EXPLORE SCOTLAND

77 fascinating historic places just waiting to be explored
DISCOVER STORIES OF PEOPLE, PLACES & POWER

Over 5,000 years of history tell the story of a nation.

See brochs, castles, palaces, abbeys, towers and tombs. Explore Historic Scotland with your personal guide to our nation’s finest historic places.

When you’re out and about exploring you may want to download our free Historic Scotland app to get the latest site updates direct to your phone.

Iconic attractions
Edinburgh Castle, Iona Abbey, Skara Brae – just some of the famous attractions in our care.

Each of our sites offers a glimpse of the past and tells the story of the people who shaped a nation.

Events all over Scotland
This year, yet again, we have a bumper events programme with Spectacular Jousting at two locations in the summer, and the return of festive favourites in December. With fantastic interpretation thrown in, there’s lots of opportunities to get involved.

Enjoy access to all Historic Scotland attractions with our great value Explorer Pass – see the back cover for more details.
EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS

The best of both worlds. The cosmopolitan capital city of Scotland borders with miles of beautiful countryside and coastline, offering visitors a fantastic combination of rich history and natural beauty.

From the unmissable Edinburgh Castle in the heart of the city to the imposing Blackness Castle, the ‘ship that never sailed,’ in the west and the formidable Tantallon Castle perched on top of cliffs on the East Lothian coast, this is an area well worth exploring.

Below. The One o’Clock Gun and view of Edinburgh from the castle. See opposite

EDINBURGH CASTLE

A mighty fortress, the defender of the nation and a world-famous visitor attraction – Edinburgh Castle has dominated the skyline for centuries. The castle’s powerful stone walls have endured many sieges and its sumptuous apartments were an important residence of Scottish kings and queens.

Today it is home to Scotland’s Crown Jewels, three military museums, the National War Memorial, the Prisons of War exhibition and much more besides. New for 2019 – don’t forget to check out our Fight for the Castle 1286–1356 exhibition.

Every August, the castle esplanade plays host to the world famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Visit edintattoo.co.uk for more information.

- In Edinburgh at the top of the Royal Mile
- Postcode EH1 2NG Telephone 0131 225 9846
- Open all year. 1 Apr to 30 Sept 9.30am to 6pm, 1 Oct to 31 Mar 9.30am to 5pm. Last entry 1 hour before closing.
- Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Visit the website for New Year opening times. Please note that opening times for the independent museums vary
- We recommend at least two hours to see the major attractions within the castle
- Enjoy guaranteed entry and save money when you pre-book your tickets online at edinburghcastle.scot/booknow
- Adult £19.50 (£17.50 advance) Child £11.50 (£10.50 advance)
- Concession £16 (£14 advance)
- Parking only for drivers with a blue disabled badge
- Steep inclines and steps – mobility vehicle available, call 0131 225 9846 prior to visiting
- Hire an audio tour available in eight languages
- The castle’s three shops sell a wide range of gifts, souvenirs, jewellery, books, food and whisky
- Enjoy a bite to eat in the Redcoat Café, or visit the Castle Tea Rooms and treat yourself to a delicious traditional afternoon tea
- For reasons of ease of movement, visitor safety and general security, suitcases and large rucksacks are not permitted in the castle. We may carry out random bag searches at the castle entrance as part of our security screening process
1 ★★★★★ BLACKNESS CASTLE
Step inside a largely intact medieval castle whose powerful defences once guarded the Firth of Forth. Known as the ‘ship that never sailed’ for its boat-like shape, Blackness Castle was built in the 1400s for Sir George Crichton, Admiral of Scotland.

The castle walls contain clues to its many guises: besieged coastal stronghold, jail for political prisoners and Victorian ammunitions depot.

Blackness is no stranger to TV and film fans, featuring in TV’s Outlander and the films Outlaw King and Mary, Queen of Scots.

- 4m NE of Linlithgow on the Firth of Forth, off the A904
- Postcode EH49 7NH Telephone 01506 834 807
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

2 ★★★★★ CAIRNPAPPLE HILL
Stand on a once-sacred hilltop where people first held rituals and raised monuments some 5,500 years ago. You can visit a Neolithic henge, see the site of a great timber circle and descend into a Bronze Age cist grave (now covered by a modern, domed chamber).

- 3m N of Bathgate, 1m from Torphichen, 5m S of Linlithgow
- Telephone 01506 634 622
- Access is over agricultural land
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

3 ★★★★★ CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE
Admire city views from the high ramparts of Edinburgh’s ‘other castle’, play hide-and-seek in its labyrinth of chambers or picnic in its grounds.

Craigmillar Castle was a prison for the younger brother of James III, a happy retreat for Mary, Queen of Scots and the focus of a plot to murder her husband Lord Darnley. Its profile is dominated by its remarkably complete inner curtain wall.

In recent years, Craigmillar has featured on the small and large screen in Outlander and Outlaw King.

- 2.5m SE of Edinburgh off the A7
- Postcode EH16 4SY Telephone 0131 661 4445
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

4 ★★★★★ CRICHTON CASTLE
Crichton Castle has been home to medieval lords and Renaissance noblemen. Its sturdy tower of the late 1300s stands by a sophisticated façade created 200 years later. The castle’s ruins, framed by a secluded valley, were celebrated by writer Walter Scott and artist J.M.W. Turner.

- 2.5m SSW of Pathhead off the A68
- Postcode EH37 5XA Telephone 01875 320 017
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

5 ★★★★★ DIRLETON CASTLE AND GARDENS
Tease out the hints of a long and eventful history in these well-preserved ruins. Cross the deep moat guarded by high walls and an imposing tower, glancing up at the ‘murder hole’ above your head. Look for the vaulted dome inside the 1249 tower, the grim prison and pit and the 1550s ‘beehive’ dovecote.

- In Dirleton village, 3m W of North Berwick on the A198
- Postcode EH39 5ER Telephone 01620 850 330
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
**INCHCOML ABBEY AND ISLAND**

Escape by boat to this remarkable island, home to one of the most complete medieval abbeys in Scotland. It was supposedly founded by King Alexander I after he was stranded here in 1123.

Step inside the near-complete cloisters and chapter house, learn more in the Visitor Centre and drink in views over the Firth of Forth from the bell tower. Elsewhere on the island are wartime fortifications.

Look out for seals from the ferry. Access to parts of the island may be restricted between May and August when some seabirds aggressively protect their young.

