



## THE BORDERS

Before I moved to Scotland I always had a sort of vague idea in my mind of what it would look like: a farmhouse on a hill surrounded by crops, a small but welcoming village filled with history, farm animals blocking the long and winding country roads.

Now that I live here, I know that my vague idea was actually not too far off from reality, especially in the Scottish Borders. The Borders, as it is more commonly called, is the land bordering Scotland and England. Flanked with a large stone bearing “Scotland” or “England” on either side of the border crossing, this rural area is the perfect escape to the countryside for both the Scots and English alike. There are rolling fields of green dotted with cows and sheep everywhere you look and no tall buildings to block out the long stretch of sky.

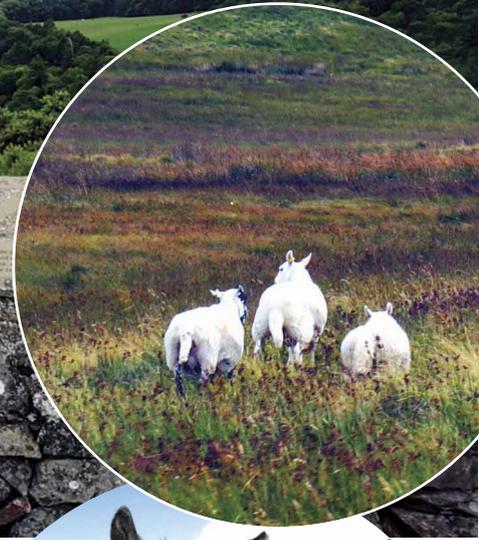
If you're craving some fresh air and a feast for your eyes, an amazing lookout spot is Scott's View, which overlooks the valley of the River Tweed and the once volcanic Eildon Hills. Scott's View is named as such because it is rumoured to have been one of novelist Sir Walter Scott's favourite spots. It is so lush and serene, a perfect place to just watch the clouds float and let the afternoon pass by – as long as

you can avoid a rainy day. It's a great picnic spot, so be sure to stop by a local cafe before heading up. Just a few miles away is Melrose's picturesque high street, where I could spend an entire day entertaining myself. It has an art gallery, antique shop, bookshop, a very posh charity shop and numerous colourful cafes and boutique shops.

For the animal lover who wants to get a little closer to the animals than driving by a farm, Donkey Heaven, the Scottish Borders donkey sanctuary, is a great place to spend the afternoon. It's an 80-acre estate that has been running for nearly 20 years and now holds more than 100 donkeys. It is also home to pigs, horses, ponies, goats and llamas. You can interact with and feed (at your own risk) all of these animals. There's no admission fee but they do request a donation as they are a charity. It's only open to the public on the weekends from 14:00 to 16:30 so don't be late.

So many of us city dwellers can get way too caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life and only get to see the outside world from an office window. Sometimes a trip to the countryside is just what we need to reset and there's no place better for that than the Borders.

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**Nicole Nadler** is a New Yorker on her birth certificate and in her heart but becomes more of a Scottish lass with each passing day. She enjoys writing about travel and life in Scotland, but has also written about everything from Broadway to socio-economic issues. Nicole is available for freelance content and copy writing and can be reached at [NicoleANadler@gmail.com](mailto:NicoleANadler@gmail.com). You can read her writing in her (somewhat neglected) personal blog at [www.highheelsandheavysuitcases.wordpress.com](http://www.highheelsandheavysuitcases.wordpress.com) or follow her on Instagram: [@HighHeelsAndHeavySuitcases](https://www.instagram.com/HighHeelsAndHeavySuitcases).