



HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

Explore our past,
present, and future

Members Guide



This guide is organised into regions with properties listed alphabetically within each region.



Please check the website for opening times, booking information and specific site information: historyawaits.scot

For more information on our sites
visit our website or download the
Historic Scotland app



Key



Car parking



Toilets



Accessible toilets



Visitor Centre



Mobility scooters on site



Public transport access



Picnic area



Restaurant/café



Shop



Strong footwear needed



Bicycle rack



Dogs allowed



Water refill scheme



Baby change facilities

Keeping Scotland's story alive

History is full of surprise and potential.
It grounds us. Inspires us. Helps us find better
ways to live our lives and carve our future.

From conservation to innovation –
at Historic Scotland, we make sure the
story lives on for generations to come.

In this guide, you'll find
everything you need to start
exploring Scotland's history.

With more than 300 fantastic
places to visit, as well as a host
of events, learning experiences
and cultural exhibitions throughout
the year, there's plenty to enjoy.

You can also take part in Scotland's
story from home. Just visit **trove.scot**,
our exciting online archive.

Here, you can pore over ancient
maps, examine original blueprints of
historic buildings, or browse through
old photos – getting a snapshot of
Scottish life through the years.

And if you'd like to get hands-on
with heritage, you can also learn
a traditional skill or volunteer with
us. So go ahead, turn the page
and write the next chapter.

Our Past

Historic Scotland's roots trace back to the 1880s. Over the centuries, our purpose has remained the same. To protect Scotland's rich history.



But it's not all about protection. It's about connection, too. And people have been enjoying visiting Scotland's historic sites for nearly 400 years. So, where will you go next?



A cinematic setting

It's half a century since Monty Python's cult classic *The Holy Grail* clip-clopped its way into cinemas. And where better to celebrate the anniversary than Doune Castle, the iconic location used as many castles in the film.

But that isn't the only time Doune has been on screen, big or small. The castle also starred as Winterfell, the northern fortress occupied by the Stark family in megahit *Game of Thrones*. And more recently *Outlander*'s Clan MacKenzie lived in Castle Leoch, the exteriors of which were shot at Doune.

Be sure to bring your own cameras and make some cinematic memories in the footsteps of stars.



Scan the QR code
for more cinematic
stories



A bridge in time

If you do head to Doune, be sure to check out the beautiful new bridge we helped build. It connects Doune Castle to the ponds and woodlands across the river. Crossing the Ardoch Burn by the Mill of Doune, the bridge was sustainably built using local timber. We used homegrown Scottish larch, sourced from the woods to the north-east.

The stone came from nearby, too, and our apprentices joined the team to learn the traditional skills of cutting and laying stone. With its fluid, modern silhouette, the bridge doesn't just connect riverbank to riverbank, it also connects past and present design styles.



Rejuvenating the UK's oldest fountain

In 2005, water flowed through the UK's oldest fountain for the first time in a century. After five years of restoration, The King's Fountain at Linlithgow Palace is back to its original glory. It was built for James V of Scotland as a show of strength to his uncle, Henry VIII of England.

This was not the first time the fountain has had work done, but it was definitely the most elaborate. The entire 5m-high structure was completely dismantled. All 158 carved or moulded stones were scanned for damage, before being either repaired or replaced, some

by stonemasons in our workshop at Blackness Castle. Stone by stone, the fountain was then carefully rebuilt.

After meticulous work, the fountain is as impressive as it was when James V first commissioned it. Or when water ran through it to welcome Charles I. Or when, as rumour has it, the fountain flowed with wine when Bonnie Prince Charlie visited the palace.

Ironically, water has been responsible for much of the fountain's damage, weakening the sandstone. Therefore it will now only flow on special occasions.

Our Present

History is never finished. In fact, it's being made every day by all of us, even you right now! But there's always more to explore.

Events to remember

Enjoy a programme of members' events for all the family throughout the year. From talks and art exhibitions to jousting reenactments and living history experiences, there's plenty to get involved in. Another benefit of membership is getting exclusive insights into our work, including archive events and behind-the-scenes site tours.

Scan the QR code
to see our full
events programme



Every spring, young and old alike flock to celebrate Scotland's mythical animal at our Unicorn Day. The unicorn has been an important symbol in Scottish culture for centuries and was even added to our nation's coat of arms in the 1500s.

In the summer, crowds come to see mighty knights pit themselves against each other in our annual jousting reenactments. Clashing swords, thundering hooves, the splintering of shields – this is an experience like no other.

Come winter, visit Edinburgh or Stirling Castle for a series of fantastic festive events. There's nothing quite like afternoon tea in the regal surroundings of a castle at Christmastime.

All daytime events are free to members, so whatever the season, we look forward to giving you a warm welcome.



Become a History Hunter

Put the past in your pocket with our History Hunt cards. There are seven to discover across our sites. Just ask on site staff for yours. Can you collect them all? Journey far and wide across the country to grab every card and become a certified History Hunter.

Every card has a rating of Craft, Power and Enchantment – get ready to challenge your friends to a historic showdown.

Don't forget to ask for your sleeve when collecting your first card so you can keep them all together and pick up your badge once your collection is complete. Keep an eye out for the occasional rare editions, too. They won't be available for long.

Scan the QR code to start your search, or head to [hes.scot/history hunt](https://hes.scot/history-hunt)



Listen in on history

As a member, you get exclusive access to our Historic Scotland Podcast. The programme is hosted by award-winning actor and writer Sarah MacGillivray, best known for her roles in Shetland and Outlander.

Each episode, Sarah speaks to an expert about beloved historical topics and travels to one of our sites to uncover hidden stories.





Find out more about
Craft Fellowships

Master a craft

From traditional joinery and stone carving, to milling and blacksmithing, our Craft Fellowship programme has been teaching people in-demand heritage craft skills since 1986. For 12–18 months, our Craft Fellows are hosted and trained by master craftspeople throughout Scotland. They work on some of the country's most exciting heritage projects.

Our previous Craft Fellows have built a creel house in Glencoe, a turf hut in Comrie, worked on a capital for the Four Courts building in Dublin, and been shortlisted for national awards.

Our Craft Fellowships cover a range of traditional skills for all experience levels. We look for people who are keen to learn and have a strong interest in heritage conservation. Ideally, you'll have some basic craft-related skills – for example, if you can use hand tools.

You'll be part of our network of Craft Fellows and Trainees, where you'll share your skills and develop your professional network. We recruit Craft Fellows throughout the year – sign up to email alerts on our website to be the first to know.

Learning about our legacy

We want more people to see Scotland's history as a lifelong source for learning. Connecting with, and understanding, history is good for everyone, so we're aiming to reach a wider audience than ever before.

