

Travel Be as active or restful as you like at scenic Kenmore

theweekender

Step out of the rat race with a tranquil break in Perthshire

All aboard on a mobile

LUFTHANSA has chosen Edinburgh as a key launch market outside Germany for its pioneering mobile phone boarding pass.

Lufthansa passengers flying from Edinburgh are now able to use mobile boarding passes on all Lufthansa non-stop flights to Germany as well as most onward destinations in Europe.

The mobile boarding pass is sent to the passengers' internet-enabled mobile phone by email or SMS. In addition to the relevant flight data such as the passenger's name, flight number and departure time, the boarding pass contains a 2D barcode. This enables passengers to pass through the security checkpoints and board the aircraft without a printed paper document.

Alternatively, passengers also have the option of collecting a printed boarding pass at a self-service check-in terminal or at a Check-in counter if they are unable to display their electronic boarding pass on their mobile (for example, if their phone needs recharging).

The Edinburgh launch follows the successful introduction of mobile boarding passes on all domestic German routes.

The innovative service has already gained widespread acceptance amongst Lufthansa customers with more than 10,000 passengers a week using electronic boarding passes.

Visit www.lufthansa.com/mobile/uk. From here, a direct link to the mobile portal can be sent free-of-charge via sms to a passenger's mobile phone.

Flybe launches 11 Capital routes

FLYBE, Europe's largest regional airline, now has 181 routes nationally for summer and 11 from Edinburgh airport.

They are to Bergerac, Newquay and Rennes as well as Birmingham, Belfast, Cardiff, Exeter, Jersey, Manchester, Norwich and Southampton.

The summer schedule is available for booking at www.flybe.com for travel March 29 and October 24.

Edinburgh to Birmingham flights operate daily and fares begin at £24.99 including all taxes and charges. Other schedules are: Belfast daily from £22.99; Bergerac weekly from £54.99; Cardiff daily from £24.99; Exeter daily from £29.99; Jersey daily from £40.99; Manchester daily from £27.99; Newquay five times a week from £31.99; Norwich daily from £29.99; Rennes weekly from £39.99 and Southampton daily from £27.99.

■ JANIS BLANCHARD

THERE'S no escaping the sense of calm that sweeps over you on the drive through rural Perthshire.

The journey from Edinburgh may not take any more than a couple of hours, but in that short space of time, life moves effortlessly from fast to slow mode.

Tranquillity is heralded by miles of narrow winding roads, shielded from daylight under a lacy canopy of trees, then a final bend unexpectedly opens out to breathtaking views of Loch Tay and the picturesque village of Kenmore.

We'd booked a short break at the White House, an impressive news-style property situated within the grounds of the £8 million, Mains of Taymouth complex - a luxurious mix of self-catering and time share accommodation, purpose-built within a 120 acre site protected by Drummond Hill - a spectacular forest backdrop, rising 300 metres above loch level.

It's a great location and you'll find a heap of attractions, such as quad biking, water sports, nine-hole golf and pony trekking right on the doorstep.

But if you're less adventurous, and prefer to conserve your energy, you might want to while away a couple of hours on one of the signposted walks around the area or perhaps a visit to Castle Menzies - one of the finest examples of a 16th century fortified house and seat of the chiefs of Clan Menzies.

We eased ourselves into our new lifestyle and headed off for the short drive to nearby Fortingall at the eastern end of Glen Lyon.

Spellbinding and beautiful, this whole area is one of great importance and is known to have one of the richest concentrations of prehistoric archaeological sites in Scotland.



PEACE, MAN: The idyllic setting of Loch Tay offers visitors to a Mains of Taymouth holiday let or time share, below, unrivalled views

Walking around this conservation village it's so easy to see why visitors are captivated by it. Most are drawn to the churchyard where the ancient yew, claimed to be between 3000 and 5000 years old, continues to grow, making it the oldest living tree in Europe and perhaps as suggested by archaeologists, the focus of an Iron Age cult centre.

Highlighting an equally charming tableau of another era only yards away is a delightful row of thatched cottages, noted as one of the most important examples of the arts and crafts movement in Scotland.

We rounded off our visit with lunch at Fortingall's Hotel, sitting by a roaring, open fire, listening to the steady tick of the grandfather clock, keeping pace

with this new-found tempo of life free from schedules and deadlines.

Moving up a gear the following day, we made our way to Aberfeldy to sample just one of the many outdoor pursuits on offer.

Local firm, Active8s run quad bike treks through the hills and glens overlooking the loch using Honda "Sportrax" all terrain vehicles. Novice and experienced adult riders are welcome but as safety is of paramount concern, the party is briefed by an expert before setting off, on safety, controls and riding technique.

If you're not quite so energetic, make time to visit the Crannog Centre, an award-winning heritage attraction, where an authentic ancient dwelling



has been recreated based on excavation work carried out by underwater archaeologists.

Oakbank Crannog is just one of the 18 crannogs preserved in Loch Tay and would have housed a community around 2600 years ago. It's a fascinating place.

Back at base, we took advantage of the mild weather and spent a relaxing hour soaking in the hot tub before getting ready for dinner at the complex's Courtyard restaurant, run by South African Jake Schamrel, who holds everything together in a relaxed, friendly manner, and caters for every taste from fine dining to light bites that will satisfy just about everyone, including fussy toddlers.

After a splendid meal of the best produce the Scottish larder has to offer, we brought the evening to a close with a dram of



LIVING IN THE PAST: The Scottish Crannog Centre at Kenmore

TRAVEL FACTS

Mains of Taymouth: Holiday lets, time share, restaurant and stables.

Visit: www.taymouth.co.uk or call 01887-830226

Fortingall Hotel: Visit www.fortingallhotel.com or call 01887-830367

Castle Menzies: Visit www.menzies.org or call 01887-82092

Quad Bike Treks: Visit www.active8s.com or call 01887-830292

Crannog Centre: Visit www.crannog.co.uk or call 01887-830583