- On Inchcolm in the Firth of Forth
- Telephone 01383 823 332 / 07836 265 146
- Access by ferry from South Queensferry: ferry charge is extra.
  - Forth Tours on 0870 118 1866, forthtours.com or
  - Maid of the Forth on 0131 331 5000, maidoftheforth.co.uk
- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

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**LINLITHGOW PALACE**

This royal pleasure palace was the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. You can see the elaborate, restored fountain in action every Sunday in July and August.

The high towers look down over the palace’s grounds – the Peel – and Linlithgow Loch, an important refuge for wildlife. A ranger service operates on site and, back by popular demand, our Spectacular Jousting event returns this summer. View the statue of Mary, Queen of Scots situated on the Peel and step into the real-life set of Outlander and Outlaw King.

- In Linlithgow off the M9
- Postcode EH49 7AL Telephone 01506 842 896
- Open all year
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- Last ticket sold 45 mins before closing
- Toilets may not be available if function in progress

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**SETON COLLEGIATE CHURCH**

Discover an enchanting medieval church at the end of a pretty woodland path. One of the finest surviving collegiate churches, Seton also has ruined domestic quarters, allowing a rare glimpse into the lives of those who once prayed here.

- 1.5m W of Longniddry on the A198
- Postcode EH32 0PG Telephone 01875 813 334
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

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**TANTALLON CASTLE**

Ascend Tantallon’s towers for spectacular views of the Bass Rock and to watch gannets plunge into the North Sea, then descend into the depths of a particularly grim pit prison.

The castle was home to the powerful Red Douglas dynasty, which often clashed with the Crown. It was besieged by both James IV and James V but ultimately succumbed to Oliver Cromwell’s troops in a siege of 1651.

- 3m E of North Berwick off the A198
- Postcode EH39 5PN Telephone 01620 892 727
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

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**TRINITY HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM**

Open this treasure chest of maritime heritage and you will find an unparalleled collection of wonders gathered over centuries by Leith’s mariners. You can admire four portraits by Sir Henry Raeburn, a French Tricolour captured at the Battle of Trafalgar and a 200-year-old whaling harpoon as well as a fleet of historic ship models.

- 99 Kirkgate, Leith, Edinburgh
- Postcode EH6 6BJ Telephone 0131 554 3289
- Pre-booked visits only. Please check historicenvironment.scot/trinity-house for tour details
- Free admission – donations welcome
From rolling hills and open countryside in the west to the gentle valleys and picturesque Berwickshire coastline in the east, the Borders is an area full of surprises.

The region is defined as much by the landscape as it is by its spellbinding abbeys and awe-inspiring castles. Take time out to enjoy the peace of Dryburgh Abbey before climbing the stairs at Smailholm Tower to marvel at the views. It’s really no surprise that these lands inspired the works of literary greats such as Sir Walter Scott.

Below. Dryburgh Abbey. See opposite

**SCOTTISH BORDERS**

**DRYBURGH ABBEY**

Wander among the graceful ruins of this beautiful Borders abbey set beside the River Tweed. Stone carvings and painted plasterwork have survived to provide a fascinating glimpse of its once-magnificent decoration. Look for the final resting place of author Sir Walter Scott and World War One military leader Field Marshall Douglas Haig as well as the Dryburgh Yew, reputedly one of Scotland’s most ancient trees.

- 8m SE of Melrose on the B6404, near St Boswells (turn left onto the B6356). Take public transport as far as St Boswells – 20 min walk to abbey
- Postcode TD6 0RQ Telephone 01835 822 381
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

**HERMITAGE CASTLE**

Soak up the eerie, powerful atmosphere of an imposing stronghold with a notorious reputation. Look for the garrison’s cesspit and seek shelter under the great arch. A 17th century poem says that Hermitage’s lord, William De Soulis, was boiled in lead by locals for undertaking black magic rituals. He probably died at the battle of Boroughbridge in England in 1322.

- 5.5m NE of Newcastleton on the B6399
- Postcode TD9 0LU Telephone 01387 376 222
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

Below. Dryburgh Abbey. See opposite
JEDBURGH ABBEY

The towering ruins of this vast abbey complex are testament to the power of both royalty and the medieval church. Founded by David I around 1138, the abbey was linked to a nearby royal castle. Alexander III married Yolande de Dreux here.

You can explore the grand abbey church, cloisters and herb garden. The abbey museum houses many precious artefacts, including an ivory comb from the 1100s that shows Hercules slaying a dragon.

- In Jedburgh on the A68
- Postcode TD8 6JQ Telephone 01835 863 925
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Audio guide available in five languages

MELROSE ABBEY

Trace the lives and beliefs of medieval monks in one of Scotland’s largest and richest medieval abbeys. You will find remarkable sculptures of saints, demons and the famous bagpipe-playing pig. The treasures displayed in the museum include medieval spectacles, a scribe’s ink-pot and a carved Green Man.

The Cistercian monks and their lay brothers created an influential spiritual centre and a wealthy business around the abbey. King Alexander II and the mummified heart of Robert the Bruce are buried here.

- In Melrose off the A7 or A68
- Postcode TD6 9LG Telephone 01896 822 562
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Audio guide available in five languages

SMAILHOLM TOWER

This 20-metre-high stronghold, built in the 1400s, dominates the skyline. On a clear day you can see as far as Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland. The author Sir Walter Scott spent much of his childhood on a farm below the tower, where he first heard the stories that made up his Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders, the subject of an exhibition here.

- Near Smailholm village, 6m W of Kelso on the A6089 then follow the B6397 before turning on to the B6404
- Postcode TD5 7PG Telephone 01573 460 365
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
It really is worth making the journey to this area of lowland Scotland. With a spectacular undulating coastline with sandy beaches to discover to vast green spaces and acres of forest, it’s a hidden gem just waiting to be explored.

Visit the romantic triangular Caerlaverock Castle just outside Dumfries, take a short boat trip to Threave Castle or feed your curiosity at New Abbey Corn Mill – the choice is yours.

Below.
Detail from Glenluce Abbey.
See page 14

CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE
The epitome of the moated, medieval stronghold, Caerlaverock’s great triangular defences guard the Solway shore. This site has had a turbulent past. In 1300, its 60-strong garrison was defeated by Edward I’s vast English army in a siege.

Despite the castle’s rugged appearance, its walls conceal a stunning Renaissance residence of the 1630s. See bluebells in spring, dragonflies and wildflowers in summer and barnacle geese in winter.

- 8m SE of Dumfries on the B725
- Postcode DG1 4RU Telephone 01387 770 244
- Open all year
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Café open daily in summer. Restricted hours in winter
- Video presentation available

CARDONESS CASTLE
Cardoness was built in the 1400s by the notorious McCulloch family, as a demonstration of their status. The well-preserved prison shows the kind of reception their most unwelcome guests might expect.

