

A TASTE OF SCOTLAND WITH TOM KITCHIN

2 NIGHTS

Join Scotland's most celebrated culinary star for a gastronomic experience on the rails. This thrilling, two-night journey through the Scottish Highlands is hosted by Tom Kitchin, who in 2007, at the age of 29, was the youngest ever Scottish chef to gain a Michelin star. At his flagship restaurant The Kitchin, in Edinburgh, a From Nature to Plate philosophy reflects his passion for the finest, freshest Scottish produce. His cuisine showcases both his training under some of the world's greatest chefs and his proud Scottish heritage. The restaurant still boasts a Michelin star today.

Wednesday 2nd October - Day One: Edinburgh – Boat of Garten

Board the Royal Scotsman at Edinburgh Waverley Station for your gourmet adventure. The train departs in the early afternoon and travels north to the 'Fair City' of Perth. Linger over Champagne Afternoon Tea as you continue along the Highland line through Dunkeld, Pitlochry and Blair Atholl, passing the imposing castle.

The rolling hills of Perthshire are replaced by more dramatic peaks and valleys as you glide further into the Highlands towards Aviemore. This is the gateway to the breathtakingly beautiful Cairngorms National Park, where a wide array of outdoor pursuits are enjoyed.

Your first experience with Tom Kitchin also includes a guest appearance from exclusive wine merchants, L' Art du Vin, who are passionate about organic and biodynamic wines made by artisan and ethical producers. Join them in the Observation Car for an exclusive tutored wine masterclass with genius food pairing tips and ideas.

This evening, the train stops in the peaceful Highland village of Boat of Garten on the private Strathspey Railway. A champagne and canapé reception will whet your appetite for the main event: a magnificent four-course dinner created by Tom.

Tom is a big fan of the Scottish larder, citing barley, venison and fresh lobster among his favourite ingredients. He is known to love the warming quality of a classic Cullen Skink, rich in smoked haddock. Under his artistry, a pig's head is elevated to sublime heights – his belief is that nothing should be wasted. Whatever he prepares, you can be sure of a truly exceptional feast celebrating the best of Scotland.

Afterwards, join your fellow travellers in the Observation Car. Enjoy live entertainment and the chance to hear Tom relate fascinating tales from his epicurean life.

Thursday 3rd October- Day Two: Boat of Garten – Dundee

This morning, after breakfast, you travel the short distance by coach to Rothiemurchus Estate in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Rothiemurchus Forest is one of the largest and most important remnants of the native Caledonian pine forest, which used to cover most of Scotland. Choose from a number of activities, including clay pigeon-shooting, fishing, an estate tour or a guided hike with one of the park rangers.

Afterwards, join Tom at The Doune House, the traditional family home of the Grant of Rothiemurchus. A barbecue lunch will be served on the peaceful landscaped 19th century gardens in front of the house. The estate's head stalker will be present to tell you about the area's farming heritage and venison.

Return to the train at Carrbridge for your onward journey through Inverness and then along the scenic Moray Firth to Forres where you disembark to visit the nearby Benromach Distillery. Founded in 1898 it is currently owned by Gordon and McPhail and is one of Speyside's smallest distilleries, fed with water from the Chapelton Springs in the Romach Hills. Casks are still hand-filled, stencilled by hand and stored in traditional dunnage warehouses. Listen to your guide as they immerse you in the handcrafted methods of whisky production followed by a tutored tasting.

Rejoin the train in the market town of Keith in time for your champagne reception as your journey takes you south. Travel down the east coast through Aberdeenshire and Angus towards Dundee, City of Discovery, on the banks of the Firth of Tay. Dress for a fabulous Gala dinner this evening, and afterwards join Tom in the Observation Car for lively music, farewell drinks and toasts.

Friday 4th October- Day Three: Dundee – Edinburgh

Savour a final breakfast as the train leaves Dundee and travels south through the former Kingdom of Fife. Cross the Firth of Forth by means of the magnificent Forth Railway Bridge and arrive in Edinburgh Waverley Station, your journey's end.