



## Information for Trekkers

### What to wear

Riding hats must be worn at all times when mounted. The centre provides helmets, but customers are free to wear their own providing they meet the current safety standards (hats may be checked).

Suitable footwear with a half inch heel is advised – a walking or desert boot is preferable.

Please wear sensible clothing – the Scottish weather can be very changeable, particularly in the hills.

### Arrival Time

Riders should arrive 30 minutes prior to the trek departure time, so that hats can be fitted and paperwork completed. Please call ahead if you think you may be late, to avoid the disappointment of being left behind!

### Weight Limit

To ensure the ponies' welfare, we have a rider limit of 14 stone for beginners and 14.5 stone for experienced riders.

### Age Limit

We have a strict age limit of 12 years old and above. We are not insured for riders under the age of 12.

### Special Offers

Don't forget to check our website, [www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk](http://www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk), for the latest special offers. Become a fan of ours on Facebook too for all the latest news and photos of the ponies!



## Atholl Estates Blair Castle Trekking Centre

## Bookings and cancellations

Payment details will be taken at the time of booking, and payment made on the day of the trek. Full payment will be taken from your credit/debit card for cancellations made within 48 hours before the trek, or for no-shows.

For your safety, Blair Castle Trekking Centre reserves the right to cancel treks if the weather is unsuitable or dangerous (icy/frosty weather, heavy rain or strong winds). All payment will be fully refunded to you in this instance. Please ensure that we have a telephone number for you – preferably a mobile – so that we can easily contact you.

## Group bookings

The centre welcomes group bookings for up to 8 riders per trek, subject to availability. If your group would like to go on one of our special treks, we can add extra dates to suit your requirements, subject to availability.

## Where to find us

Blair Castle Trekking Centre is located approximately 200 yards from Blair Castle. To find the centre, drive up the Blair Castle main drive and ask for directions at the ticket office. Blair Castle is located in Blair Atholl which is just a few minutes drive from the A9 Perth to Inverness road. Blair Atholl is within 2 hours drive from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen.

## How to book / Contact us

We warmly welcome enquiries and bookings by telephone, email or mail.

Tel: 01796 481568 (24 hour answerphone)

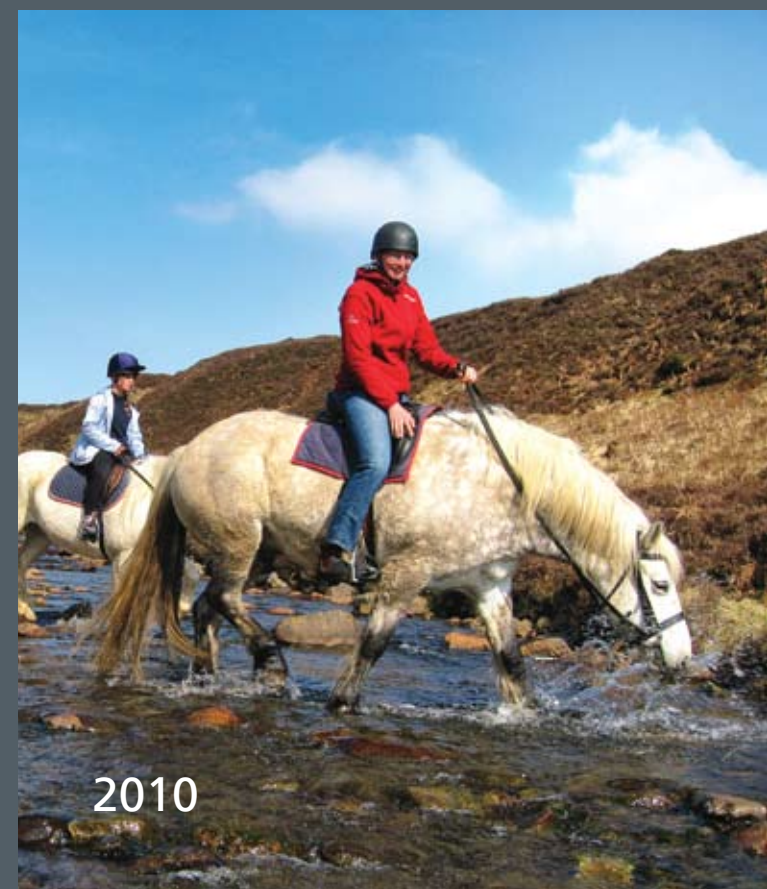
Email: [vicki@blaircastletrekking.co.uk](mailto:vicki@blaircastletrekking.co.uk)

Mail: Blair Castle Trekking Centre,  
c/o Estates Office, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry,  
Perthshire PH18 5TL

Web: [www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk](http://www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk)

## Atholl Estates Blair Castle Trekking Centre

## Explore Atholl Estates by Highland Pony



2010

## Opening Season

The trekking centre is open 6 days a week from 28 March until mid September\* and by appointment until 24 October.

