

Discover Your Scotland

Experience the driving delights of a Caterham Seven, says *Kate Rafferty*

LET'S admit it. As much as we enjoy the experience of driving fast, open-topped cars with the wind in our hair, we love driving a car that turns heads even more.

To expect all of that from any car is a big request, and few of us are able to make the substantial investment required to get it, but fortunately Open Road Hire can give us that thrill for a day or two.

Andrew Still, director of the Perth-based company, has invested in four Caterham Sevens, in this case the SV Roadsport model, which have been equipped to Open Road Hire specifications, with full-weather kit, heater, 15-inch alloys and leather seats.

These stylish cars evolved from the Lotus Seven, which was designed by the legendary motorsport figure Colin Chapman in the 1950s. In the early 1970s, Lotus stopped production but Caterham Cars continued. Today they may still have the rakish looks of those classics from the romantic days of motorsport, but the guts are all 21st century.

These cars are all about driving with a smile on your face. It's not about getting anywhere, it's the journey that's important – exploring the backroads of Perthshire has never been so fun. Drivers who aren't particularly familiar with the area can

pick up suggested routes from Open Road Hire and stop off for a breather to view some of the most spectacular scenery in Scotland – or take a longer break for lunch in a country pub.

Anyone over the age of 25 and less than 71, with at least five years' driving experience in the UK and no more than six penalty points on their licence, can hire one of these pocket-rockets for just £160 per day. The car is picked up from the Open Road Hire base in Perth and returned in the afternoon.

The hire fee includes insurance (with £1000 excess), and an additional driver can be added for £10.

It also includes 150 miles of fuel with each extra mile charged at 50p. For those looking to have a longer experience in the car, there will be discounted quotes for multiple-day hire. Don't think Andrew

will simply hand the keys over and leave the rookie wondering what to do next. There will be a detailed explanation of how the car's controls work, even though they are more straightforward than expect-



On the road in a classic car

ed, and instructions on how to put the hood up.

This is the second year that Andrew Still has sent drivers out on to the open roads and welcomed them back with added grins (just

remember to refuel before getting back to base).

One thing Andrew has noticed this year is the amount of repeat business, with highly satisfied customers not only recommending the service

to friends but failing to resist the urge to come back.

Enjoying turning heads this summer, expect those heads to turn a little more quickly than before...

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