To do this, we work creatively with other organisations to make heritage easy to access, and fun. We work with schools, colleges, youth-work providers and adult learners, with a strong focus on organisations that support underrepresented groups and people who need additional support.

It's archaeology, history, cultural heritage and so much more.

We help provide the inspiration, unique experiences and multi-sensory environments needed for learning and leisure.

Come to one of our learning hubs and step into historic shoes. Kit yourself out as a ferocious Jacobite warrior or party like royalty of old. Or go online and explore our wide range of games, videos and craft activities.

We provide quality programmes, with collaboration and openness at their heart. Whether it's online, in the classroom, visiting a site or at exhibitions, our learning services aim to inspire a lasting sense of wonder about Scotland's long and evocative legacy.





Scan the QR code to find out about our volunteering opportunities

Volunteer with us

History won't write itself. Our volunteers play a huge part in keeping Scotland's story alive. Our programme matches your motivations, whether that's learning new skills, meeting people, gaining confidence or simply having fun. It's a modern, collaborative celebration of our nation's unique history.

As a volunteer, you'll have a huge range of activities to choose from, with a variety of roles across Scotland.

You can meet our visitors or lead activities and guided tours. Or perhaps you'd prefer to volunteer at events, play an instrument or catalogue our collections. You can even take part in biodiversity surveys, practical conservation and action for nature.

We know that giving your time, energy, skills and experience is a big commitment, so we'll work closely with you to make sure you have the best possible experience.

Our Future

We keep Scotland's story alive, always. By bringing together traditional skills and knowledge with pioneering digital tools and online resources, we're helping to protect Scotland's precious heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Robotic arm assists with digitising the NCAP Collections



The world from above

The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) holds one of the largest collections of aerial photography in the world. With 30 million images, our collection provides a unique and detailed perspective on key moments in human history.

Our archive includes rare images dating back as far as the 1920s. Much of the photography is Ministry of Defence declassified reconnaissance imagery from the Second World War and the Cold War. Agencies across Europe use the material to locate unexploded WWII bombs.

We have images from every continent, with many of them accessible to the public for the very first time. And we're still digitising more images every day.



History in 3D

Through the Rae Project we're bringing Scotland's history to life online with interactive 3D models. Named after the 19th century Orcadian explorer and surveyor, John Rae, the project covers heritage of all shapes and sizes.

From intricate jewellery boxes and decorative ceramics, to standing stones, archaeological landscapes and iconic castles, we are digitally documenting everything in our care.

Our team travel across Scotland to capture every inch of our sites using cutting-edge digital technology. Then, they work their magic from their base in the Engine Shed. The data helps us and others in heritage to interpret, manage and conserve historic places and artefacts for the future, including those particularly at risk.

The stunning 3D scenes they create also allow people all over the world to explore Scotland's history remotely and in intricate detail.

Scan the QR code
or visit **ncap.org**
to learn more



All together now

Trove.scot is our online platform that brings all of our unique and diverse collections together in one convenient place.

Browse three million records quickly and easily. Centuries of photography. Historic maps and architectural drawings. Rare playlists of audio and video. Detailed documents of listed buildings and historic moments. Our vast collection of gems could keep you consumed day after day.

Trove.scot is for all kinds of people, whether you're a professional planner or an academic researcher, or you just have a passing interest in your local area.

With **trove.scot**, you can journey into Scotland's fascinating past.



© National Museums Scotland

Scan the QR code or visit **trove.scot** to explore the archive



Scan the QR code to learn more about our high level masonry inspections

Keeping masonry in good shape

In April 2022, we began a nationwide programme of high-level masonry inspections at more than 200 properties to review their condition, and identify repairs needed.

Our specialist teams carry out these inspections carefully and up-close, inspecting each stone by hand.

Our changing climate is exacerbating the deterioration of masonry at some sites in Scotland. More extreme weather events like increased rainfall and freeze-thaw cycles are accelerating decay.

This is not an issue unique to Scotland; however, we are one of the first heritage organisations addressing the effects of climate change on built heritage in this way. We believe our new approach to these inspections will become the gold standard of heritage surveying across the sector.

For the latest updates visit **hes.scot/conservation-works**.

Making history clean and green

We're dedicated to creating sustainable and inclusive heritage experiences. Our Climate Action Plan aims to make tourism responsible and reshape how people interact with our sites.

Here's how we're working toward a greener, more sustainable future:

- **Expanding sustainable travel options**

We're working with partners to make it easier for you to reach our sites on foot, by bike or on public transport. We'll also improve facilities and share more information on active travel routes.

- **Reducing emissions across our sites**

By using more energy-efficient practices and reducing waste, we're making sure our site operations are as climate-friendly as possible.

- **Buying sustainably and creating a circular economy**

We're using and reusing materials thoughtfully and reducing waste in every area of our work. We're also committed to buying products that are locally sourced and environmentally friendly as often as possible.

- **Supporting you in making responsible choices on your visit**

We'll provide accessible tips about how you can make your trip sustainable, from reducing waste to supporting local businesses and products.

Please feel free to ask our staff about our sustainability efforts when you visit. Also, we'd appreciate if you'd bring reusable cups where possible and make sure you don't leave anything behind.



Your membership

Your membership doesn't just keep Scotland's story going, it also gives you free site entry, great discounts, and access to exclusive events and content. With so much to explore, history will never get old.

Member benefits

Members go free when visiting any of our incredible historic sites.

Other member benefits

You also get free access to daytime events and discounts to others. Visit hes.scot/events for this year's programme.



You get a **20% discount** in our shops, and on our online store, stor.scot. Just use the code **HES1118** online.



And a **10% discount** on food and drink at our on-site cafés. That means cut price coffee, cakes and culture.



Enjoy **members exclusives** including your quarterly magazine, podcast, behind the scenes events, and History Hunt cards.



Discounted audio guides are available at selected locations including Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Glasgow Cathedral.

Our partner organisations

Use your membership to explore further. Your membership grants you access to our partner organisations many sites. You can go to any English Heritage, Cadw or Manx National Heritage sites. **For your first year of membership, entry is half price. After that, you go free.** For further information go to our partner organisations websites.



English
Heritage

Visit over 400 heritage sites across England.



Cadw



Uyweddwrth Cymru
Welsh Government

Discover over 130 stunning historic places across Wales.



Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

Explore 10,000 years of history on the Isle of Man.



Scan the QR code
to download our app



Gifting

Gift history to a loved one

As a member, you can buy annual membership for 20% less when you give it as a gift. We'll send it straight to your loved one with a personalised message of your choice. Just log on to hes.scot/member or call **0131 668 8999**.

Spread the word

Introduce family and friends to Historic Scotland and they'll receive a 20% discount on new annual membership. Bring them to any staffed site and show your membership card to secure their discount. They can also call us on **0131 668 8999** and share your name and membership number.

