Walk in the footsteps of royalty, famous scientists and poets; imagine the sound of horses’ hooves thundering up to the castle or take a peek into the traditional closes and read the blue plaques for a glimpse into the past.

Jedburgh has an impressive calendar of special events taking place throughout the year, so there are plenty of good reasons to plan a return visit.

Events

February / March – Jethart Ba’
Two traditional handball games played in the streets on the Thursday after Shrove Tuesday or the following Thursday.

March – Borders Counties Rally
This takes place in Jedburgh and the borderland forests. It is the opening round of the MSA British Rally Championship.

May – Jedburgh Sevens
The Jed-Forest 7s (the friendly 7s) is traditionally the finale of the Borders’ popular Kings of the 7s tournament.

June – Riverside Rock
The Borders’ premier music festival has something for everyone.

June/July – Callant’s Festival
Two weeks of rideouts culminating in Festival Day in early July when the ancient battle cry of “Jethart’s here!” is shouted by the Callant at the annual ceremony held in Abbey Place. The Jedburgh Border Games takes place the following day.

October – Jedburgh Running Festival
A weekend of races comprising: Three Peaks 38 mile Ultra Marathon; the Ultra Marathon Relay race; CaniSports Scotland Canicross races; Half Marathon road race and a 10k Wheelchair and Handbike race.

December – Jedburgh Winter Festival
Held at the beginning of the month to coincide with the turning on of the Christmas lights.

For further information or contact details:

jedburgh@visitscotland.com
www.jedburgh.org.uk

Produced by Jedburgh & District Community News Group for Jedburgh Marketing & Tourism Group 2018. Design by VivID.
Situated just 10 miles from the border with England, Jedburgh was once a battleground but now offers visitors from all over the world a warm welcome as the historic gateway to Scotland.

A traditional Scottish town so significant it was given Royal Burgh status in the 12th century. The magnificent spectacle of Jedburgh Abbey is an unforgettable image, frequently photographed. Dating back to the 12th century, it is possibly the best surviving remains of an Augustinian Abbey in the whole of Scotland.

At the top of the town is the majestic Jedburgh Castle Jail and Museum, a favourite haunt for ghost hunters. The building is a former prison and now houses the town’s museum. It was built on the site of a royal castle which was demolished in 1409.

Mary Queen of Scots’ Visitor Centre is a 16th century stone tower house where she is believed to have lodged and almost died, in 1566 when visiting the town. It is dedicated to telling the story of her eventful life.

Opposite the Abbey in Lothian Park, there’s an imposing 40ft stone sculpture known as ‘The Eel’ designed by artist Max Nowell and erected to commemorate Jedburgh’s part in the internationally significant findings of 18th century Scottish geologist James Hutton. In 1787, while visiting the town, he discovered unusual rock formations which indicated the earth was much older than previously believed. This became known as Hutton’s Unconformity.

Jedburgh also has the added distinction of having over 140 listed buildings - the highest number for any comparable small town in Scotland.

A gentle stroll into town from the free car parks offers cafés, restaurants and takeaways as well as plenty of independent shops along the way.

And if you are planning to stay, Jedburgh has a great selection of accommodation catering for all the family. The town is an increasingly popular choice as a base for those planning to explore the beautiful Scottish Borders region.

There is nothing like a great ruin for visitor appeal and Jedburgh Abbey ranks alongside the best of them, providing a breathtaking welcome for those arriving in the town from the south.
The Abbey is, without doubt, Jedburgh’s jewel in the crown and well worth a visit but there’s so much more to see and do in this beautiful Borders town. Whether you want to take a step back in time, wander round the shops or enjoy a picnic by the riverside, it’s all just a gentle stroll away.

The Castle Jail, built on what was once known as Gallowes Hill, is the perfect starting point for the Jedburgh story—a bloody past and a very spooky present indeed. Built in the 1820s on the site of the demolished castle, it is a favourite location for ghost hunts. The jail is an example of the new kind of reform prison pioneered by John Howard where prisoners were encouraged to change their behaviour as well as being punished for their crime. Visit the cells and exercise yard while learning about the town’s history and the achievements of its most famous citizens which are displayed in the museum.

Mary Queen of Scots’ Visitor Centre houses a superb exhibition, including personal possessions, charting the Catholic Queen’s tragic life and includes a death mask believed to have been taken after she was beheaded at Fotheringay Castle in 1587.

The ramparts along the eastern boundary of the Abbey were built as defences and are a reminder of the brutal battles fought in the town but today, they offer you a peaceful place to sit and reflect.

Pleasant riverside walks are only a few minutes from the car parks and they will bring you conveniently back into the town for food and drinks.

Cafés, bistro, award-winning restaurants and bars also help make the town a popular stop for visitors. The High Street’s independent shops offer an interesting range of goods, enhancing tourism appeal.

Jedburgh is the perfect base for those wanting to explore more of this beautiful part of the UK and the knowledgeable staff at the Information Centre are ready to help you plan your visit.

We have a fine choice of quality B&Bs, self-catering establishments and hotels—many pet friendly. They enjoy a brisk trade all year round, particularly with those who travel to the Borders with activity breaks in mind.

Nearby at Peniel Haugh we have the landmark Waterloo Monument, commemorating Wellington’s victory at the famous battle. Built between 1817 and 1824, the tower is 150ft high. The walk to the hilltop monument offers a great view of the borderlands and may conveniently be coupled with a coffee stop at Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre.

Ferniehirst Castle, home and ancient seat of the Kerrs, a famous reiving family, lies two miles south of Jedburgh on the east bank of Jed Water. Open to the public in July for guided tours.

Stately homes such as Floors Castle, Melkernstain and Traquair are a convenient drive away and every route is a scenic journey.

Bowhill, just outside Selkirk is the historic home of the Dukes of Buccleuch, steeped in history and packed with art treasures. The grounds offer pleasant country walks.

Festive Day

Jedburgh is an increasingly popular location for people seeking a welcoming base for their stay in the Borders and on the doorstep of a range of activity breaks including fishing on the River Tweed, mountain biking, golfing and hill walking.

The town is home to one of four historic abbeys in the Borders—the others are close by at Dryburgh, Melrose and Kelso.

The Abbey Bridge End

Mary Queen of Scots’ Visitor Centre

Jedburgh Castle

Jedburgh Castle Jail & Museum

Beresford-upon-Tweed

Jedburgh

Newcastle

Lothian Park

Lauder

St Boswells

Peniel Haugh

Countryside Visitor Centre.

The Eel & Fitness Centre

The Capon Tree, located a couple of miles south of Jedburgh just off the A68, is one of the last surviving oak trees of the ancient Jed Forest. Some closer Jed Water, cutting its course between sandstone cliffs.

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