

From Heavy Events to Heritage: The Ultimate Stirling and UNESCO Scotland Itinerary

Tuesday 4 August, 2026

Welcome to Stirling, the historic heart of Scotland!

While you are here to experience the raw athleticism, piping performances, dancing and vibrant culture of the **Stirling Highland Games**, your adventure is just beginning. Stirling's central location makes it the perfect launchpad to explore Scotland's most iconic landmarks and all **seven of its magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

Here is how to turn your Highland Games trip into the ultimate Scottish heritage tour.

Step 1: The Stirling Highland Games

Start your journey at the games field. Embrace the famous Scottish welcome as you watch athletes compete for a podium place, toss the caber, listen to fantastic pipe band performances, and sample local food and drink. It is a thrilling celebration of Scottish traditional sports and community spirit.

Step 2: Explore Iconic Stirling

Once the games conclude, you do not have to travel far to walk in the footsteps of kings and warriors. Stirling is packed with world-famous attractions:

- **Stirling Castle:** Perched high on a volcanic crag, this beautifully restored Renaissance palace offers stunning views over the old battlefields of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn.
- **The National Wallace Monument:** Standing tall on the Abbey Craig, this magnificent tower overlooks the city and tells the legendary story of Scotland's guardian, Sir William Wallace.

Stirling Highland Games President Matt McGrandles said, "Stirling has always been the gateway to the Highlands—today, it remains the perfect gateway to discovering Scotland's deepest history and global heritage."

Step 3: Discover Scotland's 7 UNESCO Wonders

With Stirling as your base, you are perfectly positioned to explore the country's seven UNESCO sites, celebrating ancient history, industrial genius, and wild nature.

- **1. The Antonine Wall:** Located just a short drive south of Stirling, this turf-and-ditch fortification marked the absolute northernmost frontier of the ancient Roman Empire.
- **2. Old and New Towns of Edinburgh:** Catch a direct 50-minute train from Stirling to the capital to experience the dramatic contrast between medieval closes and grand Georgian avenues.
- **3. The Forth Bridge:** Head east toward the coast to marvel at this massive, bright red Victorian railway bridge, completed in 1890 as a global icon of industrial engineering.
- **4. New Lanark:** Drive south past Glasgow to explore this beautifully preserved 18th-century cotton mill village, famous for its pioneering, utopian social reforms.
- **5. The Flow Country:** Journey north to Scotland's newest UNESCO site—a vast, ancient expanse of peat bogs that serves as a vital planet-cooling carbon store.
- **6. The Heart of Neolithic Orkney:** Travel to the northern islands to stand among 5,000-year-old stone circles and the incredibly preserved stone age village of Skara Brae.
- **7. St Kilda:** For the ultimate bucket-list trip, take a boat to this remote, volcanic Atlantic archipelago, home to Europe's highest sea cliffs and a haunted, abandoned village.

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Stirling :: Scotlands Seven Wonders :: Antonine Wall :: Edinburgh Old Town :: Forth Bridge :: New Lanark :: Flow Country :: Neolithic Orkney :: St Kilda ::

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Make the most of your trip!

After cheering on the athletes at the Stirling Highland Games, step outside the arena to explore our local castles and journey across Scotland's extraordinary UNESCO wonders.

Discounted entry tickets are available to purchase online at www.stirlinghighlandgames.com/

Company Contact:

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Ceangail

T. 0330 122 1997

E. office@ceangail.org

W. <https://www.ceangail.org>

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