Leave a legacy gift

Leaving a gift in your will is another meaningful way for members to support our work to tell Scotland's story for generations to come. If you'd like to speak to us about leaving a legacy gift, how we'll ensure your gift is remembered, or to find out more about the difference your legacy can make, please call us on **0131 668 8652**.

Digital membership card

Your digital membership card can be accessed via the Historic Scotland app. So you'll never have to worry about leaving it at home.

Your Historic Scotland app is packed with essential information like opening times, on site facilities, travel options and imagery of some of our spectacular sites.

Data protection

Your privacy is our priority. We handle all your information in strict accordance with current data protection legislation. Visit hes.scot/member-privacy for more details on how we use your data and to find out more about your rights.

Our terms and conditions

We reserve the right to vary the terms and conditions and benefits of membership at any time. Of course we will tell you of any changes. To see our full terms and conditions, visit hes.scot/member.

Using this guide

This section explains elements of the guide, as well as what to expect when on-site. Use it for an effortless experience with us.

You'll find a map of Scotland at the front of this guide, and an index of our sites at the back. The rest of the book is split into regions, each with a site map at the start.

Planning your visit

Booking in advance is essential to guarantee entry at some of our busiest attractions, or those with limited capacities. Visit **historyawaits.scot** to find out when sites are open and where you need to pre-book. Tickets should only be booked as per your membership category; children under 7 also need a ticket.

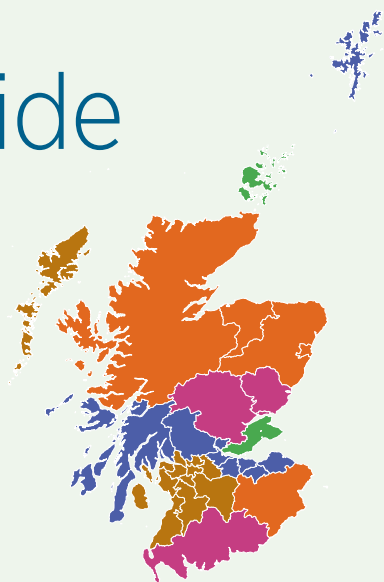
A feel-good family quiz is available at all our staffed sites – please ask a staff member when you arrive. Guided tours are also available at certain sites. Check which sites have guides online or on arrival.

When we open

Opening days and times vary at many of our sites. To avoid disappointment, we recommend checking our website **hes.scot/visit** before visiting for current site information. Please also note that some of our sites may close for lunch.

In adverse weather, we may need to close a site at short notice. Check unexpected closures by calling our staffed sites or visiting **hes.scot/closure**.

Please visit **hes.scot/visit** for site addresses, directions and access requirements.



World Heritage Sites

World Heritage Sites feature a UNESCO logo. Reach the Orkney WHS ranger service on 07920 450540.



unesco
World Heritage Site

Drones (unmanned aircraft systems)

Drones are not permitted to be launched from within our area of responsibility unless approval has been permitted through the Altitude Angel portal. For more information on this application process please contact **filming@hes.scot**.

Parking your car

P Parking is free for members at most sites.


Edinburgh Castle doesn't have parking. Although, we do provide limited spaces for visitors with a Blue Disabled Badge. Please call 0131 225 9846 before you visit.

At **Stirling Castle** we encourage you to use public transport, park and stride from the city centre or use Castlevew Car Park.

Limited parking is available on a first come first served basis on the castle esplanade which is free in the winter and half price for members in the summer.

Holyrood Palace and Melrose Abbey also have parking that is chargeable and members are not exempt.


Safety and security

 Some sites involve walking a fair distance over uneven ground, so we recommend sensible footwear. Also watch out for wet grass and slippery wooden footbridges. Some of our rural sites are on farmland where livestock may be grazing.

Bag searches may take place at certain events, or at sites like Edinburgh, Stirling and Urquhart Castle. There may also be restrictions on the size of bag you can bring on-site.


Please check individual properties online for further information.

Visitors with disabilities

 This symbol indicates where there are accessible toilets.

Hearing induction loops are available at most staffed sites. Site descriptions indicate if there are other facilities for people with a disability.


For regular updates about facilities available at sites please visit individual site pages on our website.

 This symbol indicates that mobility scooters are available at the site.

Carers

You get free access if you're a carer accompanying a visitor with disabilities. Book your carer ticket online or collect one when you arrive on site.

Dogs

 This symbol indicates sites where dogs are welcome.

We allow dogs on leads at some but not at all sites. Please don't leave dogs unattended, even in a vehicle. Where indicated, dogs are only allowed within the grounds and not allowed in roofed areas. Please call sites before your visit to double check if you're unsure.

Assistance dogs are allowed at all sites and in all parts of the site.

Smoking/vaping

Please do not smoke or vape at any of our sites.

Edinburgh Castle
(see page 26)



Iconic architecture. Dramatic landscapes. Edinburgh & The Lothians are rich with history and variety. Wander through medieval streets where pioneering scientists are still at work or escape the chaos in favour of ancient abbeys and majestic castles – there's plenty to discover.

