

GELSTON CASTLE HOLIDAYS

Accommodation in Gelston Castle courtyard

- **House 1:** sleeps 6 (or 7 with extra bed); central heating / hot water.
Ground: hall; kitchen/dining; sitting room with open fire; W.C.
First: master bedroom (twin or king-size double) + en-suite shower, basin, W.C.; twin bedroom.
First, "Tower": twin or king-size double bedroom with hand basin; bathroom with bath + over-bath shower, W.C.
- **House 2:** sleeps 6; central heating / hot water.
Ground: hall; kitchen/dining; sitting room with open fire; bathroom with bath, separate shower, W.C.
First: master bedroom (twin or king double) + en-suite shower & basin & W.C.; two twin bedrooms, one with basin.
- **House 4:** sleeps 6; central heating / hot water.
Ground: hall; kitchen (with hatch to) L-shaped living room with wood-burning stove; W.C.
First: master bedroom (twin or king-size double) + en-suite shower & basin & W.C.; 1 double and 1 twin bedroom; bathroom with bath, separate shower, W.C.
- **House 7:** sleeps 4; central heating / hot water.
Ground: hall; kitchen (with hatch to) L-shaped living room with "solid fuel" stove (electric).
First: double bedroom; twin bedroom; bathroom with bath + over-bath shower, W.C.

Kirkmirren: sleeps 4; oil central heating and hot water; *no smoking*.

Ground: sun porch (+ seats); hall/stairwell; W.C.; sitting room with open fire; dining room; kitchen; back porch/utility area with washing-machine, tumble-drier, sink; and heated boot & coat stowage.

First: double bedroom; twin bedroom; bathroom with bath + over-bath shower, W.C.

Kirkmirren is a typical Galloway shepherd's cottage, slightly extended, in a picturesque position at the foot of Screel, just three miles toward the coast by the pretty wee road that runs down the glen from Gelston Castle to the Screel hill walk. Patio (with table and chairs) gets full sun from noon onwards.

Equipment & Facilities

- Bedlinen is provided, and beds are made up.
- Towels: bath, hand and tea towels are provided. Towelling bathrobes may be hired @ £4 each.
- Kitchens: electric cooker (dbl oven); microwave; fridge-freezer (not just freezer compartment); dishwasher.
- Television: Freeview TV, DVD player, VCR; loan videos available; no satellite TV.
- Telecoms: telephones at courtyard (public) and Kirkmirren for *free* local and local-rate calls, emergencies, BT Chargecard calls and incoming calls; longer distance calls can be made from the office in office hours with BT charge advice (pay on tab); fax and email services in office hours; free wireless broadband access in courtyard; mobile reception is patchy and you generally have to go outside, but major networks have coverage depending on exact location.
- Washing, courtyard: Miele washing machine (token operated, £1 per wash); two coin-operated tumble-driers; deep sink and hot water supply; heated drying room for outdoor wear, boots etc.
- Log fires in 1, 2, 4 and Kirkmirren, with free logs and kindling.
- Extra bed: no. 1 only (one per cottage), £20 per holiday, including bedlinen (made up) and towels.
- Cots: £5 each per holiday; cot linen is not included, but can be provided by arrangement at £5 per cot.
- High chairs and stair gates: £5 each per holiday.
- Walking guidebooks and local Ordnance Survey maps available for sale at keen prices.

Recreation

- Outdoor 40 x 20 ft swimming pool heated to 80° F, in sheltered courtyard: open mid May to first/second week Sept. (exact dates on price chart); deck chairs and sun loungers; changing room with shower and toilet.
- Steam room (in changing room area).
- All-weather tennis court with state-of-the-art Elastosol surface: open until end October (later by arrangement).
- Large grass area for ball games. Outdoor giant chess in pool courtyard.
- Walking on the 4,500 acre Gelston Castle Estate, from hills to beaches.
- We can book you into the Galloway Sailing Centre, a very popular multi-activity centre 20 mins away, and the Loch Ken Waterski School, with expert tuition by Scottish champion Roddy Clark (not to mention the Banana boat and Ringos!).

Pets

• Pets are welcome *at no extra charge*. They must be prevented from sleeping on chairs - please bring bedding for them! Max. 2 dogs (3 small dogs) per house; no running dogs or big breeds. *Please read Terms & Conditions on booking form.*

Prices: what's included

- Electricity, heating and hot water.
- Firewood (1, 2, 4, Kirkmirren).
- Bedlinen (incl. making-up of beds) and towels (bath, hand, kitchen).
- Swimming pool and tennis court in season; steam room (all year).

Off-Peak Periods: discounts and short breaks

The following applies only to Off-Peak weeks, i.e. those not marked P on the pricing/availability chart.

- **Part-occupancy discount:** deduct £15 for each bed unoccupied (disregarding extra beds). For example, for a couple only in House 1, 2 or 4, deduct £60, in House 7 or Kirkmirren deduct £30.
- **Early-bird booking discount:** 10% off weekly rate on payment of 40% deposit (not £50) by the preceding 30 November, or by 31 March for autumn weeks starting after 1 Sept. Full weeks only. Change of dates: at least 20 weeks before the originally booked date, 10% discount stands; less than 20 weeks ahead, 10% discount is lost.
- **Multiple bookings discount:** where more than two off-peak weeks are booked by the same person(s) in one calendar year, deduct 10% for the third and subsequent weeks. This discount is additional to the part-occupancy discount.
- **Short breaks** of less than a week: there is a sophisticated computer formula which takes account of fixed letting costs, actual guest numbers (part-occupancy) and length of stay - please ask for a quote. Weekend breaks spanning Saturday (changeover day) effectively take two weeks out of letting, so for any short break that includes both Friday and Saturday nights there is a surcharge roughly equivalent to half a night (typically ~ £25), unless the break is 5+ nights.

Booking, current calendar year

- Provisional bookings can be made by any method, incl. by telephone or in person, and are normally held for a maximum of 2 weeks from sending out the particulars and booking form; where a provisional booking is made 6 weeks or less from the start of the holiday week, written confirmation is required within 5 working days.
- To confirm a booking, please return a booking form with a deposit of £50 per cottage per week (or 40% for bookings that qualify for the "early-bird" booking discount).
- Your booking will then be confirmed by us in writing, together with directions etc. if you are new to us.
- The balance of payment is due 4 weeks before your date of arrival, and we do not undertake to send reminders.
- *We recommend paying our holiday waiver in case you have to cancel and no other takers are found for the house.*

Booking, future years

- Priority is given to those who take a particular slot on a regular basis - any such regular bookings are already known to us and are taken into account automatically. There is now also a space on the booking form to indicate if you are likely to want the same slot for the next year, so it is quite simple to establish a new pattern.
- Deposits are not taken until prices are fixed the previous autumn. Until then, bookings are held as provisional.
- Advance bookings will be held until 3 weeks after firm prices and booking forms have been sent out, but thereafter bookings are not treated as firm until the deposit has been received.

Good housekeeping deposit £25

In line with industry standards we ask for a deposit of £25 per house to be paid with your holiday balance. This is refundable by cheque after your holiday, but we reserve the right to make deductions if we incur costs such as extra cleaning, moving equipment back to the right house, replacing missing keys, etc.

Office Hours and Personnel

The office is in the courtyard at number 5, sharing space and staff with Gelston Castle Fine Wines Ltd. The office is normally open on weekdays 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. (subject to some variation).

- Alexander & Lucinda Scott, owners: the former is normally available in the office, the latter less often.
- Karen Monteith, office administrator: generally Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Outside the office, the principal staff are Martin and Joan McNicholas.