

Ayrshire Trip 2025

Monday 2nd - Thursday 5th June



It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join me in June on a 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 poetry 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 is **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 order, 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.

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.



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 striking landscape which nurtured Burns' poetry also saw the dawn of the British Open Championship, first played at Prestwick Golf Club in 1860 and returning there on many occasions.

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 *Taal* the 2023 winner of the Best Indian Restaurant in Scotland competition. Strathaven Park is regularly voted in the UK's top ten parks and has won a prestigious Green Flag Award.

Our hosts will be the thriving Strathaven Bridge Club. At Strathaven Café Bridge Day we will meet players from nearby Hamilton and Kilmarnock as well as further afield.

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

Monday 2nd 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 3rd 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)

Wednesday 4th 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** with transfers to accommodation

Thursday 5th June - Free day

Example return train itinerary, valid Thursday or Friday:

- 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

£545 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 2nd-5th 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) per person
- **Not holding a senior railcard: £20**
- **Tuesday evening Supper at St. Nicholas Golf Club, £22 (TBC)**
- **Train from Glasgow Central to Euston with senior railcard,**
Indicative prices as of 31 January:
 - **Standard premium: £62.30**
 - **Standard class: £37.80**

Discount:

- **Non-bridge player: £80 off**

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 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:

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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