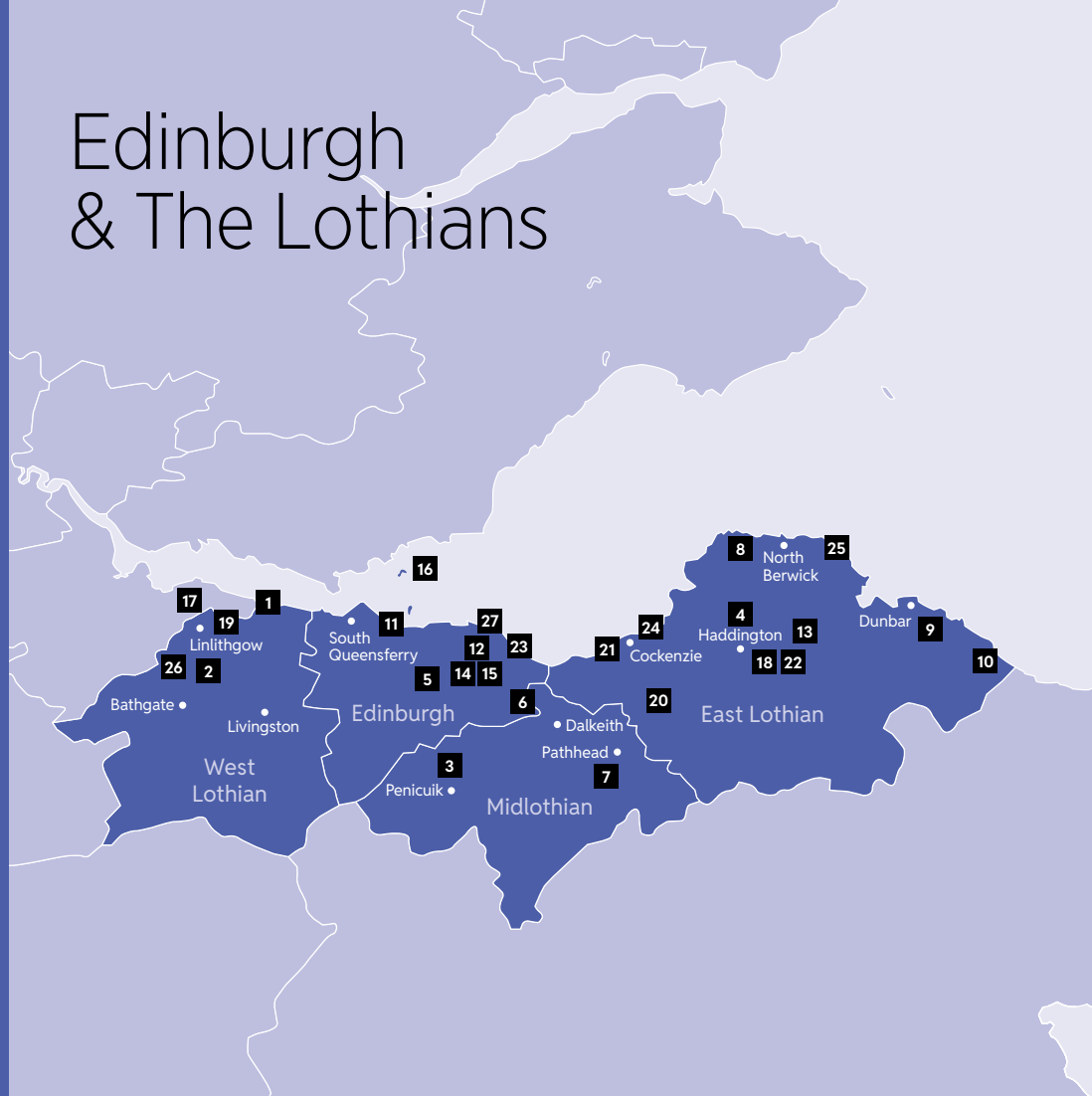


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Queen Elizabeth II visiting Sculpture Hall, Edinburgh, 1957

Explore Edinburgh & The Lothians

Edinburgh & The Lothians



1	Blackness Castle	10	Dunglass Collegiate Church	19	Linlithgow Palace
2	Cairnpapple Hill	11	Eagle Rock, Cramond	20	Ormiston Market Cross
3	Castlelaw Hill Fort	12	Edinburgh Castle	21	Preston Market Cross
4	Chesters Hill Fort	13	Hailes Castle	22	St Martin's Kirk, Haddington
5	Corstorphine Dovecot	14	Holyrood Abbey	23	St Triduana's Chapel, Restalrig Collegiate Church
6	Craigmillar Castle	15	Holyrood Park	24	Seton Collegiate Church
7	Crichton Castle	16	Incholm Abbey and Island	25	Tantallon Castle
8	Dirleton Castle and Gardens	17	Kinneil House	26	Torphichen Preceptory
9	Doon Hill	18	Lauderdale Aisle, St Mary's Church	27	Trinity House Maritime Museum

Little-known stories

Divine intervention on Inchcolm

On a particularly wild night in 1123, Alexander I, King of Scots, was cast ashore on the island of Inchcolm. Legend suggests he found shelter in an old structure occupied by a religious hermit who hosted him for three days. Convinced that God saved him from the storm, Alexander resolved to build a monastery on the island. He died before he could do so, but his brother David I fulfilled his wishes.

Listen to the kids

In the early 1960s, the ruins of Craigmillar Castle became the unlikely venue for a music festival. When the headmaster of a local primary school told Helen Crummy her son couldn't have violin lessons, she decided to put on a show that demonstrated local children's talent. This was the beginning of the annual Craigmillar Festival, which grew to enjoy international acclaim and proved that all children deserve the chance to play instruments.

Touched by the devil

Several centuries ago, Dirlerton Castle became a prison for suspected witches. Women who were accused of witchcraft were likely held in the castle's pit prison, before being interrogated by a church court. Two prisoners were even inspected for the devil's mark in the great hall by John Kincaid, the infamous 'witch pricker'.

Snapshots through time



Livingston Raft Race, 1981



Kilgraston House, Kintillo, taken after the devastating fire of 1872



Children play in Dean Village, 1947

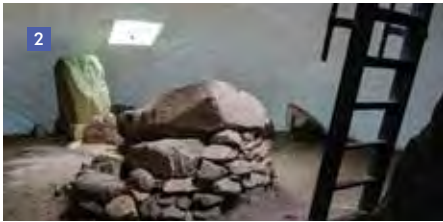


Scan the QR code to explore **trove.scot**, our photo archive

1 Blackness Castle

With mighty fortifications projecting into the Firth, this castle is known as ‘the ship that never sailed’. Interestingly, the castle has served several different purposes. First built as a home for the Crichton family, Blackness Castle later functioned as a state prison, military barracks, and an ammunition depot.

- Blackness, Linlithgow, EH49 7NH
- 01506 834 807



2 Cairnpapple Hill

Cairnpapple Hill is one of the most important prehistoric sites on mainland Scotland. Over at least 3,000 years, its broad summit hosted significant ceremonies and burial rituals, with evidence of both Bronze Age and Christian graves.

This great neolithic henge, an oval earthwork enclosure dating from about 2500 BC, enjoys panoramic views across the Forth Valley and further. On a particularly clear day, you might even see Goat Fell, Arran's highest peak. Perhaps this exceptional perspective is why people throughout history have chosen Cairnpapple for sacred practices.

- 2km from Torphichen, 5km from Bathgate



3 Castlelaw Hill Fort

Castlelaw Hill Fort was home to an Iron Age community for centuries. This defensive stronghold features concentric rings of ramparts and ditches. The main interest will be the souterrain, an underground chamber. Some say a hiding place, others a storage space. More intriguingly, one theory holds that it was used for rituals.

- Castle Knowe, Pentlands, EH26 0PB



4 Chesters Hill Fort

Experience one of Scotland's best-preserved Iron Age hillforts. Chesters Hill Fort was probably built in the first millennium BC. While it has never been archaeologically excavated, a system of ramparts and ditches designed to defend roughly 20 roundhouses is visible. Today, from a distance, it appears to be a grassy hillock.

