgow – Ayrshire

Only a 45-minute drive from Glasgow takes you to the heart of the famous Burns Country in Ayrshire. Your tour starts with a special private introduction to Burns as a young man at the **Bachelors' Club** (3 Star Visitor Attraction), the perfect visit for Burns aficionados. It was in this 17th-century thatched house that Burns formed a debating club, was initiated as a Freemason and attended dancing lessons – much to the chagrin of his father!

Next on your tour is a visit to **Culzean Castle & Country Park** (5 Star Visitor Attraction)\* near Maybole where Burns's mother, Agnes, grew up. With acres of colourful gardens, woodland walks and a 'fairytale' castle perched high on top of the Ayrshire cliffs, it's not difficult to see why Culzean is one of the Trust's most



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visited properties. Enjoy a tasty lunch or snack in the spacious 100-cover Home Farm Restaurant.

Don't forget to visit nearby **Souter Johnnie's Cottage** (3 Star Historic House), where a visit has been described as '... like stepping into one of Burns's poems.' This was the home of souter (shoemaker) John Davidson and his family – Souter Johnnie was immortalised as Tam's drinking friend in Burns's epic poem *Tam o' Shanter*. The traditional thatched cottage contains Burns memorabilia and the tools of a village souter, with a restored ale-house in the cottage garden.

### **Day Two:** Glasgow – Ayrshire

Your day starts with a visit to the early 18th-century **Weaver's Cottage** (3 Star Visitor Attraction) on the outskirts of Glasgow. See how the specially designed Burns family tartan bedspread, created to celebrate Burns's 250th birthday, was made on a working traditional 200-year-old loom, the last of 800 handlooms once used in the village. The bedspread is now on display at Burns Cottage in **Burns National Heritage Park** (3 Star Visitor Attraction) in Alloway, the next stop on your tour.

This iconic site was acquired by the Trust for the Year of Homecoming 2009. Work is now underway to create the brand new, world-class, eco-friendly **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**, due to open late summer 2010. Until then you can:

- Visit the newly interpreted thatched cottage where Burns was born over 250 years ago;
- Stroll across the Brig o' Doon and explore Auld Kirk Alloway, both immortalised in the famous poem *Tam o' Shanter*;
- Climb to the top of the historic Burns Monument and explore the surrounding commemorative gardens;
- Try a traditional haggis lunch (on the menu daily!) in our 80-cover restaurant and visit our Burns-themed gift shop.

Thanks to our partnership with nearby **Dumfries House**, we are also delighted to offer guided tours of this most beautiful stately home at a special introductory price\*\*. Burns's father-in-law, James Armour, worked as a stonemason on the construction of this magnificent house, and its stunning interiors are home to a world-class collection of furniture by both Thomas Chippendale and many 18th-century Scottish cabinet makers.

### **Day Three:** Glasgow – Edinburgh



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The first stop today is **Bannockburn Heritage Centre** (3 Star Visitor Attraction), near Stirling. One of Scotland's most iconic historical sites, Burns visited Bannockburn in 1787 as part of his tour of Stirlingshire and the Highlands. He wrote to a friend, '... two hours ago, I said a fervent prayer for old Caledonia over the hole in a blue whin-stone where Robert de Bruce fixed his royal standard on the banks of Bannockburn.' Today, you can re-live the battle experience with a guided battlefield tour, an interactive weapons display and a gripping, new short film depicting the dramatic events of June 1314.

Next on your tour is **Alloa Tower** (3 Star Historic House), home of the 7th Earl of Mar, who came to Burns's rescue in 1793. When Burns was threatened with losing his position in the Excise due to his radical views, the Earl offered to head a petition on Burns's behalf. Alloa Tower is one of the oldest and tallest tower houses in Scotland, and you can marvel at the magnificent oak beams, medieval dungeon and rare vaulted ceiling. Many famous monarchs visited the tower over the centuries, including Mary, Queen of Scots.

#### **Day Four:** Edinburgh – Scottish Borders

In celebration of the written word, your day starts with a private tour of **Robert Smail's Printing Works** (4 Star Visitor Attraction) in Innerleithen. This fully operational printing works was established over a hundred years ago and you can still see it working today. Our printer will demonstrate the original water-powered letterpress and you can even try your hand at typesetting! Look out for the plaque nearby, commemorating Burns's visit to the village in May 1787. Burns noted the nearby health-giving spa which was frequented by another great writer, Sir Walter Scott.

