

YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH GARTMORE HOUSE...

# ...TRULY MADLY DEEPLY



- Truly...** Outstanding Walking 6
- Madly...** Creative Painting 10
- Deeply...** Satisfying Patchwork and Quilting 12

*Find out more about us...*

- Gartmore House 2
- The Gartmore Difference 14
- Celebrate the Festive Season 16
- Carberry Tower, Edinburgh 17
- How to Book 18
- Getting to Gartmore House 19

Gartmore House, Gartmore, Stirling, FK8 3RS, Scotland  
 To book **01877 382991** [info@gartmorehouse.com](mailto:info@gartmorehouse.com)  
[www.gartmorehouse.com](http://www.gartmorehouse.com)

A charity registered in Scotland.



Printed on Cyclus Offset paper. 100% recycling concept manufactured using only post consumer de-inked waste. The production process is ecologically sound: water is recycled, no environmentally damaging chemicals are used for bleaching and the energy used comes from natural gas.



**We think you'll fall in love with Gartmore House... and here's why:**

### Location

For starters, we have the good fortune to be located in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland – the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Although just 30 minutes from Stirling, 45 minutes from Glasgow and 60 minutes from Edinburgh, you will enjoy that 'away from it all' feeling as you relax in our idyllic surroundings. For those not travelling by car, we offer complimentary transportation from Stirling train station, and Glasgow International and Edinburgh airports.

### A room with a view

All bedrooms in our country house, built in 1793 for the Cunninghame Graham family, are en-suite and uniquely furnished, accessible for disabled guests. Many rooms offer panoramic views across



to Stirling Castle. The peace and tranquillity of the house, set in 75 acres of private land, allows our guests to leave behind the hustle and bustle of daily life. We therefore do not place televisions in our bedrooms, encouraging guests who do want to catch up with the news to view the television in our lounge.

### Experienced local tutors

Our tutors and guides are friends we have worked with over the years, who are experts in their field. As they live in the area, they bring a wealth of local knowledge and history and a passion for what they do. On your first evening at Gartmore House you will meet with your tutor or guide over a welcome dinner to look at the week ahead and get to know one another.

### Friendly staff, exceptional service

Our staff are friendly, welcoming and always willing to go the extra mile to ensure your stay with us is memorable. We monitor our service levels via guest questionnaires and have built our reputation upon exceptional, friendly service. Our chef prepares hearty and wholesome meals... and delicious shortbread too!

### Entertainment

We include a half-day cruise on nearby Loch Lomond as a feature of many of our activity holidays so you can sail the 'bonny, bonny banks' while in the area. In the evenings we provide a variety of entertainment that could include a dramatised history of Gartmore House, a performance by local musicians, and the chance to join in one of our fantastic quiz nights. All entertainment is optional so if you prefer to do your own thing, that's fine with us too! We can provide you with plenty of information on nearby attractions and local walks.

### Our responsibility to the environment

In 2006 Gartmore House became one of the first activity centres in Scotland to install a biomass heating system, running on woodchips from sustainable local forests. We aim to reduce our carbon footprint in as many ways as possible, including recycling projects, energy-efficient lighting and our in-house laundry.



# TRULY... OUTSTANDING WALKS

## Walking in the Trossachs



**The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park is the land of lochs and bens, glens and forests. With its unique and varying landscape, the Trossachs is the perfect place for a walking holiday, offering walks for all ages and abilities.**

Whatever season you choose for your holiday, we are sure you'll enjoy exploring the changing faces of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park on foot. In early spring you may still catch a glimpse of snow on the imposing summit of Ben Lomond; in May bluebells carpet the hills and forests, while summer brings warmer weather and longer days to enjoy unparalleled views over lochs and glens. With the onset of autumn, the woods come alive with the vibrant seasonal colours. Whenever you choose to visit, keep your eye out for the abundance of wildlife in the area - deer, red squirrels, pine martins, hawks, ospreys, and peregrine falcons all make their home in the Trossachs.