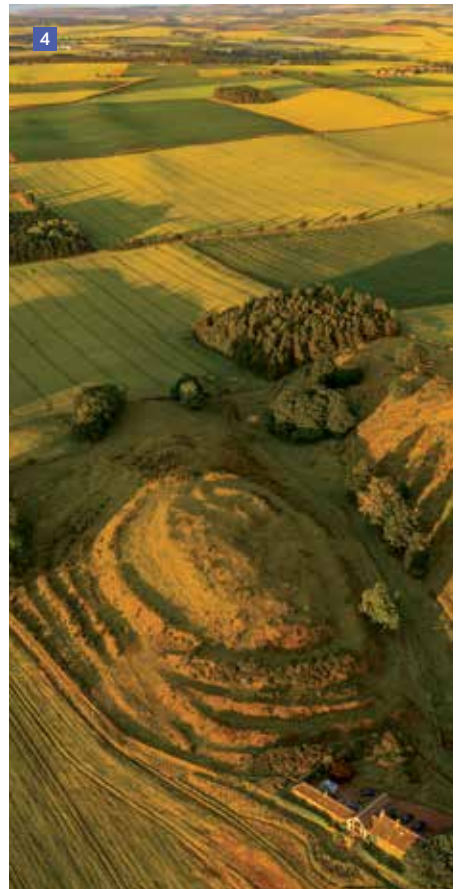
- Near Drem, East Lothian, EH39 5AZ



5 Corstorphine Dovecot

Built in the 1500s, this structure is an excellent example of a beehive-shaped dovecot. Dovecots were an important element of a landed estate, housing pigeons and their squabs. These birds were an important source of fresh meat, and their dung was used to produce saltpetre – a key ingredient in gunpowder.

- Dovecot Rd, Edinburgh, EH12 7LE



6 Craigmillar Castle

Step inside Edinburgh's 'other castle'. Sitting a mile outside of the old city walls, Craigmillar Castle provided an easy retreat from Scotland's capital. Famously, Mary Queen of Scots convalesced here in 1566. Ironically, though, her host and loyal supporter, Sir Simon Preston, would become her gaoler a year later.

- Craigmillar Castle Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4SY
- 0131 661 4445



7 Crichton Castle

Crichton Castle's history is far less peaceful than its setting suggests. Originally the home of the influential Crichton family, the Crown confiscated the castle after the 3rd Lord Crichton was convicted of treason. Later the 5th Earl Bothwell installed the castle's famous and unique diamond-shaped carved stones in the courtyard.

- Pathhead, Midlothian, EH37 5XA
- 01875 320 017



8 Dirleton Castle and Gardens

Dirleton Castle perches on a rocky outcrop, strategically positioned on a main route between Edinburgh and England. Consequently, it has had a violent history. It was twice taken by the English in the Wars of Scottish Independence and was later attacked by Oliver Cromwell. Heavily damaged by Cromwell, Dirleton was abandoned, but not forgotten.

- Dirleton, East Lothian, EH39 5ER
- 01620 850 465



9 Doon Hill

The remains of two wooden halls sit on Doon Hill, built on the same site many centuries apart. These barely visible outlines weren't excavated until they were noticed by an aerial photographer in the 1960s. One hall was built by Anglo-Saxons, while the other dates from the Neolithic period.

- Near Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1RL



11 Eagle Rock, Cramond

Care for carvings? If so, head towards Cramond, where you'll find Eagle Rock. While well worn, an outline of what is most likely of an eagle can be seen in stone. Some believe it's Roman while others speculate the carving is of a Celtic horned god. You be the judge.

- Cramond, north-west of Edinburgh, EH30 9TQ



10 Dunglass Collegiate Church

The Church of St Mary the Virgin was founded in the shadow of Dunglass Castle, now gone. This handsome cross-shaped church was the Home family's private chapel. It features fine carved stonework, particularly the three-seated sedilia, where the priests sat during Mass. Today, the pink-hued sandstone church stands remarkably complete.

- Near Cockburnspath, East Lothian, TD13 5XF



While you're here, why not take a 12 minute drive to see Doon Hill.



12 Edinburgh Castle

No trip to Scotland's capital is complete without a visit to Edinburgh Castle, a world-famous icon housing the Scottish Crown Jewels, which are available to see. Perched on an impregnable volcanic plug, Edinburgh Castle has dominated the city's skyline for centuries. The castle's royal connections go back 1,000 years, and the city's oldest building stands on the site. David I built St Margaret's Chapel around 1130, as a tribute to his devout mother.

Climb Castlehill to explore this mighty fortress and former royal residence, now a major part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site. Edinburgh Castle has witnessed many of the defining events in Scotland's history. Sieges were fought over the mighty stronghold. Royalty lived and died within its walls. Just the sight of the Castle Rock has terrified and inspired countless generations.

Today, the castle welcomes locals and curious tourists from around the world alike. There are regular exhibitions to see, museums to explore and tea rooms to recharge in.

- The Esplanade, Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NG
- 0131 225 9846
- edinburghcastle.scot



Enjoy a 20% discount in our cafés with your membership card.

13 Hailes Castle

Few 13th century Scottish stone castles have survived. Hailes Castle, sitting right beside the River Tyne, has fared better than others. It was probably first built by the de Gourlays, who moved from Northumberland to East Lothian during the reign of William I, the Lion.

- Near East Linton, East Lothian, EH41 4PY



14 Holyrood Abbey

Roam in faded royal footsteps around Holyrood Abbey, admire the east processional doorway, the only surviving part of the original, and the western elevation, one of the most impressive Gothic facades in Scotland. Or enter the royal vault, the resting place of both royalty and Augustinian canons.

- Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8DX
- 0303 123 7306



15 Holyrood Park

Holyrood Park is a parcel of wilderness in the city. Dramatic crags, lochs, glens and ridges orbit the 650-acre park's centrepiece and main peak, Arthur's Seat, an extinct volcano. Enjoy 360° views of Edinburgh from the top, including the park's three lochs and the Firth of Forth further afield.

- Queen's Drive, Edinburgh, EH8 8HG



16 Inchcolm Abbey and Island

Get a ferry to this captivating island – home to the best-preserved complex of monastic buildings in Scotland, complete with a rare medieval fresco. The island and its abbey have known both calm and conflict. Once home to a peaceful monastery, violence forced the canons to flee the island.

- Board ferry in South Queensferry
- Inchcolm Island, Burntisland, KY3 0UA
- 07918 337 097



17 Kinneil House

Kinneil House was once the seat of the Hamilton family. However, as their fortunes grew, they used the house less. By 1936, the Hamiltons had all but abandoned Kinneil. The house was slated for demolition when 16th or 17th century wall paintings were discovered. You can see the paintings that have survived the centuries.

