

20 September 2023

EMBARK ON AN AUTUMNAL ADVENTURE WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

Make the most of the outdoors this autumn with the National Trust for Scotland and create shared memories to treasure, with the opportunity to take part in anything from Land Rover safaris to stunning outdoor walks through gardens and green spaces, to guided ranger tours of some of Scotland's most special places.

As Scotland's largest conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland shares and protects over 100 places across the country thanks to the help of its members and supporters, with a wealth of captivating places to discover, wildlife to wonder at and picturesque landscapes to immerse yourself in.

Whether you're looking for an adrenaline-filled adventure, a fun day outdoors with the family, or an opportunity to witness Scotland's natural heritage through a relaxed guided tour, there are experiences to be shared at Trust places across the country. At Glencoe National Nature Reserve new family Land Rover Safaris have been introduced – the perfect way to get children and young people engaged with and excited about Scotland's wildlife. With guided ranger walks available at numerous Trust places, those with a passion for Scotland's nature and wildlife can learn more while exploring the outdoors.

For the perfect autumnal walk, complete with changing colours and welly requirements, The Hermitage in Perthshire has it all. Watch salmon leaping up the falls, wander among the tallest trees in Britain, giant Douglas firs, and take in the roaring Black Linn Falls. Create memories to remember at Ossian's Hall, overlooking the waterfall, which is decorated with mirrors, sliding panels and paintings designed to recreate the illusions of shock, surprise and amazement the original design aimed to provide.

Explorers journeying further north this autumn can take in the stunning vistas at the Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve in Ross-shire. One of the most spectacular gorges of its type in Britain, visitors with a head for heights can cross the Victorian suspension bridge 25m above the River Droma as the Falls of Measach crash before you. From family picnics to woodland walks and wildlife spotting, there's something to captivate everyone. The new Corrieshalloch Gateway to Nature is also open, offering facilities including a takeaway café, toilets and electric car charging. In October and November, animal lovers may spot grey seal pups at a number of National Trust for Scotland places, including St Abbs Head and Kintail. Visitors to Culzean Country Park can also find a 'bob of seals', that make Port Carrick beach their home, basking on the rocks. Autumn is not only a key season for seals, it's also an ideal time of year to spot red squirrels, with Threave Garden and Estate and Inverewe two prime Trust locations.

Philip Long OBE, the National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, said: "At the National Trust for Scotland, we look after and provide access to a wonderful breadth of places across Scotland, with many looking at their very best as the leaves change. Whether you're looking for a family day out, to make memories with friends, share a new experience with a loved one or get a boost from connecting with Scotland's nature, beauty and heritage, there's a place and activity for everyone across the over 100 properties our charity is proud to care for. Thanks to the support of our members, visitors and donors we're able to continue protecting and sharing Scotland's special places, providing a backdrop for memories that last a lifetime."

Other options for getting outdoors at the places cared for by the conservation charity include a cycling adventure, whether you're an experienced cyclist or looking to teach your child how to ride a bike. For those looking for castle views, Brodie Castle and Crathes Castle offer fantastic days out by bike, with Balmacara providing incredible natural heritage, and sites such as Culloden Battlefield offering a cultural experience where you can get active while learning more about the Battle of Culloden. Cyclists are encouraged to ride responsibly to ensure Trust places can continue to be enjoyed and shared, with <u>new guidance</u> released this summer.

Meanwhile, Trust gardens across Scotland provide the perfect autumnal sanctuary. Visitors to Threave Garden, beautifully designed to make the most of each season, can spot the purple Japanese maple and beautiful katsura tree, which gives off the scent of burnt sugar as its leaves turn. Meanwhile, those visiting Haddo House garden can walk along the lime tree avenue as it turns a rich golden yellow, while visitors to Castle Fraser can take advantage of the year-round accessibility of the traditional walled garden while exploring its seasonal offering.

To plan your autumnal adventure, visit <u>www.nts.org.uk</u>.

ENDS

Notes to editors

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022, the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit <u>www.nts.org.uk</u>.

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.