

# *Ayrshire Trip 2024*

*Monday 10th - Thursday 13th June*



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join me in June on a new bridge-themed adventure to Ayrshire. The main events are **Café Bridge Days in Prestwick and Strathaven**, which attract players from all over Scotland.

We will take the train first class to Prestwick and experience its history and coastal scenery. We will traverse the rugged landscapes which inspired the poems of Robert Burns, and discover the town of Strathaven (pronounced 'Straven'), a hidden inland gem.

The package includes outward train travel departing Monday lunchtime, three nights of accommodation, Prestwick Café Bridge on Tuesday, Strathaven Café Bridge on Wednesday, and a welcome bridge buffet at the cosy Ayrshire Bridge Centre. As ever, non-bridge playing friends, spouses and partners are also welcome.

Return travel from Glasgow to London **not** included, as some prefer to stay on and make their own way back. I am able to book rail tickets back to Euston to suit, as well as extra nights in Prestwick.

As well as hotel and guest house accommodation, I am able to book serviced apartments for occupancy of between one and six people.

All these options may be indicated on the attached booking form.



*Prestwick beach*

## **About Prestwick**

Prestwick is a coastal town spread along the Firth of Clyde. It faces westward towards the Isle of Arran, which can be seen prominently from the beach. It is the site of Bruce's Well, which Robert the Bruce used for healing towards the end of his life. The rugged Ayrshire landscape which nurtured Burns' poetry also gave rise to golf's British Open Championship, first played at Prestwick Golf Club in 1860, and returning there as part of the rotation until Carnoustie took its place.

Prestwick also boasts the Ayrshire Bridge Centre, a building owned by the county association and dedicated to the pursuit of bridge, where our hosts look forward to welcoming us in the evening after we arrive.

Prestwick adjoins the county town of Ayr, and crossing the Ayr river gives access to further history, walks and activities.

## **About Strathaven**

Strathaven is an appealing market town off the tourist track. Back in the 17th century it lay in contested territory, when Strathaven castle was an important base for the 'covenanters', fighting - against Cromwell and the post-restoration monarchs in turn - to establish the presbyterian system in Scotland.

Nowadays Strathaven boasts the 2023 winner of the best Indian restaurant in Scotland competition, as well as the famous Green Flag park, regularly voted into the UK's top 10 parks.

Our hosts will be the thriving Strathaven Bridge Club, who are looking forward to welcoming us. At Strathaven Café Bridge Day we will meet players from nearby Hamilton and Kilmarnock as well as further afield.

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### **Accommodation - The Carlton Hotel ★★★**

The Carlton is Prestwick's premier hotel, and a short bus ride away from the main shops, pubs and bars, as well as Prestwick Town and Newton-on-Ayr stations. Breakfast included.

<https://carlton-prestwick.com/>

### **Accommodation - Kilkerran Guest House ★★**

Kilkerran Guest house is situated in Newton-on-Ayr near the small train station. Margaret will look after you. Breakfast included.

<https://kilkerran-guest-house.business.site/>

### **Accommodation - Serviced apartments by Donnini**

A range of classy and spacious short-stay serviced apartments suitable for groups of between one and six people, within easy walking distance of central Prestwick, Prestwick town station and the Ayrshire bridge centre. Find your own breakfast at one of the nearby cafés and restaurants, or pop to Tesco for cornflakes and Irn-Bru.

<https://www.donnini.co.uk/>

# Trip Itinerary

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## Monday 10th June - Prestwick

- **1230 Depart London EUSTON.**
- First class travel: social bridge, food and drink included.
- **1701 Arrive Glasgow Central, 1717 Depart Glasgow Central**
- **1807 Arrive Prestwick Town.** Check in to accommodation
- **1900 Bridge at the Ayrshire Bridge Centre in Prestwick** or free evening in Prestwick and Ayr.

## Tuesday 11th June - Prestwick Café Bridge

- **1045** Register at Prestwick South Parish Church.
- **1100-1630** Prestwick Café Bridge Day: 28-board café duplicate. Lunch included.
- **1700** Prize giving at Prestwick South Parish Church.
- **Social bridge, pubs and restaurants in Prestwick and Ayr** or Dinner at St. Nicholas Golf Club (not included in price).



*Prestwick South Parish Church*

# Trip Itinerary (continued)

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## Wednesday 12 June - Strathaven

- **0830 Depart Prestwick Town train station** by coach
- **0930 Arrive Strathaven**, free time
- **1030-1045** Register at Avendale Church
- **1100-1630** Strathaven Café Bridge Day: 28-board café duplicate. Light lunch included.
- **1645** Prizegiving in Avendale Church
- **1700- 2030** Dinner with live Scottish music, or free evening
- **2045 Depart Strathaven Avendale Church** by coach
- **2145 Arrive Prestwick Town train station** with transfers to hotels

## Thursday 13 June - Free day

- **Return to London (Optional).** Example itinerary:
  - **1140 Depart Prestwick Town**
  - **1226 Arrive Glasgow Central. 1240 Depart Glasgow Central**
  - **1712 Arrive London Euston**

Please see over for price list.



*Strathaven Castle*

# Prices - valid until 1 May

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**£530 staying in Hotel, breakfast included**

**£470 staying in Donnini Serviced Apartment**

**£395 staying in Guest House, breakfast included**

**Prices are based on a shared room occupancy, and include:**

- **EUSTON to Glasgow 1st class on group train with food and drink**
- **Glasgow to Prestwick Town on group train with open return**
- **Three nights accommodation 5th-7th June**
- **Coach return travel Prestwick to Strathaven**
- **Entry to Prestwick and Strathaven Café Bridge Days**
- **Bridge welcome session at Ayrshire Bridge Centre**
- **Transport within Prestwick with Streamline Taxis**
- **Dinner in Strathaven**

**Extras:**

- **Per night single occupancy:  
£40 (Hotel / Apartment), £20 (Guest House)**
- **Per *extra* night in Prestwick, shared occupancy:  
£80 (Hotel / Apartment), £40 (Guest House)**
- **Not holding a senior railcard: £20**
- **Tuesday evening Supper at St. Nicholas Golf Club, £15 (TBC)**
- **Train from Glasgow Central to Euston with senior railcard,  
*Indicative prices:*  
- **First class: £85**  
- **Standard class: £35****

**Discount:**

- **Non-bridge player: £80 off**

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

# Booking Form

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**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 given price list.

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*

**Accommodation (circle one)** *Carlton Hotel / Kilkerran GH / Donnini serviced apt.*

**Number of Senior railcard holders in group:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional:* Return journey train tickets

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

*Optional:* Extra nights in Prestwick (write number of extra nights reqd.)

**Extra nights** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any other information:**

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

**Signature of principal contact** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Terms and Conditions

- 1. Participants cancel up to and including May 10th: Full refund.**
  - 2. Participants cancel up to and including May 17th: 40% refund.**
  - 3. Bookings transferable if railcard status and accommodation arrangements remain unchanged. Otherwise charges may apply.**
  - 4. Organizer cancels: full refund within two weeks.**
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