- Off Provost Rd, western outskirts of Bo'ness, EH51 0PR
- 07780 218 632



18 Lauderdale Aisle, St Mary's Church

Once part of St Mary's Church, this aisle was appropriated as a burial site by the influential Maitland family. Here, John, 2nd Lord Maitland, was interred side-by-side with his wife, Lady Jean. John's son erected an elaborate monument in his parents' memory, richly embellished marble effigies of John Maitland and Lady Jean.

- Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 4BZ



Events, quizzes and space to play, make Linlithgow Palace great for kids.

19 Linlithgow Palace

Meander around Linlithgow Palace, the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Once one of the Stewarts' main residence, Linlithgow Palace is home to the oldest fountain in the UK, situated in the fabulous courtyard.

Passing through its gates still inspires awe. Several monarchs were born in this royal 'pleasure palace', surrounded by its peaceful gardens and grounds. High towers look out over lush greenery and a loch brimming with wildfowl, which is today a Site of Special Scientific Interest cared for by our rangers.

- Kirkgate, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7AL
- 01506 842 896



20 Ormiston Market Cross

Imagine the buzz and bustle of a medieval 'mercat' place. Ormiston was one of those places, indicated by its cross. Standing on an octagonal base, the cross's square shaft was carved from a single piece of stone. Older than the village itself, it's one of the few pre-Reformation crosses remaining.

- Ormiston, East Lothian, EH35 5HA



21 Preston Market Cross

This beautiful 1600s market cross is the only surviving monument of its kind on its original site. The cross is composed of two levels. A masonry drum makes up the base, inside of which was the town gaol. There is a platform above, from which people issued proclamations.

- Prestonpans, East Lothian, EH32 9EJ



22 St Martin's Kirk, Haddington

Precious few Scottish parish churches from the 1100s survive. Which makes St Martin's Kirk an important monument. The principal architect of the Scottish Reformation, John Knox, lived nearby as a child and may well have attended services at St Martin's. Ironically, the church's chancel was destroyed during the Reformation.

- St Martins Gate, Haddington, EH41 4AY



23 St Triduana's Chapel, Restalrig Collegiate Church

Named after an early Christian saint who was supposedly blinded and martyred, St Triduana's Chapel was home to a holy spring that medieval pilgrims visited in hope of curing eye ailments. This chapel was one of the most remarkable buildings in 1400s Scotland but fell victim to the 1560 Protestant Reformation.

- Restalrig Road South, Edinburgh, EH7 6DY



24 Seton Collegiate Church

Seton is one of the finest examples of a medieval collegiate church in Scotland. Collegiate churches housed a college, or community, of priests. The local landholders, the 1st Lord Seton and his successors, employed the resident clergy to pray for their family's salvation. The Protestant Reformation ended their tenure.

- Longniddry, East Lothian, EH32 OPG
- 07780 218689





25 Tantallon Castle

Cross a long drawbridge over a dry ditch and marvel at one of Scotland's grandest medieval castles.

Set high on a cliff edge, Tantallon Castle's imposing façade still stands at its full 15 metres. The formidable Frontal Wall of red sandstone, drawn across the promontory like an enormous stage curtain, is studded with three towers rising from its battlements. The towers were the residential parts of the castle.

Tantallon was home to the Red Douglas family, who often clashed with the Crown, with both James IV and V attacking Tantallon, once in 1491 and then again in 1528. After living there for 300 years, the Red Douglas family finally abandoned their home. In 1651 Cromwell's army besieged the castle and caused major damage with heavy artillery.

- North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 5PN
- 01620 892 727





26 Torphichen Preceptory

Torphichen Preceptory was the Scottish headquarters of Knights Hospitaller – an order that sheltered the poor and the sick.

The preceptory answered to a priory in London, and so it took a pro-English stance during the Wars of Independence. William Wallace occupied Torphichen in 1298, and the order withdrew from Scotland temporarily.

- Torphichen, Bathgate, EH48 4LZ
- 01506 653 733



27 Trinity House Maritime Museum

Dive into a treasure chest of Leith's maritime heritage. An elegant Georgian building, Trinity House now holds an unparalleled collection of model ships, nautical equipment and wonders gathered over the centuries by seafaring Leithers. It includes portraits by Sir Henry Raeburn, a French tricolour captured at the Battle of Trafalgar and a 200-year-old whaling harpoon.

- 99 Kirkgate, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6BJ



The Scottish Borders is a haven for outdoor explorers and history buffs alike. This largely rural area, abundant with undulating hills and glistening rivers, is peppered with quaint market towns. Famed for its four medieval abbeys, the Borders also has a rich history of textiles and literature, as well as conflict with English armies and cattle raiders.

Smailholm Tower (see page 39)



Survey the Scottish Borders



© Robert D Clapperton Photographic Trust

Farmer stands with his
Cattle, near Selkirk, 1900



The Scottish Borders



1	Cross Kirk, Peebles	5	Edrom Church	9	Jedburgh Abbey
2	Dere Street Roman Road, Soutra	6	Foulton Tithe Barn	10	Kelso Abbey
3	Dryburgh Abbey	7	Greenknowe Tower	11	Melrose Abbey
4	Edin's Hall Broch	8	Hermitage Castle	12	Smailholm Tower

Little-known stories

Undead in Melrose

The long history of Melrose Abbey is wrapped up with deeds of the undead. Such as the Hundeprest, or dog-priest. His life wasn't particularly holy, opting to hunt rather than worship. Meaning his eventual death didn't bother many, until he rose from his Melrose Abbey tomb. After terrorising the monks for some time, one brave man of God lodged an axe in the dog-priest's chest and sent him back to his tomb for good.

A rare spectacle

Evidence of medieval spectacles is very rarely found. However, a fragment of some were discovered in the Great Drain at Melrose Abbey – one of the earliest of its kind. Monks were among society's literate and therefore may have had greater need for help with their eyesight. This fragment is made of bone and the two lenses would have been rivetted together. A notched decoration can be seen along the edge of the lenses.

Fresh air and folklore

Due to ill-health, Walter Scott spent part of his childhood in the fresh air of Sandyknowe House, near Smailholm Tower. There his aunt, Janet Scott, taught him to read and introduced him to Border folklore. Many of these stories made their way into the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Borders. While there, he also met Madge Gordon and her grandmother, Jean Gordon – the two women who inspired his character, Meg Merrilies, in his novel *Guy Mannering*.

Snapshots through time



Gardeners at 'The Glen' Country House, circa early 1900s



View of Jedburgh Abbey, 1887



A Silver Wedding anniversary, 1896



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1 Cross Kirk, Peebles

In 1241, local people found a cross and a stone urn thought to contain the remains of St Nicholas, a Turkish bishop who inspired the story of Santa Claus. The discovery was accompanied by several miracles, which prompted King Alexander III to establish a priory in this peaceful wooded enclosure.

