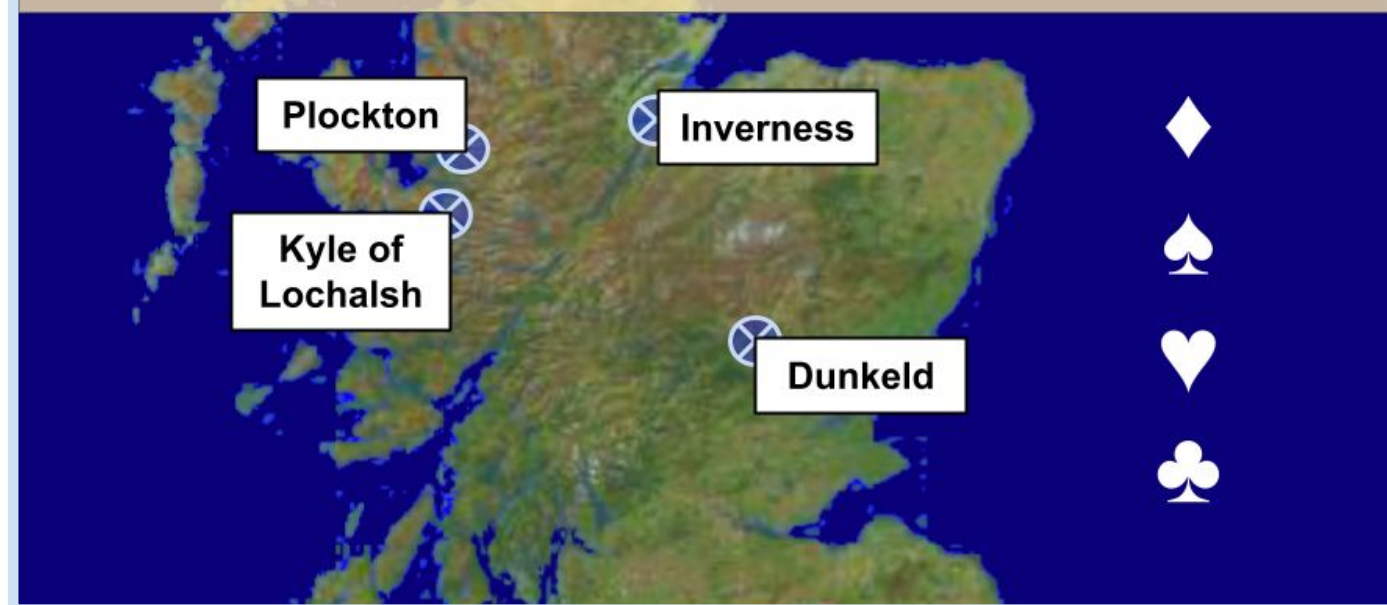


Highlands Trip 2025

Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd 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, arriving in Dunkeld to relax to live Scottish music. Walking shoes on for Dunkeld Café Bridge Day on Tuesday, then overnight in Inverness. Wednesday is free - just get to Plockton in time for the welcome buffet and bridge in the Village Hall. We finish on Thursday with Café Bridge along Plockton Bay.

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 able to book tickets to order for the Caledonian Sleeper back to Euston, a day train, or extra nights in Plockton, Kyle of Lochalsh or Inverness.

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

Evening arrival into the capital of the Highlands brings a sense of the sheer remoteness of this distant part of the country and its traditions and culture. Folk musicians visit the pubs from as far away as Orkney.

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

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 stands on Dunkeld’s high street 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 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 (places limited)

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

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

Accommodation - The Kyle Hotel of Kyle of Lochalsh

Originally an inn for Skye ferry passengers, the bespoke Kyle Hotel is now the accommodation of choice for those crossing on the Skye bridge. Stroll to the harbour and see the magnificent Hebrides a stone’s throw away.

<https://bespokehotels.com/kylehotel/>

Trip Itinerary

Monday 20th 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 21st 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 22nd 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 Plockton Village Hall hosted by Kyle of Lochalsh Bridge Club.
- **2145 Prizegiving**. Kyle Hotel stayers shuttle and check in

Thursday 23rd 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 - valid until 21 September

£540 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 Hotel or Kyle Hotel (+shuttle)
- Hotel breakfast each morning
- Dunkeld and Plockton Café Bridge events
- 'Night before' apéritifs and pairs in Plockton Village Hall

Extras:

- **Single supplement, £40/night or £120 total**
- **Not holding a senior railcard: £60**
- **Per extra night accommodation: £105**
- **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 class (or describe below):

Optional: Extra nights accommodation

One / Two / Three extra nights in Plockton / Kyle / Inverness

Any other information: Dietary / mobility, return journey 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 10th: Full refund.**
 2. **Participants cancel up to and including Oct 10th: 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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