**April – June: Open Tuesday to Sunday, (closed Mondays)**

**July – September: Open Sunday to Friday, (closed Saturdays)**

\*closed 23 to 31 August for the duration of the Blair Castle International Horse Trials and Country Fair.

Welcome to Blair Castle Trekking Centre. Established in the 1950s by the 10th Duke of Atholl, Blair Castle Trekking Centre is the longest running trekking centre in Scotland.

The ponies at Blair Castle Trekking Centre are traditional Highland Ponies, Scotland's largest native pony breed. Highland ponies have been used on Atholl Estates for over 250 years to carry the culled deer off the hills during the stalking season, proving their exceptionally quiet and steady nature and ensuring they are surefooted and able.

These qualities make our ponies fantastic for trekking in the summer months, when they are not working on the hills, and mean they are also ideal mounts for beginner riders. Experienced riders need not worry however, as the ponies are also able to provide fun, faster rides for those who are more confident.

So come along and explore the magnificent scenery on Atholl Estates the traditional way... by Highland pony.

**Please note: Riders must be aged 12 years or above. This is a strict requirement and we are not insured to carry younger riders.**

Blair Castle Trekking Centre, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH18 5TL

**Tel: 01796 481568 (24 hour answerphone)**

**Email: Vicki@blaircastletrekking.co.uk**

**www.blaircastletrekking.co.uk**



## Regular Rides

Regular treks and hacks leave the centre on every opening day throughout the season. All abilities can be accommodated, from those who have never sat on a pony before right up to experienced riders. The perfect way to explore Atholl Estates, our treks and hacks are also a wonderful way to spot wildlife as animals are less wary of the ponies than of walkers and cyclists. Beginners have the option of one or two hour rides – the more adventurous will want to choose a two hour ride to see a greater area, whilst some may find one hour in the saddle tiring enough for their first trek! Experienced riders can take a two hour hack, involving some trotting and cantering.

### Treks for all abilities

Suitable for all abilities, especially complete beginners or nervous riders, treks will be taken at a steady walk and are a lovely relaxing way to see the Castle grounds and surroundings.

**Time: Treks leave at 10am and 2pm**

**Cost: 1 hour £25, 2 hours £38 (add £10 for light lunch)**

### Hacks for experienced riders

For riders who can happily trot and canter, these two hour rides, at a slightly faster pace, allow a little more of the estate to be explored.

**Time: Hacks leave at 10am and 2pm**

**Cost: 2 hours £38 (add £10 for light lunch)**



## Special Rides

Our special rides take place on selected dates throughout the season and offer the opportunity for a different experience – reach the top of a mountain, find out about the landscape and wildlife as you ride, or stop for a leisurely picnic mid-ride. You can even combine a trek with some girly gossip – just bring a friend on our ladies night rides! All of our special treks can be held on a date to suit you, subject to availability, should you wish to make a group booking.

### Ladies Nights (for all abilities)

Tuesday evenings throughout May and June.

**Time: Rides leave at 6.30pm**

**Cost: 1 hour £25, 2 hours £38**

### Heather, Hills and Hamish (for all abilities)

Every Wednesday from April to July

**Time: Treks leave at 10am**

**Cost: 2 hours £40**

### Reach Craeg Urrard summit (for experienced riders)

Every Thursday from April to September

**Time: Rides leave at 1pm**

**Cost: 3 hours £58**

### Stop for a Picnic (for experienced riders)

**Time: Starting at 11am on the following Fridays: 14 May, 11 June, 9 July, 13 August, 10 September**

**Cost: £84 (including picnic lunch)**

## New for 2010 - Ride in Dunkeld

Between Easter and the end of July, some of our trekking ponies will move to Dunkeld offering visitors the chance to explore a different area of Highland Perthshire. Based at the Dunkeld Hilton, this new venture opens up 280 acres of the surrounding hotel parkland. One and two hour treks will be available.

### Opening Times at Dunkeld

**April – June: Open Wednesday to Monday, (closed Tuesdays).**

**July: Open Sunday to Friday, (closed Saturdays)**

**Time: Rides leave at 10am and 1.30pm each day**

**Cost: 1 hour £25, 2 hours £38**

### Location of Trekking at Dunkeld:

Hilton Dunkeld Activity Centre is located within the grounds of the hotel and can be accessed by car along the main hotel driveway, turn right where signposted and follow the road up through the woods.

**Booking: via Dunkeld Hilton on 01350 728370.**