

GLENEAGLES HOTEL, SCOTLAND

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The Gleneagles Hotel

STAR Classification: ★★★★★
Off Rt A9 & A823, Auchterarder, Scotland



On 250 landscaped hectares off the A9, 3 kilometers north of town, 24 kilometers southwest of Perth, and an hour's drive northwest of Edinburgh, this is Scotland's finest golf resort, thanks to its four world-renowned courses.

In fact, it hosted the Ryder Cup in 1927, and is scheduled to do so again in 2014. This place also offers superb contemporary style, excellent service, and complete programs in shooting, falconry and off-road driving. The new ESPA spa is another star in its growing constellation of amenities meant to distinguish it as an all around luxury resort rather than a golfing destination.

In fact, most of the changes here—the addition of a Mediterranean-style food hall, a teens-only area filled with video games and a foosball table, and a new

world-class spa—are intended to lure North Americans, and to that end, the hotel offers US-dollar packages for five-day/four-night stays.

Gleneagles, though far from ancient, provides a wonderful first impression, its historic-looking facade wrapped around a flag-topped tower. Inside, two semicircular reception stands allow a personal greeting at check-in. Most public areas retain their largely classical tone, with pillars and pilasters supporting soaring ceilings, although art-deco accents spread out from the cocktail lounge.

The small fireplace library is well stocked with newspapers, and Strathearn, the curving dining room off the grand corridor, regales diners with costly table d'hote meals. Chef Andrew Fairlie has won great acclaim with his modernized Scottish menu, proffered in a contemporary restaurant bearing his name. It's the only restaurant in Scotland boasting two Michelin stars. Deseo is the new Mediterranean dining hall offering a tapas menu, daily pizza specials, fresh fish and meats, and homemade Italian desserts. Deseo also has an outlet at the new spa for breakfast lunch and afternoon tea. The clubhouse bar and grill and the brasserie with an open kitchen offer lighter alternatives in a family-friendly atmosphere. Three bars keep thirsts slaked.

A meandering walk through hallways lined with boutiques leads to a covered way through trailing plants and lily ponds, which in turn leads to an impressively modern recreation center. Here, two large pools (one for lap swimming, and one more leisure-oriented) share the space with a large whirlpool, and just outside is a fountained hot tub that can accommodate more than a dozen soakers. Two squash courts, a petanque court, four all-weather tennis courts, and mountain bikes are all here. Close by are an old-style snooker room and children's entertainment area, with extensive programs during the summer months. The shooting school, the largest equestrian center in Europe, a school of British falconry, and even a gundog school where guests can learn how to handle a trained gundog.



The hotel's trophy facilities are the two golf courses, the King's Golf Course dating to 1919, and the Queen's Golf Course. The best of both courses form the PGA Centenary Course, which will be the site for the Ryder Cup. There is also a nine-hole National Academy Course (traditionally known as the Wee Course), as well as a practice ground, a nine-hole pitch-and-putt course, and several putting greens. Warning: golfing here isn't cheap. A tee time for four begins at \$375. To get ready for the Ryder Cup, the golf courses have been enhanced, and the Dormy Clubhouse has received a multimillion-dollar renovation.

The new spa has added 22 treatment rooms, a vitality pool expressively illuminated by fiber optics, and a long list of treatment options, including its signature treatment involving river stones. There is also an old-fashioned barbershop for the gents. A spa cafe with a juice bar, sauna and steam rooms complete the picture.



The largest of 11 meeting rooms seats up to 400 theater-style (the hotel is seeing more and more convention bookings these days), and a high-tech business center aids delegates. Transportation is provided to town and to the train station.

Though accommodations vary in size, quality runs high throughout, with double-glazed French windows, thick carpeting, antique furnishings, TVs with DVD and CD players, safes, minibars and trouser presses. The large tiled baths provide robes and hair dryers. Courtyard rooms have less space and shower-only baths. The best choices in the main hotel are those rooms in the -60 and -90 series, as these have the most stylish decor.

The newer four-story Baird House wing, located at the west end of the hotel, offers superlative amenities.