- Cross Road, Peebles, EH45 8DH



2 Dere Street, Roman Road, Soutra

March along an ancient road made by Roman soldiers. Built between 79–81 AD, Dere Street was the main Roman thoroughfare in the south of Scotland, stretching from Corebridge, neighbouring Hadrian's Wall, all the way to Cramond on the Firth of Forth. Today, the road is in an impressively complete state.

- Near Soutra Aisle, EH37 5TF



3 Dryburgh Abbey

Nestled in a secluded woodland by the River Tweed rests the graceful ruins of Dryburgh Abbey. Even now, it's easy for visitors to get a sense of the original scale of the buildings as well as the contemplative life of a medieval monk.

Dryburgh exudes peace and tranquillity. Both the spiritual and domestic homes of the brethren remain largely intact and the church is a fine relic of Gothic architecture – particularly the warm-pink sandstone transepts flanking the presbytery.

The cloister still feels like a privileged enclosure. And the 13th-century chapter house is certainly a highlight. Both its painted wall plaster and wonderful acoustics survive.

- Dryburgh, St Boswells, Roxburghshire, TD6 0RQ
- 01835 822 381



4 Edin's Hall Broch

Brochs, fortified roundhouses unique to Scotland, are typically found in the Highlands. However, Edin's Hall is a rare example of one in the Scottish Lowlands. Surrounded by the remains of a hillfort from an earlier era, you can reach the extraordinarily complex site by hiking along the Whiteadder Water.

- Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire, DG7 2EH
- 01557 814 427



5 Edrom Church

Pass under Edrom's 12th century arch, the only remaining part of the original church. Probably the church's entrance, the Romanesque relic features intricate carvings of intertwining serpents and grotesque heads with foliage coming out of their mouths. After the medieval building was dismantled, the arch became a burial vault's doorway.

- Edrom, Duns, TD11 3PX



6 Foulden Tithe Barn

Do you know what a tithe barn is? A tithe was a tax taken by the Church, usually in the form of agricultural produce, either beasts or crops. These taxes were sometimes stored in a tithe barn. Foulden Tithe Barn is a rare example of one still standing, showing fine post-medieval architectural details.

- 4m south-east of Chirnside on the A6105

7 Greenknowe Tower

What remains of Greenknowe Tower most likely stands where the mighty Gordon clan first built a castle in Scotland. Made from red sandstone, the tower is situated among ageing deciduous trees and grassy marshland. The original iron gate and the carved lintel above the doorway are the best surviving features.

- Gordon, TD3 6JL





8 Hermitage Castle

Hermitage, in deepest Liddesdale, is a lonely spot. One made more ghostly and foreboding by the towering ruin of Hermitage Castle sitting on an impressive platform of land. Hermitage Castle has inspired many local legends, but its history of torture and treason is more than colourful enough.

Described as ‘the guardhouse of the bloodiest valley in Britain’, Hermitage Castle stands in a location that was key to controlling the Scottish Middle March. Even the building of the castle in the 13th century nearly triggered a war between Scotland and England.

- Newcastleton, Roxburghshire, TD9 0LU
- 01387 376 222



9 Jedburgh Abbey

Explore one of the four major abbeys in the Scottish Borders. Jedburgh had been an important religious site since the Augustinians arrived in 1138. No buildings survive from this earlier period, but many artefacts and archaeological finds give an insight into life before the abbey.

First founded as a priory by King David I, it was later raised to the status of abbey. David wanted the abbey to show his power and authority over the borders – a ‘debatable land’. Almost 900 years later, the abbey still impresses, despite war and weather. While the cloister is reduced to stone foundations, the great abbey church of St Mary the Virgin stands almost complete.

It took more than 70 years to complete the building. During this time architectural fashions changed from Romanesque to Gothic, making Jedburgh an unusual hybrid of styles.

- 4/5 Abbey Bridgend, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, TD8 6JQ
- 01835 863 925



© Lee Howard

10 Kelso Abbey

Kelso Abbey, founded in the 1100s by David I, was one of Scotland's largest and wealthiest religious houses. Next to nothing remains of the once-sprawling monastery precinct. But what survives of the church hints at one of the most spectacular architectural achievements in medieval Scotland.

- Kelso, Scottish Borders, TD5 7JD



11 Melrose Abbey

Melrose Abbey, now a magnificent ruin on a grand scale, was a highly desirable place to be buried. Somewhere so beloved by Robert I (the Bruce), he chose it as the final resting place for his heart. It is home to the famous bagpipe-playing pig. Can you spot it?

- Abbey Street, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9LG
- 01896 822 562



12 Smailholm Tower

Walter Scott was born in Edinburgh, but his parents sent him to a farmhouse near Smailholm as a sickly infant for the good of his health. Here, Scott learned the power of border ballads as a young infant living on the estate.

- Sandyknowe Farm, Kelso, TD5 7PG
- 01573 460 365





Jousting at Caerlaverock Castle (see page 44)



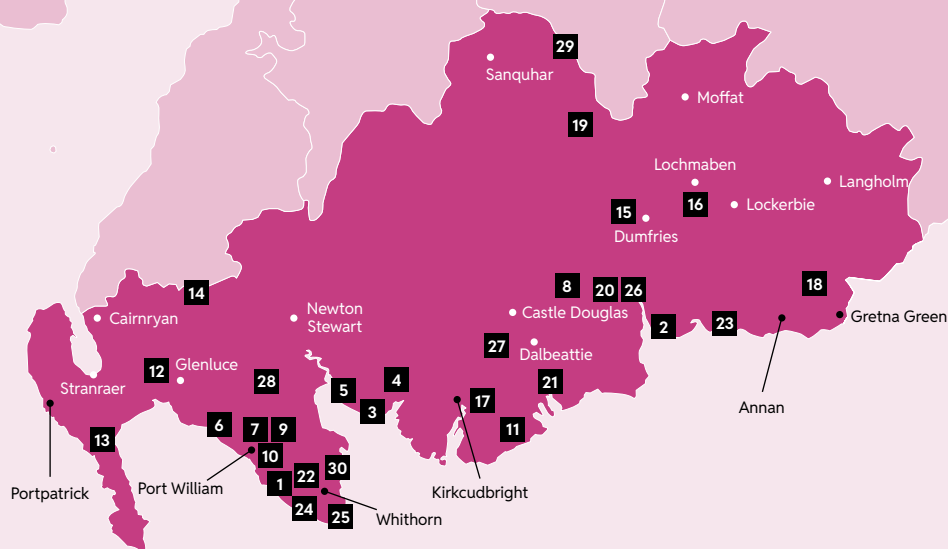
© Newsquest (Herald & Times)

Judging
Galloway
cattle, 1954

Discover Dumfries & Galloway

Neighbouring with England means Dumfries & Galloway saw plenty of violence. Unsurprisingly, then, this sweeping land is littered with dominating castles and forts. There is also a rich religious history in the area, stretching back into the distant past. Follow in the footsteps of early Christian pilgrims and visit abbeys and chapels, or puzzle over ancient standing stones.

