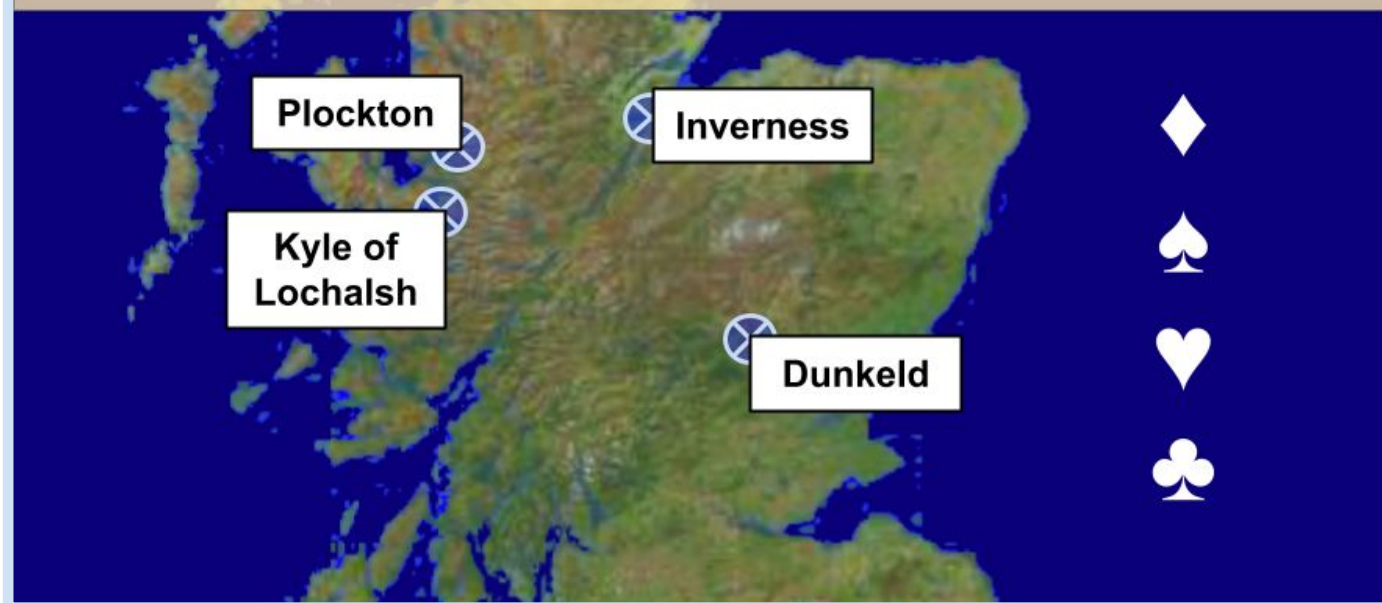


Highlands Trip 2024

Monday 21st - Thursday 24th October



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join me this October on a bridge-themed adventure to the Scottish Highlands. The main events are **Café Bridge Days in Dunkeld and Plockton**, which attract players from all over the Scottish mainland and the Hebrides.

Take the train non-stop first class to Scotland, and experience the charm of Dunkeld and history of Inverness. Travel through breathtaking, unspoilt Highland landscapes, and discover the coastal villages of Plockton and Kyle in the Gaelic heartland of the far North.

We set off from London King's Cross on Monday at noon, taking in Dunkeld Café Bridge Day on Tuesday, a free morning in Inverness, an evening event in Plockton, and finish on Thursday with Plockton Café Bridge. Non-bridge playing friends, spouses and partners are warmly welcomed.

Return travel is **not** included by default, as some have asked to stay on and make their own way back to London. I am offering a booking service for the Caledonian Sleeper back to Euston, return on a day train, or extra nights in Plockton, so please take advantage of this if it suits you.

Enquiries and bookings may be made to me Victor Lesk directly by phone on 07804 953460 or by email at brianplaysbridge@gmail.com. A booking form may be found at the end of this leaflet. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.



About Dunkeld

Dunkeld and its sister village Birnam sit astride the River Tay just downstream of the Tay Forest Park, connected by Thomas Telford's iconic seven-arch bridge. Just south of Birnam you can visit the wood which comes to life in act V of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Our hosts will be the keen Blairgowrie 'Spoons bridge gang, and we will meet players from Dunkeld, Blairgowrie, Pitlochry, Perth and further afield.

About Inverness

To those arriving by evening, the capital of the Highlands evokes a unique sense of distance from one's point of departure, wherever it may have been. The pubs attract folk musicians from far places, even Orkney.

The morning sun reveals the bold skyline of a city, the UK's most northerly, which has been key in almost every period of Scottish history. This year our timings will permit a visit to the nearby Scottish National Trust Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre for those interested.

Also don't miss the castle, museum, textile shops and the bouncy bridge.

About Plockton

Plockton, known as “The Jewel of the Highlands”, is a picturesque village that sits on a sheltered bay with stunning views overlooking Loch Carron. It is a popular destination for walking, cycling, arts and crafts, water-sports, and Gaelic music and culture. The Isle of Skye, with its unique natural habitat, is easily accessible by road bridge.

Our hosts will be the friendly and active bridge club in the neighbouring village of Kyle of Lochalsh, whose club nights attract players from Inverness-shire, Ross-shire and Skye.

Accommodation - The Royal Dunkeld Hotel

The Royal Dunkeld Hotel dates from 1810, just after the completion of the Telford Bridge. It is situated on Atholl Road around the corner from the historic ‘little houses’ and specialist shops and the famous cathedral. It has a friendly bar with occasional live music, and a spacious ballroom where we will meet for the Café Bridge.