### What to bring

We recommend you come prepared for all weathers, regardless of the month you visit. Comfortable walking shoes are essential, as is clothing for wet weather. (Don't worry... we have plenty of drying facilities for use after a rainy day!) While no-one likes to include a hat, gloves and scarf with their holiday packing, we suggest you do bring them for walks in higher altitudes where it can suddenly get chilly. You may also want to pack insect-repellent, especially during the summer months. A camera is a must to capture the magnificent views but you can leave all the other details to us.

### Choosing the right walking holiday

We want your walking holiday at Gartmore House to be an enjoyable and memorable experience; it's therefore important to us that you select one appropriate for your fitness level. Most of our walking holidays are designed for people of just average fitness. On the following pages you will find details of the walks and a grading system to help you choose just the right one.





## Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Trail

**Grade: Easy/Gentle** Low altitude introductory walks of short duration (two – three hours) along paths and forest tracks. There may be some steep ascents and descents and possible wet conditions underfoot.

This holiday provides an introduction to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, including walks that are off the beaten track yet easy on the legs. There's always time for a well-earned cup of tea!

### ITINERARY

**Walk One** – Beginning in the lovely village of Drymen, the gateway to east Loch Lomond, today's walk will take you through trails in the Queen Elizabeth National Forest, stopping off at a viewpoint offering panoramic views across Loch Lomond. Returning to Drymen via a circular route, you'll have a chance for a brew at a local tea shop.

**Walk Two** – This morning you will walk to the nearby village of Aberfoyle, gateway to the Trossachs, via trails through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park and along the banks of the River Forth. There's a short ascent up Doon Hill, where local legend tells of fairies who spirited away the body of Reverend Kirk in 1692. You will return to Gartmore House via the old railway line, closed in 1959. Enjoy a delightful cruise on Loch Lomond this afternoon with time to browse the gift shops at Lomond Shores.

**Walk Three** – Today you will enjoy a walk around one of Scotland's most beautiful but lesser-known lochs. Walking alongside the banks of Loch Ard, at the east end of Aberfoyle, and through the Loch Ard Forest there are magnificent views across to Ben Lomond. Enjoy afternoon tea and some last-minute shopping in the Aberfoyle Wool Centre before your return walk to Gartmore House.

## Walkways and Railways

**Grade: Easy/Gentle** Low altitude introductory walks of short duration (two – three hours) along paths and forest tracks. There may be some steep ascents and descents, and possible wet conditions underfoot.

Throughout the Trossachs the Victorians built an immense system of waterways which are still in use today. These follow some lesser known walks with magnificent views and trails. Nature's own hand has produced some spectacular lochs and falls which can be seen in this holiday also. Sadly, the railways are no longer used but have provided easy walking access along the former tracks.

### ITINERARY

**Walk One** – Beginning in the picturesque town of Callander, today's walk will take you through woodlands to Bracklinn Falls, a series of tumbling falls on the Keltie Water. Returning to Callander, there'll be time to visit one of the many local tearooms before your transportation back to Gartmore House.

**Walk Two** – This morning you will walk to the nearby village of Aberfoyle, gateway to the Trossachs, along the old railway line that closed in 1959. In the village you will see a row of remaining railway cottages where the station once stood. A circular route back to Gartmore House will take you alongside the banks of the River Forth and through portions of Loch Ard Forest. Enjoy a delightful cruise on Loch Lomond this afternoon with time to browse the gift shops at Lomond Shores.

**Walk Three** – Today's walk begins at Stronachlachar Pier at the western end of Loch Katrine, the primary water supply for Glasgow and surrounding areas. Following the water pipeline, you will walk through woodlands to the idyllic and secluded Loch Chon before your drive back to Gartmore House.