Enjoy more of the picturesque Scottish Borders with visits to **Harmony and Priorwood Gardens** (3 Star Gardens) in nearby Melrose. Situated close to the impressive Melrose Abbey, Harmony is a haven of tranquillity while Priorwood is a specialist centre for drying flowers that are grown in the garden.

#### **Day Five:** Edinburgh

Burns made several visits to Edinburgh, to oversee publication of his work and as a guest of the city's brilliant men of letters. Today you can capture the essence of the city's Old and New Towns with visits to the 17th-century **Gladstone's Land** (3 Star Visitor Attraction) on the Royal Mile and the late 18th-century **Georgian House** (4 Star Visitor Attraction) in Charlotte Square. Both properties now form part of Edinburgh's famous World Heritage Site.



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Described by Burns as ‘the heavenly Hanoverianism’ of Edinburgh’s New Town, Charlotte Square is an integral feature of Robert Adam’s masterpiece of urban design. In the Old Town you can visit the modern Scottish Parliament, formally inaugurated with a memorable rendition of one of Burns’s most famous songs, *A Man’s A Man For A’ That*.

**Day Six:** Edinburgh – Inverness

The first stop on your journey to the Highlands is **Kellie Castle & Garden** (4 Star Historic House) in Fife. Steeped in history, Kellie’s oldest tower dates from 1360 and is said to be haunted. The 5th Earl of Kellie hid in the garden for an entire summer in 1746 (after the battle of Culloden). His youngest son, a much valued friend of Burns, tragically drowned himself in the Forth in 1793. Beautifully restored by the Lorimer family in the 1800s, the castle boasts magnificent plaster ceilings and panelling, colourful gardens and wonderful sea views.

**Day Seven:** Inverness

Burns visited Drum Mossie Moor, the site of the battle of **Culloden**, on 6 September 1787. Today, you can walk the battlefield using groundbreaking multilingual GPS-enabled battlefield guides, just one exciting feature of this multi-award winning 5-Star Visitor Attraction. Listen to first-hand accounts describing the lead-up to 16 April 1746 when the course of British, European and world history changed forever; re-live the battle through a sensory, 360-degree total immersion theatre; view breathtaking displays of artefacts and weaponry; relax in our 120-cover restaurant; and visit the shop for unique Culloden-branded gifts.

The next stop is nearby **Brodie Castle** (4 Star Castle), where Burns stayed the night during his Highland tour.\*\*\* He wrote to his brother Gilbert on 17 September 1787, ‘I slept at the famous Brodie of Brodie’s one night ...’ Feast your eyes on exquisite French furniture, oriental porcelain, a major collection of paintings and the magnificent library. Enjoy refreshments and traditional home baking before taking a stroll in the peaceful grounds, famous for its unique spring daffodil collection.

Take a tour of one of the many distilleries in the area and sample a ‘taste of Scotland’ before heading home – the perfect end to your Burns Trail.

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Why not use our new flexible **Discover Tickets** for your *National Trust for Scotland Burns Trail*? Only available to the trade through our **One-Stop-Shop**, these tickets



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Other benefits include:

- Central booking
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\* groups of up to 12 can stay at the **Eisenhower Apartment** at Culzean Castle. Situated on the top floor of the castle, this magnificent apartment is completely self-contained and is in the style of a country house hotel, including a Drawing Room and Dining Room. Coupled with 600 acres of beautiful Scottish countryside and inviting sandy beaches, it's ideal for incentive groups, exclusive dinners or team-building weekends. For bookings and further information contact Culzean Castle on 0844 493 2149 or visit [www.culzeanexperience.org/](http://www.culzeanexperience.org/)

\*\* terms and conditions apply

\*\*\* groups of up to 14 can stay at **The Laird's Wing** at Brodie Castle, part of our Connoisseurs' Collection of holiday accommodation. Live the life of a Laird in this high-quality apartment where much of the character of the wing has been kept as it was during the stylish Brodie family's use. For bookings and further information contact the Holidays Department on 0844 493 2108 or visit [www.nts.org.uk/holidays/](http://www.nts.org.uk/holidays/)