- 1m SW of Gatehouse of Fleet on the A75
- Postcode DG7 2EH Telephone 01557 814 427
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Disabled access to shop only
MACLELLAN’S CASTLE
Explore the impressive residence of a powerful family in the heart of Kirkcudbright and the vaulted ground floor rooms in which their servants once worked. Look for the laird’s lug, a spy hole in the great hall through which the lord could eavesdrop on his guests.

- In Kirkcudbright on the A711
- Postcode DG6 4JD Telephone 01557 331 856
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80 – reduced prices may be in place through 2019 for partial closures

NEW ABBEY CORN MILL
See a beautifully-restored village mill in action and learn about how oatmeal, a staple of the Scottish diet, was once made. A mill was probably built here by the monks of nearby Sweetheart Abbey, but parts of the present building probably date from the late 1700s.

- 7m S of Dumfries on the A710
- Postcode DG2 8BX Telephone 01387 850 260
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
23 ★★★

SWEETHEART ABBEY

A monument to human and divine love, Sweetheart Abbey was named for its founder, Lady Dervorgilla, who was buried here with the embalmed heart of her beloved husband. The abbey church, with a stone effigy of the founder, survives almost intact.

- In New Abbey village on the A710
- Postcode DG2 8BU Telephone 01387 850 397
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Due to essential conservation work, areas of the abbey may have restricted access – please call before visiting
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

24 ★★★★

THREAVE CASTLE

Cross the River Dee by boat to visit this enchanting castle set on its own island. Rich with wildflowers in summer; you might see ospreys and otters hunting in the river. The castle was besieged by King James II for two months in 1455, and fell after the king bribed the garrison to surrender.

- 3m W of Castle Douglas on the A75
- Postcode DG7 1TJ Telephone 07711 223 101
- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct. First outward sailing at 10am, last outward sailing at 4.30pm (3.30pm during Oct)
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80 – ferry included in admission price
- Car park is an 800 metre walk to the castle

25 ★★

WHITHORN PRIORY AND MUSEUM AND THE WHITHORN STORY EXHIBITION

This is where some of Scotland’s earliest Christians worshipped about 1,500 years ago. According to legend, St Ninian founded the priory at Whithorn in the early 400s. The Latinus Stone, now displayed here, was raised soon after and remains Scotland’s oldest Christian monument.

- At Whithorn on the A746
- Postcode DG8 8PY Telephone 01988 500 700 (Whithorn Trust)
- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct 10.30am to 5pm
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
GLASGOW, CLYDE & AYRSHIRE

They say Glasgow is home to some of the friendliest people in the world, so you'll be assured of a warm welcome in this part of the country.

Scotland's largest city is famed for being the home of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, world class attractions and great shopping. The history doesn't stop at the city boundary; you don't have to go far to scale the rock at Dumbarton Castle, take a boat journey to discover the powerful stronghold of Rothesay Castle on Bute or take some time out at beautiful Crossraguel Abbey.

Below. Detail of Dumbarton Castle.
See page 21

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

The most complete medieval cathedral on the Scottish mainland is still a working church with an active congregation. From its magnificent nave and choir to the atmospheric crypt of St Mungo, who was supposedly buried here around AD 612, Glasgow Cathedral is full of intriguing features. Look for the tomb of Bishop Wishart, a key supporter of Robert the Bruce, and carvings of 11 figures – perhaps the faithful disciples of Christ – on the stone pulpitum screen.

In recent years the cathedral has featured in TV's Outlaw King and Outlander.

- **In Glasgow, off the M8 at J15**
- **Postcode G4 0QZ** Telephone 0141 552 6891 / 0141 552 0988
- **Open all year. Summer 9.30am to 5.30pm, Sun 1pm to 5pm. Winter 10am to 4pm, Sun 1pm to 4pm. Last entry to Lower Church 45 mins before closing**
- **Visitors requiring wheelchair access please call prior to visit**

BOTHWELL CASTLE

Bothwell is Scotland's largest and finest 13th century castle. Part of the original circular keep survives.

- **At Uddingston off the B7071**
- **Postcode G71 8BL** Telephone 01698 816 894
- **Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri**
- **Due to essential conservation work, areas of the castle may have restricted access – please call before visiting**
- **Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80**
DUMBARTON CASTLE
Conquer over 500 steps to stand atop one of Scotland’s greatest strongholds.

Dumbarton Castle was the centre of the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde, supposedly visited by Merlin. It was later sacked by Vikings. The castle became a cornerstone of medieval royal power and latterly served as a military base and prison. You can explore its many fortifications with our interactive family trail.

- In Dumbarton off the A82
- Postcode G82 1JJ Telephone 01389 732 167
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri. Last ticket sold 45 mins before closing
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

DUNDONALD CASTLE
Explore the high-vaulted halls and gloomy dungeons of this splendid stronghold, perched on a hill above the village. The main tower was built in the 1370s by King Robert II to mark his succession to the throne. Its heritage is explored in the Visitor Centre.

- In the village of Dundonald on the A71, 12m from Ayr and 5m from Kilmarnock. Leave A77 onto B730, then follow signs for Dundonald
- Postcode KA2 9HD Telephone 01563 851 489
- Open all year. For more information please visit dundonaldcastle.org.uk
- Adult £5 Child £3 Concession £4 Family £12

CRAIGNETHAN CASTLE
An exceptional fortress–residence that was overthrown within 50 years of its construction despite its state-of-the-art artillery defences.

Built around 1530, it was the personal residence of Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, King James V’s talented master of works. There is evidence of his many military innovations, including a shooting gallery or caponier. It was ‘cast doun’ by order of the Privy Council.

The surrounding woodland in the deep Nethan gorge is rich with wildflowers and birdlife.

- From the M74, take Junction 8 or 9. Follow the signs to Blackwood, then the signs to Craignethan Castle
- Telephone 01555 860 364
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

CROSSRAGUEL ABBEY
Climb the impressive gatehouse tower for a bird’s eye view of one of the most complete medieval abbey complexes in Scotland. Now hauntingly beautiful, its substantial ruins guard some violent secrets. One abbot was roasted over a fire by a nobleman seeking to seize the abbey’s land and revenues.

- 2m S of Maybole on the A77
- Postcode KA19 8HQ Telephone 01655 883 113
- Open summer only
- Due to essential conservation work, areas of the abbey may have restricted access – please call before visiting
- Adult £6, Child £3.60, Concession £4.80
NEWARK CASTLE
This 15th century castle is most associated with Patrick Maxwell. He transformed the castle into a fine Renaissance mansion, but was notorious for murdering two neighbours and mistreating his wife.