## Forest Walks

**Grade: Gentle/Moderate** Low altitude walks of between three – four hours, over paths and through forests. Some ascents and descents over rough ground with possible wet conditions underfoot.

Within the Trossachs are mile upon mile of the most beautiful forests. In spring and autumn the foliage is outstanding. The walks on this holiday will take you through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, showing the best hilltop and lochside viewpoints. Our forests are also working forests and for those interested we'll include a quick tour around the Gartmore House biomass heating system, running on woodchips from local sustainable forests.

### ITINERARY

**Walk One** – Today's walk will take you on forestry tracks and along the banks of the River Forth towards Aberfoyle via Balleich, a small settlement for forestry workers. A visit to the David Marshall Lodge above Aberfoyle includes a short trail through the woods to a beautiful waterfall with a 50 foot drop. Your walk back to Gartmore House will be via the old railway line.

**Walk Two** – This morning's walk will be in the Loch Ard Forest and around the secluded and peaceful Lochan Spling, a small loch. Heading back towards Aberfoyle, there's a short ascent up Doon Hill, where local legend tells of fairies who spirited away the body of Reverend Kirk in 1692. Enjoy a delightful cruise on Loch Lomond this afternoon with time to browse the gift shops at Lomond Shores.

**Walk Three** – After a drive over the scenic Duke's Pass, today you will walk in the Achray Forest, a few miles north of Gartmore. You will have magnificent views of the Trossachs and the surrounding lochs and burns as you enjoy the trails in this working forest.



## From the Laird's House to the Duke's Pass and the Lands of Rob Roy

**Grade: Gentle/Moderate** Low altitude walks of between three – four hours, over paths and through forests. Some ascents and descents over rough ground with possible wet conditions underfoot.

The Trossachs come alive with the stories and personalities of Scotland's history as we take you to some of the most beautiful local landmarks. The Jacobites, Rob Roy, and the Cunninghame Grahams (the original owners of Gartmore House) are all included in this rich walking tour.

### ITINERARY

**Walk One** – View the Cunninghame Graham memorial in Gartmore village before walking along the banks of the River Forth through Loch Ard Forest to Lochan Sping, a small secluded loch. You will then continue on to Duchray Castle, the home of the first laird, before returning to Gartmore House via Aberfoyle and the old railway line.

**Walk Two** – This morning you will walk along the eastern end of Loch Katrine following the path to Bealach nam Bo, the alleged route taken by Rob Roy when hiding stolen cattle. A short drive over the scenic Duke's Pass will take you back to Gartmore House. Enjoy a short boat ride this afternoon across the Lake of Menteith to Inchmahome Priory. Set on a small island, this ruined Augustine priory is the resting place of R.B. Cunninghame Graham.

**Walk Three** – Starting by Ledard Farm, the site of a 16th century barn where Rob Roy is said to have recounted his battle experiences to fellow clansmen, today you will walk to Loch Achray. Following the route of Ben Venue with a gradual ascent, you will enjoy spectacular views across Loch Katrine.

## Lochs and Bens

**Grade: Moderate/Challenging** Walks of four – six hours duration over high moorland and rugged hillside with intermittent paths. Some steep ascents and descents with possible wet conditions underfoot.

Often referred to as 'the highlands in miniature' the Trossachs is famous for its wonderful mixture of lochs and mountains. During this holiday you will enjoy more challenging walks, climbing bens and alongside lochs to view the spectacular scenery that's typical of the Scottish Highlands.

### ITINERARY

**Walk One** – Today's walk will be via forestry tracks in the Queen Elizabeth National Forest Park, through the Menteith Hills, affording magnificent views of the Lake of Menteith - Scotland's only lake - and further east towards Stirling. You will walk along the shores of Loch Venachar, popular with fishermen and water sports enthusiasts, before completing your walk at the picturesque town of Callander with a well-earned cup of tea before the drive back to Gartmore House.

