

Special Group Tours 2009

Blair Castle Tour



Explore seven centuries of history through the fascinating historic interior of Blair Castle. As a draughty medieval castle, a stately Georgian mansion, or a comfortable Victorian family home, Blair Castle has been a magnet to visitors down the generations. An extensive tour takes in some 30 rooms crammed full of treasures and alive with the characters and personalities of their former occupants.

Guided tours are available free to groups of 12 or more, subject to availability on the day. Pre-booking is recommended and booked tours are given priority.

Opening Times: 1 April to 30 October 2009 Daily from 9.30am – 5.30pm
Tickets: Adults £6.27, Children £4.80, Student £6.27, Seniors £6.27

Opening Times: 3 November to 31 March 2010 9.30am – 2pm
Tickets: Adults £5.50, Children £3.75, Student £5.50, Seniors £5.50
Open to groups on other days by prior arrangement.

Blair Castle Garden Tour



Blair Castle is at the hub of a breathtaking historic landscape most of which was laid out in the 18th century and features a magnificent walled garden, a peaceful wooded grove, a ruined Celtic kirk, a red deer park and a whimsical gothic folly.

Guided tours of the Hercules' Garden are available. This stunning 9 acre-walled garden was recently restored to its original Georgian design and incorporates landscaped ponds, a folly, a Chinese bridge and an impressive orchard of more than 100 fruit trees. The glory of this garden in summer is the 275 metre herbaceous border which runs the entire length of the south-facing wall.

See opening times above.

Tickets: £11 per person

(The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people.) The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.

Attic Tour



Discover the secrets of Blair Castle's attics. Hidden from view in the attic maze of rooms and corridors are many strange, wonderful and interesting artefacts. Uncover the secrets of eccentric collector Baron Maule's room, look through a selection of our historic Estate records and marvel at the eclectic collections of family paintings, walking sticks, weaponry and period costume. The tour culminates in a climb to the rooftops for breathtaking panoramic views of the castle grounds (weather permitting).

Tickets: £11 per person

(Minimum fee payable £110. Numbers limited to 10 people per tour.)

Please note that this tour involves many flights of spiral stairs, the occasional tight space and heights and is only suitable for the fully able.

The Clans Tour



Spend a day discovering your roots at Blair Castle. Join a special tour that explores the historic association of Clan Murray, Clan Stewart, Clan Robertson and Clan Ferguson with the castle. Visit our Clans display in the Banvie Hall and sign in our special visitor's book to record your visit to the home of your ancestors in the year of Homecoming.



Adults attending the tour will now will receive a free miniature of Bells whisky courtesy of the Blair Atholl Distillery in Pitlochry.

Tickets: £11 per person

(The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people. The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.)

Duchess Kitty Tour

The remarkable life-story of Duchess Kitty, Scotland's first female MP and the 8th Duchess of Atholl. One of the most forward-thinking and outspoken politicians of her day, her relentless campaign for political freedom against the backdrop of an increasingly totalitarian pre-war Europe caused widespread controversy. A fascinating insight into a turbulent life lived through turbulent times.

Tickets: £11 per person

The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people. The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.



Lady Evelyn – The Great Embroiderer Tour

Enigmatic, reclusive and possessing an extraordinary gift for needlework, Lady Evelyn is one of the most fascinating female characters in Blair's history. Her beautiful lacework armorial panel, is widely regarded as one of the finest examples of 20th Century British embroidery and is just one of many exquisite pieces which form part of the castle's collection. Her passion for needlework was only matched by her love of Gaelic folk tales which she collected from all over Highland Perthshire.



Tickets: £11 per person

The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people. The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.

A Royal Friendship – Duchess Anne Tour



Queen Victoria's passion for the Scottish Highlands is well known but it was also a firm friendship with Duchess Anne that drew her to Atholl. A Mistress of the Robes in 1852 and a Lady of the Bedchamber in 1854, Duchess Anne was a much valued confidant, even present at the time of her beloved Prince Albert's death. This talk explores the fascinating series of visits and correspondence between these two women.

Tickets: £11 per person

The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people. The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.



Conflict and Rebellion – The Jacobites Tour

A troubled period of Scottish history, families divided, father against son, brother against brother. In the complex world of 18th century politics the Atholl family pulled off an extraordinary feat of survival. Having members on both sides of the political divide caused fierce quarrels but ultimately preserved the family fortunes.

Tickets: £11 per person

The minimum fee payable for this tour is £132 for up to 12 people. The maximum number for this tour is 25 people.



Refreshments

The Blair Castle Tullibardine Restaurant will be happy to arrange refreshments to accompany your tour.

The restaurant seats up to 125 people and is open during the summer season from 10.00am until 5.00pm daily. During the winter season, the restaurant is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays until 2pm (cooked lunches are available on other days for groups by prior arrangement). The restaurant serves a range of meals and refreshments including hot meals, sandwiches, soups, salads and cakes.

Breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon tea options are all available. Picnic lunches can also be supplied.



Tractor Tours



Explore the grounds of Blair Castle and the surrounding landscape on a 90 minute vintage tractor and trailer ride. Travelling at a leisurely pace you'll visit parts of the castle grounds many visitors never get to see as you travel through farmland, woodland and along the maze of estate tracks. The tour offers many opportunities to see the animals that live on the estate including red deer, Highland ponies and Highland cows. A real favourite with children, this tour is a fun way to discover more of the estate.

Tickets: £5 per person

The minimum fee payable for this tour is £80 for up to 16 people. For each additional person, up to a maximum of 30 people, £5 per Adult and £3 per Child will be payable.

Land Rover tours



Most of Scotland's more iconic wildlife live in the countryside and wilderness of Atholl Estates. Red deer, golden eagle, salmon, red squirrel, otter, black and red grouse being just a sample.

Most are quite elusive and factors such as season, habitat and time of day greatly influence your chance of catching a glimpse.

Your best chance to see these beautiful creatures is with an experienced guide which is why our private landrover tours are hosted by people who live on the estate and have a life time of experience working with the land and the wildlife.

Each tour is catered to your party's individual interest and although we cannot guarantee sightings, our guides will work to make your chances as high as possible.

- Our half day tour (2.5 hours) aims to take you out on the estate and within sight of at least one key species, passing through areas rich in natural beauty and historic significance.
- The full day tour (5 hours) takes you deep into the wilder areas of the estate and hopes to bag you a McNab – sight of three key species and a stop off for picnic lunch just at the right place for an unforgettable eating experience of great food and awe inspiring view.

Alternatively you may simply want a leisurely tour of the estate with your guide relating stories and explanations of the places, people and activity that you pass by. At any time you can opt to stop and enjoy the view or simply take a walk off the track.

Either way, each journey will be unique and hopefully will live on in your memory as the high point of your stay on Atholl.

Maximum group size is 6.

Rates: £150 for a half day or £300 for a full day (not including picnic)

