



# Scottish Invasion at Lake Guntersville State Park

By Kenny Johnson, Public Information Specialist

When newlyweds Garry and Lisa Cossar chose Lake Guntersville Resort State Park as a stop on their extended honeymoon road trip through the Deep South, they expected it to be beautiful. When they arrived at the park those expectations were more than just met, they were exceeded.

Garry Cossar, 28, a marketing consultant from Edinburgh, Scotland, said he and his wife Lisa were looking for a place to stay in Alabama that was easily accessible, peaceful, scenic and close to nature. Guntersville easily met those criteria. From the rolling hills and stunning natural woodlands to the beautifully renovated resort lodge perched atop Taylor Mountain, Lake Guntersville Resort State Park delivered on them triple fold.

"The lodge was stunning," Garry said. "The accommodations and people were excellent, and the lodge and its surroundings, beautiful."

That is high praise coming from the Cossars, who have traveled extensively around the world. According to Garry, the picturesque scenery of his hometown of Edinburgh is equaled by that of north Alabama. "The natural beauty of Lake Guntersville State Park rates right up there with Edinburgh," Garry said.

Why did the couple choose Guntersville as a stop on their honeymoon in the United States?

According to Garry, the newlyweds wanted to experience the parts of the country most of the world is unfamiliar with. "We wanted to see the real U.S., and not just the big cities," Garry said.


However, for Garry the choice of Guntersville was nostalgic as well. His grandfather, Davie, is a fan of the rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd. Having been raised on songs like "Sweet Home Alabama," Garry knew that one day he wanted to visit the state. Davie turned 80 years old in December of 2009. As one of his birthday presents, Garry gave him a framed photo of a Guntersville sunset.

During the Cossar's three-day stay at Guntersville they took advantage of the outdoor activities the park offers. The trails at Guntersville were "unbelievably beautiful," Garry said. The forest, wildlife, hills, and the massive 69,000-acre Guntersville Reservoir created a memorable experience for the newlyweds.

The north Alabama scenery was matched equally by the hospitality of the people the Cossars met during their stay. "Each morning we had fun comparing our accents with the staff during breakfast," Garry said. "The staff and other visitors to the park were fantastic."

The Cossar's trip just happened to take place during the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alabama State Parks. Several major renovation projects were completed just prior to the anniversary. In 2008, the

Guntersville Lodge reopened after a \$25 million renovation which retained the rustic quality of the lodge, but added the elegance the structure was previously lacking. Lodge guests can now enjoy all the modern amenities expected in a hotel room including: mini-refrigerators, microwaves, large TVs with DVD players, pillow-top queen or king beds, and spectacular views of Lake Guntersville from the majority of the rooms.

The couple's honeymoon, which also included stops in North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia, was a very positive experience for the Cossars, and they plan to visit the U.S. again this year. According to Garry, a visit to Guntersville is definitely part of those plans. "I would easily recommend Lake Guntersville Resort State Park to my fellow international travelers," Garry said. "Maybe you'll have a Scottish invasion next year." 

## For More Information

Lake Guntersville Resort State Park, one of 22 Alabama State Parks, is located 6 miles northeast of Guntersville off State Road 227. For information, contact the lodge at 800-548-4553 or [www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com).