**Walk Two** – This morning you will ascend Ben A'an, meaning 'small pointed peak': a perfect description! At 1,488 feet, this distinctive ben offers spectacular views of the Trossachs and Loch Katrine. A scenic drive over the Duke's Pass will take you back to Gartmore House. Enjoy a delightful cruise on Loch Lomond this afternoon with time to browse the gift shops at Loch Lomond.

**Walk Three** – Today you will ascend Ben Venue, the foremost hill in the Trossachs, at 2,391 feet. The gradual ascent through woods opens up to a ridge offering panoramic views of Loch Katrine, the Trossachs and across to Ben Lomond and the Arrochar Alps. The two summits of Ben Venue, a short distance apart, can be reached by the more adventurous walker with some scrambling.



## Meet one of our guides...

### George Wilkinson

George has been tramping the hills of the Trossachs and Loch Lomond since his mid-teens so brings a tremendous knowledge of the area and its history to our walking holidays. In 1967 he qualified as a mountain guide and rock climbing instructor with the Mountaineering Association, working in The Lake District, Glen Coe and the Isle of Skye. A member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, George has also travelled further afield to indulge his passion, climbing classic peaks in the Alps, Pyrenees and North America, including Alaska.



## Self-Guided Walking



Whether you have just two days or two weeks to spend in the Trossachs, Gartmore House is the perfect base for a self-guided walking tour.

We offer bed and breakfast or half-board packages for walkers, with packed lunches available upon request.

We'll provide waterproofed maps marking your trail,

and detailed descriptions of the walks including distance, estimated completion times, and terrain. Each morning we'll update you on the weather forecast so you know just what to expect! We'll also give you tips on public facilities, recommended country pubs, and current ground conditions, as chances are we've recently rambled the route ourselves! After your day's walk, full drying facilities, if required, are available for use so you won't have to worry about damp gear. If you choose to dine at Gartmore House we'll ensure you are well-fed with a hearty and wholesome evening meal, then feel free to relax in our lounge, sharing stories with fellow walkers and guests, before a good night's rest in a very comfy bed.



## Painting at Gartmore House

Since Queen Victoria popularised the Trossachs as a tourist destination, writers and painters have visited the area finding inspiration in the beauty of the highland scenery. A watercolour painting holiday at Gartmore House will inspire the artist in you – budding or experienced – and provide the opportunity to improve your skills in relaxed company and comfortable surroundings.



Our painting holidays are tailored for all abilities; we purposefully do not take large numbers to allow our tutor to provide personalised instruction based upon your level of experience.

During the week you will work on a painting project during morning and afternoon sessions in the studio or outdoors, weather-dependent. There will also be time to enjoy the area with an afternoon cruise on Loch Lomond (seasonal) or a visit to historic Stirling Castle. Spend the

evenings in our lounge with entertainment provided or, if you choose, continue to work on your painting.

We supply all materials, including boards, paints, paper and brushes, but feel free to bring your own favourite materials if you prefer.

Depending upon the weather there may be outdoor sessions so please pack accordingly.

### Meet one of our tutors...

#### Ian Sinclair

Ian trained at the Glasgow School of Art and is best known for his landscape paintings, also taking commissions for portraits and animals, and with another interest in cartoons and caricatures.

Experienced in both watercolour and acrylic painting, Ian has taught beginners and the more seasoned painters. His gentle manner and friendly style, along with his love of landscape and nature makes Ian a popular tutor, bringing out the very best from those who work with him.