- In Port Glasgow on the A8 at Newark Roundabout
- Postcode PA14 5NH Telephone 01475 741 858
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

ROTHESAY CASTLE
Cross the drawbridge over the moat and climb the ‘bloody stair’ to the circular ramparts, or descend into a forbidding pit prison. This powerful stronghold, built in the 1200s, was twice besieged and captured by the Norse, who battered down the eastern wall with their axes. A short film tells this remarkable story.

The castle has also been a royal base: Robert III died here and James IV used it to launch campaigns against the Lords of the Isles.

- In Rothesay, Isle of Bute. Ferry from Wemyss Bay on the A78. The castle is only a few minutes’ walk from the ferry terminal
- Postcode PA20 0DA Telephone 01700 502 691
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
This area is quite an expanse – it really packs a punch for amazing experiences and discovery with towns, villages and the city of Stirling scattered amongst coast, country, mountains and glens.

The imposing childhood home of Mary, Queen of Scots, Stirling Castle, lies in the east and the ancient holy place of Iona Abbey is located in the far west – there’s something for everyone in this region.

Below.
Castle Campbell.
See page 27

**STIRLING CASTLE**

Step inside the Royal Palace and meet costumed characters in the roles of royalty, bodyguards and servants who give insights into the Stewart royal court.

Explore the Great Hall, Chapel Royal, Castle Exhibition and take one of our guided tours. Younger visitors can get hands on with history in the Palace Vaults, where they can try on period costume and play medieval instruments. Our specially-designed Access Gallery allows disabled visitors to experience areas within the castle which are less accessible and a mobility vehicle is available on request.

The Unicorn Café offers a delicious menu of hot and cold food and, during summer, the Pentice Terrace Café is also available.

- Leave M9 at Junction 10 and follow local road signs
- Postcode FK8 1EJ Telephone 01786 450 000
- Open all year seven days a week. 1 Apr to 30 Sept 9.30am to 6pm, 1 Oct to 31 Mar 9.30am to 5pm. Last ticket sold 45 mins before closing. The Regimental Museum is currently closed for refurbishment until late 2019. Please check our website for up-to-date information
- Book online in advance at stirlingcastle.scot to get the best admission price. Adult £16 (£15 advance), Child £9.60 (£9 advance), Concession £12.80 (£12 advance)
- Car parking £4. There is no space to accommodate vehicles with trailers, caravans or mobile homes. Visitors are asked to use the park and ride facilities detailed here: stirlingcastle.scot/getting-here
- For reasons of ease of movement, visitor safety and general security, suitcases and large rucksacks are not permitted in the castle. We may carry out random bag searches at the castle entrance as part of our security screening process.
ARGYLL’S LODGING

Enjoy a glimpse of the home life of a wealthy Scottish nobleman of the 1600s. The most complete townhouse of its kind, its interior has been reconstructed to look as it may have done when Archibald Campbell, 9th Earl of Argyll, lived here.

- In Stirling’s historic Old Town just below Stirling Castle off the M9.
  Access via Stirling Castle’s admissions office
- Postcode FK8 1EG Telephone 01786 450 000 (Stirling Castle)
- Please contact the castle for opening times
- Admission included in Stirling Castle ticket
- £4 parking at the castle
- Ad-hoc tours run on demand
- Wheelchair access limited to ground floor

BONAWE HISTORIC IRON FURNACE

Once a place of fire and fury, the most complete charcoal-fuelled ironworks in Britain are now tranquil. Step inside the stone furnace complex and storage buildings of this pioneering 18th century site and discover the Highlands’ role in the Industrial Revolution. The furnace only ceased firing in 1870.

- By the village of Taynuilt off the A85
- Postcode PA35 1JQ Telephone 01866 822 432
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

CASTLE CAMPBELL AND GARDENS

Discover the drama of this brooding medieval castle, set high above tree-covered ravines and plunging burns on the edge of the Ochil Hills. This was the lowland residence of the powerful Campbell dynasty, where the Protestant reformer John Knox came to preach and Mary, Queen of Scots came to feast. You can learn about the rise and fall of the Campbells of Argyll and admire the Forth Valley from the rooftops.

- At the head of Dollar Glen, 10m E of Stirling off the A91
- Postcode FK14 7PP Telephone 01259 742 408
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- There is no coach/bus access, nearest public parking 500 metres from castle
38  ★★★★★
DUNBLANE CATHEDRAL
One of Scotland’s finest medieval churches. The lower part of the tower is Romanesque but most of the building was built in the 1200s, and extensively restored in the 1800s. The 15th century choir stalls – amongst the oldest now surviving in Scotland – are carved with real and fantastical beasts. The cathedral has some of Scotland’s finest modern stained glass.

- In Dunblane just off the B8033
- Postcode FK15 0AQ Telephone 01786 823 388
- Open all year (open Sun from 2pm to facilitate church services).
  Last entry 30 mins before closing. Closed for lunch all year 12.30pm to 1.30pm
- Free admission – donations welcome
- Wheelchair available

39  ★★★★★
DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE AND CHAPEL
From the rugged battlements of this strategically sited castle you can see how it once dominated Loch Etive. Outside the ramparts lie a ruined chapel, well-kept grounds and pebbly beaches with views to Mull, Lismore and Morvern.

Built by Duncan MacDougall in the 1200s, the castle was captured by Robert the Bruce in 1308. Flora MacDonald was imprisoned here after helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape Scotland.

Explore the three-storey gatehouse built around 1500.

- Near Dunbeg, 3m N of Oban off the A85 beyond the European Science Business Park
- Postcode PA37 1PZ Telephone 01631 562 465
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

37  ★★★★★
DOUNE CASTLE
This near-complete castle was the home of Regent Albany, Scotland’s ‘uncrowned king’. It was later a royal residence, a dower house for widowed queens and a Jacobite prison.

The audio guide is narrated by two actors who have filmed scenes at Doune Castle: Terry Jones, director and star of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, and Sam Heughan, star of the hit TV show Outlander. The castle was also a filming location for Game of Thrones and Outlaw King.

- In Doune, 10m NW of Stirling off the A84.
  On arrival in Doune follow local signage to castle
- Postcode FK16 6EA Telephone 01786 841 742
- Open all year
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- When the castle car park is full, we suggest visitors use Castle Hill public car park in the nearby village of Doune and walk to the castle
INCHMAHOME PRIORY

Take a scenic boat trip to this wooded island sanctuary with a medieval priory at its heart. Founded around 1238, it was home to Augustinian canons for more than 300 years. It was visited by Robert the Bruce and Mary, Queen of Scots.

