

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

**Version 2.0 created 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

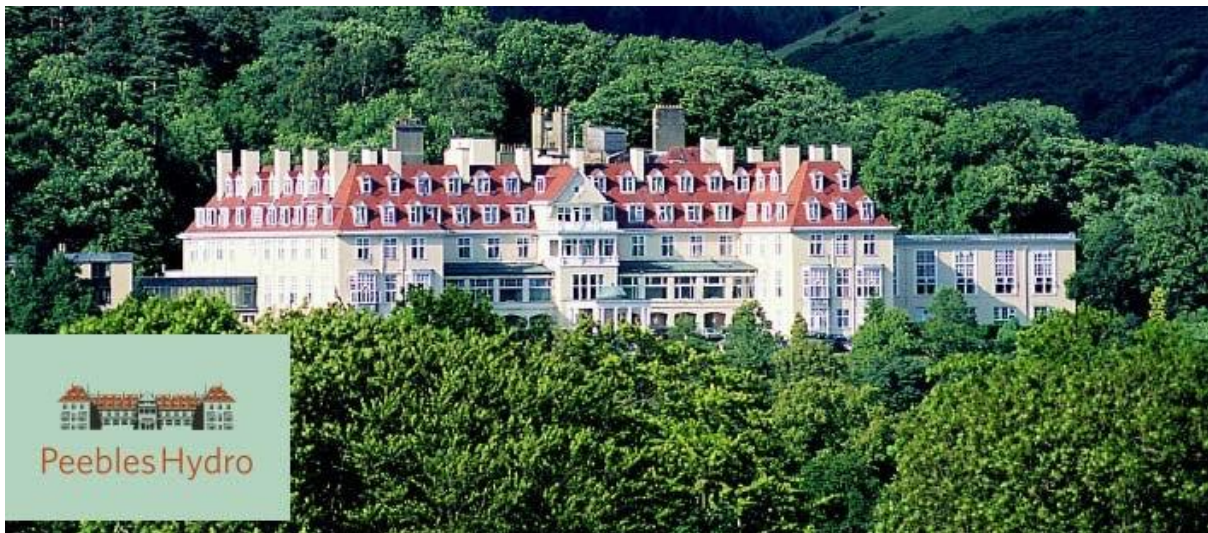
The itineraries for the Thursday and Friday have swapped over. The price of the hotel is £68.00 per person per night rather than the £70.00 originally quoted. Most prices have been updated to 2019 values All times are approximate.

We can now announce the itinerary for the Encore 2019 holiday, which will be to the Scottish Borders, and run from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

We can now announce the itinerary for the Encore 2019 holiday, which will be to the Scottish Borders, and run from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

We will be staying at the Peebles Hydro Hotel, Innerleithen Road, Peebles, EH45 8LX. The hotel has 130 rooms, and overlooks the Tweed Valley and backed by Glentress Forest. The hotel is a 10-minute walk from Peebles town centre. Rooms have free Wi-Fi, TVs, and tea and coffee making equipment. Room service is available. The hotel has a cocktail bar, 2 lounges, and a spa with an indoor pool and a fitness suite. The pool is open from 06:30-21:30, and free for us to use. There is a lift to all floors, and wheelchair accessible in all public areas.

We will be staying on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis, at a cost of £68.00 per night per person in a twin or double room. For single occupancy, an additional £25.00 per night is charged. Full information can be found on their website at - <https://www.peebleshydro.co.uk/>



## **Day 1. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.**

The first pickup will be in Stourport at 07:05 if the M5 roadworks have finished, or at 06:50 in Droitwich if the roadworks are still there.

We will have a 45 minute stop, probably at Sandbach Services, from 09:45-10:30. Then we will continue to Penrith, where we will stop for an hour and a half, from 12:45-14:15, giving time to get lunch, and see the town.

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

<http://www.discoverpenrith.co.uk/things-to-do/>



We will then go as far as Gretna Green, where we have another 45 minute stop, from 15:00-15:45. Then we travel to our hotel, arriving about 17:30.



# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

## Day 2. Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

This morning, we leave the hotel at 09:15 for the 45 minute drive to Melrose for a two hour visit. The ruins of Melrose Abbey are the main attraction. This costs £6.00 adult or £4.80 concessions. This is NOT included in the cost of the holiday. Also in Melrose are two National Trust Scotland gardens, Priorwood Garden and Harmony Garden. These are both small, but have free entry for NT members.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/melrose-abbey/>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/priorwood-garden>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/harmony-garden>



At 12:00, we leave for the short drive to Sir Walter Scott's home, Abbotsford House. We will have lunch here, then have guided tours booked for 14:00 and 14:10. We will leave at 17:00, and should be back at the hotel at 17:45.

<https://www.scottsassbotsford.com/>

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019



## Day 3. Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

Today we leave the hotel at 08:45 for the hour's drive to Hawick. There we will visit Johnston's of Elgin's Eastfield Mill, where they produce cashmere. We will have a drink in their café, then we have tours booked from 10:15. Our group will be split into 4 or 5 smaller groups, and the tours will be at 10 minute intervals, and take about an hour.



# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

Then there is free time in the town, to visit the museum, and to have lunch.