## DEEPLY... SATISFYING Patchwork & Quilting Holidays



**Patchwork and quilting is a positive addiction and once hooked you can look forward to a lifelong hobby of endless possibilities – creative and practical – and meeting many new friends.**

**Our patchwork and quilting holidays will appeal to both the seasoned quilter and the novice.**

**From our studio, with its panoramic views to inspire, you can enjoy the comforts of home while receiving expert instruction and guidance from your tutor. Whether you choose the ‘Going Crazy with Stack and Slash’ holiday or our ‘Curved Strip Piecing and Curvy Quilting’ holiday, you will learn more about the techniques and tips for patchwork and quilting.**

During the week you will work on a quilting project at morning and afternoon sessions. We'll provide all meals and plenty of delicious home baking to keep you going in between. There will also be time for an afternoon cruise on Loch Lomond (seasonal) or a visit to historic Stirling Castle. Enjoy entertainment in our lounge in the evenings or continue to work on your quilting...it really is addictive! By the end of your holiday you will have a selection of blocks to use as you wish – maybe for a bag, cushions, quilt or small wall-hanging – providing lasting memories of your stay at Gartmore House. A list of what supplies to bring will be included with your booking information.



### Meet one of our tutors...

#### **Clare Workman**

Clare runs Thistle Threads Creative Textile Arts and Crafts Studio from her farm, a stone's throw from Gartmore House. Teaching at Gartmore House since 2000, Clare loves every opportunity to spread her passion for creativity with fabric and thread. Clare has been a member of The Quilters Guild for more than 25 years, studying City and Guilds in Creative Textiles. She regularly gives talks and workshops to quilting groups and others across Scotland and England and has exhibited and sold her work through galleries and exhibitions.



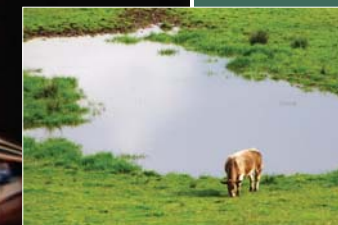


## The Gartmore Difference

For many of our guests, a stay at Gartmore House is about more than just pursuing a chosen activity; it's the chance to leave behind the demands of a busy life and re-focus on life's simple pleasures.

A 'Thought for the Day' is given each morning, after breakfast, for all staff and guests staying in the house who choose to take a few minutes for reflection before beginning the day's activities. In the evening, we hope you'll enjoy entertainment in the lounge and the opportunity to chat with other guests, or maybe you'd prefer to select a book from our library and relax quietly by the blazing log fire. The serenity of the grounds is perfect for a stroll through our estate on long summer nights, and the nearby villages of Gartmore (0.5 miles) or Aberfoyle (2.5 miles) offer delightful country pubs with true Scottish hospitality.

Gartmore House is run with a Christian ethos and our goal is that all guests, regardless of belief system, leave feeling refreshed in body, mind and spirit.







*"Heap on more wood - the wind is chill;  
But let it whistle as it will,  
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.*

Sir Walter Scott, Marmion

## Celebrate the Festive Season

Gartmore House extends a warm welcome in the winter months, especially during the festive season at our Christmas and New Year House Parties.

