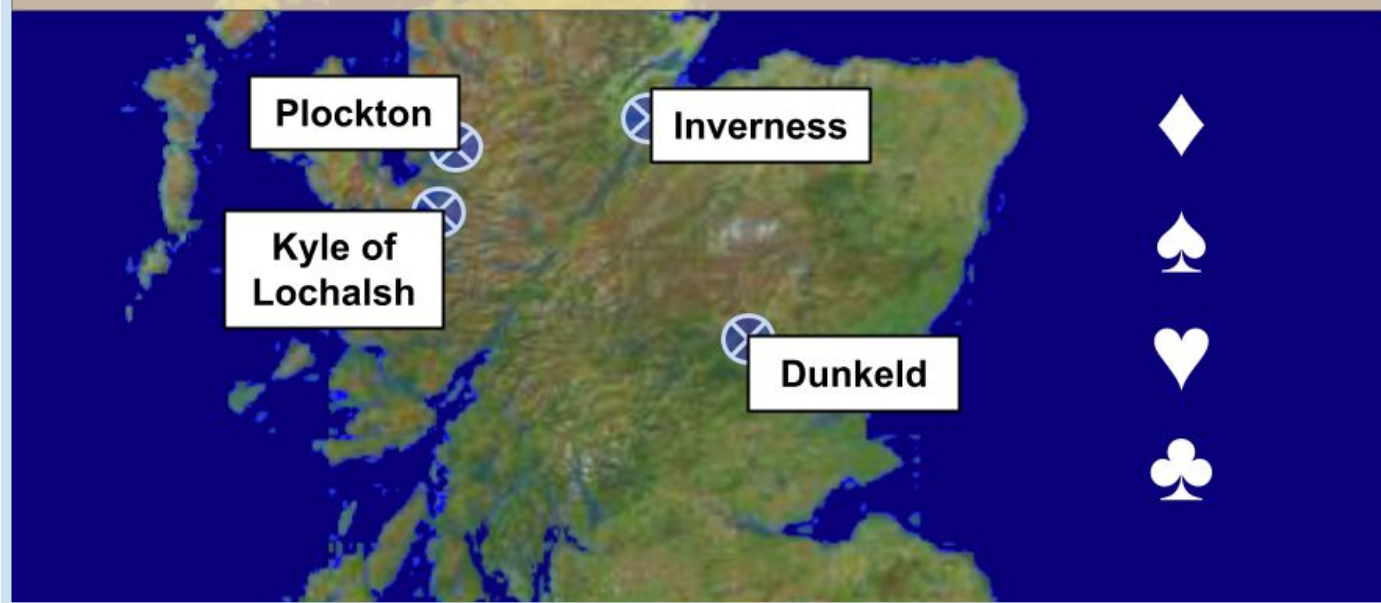


Highlands Trip 2026

Monday 26th - Thursday 29th 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 Plockton and Dunkeld**, which attract players from all over the Scottish mainland and the Hebrides.

Take the train first class direct to Inverness and experience the city's history. Travel through breathtaking, unspoilt landscapes of the Highlands, and discover the coastal villages of Plockton and Kyle in the heartland of the far North.

The package includes outward train travel departing London at Monday lunchtime, taking in Plockton Café Bridge Day on Tuesday, travel on the scenic Kyle of Lochalsh railway, live Scottish music in the Taybank Hotel on Wednesday evening and Dunkeld Café Bridge on Thursday.

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 Dunkeld.

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 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, key to events in almost every period of Scottish history. This year we pay a second visit with time for a walk or a shop before we head south.

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. Plockton is a popular destination for walking, cycling, arts and crafts, water-sports, and Gaelic music and culture with the Isle of Skye just over the horizon.

Our hosts will be the friendly and active Skye and Lochalsh Bridge Club, whose club nights attract players from Inverness-shire, Ross-shire and Skye.

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.

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 walking, sightseeing, shopping and rail 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/>

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>

Trip Itinerary

Monday 26th October - Inverness

- **1130 Meet in the LNER 1st class lounge at London King's Cross**
- **1203 Depart London King's Cross**
- First class travel to Inverness -
Ad hoc Bridge, food and drink included
- **2007 Arrive Inverness.** Check in to Royal Highland Hotel
- Free evening in Inverness -
Restaurants, pubs and live music e.g. Hootananny

Tuesday 27th October - Plockton Café Bridge

- **0853 Depart Inverness** on the Kyle of Lochalsh rail line
- **1117 Arrive Plockton.** Check in to Plockton Hotel
- **1130** Register at Plockton Village Hall for Plockton Café Bridge
- **1140-1630** Plockton Café Bridge Day: 25-board café duplicate
- **1700** Prize giving at Plockton Village Hall
- Walks, social bridge, pubs and restaurants in Plockton. Transport to Kyle of Lochalsh



High Street, Dunkeld (photo by Julia Hailes)

Trip Itinerary (continued)

Wednesday 28th October - Plockton and Dunkeld via Inverness

- Hotel breakfast included. Free time to Plockton and Kyle - Calum's Seal Tours recommended
- **1221 Depart Plockton** on the Kyle of Lochalsh rail line
- **1442 Arrive Inverness**
- One hour free time in Inverness, bags looked after at station
- **1544 Depart Inverness**
- **1750 Arrive Dunkeld & Birnam.** Check in to Royal Dunkeld Hotel
- Pubs and restaurants in Dunkeld. Live Scottish music in The Taybank.

Thursday 29th 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 riverside walks
- **1700** Prize giving at The RDH
- Free time in Dunkeld and Birnam
- **(Optional) Return on the Caledonian Sleeper:**
 - Depart Dunkeld & Birnam station 2303, arrive London Euston 0800 on Friday 30th October



Plockton Bay (photo by Lyn Roseaman)

Prices - valid until 26 September

£540 per person based on senior railcard and shared room occupancy, including:

- Train 1st class King's Cross to Inverness with food and drink
- Monday night stay in the Royal Highland Hotel
- Train travel from Inverness to Plockton with transfer to Kyle *ad lib*
- Tuesday night hotel stay in Plockton or Kyle
- Train travel from Plockton to Dunkeld and Birnam via Inverness
- Live Scottish music evening in the Taybank
- Wednesday night stay in The Royal Dunkeld Hotel
- Hotel breakfast each morning
- Dunkeld and Plockton Café Bridge events
- Bridge *ad hoc*

Extras:

- **Single supplement, £40/night or £120 total**
- **Not holding a senior railcard: £60**
- **Per extra night accommodation in Dunkeld: £90**
- **Caledonian Sleeper ticket from Dunkeld & Birnam 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, 40 Claverley Grove, London N3 2DH, 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 29th) ____ **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 16th: Full refund.**
 - 2. Participants cancel up to and including Oct 16th: 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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