WINTER SAFARI 2026 / 2027

From Royal Burgh to Riverside Heritage

This year's Winter Safari competition follows a route through some of the most fascinating corners of the Firth of Forth. Starting in the former Royal Burgh of Inverkeithing, competitors will explore a town shaped by centuries of Scottish history before travelling to the ancient setting of Abercorn Church. The journey then continues into South Queensferry, where historic streets, coastal views, and the iconic Forth Bridges provide a wealth of photographic inspiration. Together, these locations offer a rich blend of history, architecture, landscape, and community life, challenging photographers to interpret both the grand and the subtle through their lens.

Before you start, please note the following.

There are public toilets at Inverkeithing civic centre (closed on Sundays), South Queensferry High Street and Hawes Pier in South Queensferry. Please note there are no facilities at Abercorn church.

For the images on the seafront at South Queensferry, you may wish to consider the tide conditions.

In keeping with tradition, the last photo of the competition will be the team photo. This can be taken at any location on the Winter Safari.

There are plenty of coffee shops and cafes in Inverkeithing and South Queensferry so it's not entirely necessary to take a packed lunch.

Hand in for the team entry is 16/02/27 with judging scheduled for 23/02/27.

CAMERAS READY ….. LET'S BEGIN!

Stage 1 - Inverkeithing

Go to Inverkeithing, there is plenty of parking in and around the High Street.

All locations are within walking distance from the High Street, so find a parking space and walk to the North end of the high street.

Photo 1. Fordell Lodging

Built in the late 1600s as the town residence of the Fordell family. Take a colour photograph that highlights the building's architectural details, craftsmanship, and historic character.

Photo 2. St Peter's Church
Across the road from Fordell Lodging is one of Inverkeithing's most recognisable historic buildings, St Peter's Church which has dominated the town skyline for centuries. Produce an image that highlights the church's architectural character and sense of place within the town.

Photo 3. The Old Townhouse
Just down from Cadora Café on Townhall Street is the recently refurbished Townhouse. Capture an image that highlights its impressive stonework.

Photo 4. The Mercat Cross
Back in the High Street, the Mercat Cross has recently been restored and relocated as part of Inverkeithing's Heritage Regeneration Project. The Mercat Cross once marked the town's status as a Royal Burgh and remains a focal point of the historic Market Square.
Capture a colour image that highlights the character and prominence of this historic landmark within the town centre.

Photo 5. Inverkeithing Priory
Head along the road to Inverkeithing Priory, a 12th century hidden gem of medieval Inverkeithing. Capture an image that conveys the age and character of the building.

Photo 6. Forth Estuary
From the Friary Gardens behind the Priory, capture a panoramic image of the Forth estuary and the Edinburgh skyline in the distance.

Stage 2 - Abercorn Church. The church sits within the Hopetoun estate

Travel across the Queensferry Crossing (M90) and exit at Junction 1A. Turn right onto the A904 towards Newton and continue through the village. Take the right turn onto Abercorn Road and follow it to the hamlet of Abercorn on the Hopetoun Estate, where you will find Abercorn Church. Parking is available alongside the wall outside the churchyard.

Location - What 3 Words – adults.overpower.responds

Photo 7. Abercorn Church
Dating back over 1,000 years, Abercorn Church stands on one of Scotland's oldest Christian sites. Capture a mono image that highlights the character and historic setting of this ancient church.

Photo 8. Stone Masonry Detail
Abercorn Church contains many examples of historic craftsmanship. Capture an image of stone masonry detail that highlights the texture, character, and craftsmanship of this ancient church.

Photo 9. Lichen Study
Many of the ancient gravestones in the churchyard are covered in lichen, creating a fascinating range of colours, patterns, and textures. Capture a colour close-up that highlights the beauty and detail of this natural growth.

Photo 10. Gravestones
The weathered surfaces of the churchyard's gravestones provide a wealth of texture and detail. Capture a monochrome image that showcases the contrast, tone, and texture of one or more gravestones.

Stage 3 - South Queensferry Port Edgar

Parking is available at Port Edgar; however, it is only free for the 1st hour. Participants should check local signage for any current restrictions or changes.

Photo 11. The Forth Bridges
From Port Edgar, capture a colour image with the Forth Road Bridge in the foreground and the Forth Rail Bridge beyond. Use the road bridge to frame or lead the eye towards the Forth Bridge, emphasising the relationship between these two famous landmarks.

Photo 12. Queensferry Crossing
Capture an image of the Queensferry Crossing showcasing its impressive modern design. Use boats, masts, or harbour features in the foreground to add interest and provide a sense of scale.

Photo 13. Port Edgar Marina
Capture an image that reflects the character, atmosphere, or unique interest of Port Edgar Marina.

Stage 4 - South Queensferry Town, Bridges and Promenade.

Free parking is generally available at Rose Lane Car Park, close to the Priory Church and waterfront. Participants should check local signage for any current restrictions or changes.

Photo 14. Plewlands House
Plewlands House, a National Trust for Scotland property, stands on the corner of The Loan and Hopetoun Road. Capture an image that showcases the house within its surroundings, providing a sense of place and setting.