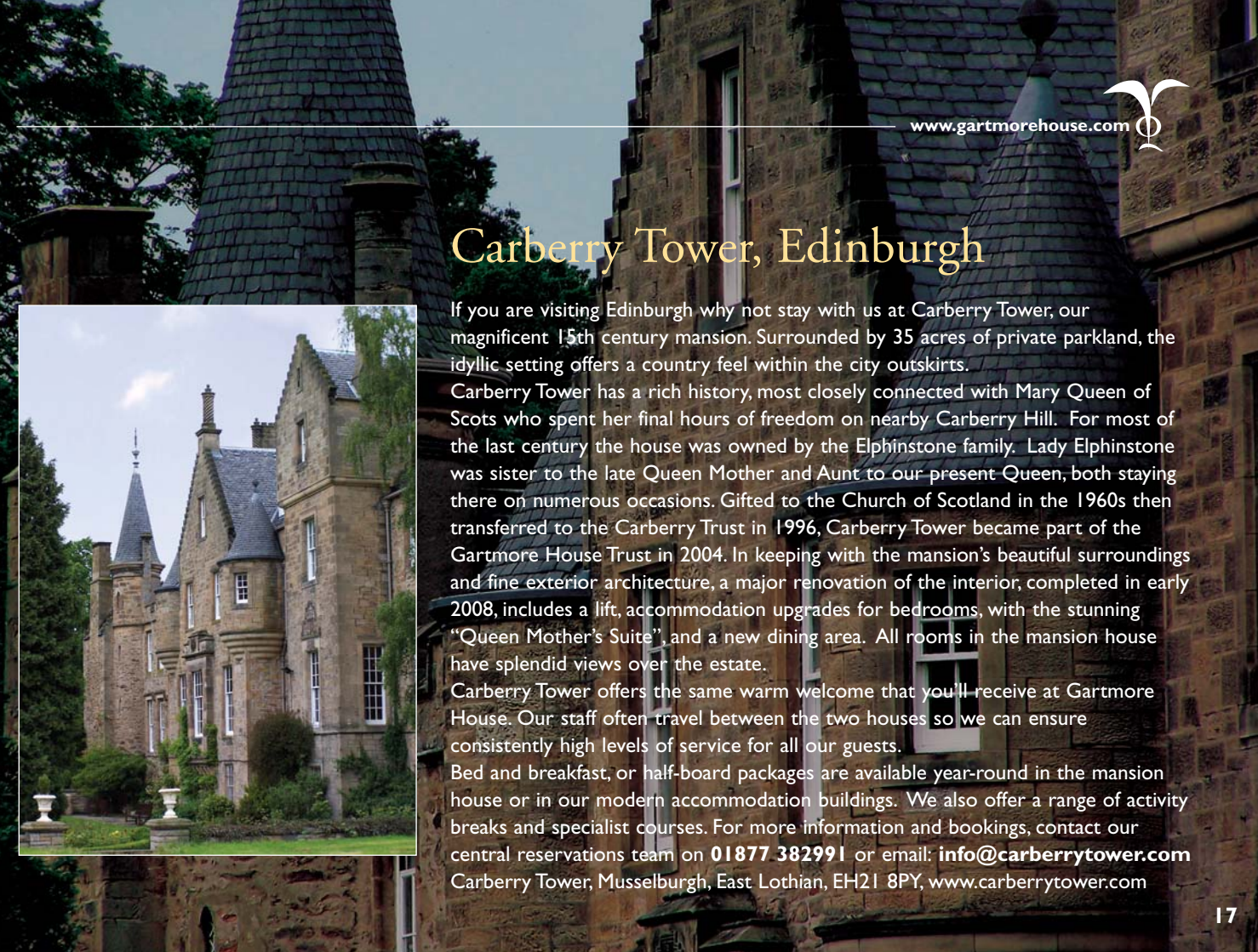
### A Gartmore House Family Christmas

Gartmore House has become a 'home from home' for many of our guests over the years, so much so that they like to spend Christmas with us! Our Christmas House Party includes many of the family traditions you'd expect over the festive season: Carols by candlelight and the opportunity to attend a watchnight service at our village church, a visit from Father Christmas, an afternoon outing, music, games and quizzes in our lounge with its roaring fire, and a traditional Christmas day lunch with all the trimmings. We'll even schedule time to watch the Queen's Speech if you choose!

### Ring in the New Year at Gartmore House

Where better to celebrate a traditional Hogmanay than in the heart of Scotland? During our New Year House Party you'll enjoy traditional Scottish music at our ceilidh on Hogmanay, followed by fireworks to see in the New Year with style. Also included is an afternoon outing, games and quizzes around the fire in our lounge and plenty of festive food, plus guided country walks if you want to burn off those extra calories!

We invite special friends of ours to play host so there's always someone on hand to welcome and chat with you if you arrive solo - though you'll soon make friends with other guests. Both house parties have a full programme, including optional 'Thoughts for the Day' from our hosts, so you can participate in as many or as few events as you choose.