The island is perfect for a short walk or a waterside picnic. It is a haven for wildlife. Look for the 16th century Spanish chestnuts and the boxwood bower supposedly planted by Mary.

- **On an island in the Lake of Menteith. Reached by boat from Port of Menteith, 8m S of Callander off the A81**
- Postcode FK8 3RA Telephone 01877 385 294 / 07836 313 769
- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct. Boat can carry up to 12 passengers and runs on demand from 10am to last outward sailing at 4.15pm (3.15pm during Oct)
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20 – boat trip to island included in admission price
- No water supply for drinking. Hand sanitiser available for hand-washing

IONA ABBEY AND NUNNERY

This ancient holy place remains a vibrant centre of Christianity. Founded by St Columba, the early monastery on Iona was a powerhouse of Christian learning. Great works of art were created here, including the world-famous *Book of Kells*. Thriving despite Viking raids, the monastery was transformed into a Benedictine abbey in about 1200. Its buildings were restored in the 1900s and in 1938 the Iona Community was founded to revive its traditions of work, worship and teaching.

Highlights of a visit include the abbey church, high crosses and Columba’s shrine. Iona also boasts Scotland’s finest collection of carved stones and crosses, now in the Abbey Museum.

- **On the island of Iona, public ferry (for pedestrian visitors only) from Fionnphort, Mull. 10 min walk from ferry to Abbey**
- Postcode PA76 6SQ Telephone 01681 700 512
- Open all year. Unmanned Sun in winter
- Adult £9.00 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
THE KINGDOM OF FIFE

With charming towns, rustic villages and an industrial past, Fife is the ancestral home of Scottish monarchs; world-famous as the home of golf and a foodie’s paradise.

From the majestic Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, final resting place of Robert the Bruce, in the west to the spectacular St Andrews Castle overlooking the iconic West Sands Beach in the east, this area of Scotland is rich with castles and palaces.

Below.
View of St Andrews Cathedral.
See opposite

ST ANDREWS CASTLE

For centuries, the residence of Scotland’s most powerful churchmen. Some of its remarkable secrets are hewn into the rock beneath its battlements. You can explore a unique underground mine and countermine, dug during the brutal siege of 1546-7. A home to bishops, archbishops and a cardinal, it was in the thick of the struggle for hearts and minds during the Protestant Reformation.

- In St Andrews on the A91
- Postcode KY16 9AR Telephone 01334 477 196
- Open all year
- Adult £9.00 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- Joint ticket with the Cathedral: Adult £12 Child £7.20 Concession £9.60

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL

The magnificent medieval ruins stand on a site used for Christian worship since the 8th century, when the relics of St Andrew were reputedly brought here. The Cathedral was the seat of the leading prelate of the Scottish Church until the Reformation of 1560. Climb St Rule’s tower for a glorious view over the town.

- In St Andrews on the A91
- Postcode KY16 9QL Telephone 01334 472 563
- Open all year. Last entry 1 hour before closing
- St Rule’s Tower may be closed during high winds and at 3pm Dec to Jan due to low light
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Joint ticket with the Castle: Adult £12 Child £7.20 Concession £9.60

Below.
View of St Andrews Cathedral.
See opposite
DUNFERMLINE ABBEY AND PALACE

Admire one of Scotland's most impressive medieval interiors and most important royal sites, founded as a priory in about 1080. Robert the Bruce was buried in the medieval choir, now beneath the Abbey Church of 1821. St Margaret and David I are among a number of monarchs and other royalty laid to rest here. Charles I was born in the palace that grew up alongside the abbey.

Look for grand architecture, elaborate carvings, a painted vault of the 1500s, stained glass windows and displays of sculpture.

This was a filming location for the recent Netflix film Outlaw King.

- In Dunfermline off the M90
- Postcode KY12 7PE Telephone 01383 739 026
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri. For Abbey Church opening times (not in HES care) please visit dunfermlineabbey.co.uk
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

ABERDOUR CASTLE AND GARDENS

This splendid ruin was once the luxurious Renaissance home and pleasure gardens of Regent Morton, at the time Scotland’s most powerful man. Aberdour was originally built as a fortified residence in the 1100s, making it one of the oldest stone castles in the country. The fine painted ceiling dates from the 1600s.

- In Aberdour, 8m E of the Forth Bridges on the A921
- Postcode KY3 0SL Telephone 01383 860 519
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Café only open in summer. Self-service tea/coffee available in winter
BIG TREE COUNTRY is often used to describe Perthshire, home to some of Scotland’s most spectacular forestry.

This beautiful wilderness is home to glens and mountains, making it a perfect escape. Venture into Kinross, where you can experience rich heritage and walk in the footsteps of Mary, Queen of Scots at Lochleven Castle. Angus is home to the first UNESCO City of Design, Dundee, and is home to one of the most famous documents in Scottish history, The Declaration of Arbroath, which can be seen at Arbroath Abbey.

Below.
Detail of Huntingtower Castle.
See page 38

ARBROATH ABBEY
Read the Declaration of Arbroath in the abbey in which Scotland’s nobility proclaimed their independence from England in 1320, or listen to your voice in the sacristy, which has one of the longest echoes in the country. It once rang with the clamour of ‘lunatics’ incarcerated here.

The abbey was founded in 1178 by King William the Lion, who was buried here.

- In Arbroath town centre on the A92
- Postcode DD11 1EG Telephone 01241 878 756
- Open all year
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- Wheelchair available

EDZELL CASTLE AND GARDEN
The beauty of Edzell was a statement of the prestige of its owners, the Lindsays. The stylised walled garden was created in 1604. Resplendent with heraldic sculptures and carved panels, the architectural framework surrounding the garden is unique in Britain.

- At Edzell, 6m N of Brechin on the B966
- Postcode DD9 7UE Telephone 01356 648 631
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Wheelchair available
**LOCHLEVEN CASTLE**

A boat will ferry you to one of Scotland's oldest castles, where Mary, Queen of Scots spent a traumatic year. Probably built in the early 1300s, it was said to have been visited by Robert the Bruce during the Wars of Independence.

