GROUP & TRADE VISITS

Discover Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, in the Scottish Borders. This "conundrum castle" is an iconic monument to the 19th century poet & novelist, the "Great Scott" who changed how the world saw Scotland and Scotland saw itself.

Explore Scott's extraordinary "romance in stone and mortar", and meet the real man behind the monument, whose imagination, integrity and patriotism shaped the Scotland of today.

Visitors can learn about Scott's life & achievements with guided and self guided tours, browse the exhibition, shop for unique souvenirs, dine in the cafe with catering options for individuals and larger groups, stay in 5-star accommodation or simply relax as they wander through the beautiful walled gardens and estate.

They can also pause in the chapel and view relics belonging to St. John Henry Newman, Britain's newest saint.

Location

On the banks of the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders, Abbotsford is at the heart of a landscape of folklore and legend.

It is just across the Anglo-Scottish border and only an hour from Edinburgh by coach or car, with easy access from the A7 or A68 for groups visiting the North of England. The Borders Railway offers a scenic 55 minute alternative, linking Edinburgh with Tweedbank Station. Ask us about easy transfer options, and why not speak to Scotrail about their group travel discounts.

There are several ways for you to explore the wonders of Abbotsford and the life of its legendary creator.

Abbotsford Tour
In the company of a local guide marvel at Scott's 'conundrum castle' and its amazing treasures, ending in the garden, where you can explore the beautiful Walled Gardens in your own time. Available in English, French and German. The chapel and woodland walks are also available for your group to enjoy.

Abbotsford Inside Out Tour
Discover Scott's vision for his gardens on a unique garden tour. This is not a horticultural tour, but explores the design and creation of one of Scotland's most intimate and personal Regency gardens. You can then visit the house on a self-guided basis before exploring the chapel and woodland walks if time allows. Garden tours are in English only.

Self Guided Visit
Stroll through the house with a printed guide and explore the gardens, chapel and wider estate at leisure. Printed guides are available in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Mandarin, Hungarian, Polish & Romanian. Audio guides available in English, French, Spanish, German and Russian.

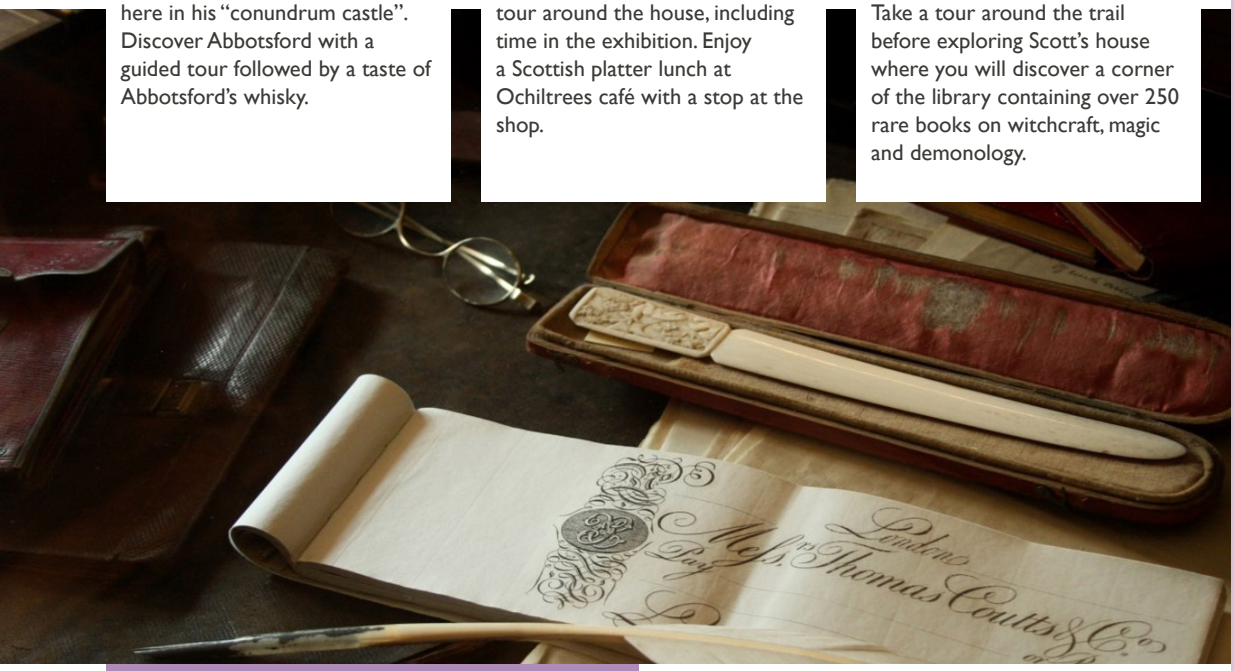
Bespoke Tour
For groups who want to explore Scott's legacy in more depth, or have a particular interest, our expert curatorial and gardening team can create a tailored visit for you. We welcome enquiries from educational groups and we're happy to create a package for you. Please speak to us for inspiration, or to discuss particular areas of interest. Available in English only.

Experiences

Sir Walter Scott Experience
A unique visitor experience immersing the visitor in the life of Sir Walter Scott right here in his "conundrum castle". Discover Abbotsford with a guided tour followed by a taste of Abbotsford's whisky.

Scott's Welcome to Scotland
Visitors will arrive at Abbotsford to a pipers welcome off the coach, before enjoying a guided tour around the house, including time in the exhibition. Enjoy a Scottish platter lunch at Ochiltrees café with a stop at the shop.

The Story Trail
Witch Corner, a story trail inspired by Scott's incredible knowledge and passion for folklore and the supernatural. Take a tour around the trail before exploring Scott's house where you will discover a corner of the library containing over 250 rare books on witchcraft, magic and demonology.



Opening times
House & Gardens open March to December

APRIL – OCTOBER
Open 10am, last entry 4pm

MARCH, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
Open 10am, last entry 3pm

Shop, café and free exhibition open all year, with reduced opening in winter. Please ask for details.

Bookings outwith core hours are possible by special arrangement, please ask.

Ochiltree's Café
Ochiltree's Café offers delicious food at special group rates. Morning coffee, light or full lunches, afternoon tea. Contact us for rates.

Gift shop
Enjoy a handpicked selection of gifts, locally-sourced products and souvenirs inspired by Scott's collections and designed exclusively for Abbotsford. Take home a reminder of the Borders and Scotland's textile heritage with cashmere, tweed and tartan clothing and accessories from well-known Scottish brands.

Why Abbotsford is great for your group

- Close to Edinburgh and en route from Northern England, Hadrian's Wall & York
- Special group rates for a range of tours and catering options
- Helpful booking service, easy payment options
- Easy coach drop off and parking
- Expert tours in English, French and German, printed guides in nine languages
- Free familiarisation visit on request
- Fully accessible facilities
- Free guide & driver entrance and cafe voucher
- Featured on numerous TV shows and magazines
- Free Visitor Centre and exhibition of Scott's life

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The Abbotsford Trust is a registered Scottish Charity SC037425