



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE PRE-DEPARTURE PACK



Scotland Southern Highlands Wildlife Expedition



GLOBAL reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

TRIP OVERVIEW



Merrist Wood College – Booking Reference 4816

Travel Dates:

23rd February – 27th February 2026

Train Journey:

23rd February 2026 – London Kings Cross – Edinburgh (Waverley) – Dunblane arriving 23rd February 2026*

27th February 2026 – Dunblane – Edinburgh (Waverley) – London Kings Cross arriving 27th February 2026*

*Rail fare NOT included

Project:

The Scotland Southern Highlands Wildlife Expedition

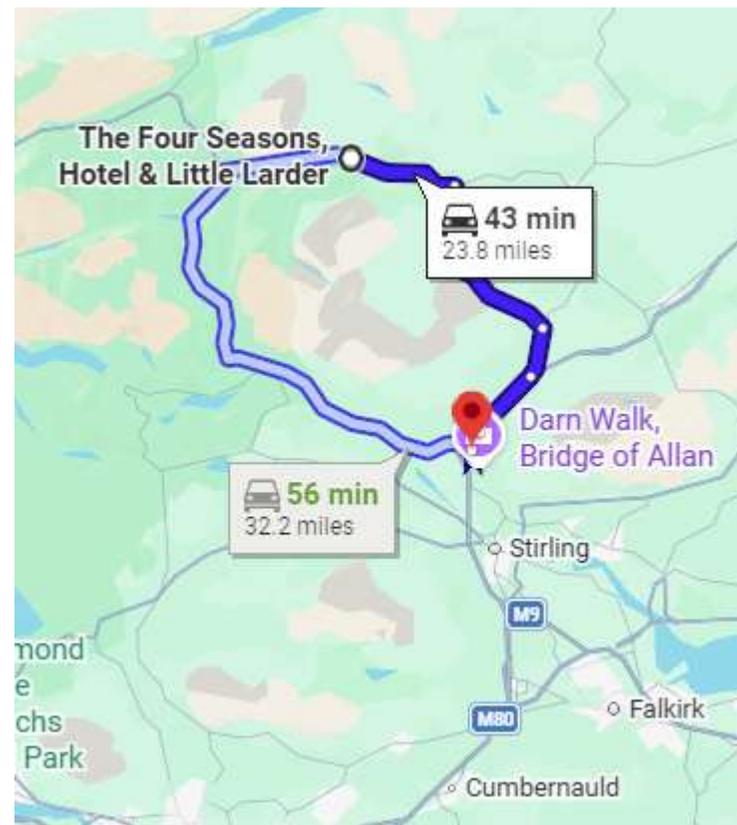
ARRIVAL



Arrival at Dunblane Railway Station, Scotland

On arrival at Dunblane station, as a group, make your way outside to meet your coach transfer J. Docherty & Sons.

They will transfer you to Four Season's Hotel, St. Fillans to check in to your accommodation, a journey of approximately 45 minutes.



USEFUL INFORMATION



Climate

The landscape around St Fillans and Loch Earn at this time of year can be atmospheric, with the surrounding hills possibly still snow-capped and the bare trees just beginning to hint at the coming spring. It's still very much winter weather—cold, wet, and requiring waterproofs and warm layers—but the worst of the dark winter days are beginning to pass. You might catch occasional brighter spells between the rain showers.

Temperature: February is the coldest month for daytime temperatures, with average maximum temperatures around 6°C, though nights remain cold with lows often dropping to around 1°C.

Rainfall: February remains wet, though not quite as saturated as January. You should still expect frequent rain showers and damp conditions throughout the month.

Phones & Internet

Mobile phone coverage is likely to be variable and operator-dependent around St Fillans. While 4G is common, 5G may be limited.

The Four Seasons Hotel, St Fillans provides free WiFi for guests.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



St. Fillans and The Four Seasons Hotel

You will be accommodated in comfortable rooms or chalets which can accommodate 2 – 4 people with ensuite bathrooms

The hotel is located at the edge of Loch Earn with stunning views over the Loch and the hills beyond



ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE



Food at the Project

Three meals a day will be provided. Breakfast and dinner will be provided at the hotel; a daily packed lunch (except Friday) will be provided for you to take on your activity.

You **must** have picked your dinner options before arriving.

Dietary Requirements

Provision can be made for Vegetarian & Vegan diets and for those who have a medical condition such as Coeliac disease that requires a Gluten Free Diet and for those with severe allergies to dairy, eggs or nuts.



USEFUL INFORMATION



Suggested kit list

- Long-sleeve shirts/T shirts
- Trousers
- Hiking Boots/comfortable walking shoes – must be worn in
- Waterproof jacket – essential
- Waterproof trousers – essential
- Sweatshirt/Fleece (Winter months pack plenty)
- Thermals
- Padded parka jacket/windbreaker – warm
- Daypack rucksack
- Walking socks
- Hat for sun protection
- Warm Hat (all year)
- Gloves for warmth (all year)
- Changes of casual clothes for evenings
- Underwear

- Comfortable shoes to wear for evenings
- Toiletries
- Personal medical items
- Tick / insect repellent
- Swimwear – you may want a dip in the loch!
- Torch or head torch

Other useful items:

- Binoculars
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Spare batteries
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Bag for any wet clothes on journey home

WHAT'S INCLUDED



What is Included?

- Transfers to/from project from Dunblane
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day (except Friday)
- Coach transport for activities where applicable
- All activities as part of the project
- 24/7 support

NOT Included

- Return train journey to/from Dunblane*
- Personal Travel Insurance *
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project and lunch on Friday
- Any activities not specified as part of the project

* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed.



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