- On an island in Loch Leven reached by boat from Kinross off the M90 (weather permitting)
- Postcode KY13 8UF Telephone 01577 862 670
- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct. Boat can carry up to 12 passengers and runs from 10am to last outward sailing at 4.15pm (3.15pm during Oct)
- Advance booking is strongly advised. For the most up-to-date booking and visiting arrangements visit historicenvironment.scot/lochleven-castle
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20 – boat trip to island included in admission price

**MEIGLE SCULPTURED STONE MUSEUM**

A simple display of 26 Pictish carved stones dating from the 8th to the late 10th centuries, including some superb examples. These are the remnants of what was once an important centre of Pictish wealth and patronage, and comprise one of the most important collections of early medieval sculpture in western Europe.

- In Meigle, 6m W of Glamis off the A94
- Postcode PH12 8SB Telephone 01828 640 612
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Guided tours available, contact site for details

**ELCHO CASTLE**

Parade up the grand staircase or scurry up the service stair, venture into the well-appointed kitchen and admire the views over the countryside from the high battlements.

This remarkably complete house of the 1500s was the country retreat of the wealthy Wemyss family. Its orchard has been replanted with traditional varieties of apple, pear and plum and has become a haven for butterflies and wildlife.

- 5m NE of Bridge of Earn off the A912 and close to Rhynd
- Postcode PH2 8QQ Telephone 01738 639 998
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Call site to arrange bus parking/access within neighbouring farm

**HUNTINGTOWER CASTLE**

Colonies of bats may now fly around the castle's twin tower houses, but according to legend a love-struck maiden once made the perilous leap between them. Find out more as you explore the many rooms of this castle, which boasts a fabulous painted ceiling from the 1500s, depicting strange beasts and monsters.

- Just W of Perth off the A85 to Crieff
- Postcode PH1 3JL Telephone 01738 627 231
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- Car park not accessible for large cars or camper vans
- Disabled access limited to some lower parts of the castle
STANLEY MILLS
Stanley Mills was founded to process cotton at the height of the Industrial Revolution. There are superb interactive displays and games that help you to experience working life here. Listen to the Gaelic poetry and stories of the displaced Highlanders who worked in the mills.

- 7.4m N of Perth off the A9, then follow signs for Stanley Mills
- Postcode PH1 4QE Telephone 01738 828 268
- Open 1 Apr to 30 Sept 9.30am to 5.30pm and Oct 10am to 4pm
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80 – last admission 1 hour before closing

ST SERF’S CHURCH AND DUPPLIN CROSS
Look in wonder at a Pictish masterpiece that has been placed inside one of Scotland’s oldest complete parish churches. The Dupplin Cross is an ornate freestanding cross 2.5 metres high.

- In Dunning Village on the B9141 from the A9
- Postcode PH2 0RG Telephone 01764 684 497
- Open summer only
- Free admission – donations welcome

ST VIGEANS SCULPTURED STONES
Displayed and interpreted inside a converted cottage, this is one of the most important collections of Pictish Christian stones anywhere in Scotland.

- 1m N of Arbroath off the A92 to Montrose
- Postcode DD11 4RB Telephone 01241 878 756
- Open by appointment only. Visit historicenvironment.scot/daysout for additional open dates
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
NORTH & GRAMPIAN

This vast expanse is difficult to encapsulate in a paragraph. The magnificent Highlands is home to unparalleled scenery, mind-blowing landscapes and very friendly people.

From the romantic Urquhart Castle sitting on the banks of Loch Ness to the heights of Britain’s highest peak, Ben Nevis, this area is jaw-dropping. In the north east, Aberdeenshire is truly Scotland’s castle country, with more castles per acre than any other area of the country. Dolphin spotting on the Moray Firth at Fort George is a must, especially with the fort celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2019.

Below.
Fort George.
See page 44

URQUHART CASTLE

Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life and enjoy stunning panoramic views over Loch Ness from the ruins of the greatest castle in the Highlands.

Climb the Grant Tower that watches over the iconic loch, peer into a miserable prison cell, said to have held the legendary Gaelic bard Dòmhnall Donn, and imagine the splendid banquets staged in the Great Hall. A more panoramic view of the iconic ruins, against a backdrop of Loch Ness and the hills of the Great Glen, can be enjoyed from the café.

Urquhart’s stories are also told through a remarkable collection of artefacts left by its residents, historic replicas, including a full-sized, working trebuchet siege engine, and a short film.

The castle has a distinctly Highland heritage and the site has witnessed some of the most dramatic chapters in our nation’s history. This is where St Columba is said to have worked miracles in the 6th century, where acts of chivalry and defiance provided inspiration during the Wars of Independence and where the MacDonald Lords of the Isles struggled with the Crown for power.

The Visitor Centre is fully accessible and there is a photographic guide for those who have mobility issues.

Our café offers a cold deli, light meals and a wide range of homemade cakes and scones as well as hot and cold drinks. The castle shop sells a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, quality books and jewellery.

- On Loch Ness near Drumnadrochit on the A82
- Postcode IV63 6XJ Telephone 01456 450 551
- Open all year seven days a week. 1 Apr to 31 May 9.30am-6pm, 1 Jun to 31 Aug 9.30am to 8pm, 1 Sept to 30 Sept 9.30am to 6pm, 1 Oct to 31 Oct 9.30am to 5pm, 1 Nov to 31 Mar 9.30am to 4.30pm. Last entry 45 mins before closing
- Adult £12 Child £7.20 Concession £9.60
BALVENIE CASTLE
Defended by a magnificent curtain wall and an iron yett, Balvenie was a stronghold of the powerful Black Comyns, rivals to Robert the Bruce in the early 1300s. It ultimately became the Renaissance residence of the Earls of Atholl, who built the Atholl Lodging with its grand circular tower.

- At Dufftown off the A941
- Postcode AB55 4GH Telephone 01340 820 121
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

CORGARFF CASTLE
An isolated tower house in the Cairngorms that was a residence of the high-status Forbes family. After Culloden in 1746, it was converted to become a Redcoat garrison fortress, largely to suppress Jacobite activity. Adaptations and additions included the distinctive star-shaped perimeter wall. The reconstructed barrack rooms offer a window into military life in the late 1700s.

- 8m W of Strathdon on the A939
- Postcode AB36 8YP Telephone 01975 651 460
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

FORT GEORGE AND THE HIGHLANDERS’ MUSEUM
March into Britain’s mightiest artillery fortress on its 250th anniversary for an unforgettable experience. You can explore an enormous military base protected by almost 1.6km (1 mile) of massive walls, and gain an insight into life as a Redcoat in a garrison fortress that has barely changed in its 250 years of active service. You could also join one of our dolphin watches, scouring the Moray Firth for its bottlenose dolphins.

Fort George was built after the final Jacobite Rising was crushed at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Strategically positioned, it was designed as a bulwark against further unrest. But its sophisticated defences were never tested. It is still a working army barracks today, housing an infantry battalion of the British Army.

