



HIGHLIGHTS IN THE CLAN AREA TO VISIT DURING THE GATHERING

There are many places of interest in the clan area. Here are a few highlights that you might visit during the gathering or on another visit.

A walk to Bruar Falls, near the Clan Centre, on Tuesday



The first visitors who came to view the falls in the eighteenth century walked up a bare hillside. Scotland's celebrated poet Robert Burns was inspired to write *The Humble Petition of Bruar Water*, appealing to the landowner, the Duke of Atholl, to enhance the visitor's experience. Burns envisaged Bruar Water surrounded by woodland.

Let lofty firs, and ashes cool,
My lowly banks o'erspread,
And view, deep-bending in the pool,
Their shadow's wat'ry bed:

Let fragrant birks, in woodbines drest,
My craggy cliffs adorn;
And, for the little songster's nest,
The close embow'ring thorn.

The Duke of Atholl laid out a path and plantations in 1797 and the site was gradually improved with bridges and viewing platforms as tours of the Highlands became more popular in the 19th century. The bridges across Bruar Water are still there, allowing visitors to get the best views safely. The artist William Turner, William and Dorothy Wordsworth and Queen Victoria are among the best known of many visitors who have headed up to Bruar Falls over the years.

Visit the Highland Folk Museum on Wednesday

The Highland Folk Museum is an open-air museum that provides an insight into the material culture and way of life of the Scottish Highlands from the 18th to the mid-20th century. Historic buildings on its one-mile site have been reconstructed in small settlement groupings and on certain days there are demonstrations of traditional crafts and skills. In the



1700s village you can imagine the daily lives of people at the time of the Jacobite uprisings and it was of course a filming location for *Outlander*.

Visit Blair Atholl on Thursday

Visit Blair Castle



The striking white buildings of Blair Castle and its extensive grounds provide an entrance point to seven centuries of history associated with the Earls, Marquesses and Dukes of Atholl and their tenants and neighbours. The neighbours included the Robertsons of Struan, Lude and Straloch. The castle took its present form in Victorian times but older structures lie within it. Both

Mary Queen of Scots and Queen Victoria enjoyed visits here. It played a significant role in the Jacobite uprisings, when the Atholl family was divided. In both the 1689 and 1745 uprisings younger sons of the family besieged their own family home in support of the Jacobite cause while the head of the family remained loyal to the government. There is much of historical interest in the castle's architecture, paintings and furnishings and much to enjoy on a walk through the landscaped park.

Take a walk along the River Tilt

The short walk along the river from the village to the small settlement at Bridge of Tilt offers scenic views with several points of interest along the way. The Witches' Rock is a large rock from which women thought to be witches were thrown. Those who managed to save themselves were deemed to be witches and punished accordingly. The innocent drowned! Witch trials took place between the 16th and 18th centuries across



Witches Rock, Glen Tilt. Artist: James Valentine (1815 - 1879) Scottish, Date: 1860s - 1870s, National Galleries of Scotland. The MacKinnon Collection. Acquired jointly with the National Library of Scotland with assistance from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Scottish Government and Art Fund.

Europe. Scotland was one of the countries where there were a very large number. Most trials took place in the Lowlands and most of the accused were women. The Robertsons, Reids and Duncans recorded in witch trials were prosecuted in the Lowlands. However, Margaret, Countess of Atholl, was said to have used witchcraft to ease the labour of Mary Queen of Scots by casting the pains on another woman.

There are happier associations in an 18th century grotto, where Queen Victoria took tea, with a viewpoint over the river.

Visit Kilmaveonaig Church



Kilmaveonaig Church is closely associated with the Robertsons of Lude whose later residence is still visible high above the village, although Lude House in its present state was built by the McInroy family in the 19th century. There are some interesting memorials to the Robertsons inside the church. The interior was lovingly restored by the Rev. Christopher Bowstead in the early 20th century. There used to be a settlement round the church, which has

now gone.

There are other places of interest to visit in Blair Atholl.

Explore Pitlochry on Saturday

The **Blair Atholl Distillery** was founded in 1798. It is known for its single malt and the product also features in Bell's blended Scotch. Guided tours are available (best booked in advance) or you can just pop in to visit the attractive surroundings, café and shop.



Across the road look for the oak tree where George Robertson of Faskally hid from government supporters after the 1745 uprising.



Pitlochry is well known for its many attractive walks with different levels of difficulty. A short walk along woodland and field paths from the Atholl Palace Hotel to the historic village of Moulin will take you past the ruins of the **Black Castle**, which once stood on a crannog in a loch. The loch was drained in the 19th century but there are traces of marshy land. The castle is said to have been built

around 1326 by John Campbell, who was created Earl of Atholl by his uncle Robert the Bruce. The earl followed a new design, abandoning the Norman motte and bailey with

central keep. The Black Castle is roughly rectangular in shape with round corner towers. The castle is said to have been destroyed in the early 16th century after an outbreak of plague.

There are many other places of interest to visit in Pitlochry.



And of course we look forward to welcoming you at the Clan Centre and Struan Kirk.