We will have a guided tour around The Borders Distillery in the afternoon. We will be split into 3 groups, with tours from 15:00 and a “wee dram” at the end. We will leave at 16:30, and should be back at the hotel at 17:30.

## Day 4. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Today we depart from the hotel at 09:00 and drive to Falkirk. First of all, we will have a 30 minute to visit and photograph the Kelpies. These are 30 metre high statues of horse’s heads. Although there is a tour available, which goes inside the statues, it is not possible to go up inside them, so we will not be doing a tour. There is a Visitor Centre, with a café and toilets.

<http://www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/the-kelpies/>



Then we make the short drive to Callendar House. We are booked in for 11:15 for a tour, and can have lunch in their café afterwards.

<http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/callendar-house/default.aspx>

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019



Another short drive takes us to the Falkirk Wheel. There is a visitor centre and toilets here. We will have a boat ride on the wheel at 14:50, and leave at 16:00. We hope to return to the hotel via the scenic route, arriving about 17:45.

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/falkirk-wheel/>



# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

## Day 5. Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

This is a free day, as our driver has to have a rest day. Some suggestions of things to do can be found later in this document.

## Day 6. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

This morning's departure will be at 09:00 for an hour's drive to Jedburgh, where we will stay for 3 hours. Among the attractions here are the Castle and Jail, and Mary Queen of Scots house, both of which are free. There are also the ruins of the abbey, which cost £6.00 Adult or £4.80 concession, but are NOT included in the price of the holiday. We will have lunch in Jedburgh.

<http://www.jedburgh.org.uk/images/jedburgh-visitor-information.pdf>

[https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/665/jedburgh\\_town\\_trail](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/665/jedburgh_town_trail)



We leave Jedburgh at 13:00 for the 45 minute drive to Mellerstain House, where we have tours booked for 14:00 and 14:15. These take about 2 hours, then there is a chance to have a cup of tea and/or look at the gardens. After the visit, we return to the hotel, arriving about 18:15.

<https://www.mellerstain.com/>

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019



**Day 7. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

We will leave the hotel at 08:30, and go as far as the Gretna Green Outlet, where we will have a one and a quarter hour stop, from 10:00-11:15.





# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

We then drive to Lancaster Services for lunch, where we have a 50 minute stop, from 12:40-13:30. Then it is on to Keele for another 45 minute stop, from 15:00-15:45. The last leg to Droitwich or Stourport will take 2 hours, arriving at about 17:45 for the first drop off, and 50 minutes later for the last drop off.

## Suggestions for the Free Day.

Spend a quiet day relaxing at the hotel.

**Peebles** - Spend some time in Peebles, which is a 10 minute walk from the hotel. While there, visit the Tweeddale Museum (free admission) and The John Buchan Story (£2). Don't miss the Peebles Quadrangle, just off the main street. Cocoa Black Chocolatier & Patisserie by Ruth Hinks (UK World Chocolate Master). Relax and enjoy luxury chocolate, cakes and patisserie in the chocolate boutique or book into the Chocolate & Pastry School.

<http://www.peebles.info/>

**Edinburgh** by bus; Border Buses X62, fare £10.10 return, every 30 minutes, takes 75 minutes. Buses leave from Eastgate, outside the Peebles Post Office, at 08:30, 09:00, 09:30, 09:50 and 10:20. It is best to stay on the bus until the terminus at Edinburgh bus station, so you know where to catch it on the way back.

Buses depart from the Edinburgh bus station at 15:45, 16:15, 16:45 and 17:30. It is recommended that you are at the bus station at least 10 minutes before departure, especially if getting the later buses.

To travel around Edinburgh, use a day ticket for the buses, costing £4.00. Leaflets and maps will be available at the bus station.

To visit the Royal Yacht Britannia, catch a bus 11, 22, or 35 to Ocean Terminal.

To visit Edinburgh Zoo, use bus 12, 26 or 31.

To visit the Royal Botanic Garden, use bus 23 or 27.

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/>

<https://edinburgh.org/>

**Galashiels** by bus; Border Buses X62, fare £10.10 return, every 30 minutes, takes 45 minutes.

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/galashiels/galashiels/index.html>

# ENCORE HOLIDAY 2019

**Tweed Valley Forest Park** – 0.25 miles away, many walks.

<https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forest-parks/tweed-valley-forest-park>

[https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/pdf/rec\\_pdfs/TweedValleyForestParkGuide.pdf](https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/pdf/rec_pdfs/TweedValleyForestParkGuide.pdf)

**Robert Smail's Printing Works (NT Scotland)** Border Buses X62, fare £8.00 return, every 30 minutes, takes 20 minutes. This is on High Street, Innerleithen. Visits to Robert Smail's Printing Works include a guided tour in three sections as well as a hands-on element. In the Office you will find out about the generations of the Smail family and see some of our fantastic archive. In the Caserom you will be put to work by the Compositor – can you pass the first year of your apprenticeship?! And in the Machine Room you will see some of our original presses in action.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-smails>

## **Holiday Costs.**

Hotel - £408.00 if sharing or £558.00 for single occupancy

Coach - £80.00

Abbotsford House - £11.70

Borders Distillery £10.00

Falkirk Wheel - £8.55

Mellerstain - £11.50

Total = £529.75 sharing.

Total = £679.75 single occupancy.