There is much for visitors to see, including defences bristling with cannons, historic barrack rooms, a superb collection of weapons and the peaceful Regimental Chapel.

The Highlanders’ Museum tells the stories of three of the four regiments that came together to make up the Highlanders Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Witness history brought to life at the Fort in our summer series of costumed performances.

The fort shop sells gifts, souvenirs, books and jewellery, while our café serves Scottish home-baking.

Fort George is large and mostly open to the elements – please allow plenty of time for your visit.

- 6m W of Nairn, 11m NE of Inverness off the A96
- Postcode IV2 7TD Telephone 01667 460 232
- Open all year. Last entry 45 mins before closing
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- Café operates restricted hours in winter
DALLAS DHU HISTORIC DISTILLERY
Discover the whisky-making process in this Victorian distillery, which has seen only limited development since it opened in 1898. Dallas Dhu suffered frequent setbacks before finally closing in 1983, but its mixed fortunes have helped preserve its distinctive features. Take an audio-guided tour, wander at your leisure through this fascinating building and enjoy a free dram afterwards.

- 1m S of Forres off the A940
- Postcode IV36 2RR Telephone 01309 676 548
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

DUFF HOUSE
One of the finest houses built in Scotland, Duff House is a magnificent Georgian mansion designed by William Adam. Standing in extensive parkland, today it houses a beautiful collection of paintings and furniture on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland and the Magdalene Sharpe Erskine Trust.

- In Banff
- Postcode AB45 3SX Telephone 01261 818 181
- Please check website for up-to-date opening times
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20

ELGIN CATHEDRAL
Enjoy some peace among the magnificent ruins of this sacred place, which dates to the 1200s. Admire the glorious west front, the sumptuous decorations and the atmospheric chapter house. Discover the cathedral’s remarkable carved stone collection on display in the towers, including the colourfully lit effigy of Bishop Archibald, and enjoy spectacular rooftop views.

The Earl of Buchan burned the cathedral in 1390, and during the ferment leading to the Protestant Reformation of 1560 it was the scene of a violent attack.

- In Elgin on the A96
- Postcode IV30 1HU Telephone 01343 547 171
- Open all year
- Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20
- Joint ticket with Spynie Palace: Adult £12 Child £7.20 Concession £9.60

HUNTLY CASTLE
With elaborate heraldry, carved fireplaces and refined décor, this palatial residence was a declaration of the power and wealth of the noble Gordon family. It stands on the site of a motte and bailey castle built around 1190. There were many royal visits, although in 1594 James VI had part of the tower house blown up after suppressing a rebellion.

- In Huntly off the A96
- Postcode AB54 4SH Telephone 01466 793 191
- Open all year. Winter closed Thurs and Fri
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
**SPYNIE PALACE**
For nearly 500 years, the bishops of Moray relaxed in this majestic building a short distance from their cathedral at Elgin. It even had its own bowling green and, according to one account, a tennis court. Today, you can climb David’s Tower, where bishops once entertained kings and queens. The views over Moray are well worth the ascent. Look out for the wildlife – barn owls nest here.

- **2m N of Elgin off the A941**
- **Postcode**: IV30 5QG
- **Telephone**: 01343 546 358
- **Open summer only**
- **Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80**
- **Joint ticket with Elgin Cathedral: Adult £12 Child £7.20 Concession £9.60**

**KILDRUMMY CASTLE**
Possibly built or adapted by the invading English King Edward I, the great castle of Kildrummy was the stronghold of the Earls of Mar. Although ruined, it remains a good example of a 13th century castle with many fine features.

- **10m SW of Alford on the A97**
- **Postcode**: AB33 8RA
- **Telephone**: 01975 571 331
- **Open summer only**
- **Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80**

**TOLQUHON CASTLE**
Sitting within spacious grounds, Tolquhon has been described as one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland. Sir William Forbes, who adapted and expanded an existing tower house in the 1580s, intended its construction to be an impressive residence, though he incorporated plenty of gunloops to deter any hostile visitors. This is a great building to explore, including a secret compartment in the laird’s quarters where he hid his valuables.

- **15m N of Aberdeen on the A920**
- **Postcode**: AB41 7LP
- **Telephone**: 01651 851 286
- **Open summer only**
- **Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80**

**KINNAIRD HEAD CASTLE AND LIGHTHOUSE AND THE MUSEUM OF SCOTTISH LIGHTHOUSES**
Built for the Fraser family, this 16th century castle was altered in 1787 to incorporate the first lighthouse built by the Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouses.

- **On a promontory in Fraserburgh on the A98**
- **Postcode**: AB43 9DU
- **Telephone**: 01346 511 022
- **Open all year. 1 Apr to 31 Oct 10am to 5pm daily, 1 Nov to 31 Mar 10am to 4.30pm. Winter closed Mon and Tue**
- **Visit**: lighthousemuseum.org.uk
THE WESTERN ISLES

Arriving on these beautiful islands you’ll feel like you’ve really escaped from it all. Untouched landscapes and coastlines and unique island culture awaits on this cluster of islands linked by causeways and ferries.

If you’re arriving by plane on Barra, you’ll experience the UK’s only scheduled beach landing with a stunning view of the imposing Kisimul Castle, whilst to the north on Lewis, you can experience a traditional thatched house at The Blackhouse, Arnol.

Below, Calanais Standing Stones. See opposite

THE BLACKHOUSE, ARNOL

A traditional thatched house which provides a unique insight into island life. Beside the blackhouse, a furnished 1920s whitehouse and a ruined blackhouse can be seen.

- In Arnol village, Isle of Lewis, 14m NW of Stornoway on the A858
- Postcode HS2 9DB Telephone 01851 710 395
- Open all year – Summer closed Sun, Winter closed Sun and Wed
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

CALANAIStANDING STONES

A Neolithic setting of standing stones, arranged in a cross shape; one of Scotland’s most breathtaking monuments. Visitor Centre managed by The Standing Stones Trust.

- 12m W of Stornoway off the A859, Isle of Lewis
- Postcode HS2 9DY Telephone 01851 621 422
- Site open all year, seven days a week. Please call for up-to-date opening hours and admission prices for Visitor Centre. For details on the Visitor Centre, go to callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk

KISIMUL CASTLE

Get a sense of what a clan chief’s residence would have been like in the Middle Ages. The three-storey tower house remains the seat of the chief of the Clan MacNeil of Barra. Kisimul was restored in the 20th century.

