

Atholl Estate, Blair Atholl



Atholl Estate in Highland Perthshire is centred around the white-walled Blair Castle in Blair Atholl. This part of the Cairngorms National Park has something for everyone, from touring a working farm to going on a safari drive. The adventurous can even try white-water rafting.



Give us a break

Children in families suffering economic hardship can feel isolated and may miss out on activities that others enjoy.

SYHA Hostelling Scotland and The Lighthouse Foundation organised a funded two-day residential Give Us A Break trip for Primary 6 and 7 pupils and teachers to provide outdoor experiences and build confidence and self-esteem.

On their way to the youth hostel in Pitlochry, the children enjoyed a go-kart session before a delicious meal at the hostel. After breakfast the next morning, the group met Beyond Adventure, who organised the activities, at Weem Wood Forestry Commission park. Day one was 'land day' and the children participated in a full day of activities including wayfaring, a simple form of orienteering, and some simple crag rock climbing. Day two was 'water day' and after learning the basics of paddling canoes, the children explored Loch Faskally and visited the dramatic Linn of Tummel waterfall.

Afterwards, one teacher said, 'Three boys who find classroom learning challenging were alert, cooperative and participated throughout the whole experience.'



Inspired?
Here's how...

This youth inclusion project was organised by SYHA Hostelling Scotland and the Lighthouse Foundation. The Lighthouse Foundation provides support to families affected by addiction. SYHA offers funded activity breaks for socially excluded or vulnerable young people.

If you would like to organise a similar project, please contact SYHA ☎ 0845 293 7373
🌐 www.syha.org.uk/GiveUsABreak or The Lighthouse Foundation ☎ 01563 521343

Top things to do

Wildlife watching

Experience the changing beauty of Highland Perthshire by going on a guided dawn or dusk Land Rover safari led by one of the Atholl Estate gamekeepers. You will have the opportunity to see red deer, birds of prey and black grouse in their natural habitat.

 Atholl Estates Office 01796 481355

Walking and cycling

Atholl Estate has six waymarked trails for walking and cycling leading from the Glen Tilt car park in Blair Atholl. The paths in the castle grounds are wheelchair friendly and there are longer trails leading through the hills and glens. The Falls of Bruar trail, which starts at the House of Bruar car park, is a 1.5-mile circular woodland trail following a series of waterfalls.

 www.visitcairngorms.com

Blair Castle

     

Blair Castle is the ancient seat of the Dukes of Atholl and dates back to the 13th century. Castle tours bring you face-to-face with Jacobean weapon displays, stunning artwork and grand rooms. The ground floor of the castle, restaurant and gift shop are wheelchair accessible and a mobility scooter can be hired for access to the gardens. Access to the grounds is free. An audio-visual guide is also available.

 Blair Castle 01796 481207

Working watermill

Dating back to 1590s, the mill in Blair Atholl is one of the few remaining working watermills. You can tour the mill and watch the traditional methods of grinding wheat and oats before relaxing in the tea room where you can enjoy homemade baking.

 Blair Atholl Watermill
01796 481321



Adventure activities

    

This varied countryside of woodlands, rivers and mountains provide many opportunities for adventurous activities from mountain biking and hillwalking to off-road driving, pony trekking and white-water rafting.

 www.blairatholl.org.uk

Ranger service

The Atholl Estate Ranger Service has an active programme of guided walks and events for children and adults. They also run educational visits for all school ages and an indoor classroom is available.

 Atholl Estates Office 01796 481355

How to get here

Nearest train station is Blair Atholl (1.5 miles)

 Scotrail 08457 559933

Local buses to Pitlochry, Bruar, Calvine and Struan

 Elizabeth Yule 01796 472290

Citylink services to Blair Atholl

 Citylink 0871 266 3333

Community Travel Grant

 <http://outdoors4all.org.uk/ctg.html>

Pick up a copy of *The Cairngorms Explorer* leaflet from Blair Atholl Visitor Information Centre for useful information about how to get to and around the Park without a car.

Access for all

Blair Castle gardens have accessible trails, and mobility scooters are available for hire.

Accommodation

Blair Atholl and nearby Pitlochry have a range of accommodation including camping and caravan parks, youth hostel, B&Bs, hotels and lodges.

Scottish Youth Hostel Association

 SYHA Pitlochry 01796 472308

Eating

From cosy tea rooms to roast dinners there is a good selection of places to eat in the surrounding area.

Further information

Atholl Estates Office

 pf@atholl-estates.co.uk

 01796 481355

Blair Atholl Area Tourism Association

 www.blairatholl.org.uk

Visit Cairngorms

 www.visitcairngorms.com

Scotland's National Nature Reserves

 www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

Staying longer?

Visit nearby:

- Killiecrankie Visitor Centre
- Queen's View
- Pitlochry's salmon ladder
- Creag Meagaidh NNR