

MACTHOMAS CLAN GATHERING 2017



6 Days
Inclusive Package
23-28 Aug 2017
£480
per person
(based on double occupancy)

This holiday combines a stay in a Highland hotel with a unique chance to take part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, experience a traditional Highland Games, explore the ancient Clan territories in Glenisla and Glenshee, witness 17th century historical battle reenactments, participate in a Scottish Ceilidh, and enjoy the pleasures of traditional cuisine, whisky tasting and the spectacular display of the pipes and drums.



Day One (Wednesday) Head to Pitlochry by road or rail and check in at Scotland's Hotel

Arrive early and visit the town and the famous **Hydro Electric Dam and Salmon Ladder**, or take a short drive to the **Soldier's Leap at Killiecrankie** and the fabulous **"Queens View" at Loch Tummel**. For the more adventurous visit **"Nae Limits"** for water adventure activities, quad biking and paintballing – you could even try bungee jumping! Alternatively just relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel spa, pool and fitness room.

There will be an opportunity to browse through the exciting range of **MacThomas merchandise** available for you to purchase.

In the early evening come to the **Welcoming Reception** where you can meet your fellow gatherers and enjoy a pre-dinner drink before the **Clan buffet dinner**. After dinner head for the **MacThomas Party** for a traditional evening of Scottish song and dance.



Included in package:

- Welcoming Reception with 2 drinks
- Clan Buffet Dinner
- Evening Entertainment

Not included in package:

- Travel to Pitlochry
- Afternoon activities

Day Two (Thursday)

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

After a hearty Scottish breakfast the Society will be running a series of short presentations on various subjects relating to the Clan History, the Ancient Lands of the MacThomases and Genealogy Research. This is your opportunity to learn about your Scottish ancestors and discover your heritage.

In the late morning you will board the coach to Edinburgh. You will have a short tour to include the landmarks in this historic city; you will have time to go shopping in Princes Street, or you could just relax in one of the many festival pubs and restaurants. In the evening you will attend **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**

- set against the backdrop of the famous Edinburgh Castle.

The MacThomas Clan will be marching onto the Esplanade behind Andrew MacThomas of Finegand, 19th Chief of the Clan. If you have the tartan, you could be part of this iconic show!

This is an unprecedented chance of a lifetime, not only to watch the Tattoo, but to be part of it as well.

At the end of the show, after the lone piper has played from the battlements of the castle, you will re-join the coach to take you back to your hotel in Pitlochry.



"...probably the greatest show on earth..."



Included in package:

- Breakfast
- Coach travel to and from Edinburgh
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Tickets

Not included in package:

- Lunch & dinner



Day Three (Friday)

Whisky Distillery & Guided Tour of Glenshee

After breakfast you will go on a tour of the Clan territories led by an experienced tour guide who will précis the Clan history and give you the chance to photograph the places of interest associated with the Clan.

The first stop will be at a **whisky distillery** where you can learn the secrets of *uisge-beatha*, enjoy a wee morning dram, and have the opportunity to purchase unique whiskies rarely available for retail.

After lunch you will drive through the beautiful and majestic scenery of Glenshee, over **MacThomas Bridge**,

into Glen Begg and up to the Cairnwell.

For the adventurous you can take a ride on the Chair Lift (weather permitting) to the top of The Cairnwell (3,061 ft) for a most spectacular view of the old MacThomas territory.

In the evening, after the buffet dinner in the hotel, there will be a **"Meet the Chief"** questions and answers session where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and talk to Finegand.

This will be followed by the ever popular **Highland Reels and Dances Practice** led by a professional dance Instructor who will prepare you for the Clan Ceilidh on Sunday night.

MacNabs Bar will be open again for those who would like a wee dram before retiring.



Included in package :

- Breakfast
- Coach Tour
- Visit to a Whisky Distillery
- Light lunch
- Buffet Dinner
- Highland Dance Instruction

Not included in package:

- Chair Lift at Glenshee Ski Centre

Day Four (Saturday) Strathardle Games & Dinner Evening

After a traditional breakfast the **Society AGM** will be held in the hotel. Immediately following the AGM the coach will leave for Kirkmichael to take you to the **Strathardle Highland Games** where the Clan (that includes you!) is honoured to have been invited to take part in the opening ceremony and to march behind the pipe band onto the games field.