- In Castlebay, Isle of Barra, reached by small boat from Castlebay (5 min trip, weather permitting)
- Postcode HS9 5UZ Telephone 01871 810 313
- Open summer only
- Due to essential conservation work, areas of the castle may have restricted access – please call before visiting
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80 (includes boat trip – last outward sailing is 4.30pm)
Distinctive culture, natural wonders, fascinating geological and awe-inspiring historic sites await on Britain’s most northerly islands.

Orkney is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with unrivalled Neolithic sites and magical stone circles. Experience life 5,000 years ago at Skara Brae by walking into the replica house or learn about military life at Hackness Martello Tower and Battery with views across Scapa Flow. 157 miles to the north of Orkney, the archipelago of Shetland is home to 100 breathtaking islands, 15 of which are inhabited. While escaping from it all, explore Jarlshof, a prehistoric settlement built over 4,000 years ago.

Below.
Hackness Martello Tower.
See page 55
73 | BROUGH OF BIRSAW

Cross the causeway to a tidal island that was a place of local and perhaps regional importance, first for the Picts and later for Norse settlers. The remains of the Norse settlement include a ruined, Romanesque church that was a place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages.

- On a tidal island at Birsay, 20m NW of Kirkwall off the A966.
- Check tide tables at Skara Brae
- Postcode KW17 2LX Telephone 01856 841 815 (Skara Brae)
- Open when tides allow mid Jun to 30 Sept
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

74 | HACKNESS MARTELO TOWER AND BATTERY

These defensive installations are remarkable remnants of war. They were built in 1813-14 to protect British convoys during the Napoleonic Wars, and adapted during later conflicts. The Martello tower, one of only three surviving in Scotland, allows views towards Scapa Flow, a naval anchorage during both world wars.

Inside, you can learn about military life and the ceilidhs and dances that locals held here.

- At the SE end of Hoy
- Postcode KW16 3PQ Telephone 01856 701 727
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
- When visiting please make your way to the Battery first
- Ferry information available through Orkney Ferries

72 | BROCH OF GURNESS

Explore this once mighty Iron Age settlement, with a small village arranged around a central, massive broch tower. Defended by two rock-cut ditches and a rampart, this was clearly a place of power. Look across Eynhallow Sound, once lined with brochs, to make out another well-preserved example at Midhowe, and perhaps glimpse minke and killer whales.

- At Aikerness, 14m NW of Kirkwall on the A966
- Postcode KW17 2NH Telephone 01856 751 414
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80

71 | THE BISHOP’S AND EARL’S PALACES, KIRKWALL

Step inside the spectacular ruins of a remarkable residence at the heart of Kirkwall. The medieval Bishop’s Palace was built in the 1100s at about the same time as St Magnus Cathedral. In the early 1600s, the Bishop’s Palace was incorporated into a refined Renaissance palace commissioned by Earl Patrick Stewart, one of Orkney’s most notorious rulers. The Earl’s Palace was reputedly built using slave labour.

- In Kirkwall on the A960
- Postcode KW15 1PD Telephone 01856 871 918
- Open summer only
- Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
MAESHOWE CHAMBERED CAIRN

Enter one of the finest Neolithic buildings in north-west Europe, a masterpiece of ancient engineering. This chambered tomb, which sits on a platform encircled by a ditch and bank, is a monument to the skill and beliefs of Orkney’s people some 5,000 years ago. If you visit in midwinter, and the skies are clear, you can witness the central chamber illuminated by a shaft of light from the setting sun.

Maeshowe’s unique story continued when it was broken into about 1,000 years ago by Norsemen. They left their mark in the astonishing runic graffiti, alongside the stunning ‘Maeshowe Lion’ carving.

Visits are by guided tour only, leaving from the Visitor Centre in Stenness village, and must be booked online in advance at historicenvironment.scot/maeshowe

• 9m W of Kirkwall on the A965
• Postcode KW16 3LB
• Open all year
• Adult £9 Child £5.40 Concession £7.20

JARLSHOF PREHISTORIC AND NORSE SETTLEMENT

Wander around a site where people lived for more than 4,000 years. There are remains of Bronze Age oval houses, an Iron Age broch and wheelhouses, Viking longhouses, a medieval farmstead and a laird’s house built around 1600. This enduring site is without parallel in Scotland and features in Sir Walter Scott’s novel The Pirate.

After touring the site, look out to sea and perhaps spot puffins nesting nearby.

• At Sumburgh Head, 22m S of Lerwick on the A970
• Postcode ZE3 9JN Telephone 01950 460 112
• Open all year. Winter restricted opening hours, call 01856 841 815 (Skara Brae) for details
• Adult £6 Child £3.60 Concession £4.80
Opening times

Summer (1 Apr to 30 Sept)
Our properties are open seven days a week, Mon to Sun, from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Winter (1 Oct to 31 Mar)
Some properties have special opening times, these will be shown against their entry. Normal opening times are 10am to 4pm. For Christmas and New Year opening hours please check our website.

We sell the last ticket 30 minutes before the property closes and 45 minutes before closing at Stirling, Urquhart and Dumbarton castles, Fort George, Skara Brae and Linlithgow Palace. Last entry to Edinburgh Castle is 1 hour before closing.

Some of the smaller monuments may close for a short period over lunch. Please call the site to check.

Very occasionally in the case of adverse weather conditions a property may have to close at short notice. Please call ahead to confirm that it is safe to visit or check historicenvironment.scot/closure

Other information

Children under 16: All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Public transport information:
Call Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33 or go to travelinescotland.com

Quality assurance: Visitor facilities at Historic Scotland properties are inspected by VisitScotland and graded on a five-star scale. Properties are also assessed under the Green Tourism Business Scheme which rewards care for the environment with a Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

Large print guide and access guide:
Call Historic Environment Scotland, Longmore House on 0131 550 7615 for more information.

Bicycle: Call the SUSTRANS information line on 0845 11 30 065 or go to sustrans.org.uk

World Heritage Sites:
Feature a UNESCO logo.

Dogs: Dogs on leads are permitted at some, but not all, properties. Where dogs are allowed on site, they must not go into roofed areas including the shop, Visitor Centre or café. See symbol below.

Key to symbols

Online tickets

Tickets to all Historic Scotland attractions are available online at historicenvironment.scot/daysout

Admission prices

Admission prices are for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Prices may vary for major events. There is no concession rate for students.

The concession rate applies to visitors aged 60 and over and the unemployed. Children under five admitted free.

Go Explore!
From only £35, The Explorer Pass gives you access to all our attractions – a great value way to explore Scotland’s history.

Ask our staff for details, or visit historicenvironment.scot/explorer