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## FROM GOLF TO WHISKY, PERTSHIRE CAN BE PERFECT

### THE biggest party Perthshire has ever hosted is over.

September's Ryder Cup crowds have dispersed and the chants and cheers have died down. But the fun is far from over.

Basking in autumn sunshine against a backdrop of the Ochil Hills, the manicured greens and fairways of the PGA Centenary Course couldn't have been a better advert for the wonders of Perthshire.

If your budget doesn't stretch to a weekend at the famous Gleneagles Hotel, don't despair – the area has much more to offer. With attractive Perth at its centre, this region bursts with natural charm. It boasts soaring mountains, the country's longest river and Europe's oldest living tree.

Nestled on the edge of scenic Loch Tay in Kenmore, Mains of Taymouth's self-catering cottages provide an ideal base for those seeking to explore the area.

### Bring the past alive

The family-run estate boasts comfortable and contemporary apartments and cottages, set amid 120 acres of private forests that give the place a tranquil, secluded feel.

Golf lovers can keep the Ryder Cup triumph alive by trying their hand at Mains' challenging nine-hole course.

And thrill-seekers can get an adrenalin kick white-water rafting, abseiling and horse trekking.

There is also a riding stables on site for trekking and hacking for the pros, plus pony rides and family trips for those not so experienced.

It may be self-catering but do treat

yourself to a meal at The Courtyard bar and restaurant – its relaxed menu goes throughout the day and represents good value.

In an area heavily associated with Scottish history and traditions, it is also worth a trip to the Crannog Centre in Kenmore. Unique reconstructions of the ancient water-based dwellings bring the past alive. The exhibitions are interactive and child-friendly.

Food enthusiasts can savour delicious seasonal ingredients at the charming Ardeonaig restaurant on the southern shore of the loch.

And those with a sweet tooth can slurp chocolate truffle shots and crunch salted caramel hearts at Iain Burnett's Highland Chocolatier shop near Aberfeldy.

Whether it is a short break or an extended stay, a visit to Perthshire can be tailored to suit everyone.

From the hikers and ramblers to the whisky enthusiasts, this Scottish gem will not disappoint.

LEXI FINNIGAN

# Lochs amazing



STRETCH OUT  
... waters of  
Loch Tay and,  
left, bridge at  
Kenmore