Make your way to the Clan MacThomas tent for the Clan Lunch. Many of the Games events are open to visitors (adults & children) – so why not bring your shorts and running shoes, or your pipes and drums, and compete against the locals? In past games MacThomases have entered the shot put and even tossed the caber! Or perhaps you would just like to enjoy watching the afternoon events.

The coach will return to Scotland's Hotel in time to change for the **Society Dinner** (black tie optional) where you will enjoy a traditional three course formal dinner. It is hoped Clan Chief, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, 25th Chief of Clan MacLaren, will be our guest speaker.

After the dinner, MacNabs Bar will be open as usual for those who would like a wee *deoch an doris* before retiring.



Included in package

- Breakfast
- Coach travel to and from the Games
- Entrance to the Games
- Light lunch
- Formal Dinner

Not included in package

- Drinks with dinner

Day Five (Sunday) Clan Gathering & Historical Reenactments

After your hearty Scottish breakfast the coach will take you to the **Clach na Coileach** – the ancient gathering place of the Clan – for the traditional **Clan Gathering**. Here the pipes will be resounding against the hillsides and the Chief will mount the rock to address his Clan in the same way as his forefathers did 400 years ago.

You will have the chance to hear the Chief's Personal Piper, Ron Thom, and the other Clan Pipers as well as the



EMS Highlander Pipes and Drums from Northern Germany - Clan Society member Sebastian Thomas is the Pipe Major and the band is fully kitted out in MacThomas tartan. Then stand back and enjoy the **historical reenactments** by a group of enthusiasts in period costumes who will bring to you the harsh realities of living in the 1640s. A short drive will take us to **Kirkton of Glenisla** where we will stop for lunch. The great McComie Mor is said to be buried in Glenisla churchyard close to where we will watch another battle reenactment – this time an account of the skirmish at McComie's Field (just west of Forfar) between the Farquharsons and the MacThomases in 1673. This is said to be one of the last recorded clan feuds in Scottish history and it will be performed for you by the players of Loudouns Regiment.

On the way back we will stop at Forter Castle so you can photograph this famous landmark – The Bonnie Hoose o' Airlie – which, with a stretch of imagination, was Castle MacThomas. You will arrive back at the hotel late afternoon with enough time to relax in readiness for the **Clan Ceilidh**.

Highlander images by Niamh Taylor by Loudouns Regiment



Sunday Evening Ceilidh



The evening will commence with a **haggis supper** complete with a rendering of Robert Burns' famous "Address to a Haggis", followed by the ceilidh where you can dance the night away using the steps you learnt on Friday night.

Enjoy the kilts and tartans, hear the musicians playing louder and louder and join the dancers flying faster and faster - until the stroke of midnight, when all goes quiet and we will join together in the traditional ending for ***Auld Lang Syne***.

McNabs Bar will be open till late and as the gathering draws to an end you can talk over your experiences and take one last *deoch an Doris for auld lang syne* with the clansfolk you have met and the friends you have established.



Included in package:

- Breakfast
- Coach Travel
- Clach na Coileach Reenactment
- Light lunch
- Reenactment at Glenisla
- Haggis Supper
- Highland Ceilidh

Day 6 (Monday) Aye Fond Kiss



There will be a farewell buffet breakfast at the hotel where you will have the opportunity to say good bye to your fellow clansfolk, draw the Gathering to a close, and then head back home.

Included in package:

- Breakfast

TO BOOK ON LINE GO TO:

www.clanmacthomas.com

and select the "Events" Tab.

Or, complete the enclosed Booking Form and mail to:
Clan MacThomas Society, 43, Highland Drive, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 2TH, UK

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS

20 FEBRUARY 2017

We cannot guarantee availability of Tattoo tickets after 20 February.

Book now for an action packed holiday that promises to be a fantastic experience that will appeal to all members and their families across the globe.

If you have any questions, please e-mail:

gathering@clanmacthomas.com