Scholars Retreat

Region: Scottish Borders **Sleeps:** 16

Overview

Set within an historic estate in the Scottish Borders, Scholar's Retreat offers a rare opportunity to stay within one of Scotland's most significant literary homes. Once part of Sir Walter Scott's private residence and later home to his granddaughter, the house balances heritage features with the comfort expected of a high-end group stay.

Sleeping up to 14 adults and two children across eight individually designed bedrooms, the property is well suited to multi-generational families, celebrations, or corporate gatherings. Spacious reception rooms provide room to come together, whether for long dinners overlooking the River Tweed or evenings spent in the drawing room or billiards room.

Guests have access to private outdoor areas, including a courtyard and patio garden, along with the wider Estate grounds. A wide range of bookable experiences can also be arranged in advance, from private dinners in Sir Walter Scott's dining room and guided tours of the house to whisky tastings, fishing trips, Highland games, immersive murder mystery experiences, and live entertainment. With so much available, your stay can be shaped around your group, with as much or as little planned as you like.

This is a stay defined by character, ideal for those looking for more than a standard countryside house.

Facilities

Golf Nearby • Catering Available • Fishing • Ideal for Kids • Tennis Nearby • Historical Sites • Horse Riding • Walking/Hiking Paths • Chef/Cook Available • Pets on Request • Cots (Cribs) • Ideal for Teens • Has Discount • Special Offer • Maid Service Available • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Wheelchair Access • Parking Space • Walk to Restaurant • Wi-Fi/Internet • BBQ • Rural Location • Coffee Machine • Outstanding Landscapes • Hairdryer • Pool/Snooker • Lift • Laptop Friendly Workspace • Games Room • Dishwasher • Microwave • Smart TV • Satellite TV • Outdoor Games • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Fire Pit • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Kid-friendly museum • Kid-friendly excursions • Pre-Stocked Fridge Available • Cooking Classes Available • Yoga Classes Available • Spa Treatments Available • Forest park/High-rope course • Playground nearby • Breakfast Available • Board games • Playground • Swings • Slide • Climbing frame • Meal delivery service • Treehouse • Boules/Petanque • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Food blender • High Chair(s) • Fenced Grounds

Interior & Grounds

Lower Ground Floor

- Billiards room
- Fully equipped kitchen / breakfast room
- Boot room
- Laundry room
- WC
- Prep kitchen

Ground Floor

- Entrance hall
- Reception room
- Dining room
- Sitting room
- Library
- WC
- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom
- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom

First Floor

- Bedroom with four poster bed and Jack & Jill bathroom (shared with twin bedroom)
- Bedroom with twin beds and Jack & Jill bathroom
- Bedroom with double Zip & Link beds and ensuite bathroom
- Bedroom with double Zip & Link beds and ensuite bathroom
- Deluxe suite with sitting room, bedroom with queen sized bed and ensuite bathroom
- Lift between ground and first floor

Exterior Grounds

- Private courtyard garden
- Patio area with outdoor seating
- Access to the wider Estate grounds
- Lawn space suitable for garden games

Additional Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Billiards table
- Laundry facilities
- Parking on site

Location & Local Information

Scholar's Retreat is located in the Scottish Borders, at Abbotsford, the Borders' biggest attraction and most significant historic site. Sitting just outside the town of Melrose. This is a region known for its rolling countryside, historic landmarks and connections to Scottish literature, with the River Tweed running through the surrounding landscape.

From the house, guests can explore the wider Abbotsford Estate, including woodland walks, riverside paths and the main House itself, which is open to visitors. Melrose is a short drive away and offers a selection of independent shops, cafés and restaurants, as well as the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most notable historic sites in the area.

The location also works well for those looking to explore further afield. The Borders are ideal for walking, cycling and fishing, while Edinburgh can be reached in around an hour, making day trips entirely feasible.

This setting combines a sense of rural space with good connections, offering both quiet surroundings and easy access to local highlights.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Edinburgh Airport (67 km)**
Nearest Bar/Pub	**2 km**
Nearest Beach	**Coldingham Bay (62.5 km)**
Nearest City	**Edinburgh (61.5 km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**Newcastle Ferry Terminal (127 km)**
Nearest Golf	**Melrose Golf Club (4.5 km)**
Nearest Restaurant	**In walking distance**
Nearest Shop	**Tweedbank Stores (1.5 km)**
Nearest Tennis	**Melrose Waverley Lawn Tennis Club (4 km)**
Nearest Town	**Melrose (4 km)**
Nearest Train Station	**Tweedbank Train Station (2.5 km)**

Nearest Village	**Tweedbank (1.5 km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**M&S Foddhall, Galashiels (2.5 km)**

What we love

- Enjoy a range of optional experiences can be arranged, from private dinners and Highland games to a morning bagpiper or even a hired hot tub, allowing you to shape the stay around your group.
- Multiple reception rooms, including a billiards room and library, offer plenty of space to relax or come together
- Guests can enjoy access to the wider estate, with riverside walks and open grounds to explore during your stay
- Scholar's Retreat is well set up for celebratory stays, with the space and setting to create a truly special and unique occasion

What you should know...

- As a historic property, interiors feature period details and antique furniture, which should be treated with care
- While it's easy to settle in and enjoy the house, a car is recommended for exploring the surrounding area
- Two bedrooms share a Jack & Jill bathroom, ideal for a family

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £500 charged to client's credit card by the owner upon arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- **Arrival time:** 4:00 pm
- **Departure time:** 10:00 am
- **Energy costs included?:** Yes, included in the rental price
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes, included in the rental price
- **Pets welcome?:** Up to 3 dogs are welcome on request only and with prior agreement with the owner. Due to the historic nature of the property, dogs must remain on the lower-ground floor. Dog friendly facilities provided.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** Please note that the house manager lives in a neighboring property on site.
- **Changeover day:** Flexible
- **Smoking Allowed?:** No smoking or vaping
- **Minimum stay:** 2 nights in low season, 3 nights in high season. 7 nights over Christmas and New Year.
- **Heating costs included?:** Yes, included in the rental price
- **Stag & Hen Do Allowed? :** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.