Photo 15. Priory Church
Priory Church sits across the road and slightly further down Hopetoun Road. Using monochrome, capture the timeless character of the 15th-century Church, highlighting its architecture and historic presence.

Photo 16. Harbour
Take a short walk along the High Street and head down Gote Lane to the harbour and capture a scene that combines the harbour, boats and waterfront surroundings.

Photo 17. Inchgarvie
Below the Forth Bridge lies the small island of Inchgarvie. From the harbour area, take a colour photograph that captures the island in its dramatic setting beneath the bridge.

Photo 18. Historic town from the harbour
Hidden behind the High Street, the harbour provides a distinctive view of the backs of the town's historic buildings. Take a colour photograph that captures this unique perspective.

Return to the High Street

Photo 19. Mid Terrace
Capture a colour photograph that showcases the distinctive architecture, vibrant colours and character of Mid Terrace.

Photo 20. Jubilee Clock
Standing at the heart of South Queensferry, the Jubilee Clock is one of the town's most recognisable landmarks. Capture a photograph of the clock from a viewpoint of your choosing, using the surrounding streets and buildings to enhance the composition.

Photo 21. Ferry Tap
With its colourful frontage and traditional character, the Ferry Tap is one of South Queensferry's most recognisable buildings. Capture a colour photograph that showcases the charm and character of this historic pub.

Photo 22. Shopfront
South Queensferry's vibrant shopfronts provide a wealth of photographic opportunities. Choose a shopfront and create an image that showcases its colour, detail and visual appeal. Creative editing is encouraged.

Photo 23. Street Photography
Street photography is about capturing genuine moments and telling a story. Create a candid mono image that reflects the character, atmosphere or everyday life of South Queensferry.

Photo 24. Architectural Detail
South Queensferry's historic buildings are rich in architectural detail. Take a photograph of an interesting feature, such as stonework, ironwork, a doorway or a window, that captures the character of the town centre.

Photo 25. Black Castle
With its distinctive dark façade and historic character, the building known as Black Castle is one of South Queensferry's most recognisable buildings. Capture a photograph that showcases the architectural features and unique presence of this local landmark.

Head up the Vennel steps at the side of Black Castle and along to Hawthorn Bank walled garden.

Photo 26. South Queensferry Mosaic Mural
Nestled within Hawthorn Bank Walled Garden, the South Queensferry Mosaic Mural is a vibrant celebration of the town's heritage. Capture a photograph that showcases the colour, detail and craftsmanship of this unique artwork.

Return to High Street and walk towards East Terrace

Photo 27. East Terrace
The historic buildings of East Terrace create one of South Queensferry's most attractive streetscapes. Capture an image that highlights the character and architectural features of the terrace.

Continue along to the promenade

Photo 28. Guardian of the Bridges Sculpture
The Guardian of the Bridges sculpture offers opportunities to explore colour, shape, texture and composition. Capture an image that emphasises the artistic qualities of this distinctive sculpture.

Photo 29. View looking back to town and Ristorante Italiano.
Looking back towards the town, the street and promenade wall provide strong leading lines that naturally guide the eye through the scene. Capture a photograph that uses these elements to lead the viewer towards Ristorante Italiano and the waterfront.

Photo 30. Forth Bridge ICM
The distinctive lines and bold structure of the Forth Bridge make it an ideal subject for creative photography. Using an Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) technique, create an image that transforms the bridge into an abstract composition of shape, colour and form.

Photo 31. Forth Bridge
From this vantage point, the Forth Bridge provides a striking focal point across the Firth of Forth. Capture a photograph that showcases the bridge, using foreground interest to lead the viewer into the scene. If the tide permits, the beach offers additional opportunities for creative composition.

Photo 32. Forth Bridge Detail
Rather than photographing the bridge as a whole, zoom in and seek out an abstract composition within its famous steel framework. Capture an image that emphasises pattern, texture, line or symmetry.

Photo 33. Hawes Pier
Hawes Pier is a lively focal point on the South Queensferry waterfront, often bustling with visitors, boats and local activity. Capture a photograph that showcases the character and atmosphere of this historic landmark, incorporating any activity that helps tell the story of the scene.

Photo 34. Hawes Inn
Overlooking the Firth of Forth, the historic Hawes Inn has been a familiar South Queensferry landmark for centuries. Capture a photograph that showcases the character, charm and distinctive architecture of this iconic waterfront building.

Walk under the bridge, pass the Honey Pot creative café and a short way along Longcraig Road

Photo 35. Forth Bridges Composition
Beyond the Honey Pot Creative Café on Longcraig Road, a small grassy outcrop provides one of the finest viewpoints in South Queensferry. Capture a photograph that includes all three Forth bridges.

Photo 36. Team Photo
A traditional group photograph is welcome, but creativity is encouraged. Capture a team image that reflects the fun, character and spirit of the day's challenge.

We hope you have enjoyed your day exploring and photographing the day's locations. Throughout the route you will have encountered historic buildings, iconic bridges, public art and picturesque waterfront scenes, each offering its own photographic opportunities. Now comes the difficult part: reviewing and processing your images, selecting your strongest photographs and submitting. We wish you every success and look forward to seeing your photographs.

Good luck and happy editing!