[www.gartmorehouse.com](http://www.gartmorehouse.com)



## Carberry Tower, Edinburgh

If you are visiting Edinburgh why not stay with us at Carberry Tower, our magnificent 15th century mansion. Surrounded by 35 acres of private parkland, the idyllic setting offers a country feel within the city outskirts.

Carberry Tower has a rich history, most closely connected with Mary Queen of Scots who spent her final hours of freedom on nearby Carberry Hill. For most of the last century the house was owned by the Elphinstone family. Lady Elphinstone was sister to the late Queen Mother and Aunt to our present Queen, both staying there on numerous occasions. Gifted to the Church of Scotland in the 1960s then transferred to the Carberry Trust in 1996, Carberry Tower became part of the Gartmore House Trust in 2004. In keeping with the mansion's beautiful surroundings and fine exterior architecture, a major renovation of the interior, completed in early 2008, includes a lift, accommodation upgrades for bedrooms, with the stunning "Queen Mother's Suite", and a new dining area. All rooms in the mansion house have splendid views over the estate.

Carberry Tower offers the same warm welcome that you'll receive at Gartmore House. Our staff often travel between the two houses so we can ensure consistently high levels of service for all our guests.

Bed and breakfast, or half-board packages are available year-round in the mansion house or in our modern accommodation buildings. We also offer a range of activity breaks and specialist courses. For more information and bookings, contact our central reservations team on **01877 382991** or email: [info@carberrytower.com](mailto:info@carberrytower.com) Carberry Tower, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 8PY, [www.carberrytower.com](http://www.carberrytower.com)



# How to Book

## ...in three easy steps

We like to keep things simple.

You can book your holiday or find out more information by...

### Phone

Our reservations team is available seven days a week, from 8am to 10pm.  
Just call **01877 382991**

### Online

Use our online enquiry form at [www.gartmorehouse.com](http://www.gartmorehouse.com)  
You can also email us at [info@gartmorehouse.com](mailto:info@gartmorehouse.com)

### Letter

Write to us at **Gartmore House, Gartmore, Stirling, FK8 3RS, Scotland**



# Getting to Gartmore House

We're easy to find with brown tourist signs to 'Gartmore House' from the A81 Glasgow road, at the end of our driveway.

### BY ROAD:

**From Glasgow**, take the A81 from the city centre, travelling via Milngavie and Strathblane towards Aberfoyle. Continue past the sign for Gartmore village and Gartmore House is indicated on the left.

**From the North or East**, travel on the M9 to junction 10 and follow the directions from Stirling (see below).

**From Stirling** and junction 10 on the M9, take the A84 towards Callander. After the safari park, take the A873 to Aberfoyle. At the roundabout by the Rob Roy Motel, bear left on the A81 towards Glasgow. Pass the signs for Gartmore village and Gartmore House is indicated on the right.

### BY AIR:

Airports at Glasgow and Edinburgh connect to most British city airports. Driving time for Glasgow International Airport is 50 minutes and Edinburgh 60 minutes. Glasgow Prestwick Airport is a 1 hour and 45 minute drive from Gartmore House.

### BY RAIL:

Stirling is the nearest mainline station for intercity and sleeper service.

**GARTMORE HOUSE, GARTMORE, STIRLING, FK8 3RS**

**Tel: 01877 382991, Fax: 01877 382725**

**Bookings: 7 days a week, 8am to 10pm**

**Email: [info@gartmorehouse.com](mailto:info@gartmorehouse.com)**

**[www.gartmorehouse.com](http://www.gartmorehouse.com)**







GARTMORE  
HOUSE

GARTMORE HOUSE GARTMORE STIRLING FK8 3RS  
Tel: 01877 382991 Fax: 01877 382725  
Email: [info@gartmorehouse.com](mailto:info@gartmorehouse.com)  
[www.gartmorehouse.com](http://www.gartmorehouse.com)

...TRULY MADLY DEEPLY