Guests here have a private lounge with complimentary beverages and snacks. Many of the units are split-level, but their high tariffs are justified with such extras as plank floors, large sitting areas with sofas and fireplaces, spacious bedrooms with top-notch TVs, and DVD and CD players. The large baths have claw-foot tubs, radiant floor heat, robes, anti-fog mirrors, heated towel racks, and lots of plush oversized towels and toiletries.

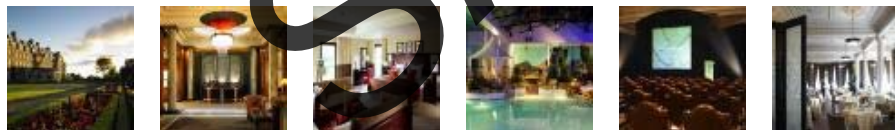
The newest units here 10 one- and two-bedroom Spirit Suites, which offer a mix of contemporary styling against an Old World backdrop. Of these, the standout unit is the split-level Blue Tower Spirit Suite in the hotel's original tower.

Room service runs nonstop, and dogs are welcome.

The staffers here stand ever ready to please, and since the staff-to-guest ratio here is nearly 1-to-1, they are able to do so.

Latest Revision: January 2012

Images



Hotel Profile

Contact Information

Off Rt A9 & A823
Auchterarder, Scotland PH3 1NF

Phone: 1764-662231

Location

Location: In Rural
Nearest Major City: 50 from Edinburgh

Nearest Airports:

- Glasgow Intl- 50 mi, 1 hr drive
- Edinburgh- Southeast, 45 mi, 1 hr drive

Nearby Points of Interest:

- Scone Palace (Stately Home)- Northeast, 15 mi
- Stirling Castle (Castle)- 15 mi
- Glenturret Distillery (Distillery)- North, 9 mi

General Hotel Information

Check in Time: 2:00 PM
Check out Time: 12:00 PM

Number of Floors: 4
Total Number of Rooms: 232

Restaurants On-Site

Dining: 4 Restaurants & 4 Bars On Site

- Strathearn (On Site Restaurant)- Modernized Scottish cuisine
- Deseo (On Site Restaurant)- Mediterranean cuisine
- The Bar (On Site Bar)- Cocktail lounge

Amenities & Facilities

Room Amenities

Amenities are in All rooms unless noted otherwise

- Air Conditioning (some)
- Balcony/ Terrace (some)
- Coffeemaker
- Daily Maid Service
- Fireplace (working) (some)
- Iron/ Ironing Board
- Mini-Bar
- Free Newspaper
- Rooms for Non-smokers
- Telephone
- Voicemail
- Refrigerator (some)
- Safe (In Room)
- Cable/ Satellite Television
- Television
- DVD/ VCR
- Whirlpool (some)

Recreation

Nearby

- Boating/
Sailing
- Scuba Diving
- Shopping Mall/
Area
- Snow Skiing
- Water Skiing

On-Site

- Bicycling
- Fishing
- Game Room
- Golf Course
- Health Club
- Health Spa/ Massage
- Horseback Riding
- Hot Tub
- Jogging Trails
- Pool (Children's Pool, 2 Indoor Pools, Outdoor Pool)
- Tennis (Outdoor Tennis)

General Services

- ATM/ Bank
- Babysitting/ Child Care
- Barber/ Hair Stylist
- Car Rental
- Children/ Teen Programs
- Complimentary Transportation
- Concierge Services
- Crib/ Rollaway Bed
- Currency Exchange
- Gift Shop
- Laundry/ Dry Cleaning Service
- Multi-lingual Staff
- Free Onsite Parking
- Room Service
- Wheelchair Access to Common/ Public Areas

Business Services

- A-V Equipment
- Business Center
- Copier
- Personal Computer
- Fax
- Meeting Facilities
- Administrative Services

Security

- Electronic Key/ Lock
- Parking Area Well Lit
- Smoke Alarm in Rooms
- Valet Parking Service
- Surveillance Cameras On Site

Technology

- In Room High Speed Internet Access
- Common Area High Speed Internet Access
- Common Area Wireless Internet Access

Hotel Facilities

Pet Friendly

- Pets Allowed
- Pet Amenities Available, Pet Services Available, Additional Fee for Pets