<https://royaldunkeld.co.uk>

Accommodation - The Royal Highland Hotel of Inverness

The Royal Highland Hotel is an iconic station hotel dating from 1856 with a grand staircase that inspired many interiors including those of The Titanic. Thoroughly modernized, it remains in independent hands and is conveniently located for shopping and onward travel.

<https://royalhighlandhotel.co.uk/>

Accommodation - The Plockton Hotel (single rooms)

The Plockton Hotel is at the bottom of the village on the bay, and a long-standing Café Bridge participant. It is family owned and run, and recent winner of Northwest of Scotland Bar of the Year.

<https://plocktonhotel.co.uk/>

Accommodation - The Plockton Inn (double or twin rooms)

The Plockton Inn, run by Highland Coast Hotels group, is centrally located with a restaurant known for seafood. Recently merged with The Haven, The Plockton Inn are proud supporters of Plockton Café Bridge.

<https://plocktoninn.co.uk/>

Trip Itinerary

Monday 21st October - Dunkeld

- **1200 Depart London King's Cross**
- First class travel: bridge, food and drink included
- **1752 Arrive Perth.** Transfer to coach
- **1820 Arrive Dunkeld.** Check in to Royal Dunkeld Hotel
- Free evening in Dunkeld. Live music at The Taybank

Tuesday 22nd October - Dunkeld Café Bridge Day

- Breakfast at the Royal Dunkeld Hotel included
- **1030** Registration open for Dunkeld Café Bridge Day at The RDH
- **1100-1600** Dunkeld Café Bridge Day: “Country” café duplicate with 25-minute attractive walks
- **1700** Prize giving at The RDH
- **1930** Coach leaves from The RDH
- **2135 Arrive Inverness.** Check in to The Royal Highland Hotel
- Pubs and live music in Inverness



High Street, Dunkeld (photo by Julia Hailes)

Trip Itinerary (continued)

Wednesday 23rd October - Inverness and Plockton

- Breakfast at Royal Highland Hotel included. Free morning with enough time to sightsee or visit Culloden, and lunch in Inverness
- **1335 Depart Inverness** on the Kyle of Lochalsh rail line
- **1602 Arrive Plockton**. Check in to The Plockton Inn / Plockton Hotel
- Free time in Plockton
- **1830 Apéritifs and Night-Before Pairs** in the Plockton Village Hall with Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge Club

Thursday 24th October - Plockton Café Bridge

- Hotel breakfast included. Calum's Seal Tours recommended
- **1110** Registration open at Plockton Village Hall for Café Bridge Day
- **1140-1630** Plockton Café Bridge Day: 25-board café duplicate
- **1700** Prize giving at Plockton Village Hall with a glass of fizz
- **(Optional) Return on the Caledonian Sleeper:**
 - Depart Plockton 1725, arrive Inverness 1952
 - Depart Inverness 2045, arrive London Euston 0749 on Friday 25th October

Please see next page for price list.



Plockton Bay (photo by Lyn Roseaman)

Prices

£520 per person based on senior railcard and shared room occupancy, including:

- Train 1st class King's Cross to Perth with food and drink
- Coach transfer to the Royal Dunkeld Hotel
- Coach travel Dunkeld to Inverness
- Train travel Inverness to Plockton (including open return coupon)
- Monday night stay in The Royal Dunkeld Hotel
- Tuesday night stay in The Royal Highland Hotel
- Wednesday night stay in The Plockton Inn or Plockton Hotel
- Hotel breakfast each morning
- Dunkeld and Plockton Café Bridge events
- Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge + Refreshments evening

Extras:

- **Single supplement, £40/night or £120 total**
- **Not holding a senior railcard: £60**
- **Per extra night in Plockton: £110**
- **Caledonian Sleeper ticket from Inverness to Euston.**

Prices are indicative only and based on a senior railcard:

- **Comfy chair - £36.30**
- **Bunk standard - £165 single, £295 for two sharing room**
- **Bunk en-suite - £207.90 single, £375 for two sharing room**

Discount:

- **Non-bridge player: £100 rebate**

Please note you must have your railcard with you when you travel.

Booking Form

Please complete, sign and send to *Victor Lesk, 16 Basing Way, London N3 3BY*,
or email a scan or photo to *brianplaysbridge@gmail.com*. I will then send an
invoice for the trip based on the price list. If posting your form, please notify me.

Partnership 1 - please write names, and circle share or singles for each day

Name 1 _____ **Name 2** _____ *Share/Singles*

Partnership 2 (if applicable)

Name 1 _____ **Name 2** _____ *Share/Singles*

Non-bridge players or partnership 3, use these lines

Name 1 _____ **Name 2** _____ *Share/Singles*

Number of Senior railcard holders in group: _____

Optional: Caledonian Sleeper tickets: write number required in each box

Comfy chairs ____ **Standard bunk beds** ____ **Bunks in en-suite rooms** ____

Sleeper departure date (if not Thurs 24th) ____ **N.B. No Saturday night service**

Optional: Return journey day train tickets

Date, time, 1st class / Standard premium / Standard class (or describe):

Optional: Extra nights in Plockton (write number of extra nights required)

Extra nights _____

Any other information: Dietary / mobility notes, etc.

I agree to the T&C below in respect to all participants mentioned on this form

Signature of principal contact _____ **Date** _____

Terms and Conditions

1. **Participants cancel up to and including Sep 12th: Full refund.**
 2. **Participants cancel up to and including Oct 12th: 40% refund.**
 3. **Bookings transferable to another person if railcard status and sleeping arrangements remain unchanged. Otherwise charges may apply.**
 4. **Organiser cancels: full refund within two weeks.**
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