

**TRAVEL TIMES** East Haugh is hard to beat when it comes to Scottish pursuits

# Friendliness, fine food and fishing

By **ANDY CLARK**

**WHAT would you want from a hotel break in Scotland? Comfort and relaxation? Fantastic surroundings? Outstanding food?**

**Friendly, welcoming staff?**

Well, what if I told you I've found somewhere that will offer all of these ... and more?

Sound too good to be true?

To be honest, that's what I thought as I headed off for two nights' stay at the East Haugh House Hotel and a day's salmon fishing on the River Tummel.

And as I pulled into the hotel car park - near Pitlochry and just 90 minutes from Glasgow - I'd prepared myself to be disappointed

But when I was greeted by the owner - "Hi! You must be Andy ... glad you could make it. I hope you enjoy your stay" - I began to hope.

And when I was led through the old house and up the tiny spiral staircase to my room - complete with four-poster bed, traditional but luxurious décor and a huge Jacuzzi bath - I began to imagine that my

dreams really could come true.

The East Haugh House is small, with only 13 rooms split between the main house and the separate 'Bothy'. So small, in fact, that it didn't feel like a hotel. It was more like being welcomed into an old friend's home.

After settling in, I went down to the bar to order dinner.

The hotel has its own locally famous restaurant, the Two Sisters, which I'd been looking forward to sampling, but the place was quiet so Sophie, the daughter of owners Lesley and Neil McGown, set up my table right there in the bar, in front of a roaring log fire.

The evening that followed is one I'll remember for a long time. The sirloin steak I had was among the finest I'd ever tasted and the attentiveness and friendliness of the staff matched its quality.

And that was it. The routine of my stay was set: astounding meals (even the breakfast was a gourmet mega-feast!) and fantastic company provided by the owners.

The East Haugh has been crowned Scottish Country Sports Hotel of the Year for three years

running, so if you fancy a spot of fishing or shooting, this is definitely the place to come.

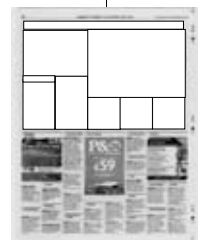
But if you'd prefer to relax with a good book and a fine malt, have a base for touring the best scenery Scotland has to offer or just hide away for a romantic break for two, I still can't imagine a better spot than the East Haugh.

And when you leave, you're sure to feel that when you return, Lesley and Neil and their staff will greet you like an old friend, pull your chair up next to the fire and gossip about old times.

Oh, and by the way, I didn't catch a salmon. But I don't mind, it means I have an excuse to go back next year and try again.

Hope I don't catch one then either...

■ **East Haugh House Hotel, by Pitlochry, Perthshire**  
**www.easthaugh.co.uk**  
**Tel: 01796 473121**  
**Bed and Breakfast from £49pppn**  
**Two Sisters restaurant dinner: £45 per head for three courses.**  
**Bar menu also available.**



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