Dumfries & Galloway



1	Barsalloch Fort	11	Dundrennan Abbey	21	Orchardton Tower
2	Caerlaverock Castle	12	Glenluce Abbey	22	Rispaing Camp
3	Cairn Holy Chambered Cairns	13	Kirkcudbright Early Christian Stones	23	Ruthwell Cross
4	Cardoness Castle	14	Lagganairn Standing Stones	24	St Ninian's Cave
5	Carsluith Castle	15	Lincluden Collegiate Church	25	St Ninian's Chapel
6	Chapel Finian	16	Lochmaben Castle	26	Sweetheart Abbey
7	Druchtag Motte	17	MacLellan's Castle	27	Threave Castle
8	Drumcoltran Tower	18	Merkland Cross	28	Torhouse Stone Circle
9	Drumtroddan Cup and Ring Marked Rocks	19	Morton Castle	29	Wanlockhead Beam Engine
10	Drumtroddan Standing Stones	20	New Abbey Corn Mill	30	Whithorn Priory and Museum

Little-known stories

A triumph in stone

A 13th restoration at Dundrennan Abbey has revealed a grizzly scene – the attempted assassination of an abbot. He stands with a dagger in his chest. At his feet lies a smaller figure, entrails spilling from a gash in his stomach. The carving is an eternal representation of the abbot's triumph over his assailant.

A king is born

Born 750 years ago, Robert I (the Bruce) had many connections with Dumfries and Galloway. Local tradition holds that Bruce was born at Lochmaben, where his family had their castle. After his father died, Bruce became a competitor to the throne against his cousin, John Comyn. The cousins met at The High Alter of the Church of Greyfriars, Dumfries. Here, Bruce stabbed and killed Comyn. Six weeks later, Bruce was crowned King.

Eye off the ball

Archibald, 4th Earl of Douglas was a ferocious warlord and wealthy landowner. But despite his fighting prowess, he did suffer personal losses on two occasions. At Humbleton Hill, he lost an eye before being captured by the English. Later, during the battle of Shrewsbury, he lost a testicle and was again captured. Remarkably, he still managed to have a successful military and political career.

Snapshots through time



Excavating Whithorn Priory, 1957



The Star Hotel, Moffat, 1890



Fishermen, Isle of Whithorn,
pre World War 1



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1 Barsalloch Fort

Look out from a 2,000-year-old cliff-side fort and track its deep defensive ditch. Barsalloch Fort was probably a farmstead inhabited by a tribe known to the Romans as the Novantae, who are mentioned in Ptolemy's Geography. Its defences indicate that it may have been home to a minor chief.

- Above Barsalloch Point, Dumfries and Galloway



2 Caerlaverock Castle

Caerlaverock's triangular shape is unique among British castles. Walking around the castle gives a sense of its strength, economy of form and pleasing geometry. With a wide moat, twin-towered gatehouse and lofty battlements, Caerlaverock is the epitome of a medieval stronghold.

In the surrounding woodlands, you can visit the ruins of the 'old' castle. This square castle was one of the earliest stone castles built in Scotland. It's possible it was incomplete before it was abandoned in favour of a site 200m to the north.

- Castle Road End, Dumfries, DG1 4RU
- 01387 770 244



3 Cairn Holy Chambered Cairns

Stroll around two Neolithic burial monuments that later became the lonely resting place of the mythical Scottish king Galdus. The cairns sit high on a hill above Wigtown Bay in impressive condition. However, their covering stones were stolen to build field dykes, meaning they are open to the sky above.

- 6.5m south-east of Creetown on the A75



Events, quizzes and space to play, make Caerlaverock Castle great for kids.



4 Cardoness Castle

This a fine example of a Scottish tower house castle that was built as the fortified residence of the McCullochs. The castle was an attempt to assert their high status, but it didn't improve their reputation for being lawless. Unsurprisingly, the building was clearly built with defence in mind.

- Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire, DG7 2EH
- 01557 814 427



5 Carsluith Castle

The L-shaped Carsluith Castle is typical of the tower houses built throughout Scotland during the 1500s. The land of Carsluith passed hands several times early in its existence. The carved panel above the doorway, now nearly illegible, was recorded in the 1800s as portraying the Broun arms and the date 1568.

- Dumfries and Galloway, DG8 7DY

6 Chapel Finian

Tiptoe in the footsteps of early Christian pilgrims at this ruined chapel, named after St Columba's tutor. Chapel Finian was probably a resting spot for pilgrims on their way to Whithorn Priory. It was built in the Irish style, and is very simple, comprising a single rectangular room.

- Near Port William, Newton Stewart, DG8 9RT



7 Druchtag Motte

Climb the bank of this motte, once home to a feudal lord. Mottes were fortifications, usually consisting of a wooden keep on top of an artificial earthwork mound, sometimes with an enclosed courtyard or bailey. All that survives at Druchtag is the steep mound and deep ditch around its base.

- Mochrum Village, Newton Stewart, DG8 9LZ



8 Drumcoltran Tower

Drumcoltran Tower is a typical L-plan tower house, though, unusually, its corners are rounded, not angled. Its austere appearance is reflected by a suitably Jacobean proverb inscribed in a stone panel. Translated, it reads: "Keep hidden what is secret, speak little, be truthful, avoid wine, remember death, be merciful".

- Near Kirkcubright, DG2 8LF





9 Drumtroddan Cup and Ring Marked Rocks

Puzzle over some mysterious symbols carved into bedrock by our prehistoric ancestors. There's a lot we don't know about the marked stones at Drumtroddan. They could have been carved at any point between 3500 BC and 1000 BC, but by whom and for what purpose will likely always remain unknown.

- Near Port William, Dumfries and Galloway



10 Drumtroddan Standing Stones

These three standing stones date to the second or third millennium BC. Two have fallen, but the other one stands about 3m high. It's likely this was a ceremonial site, where our ancestors performed Sun or Moon observations. The stones provide a stark and evocative reminder of a mysterious past.

- Near Port William, Dumfries and Galloway



11 Dundrennan Abbey

Now a ruin, the 12th-century abbey was home to a community of Cistercian monks for 400 years. See original paintwork and hear your voice echo in the medieval chapter house. Visit our stone store to see highlights from the abbey's carved stone collection.

The peaceful woodland location fitted very much with the Cistercian ideal, described by Abbot Ailred of Rievaulx as: "Everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world." On a less serene note, Mary Queen of Scots spent her last hours in Scotland here after the disastrous Battle of Langside.

- Dundrennan, Kirkcudbrightshire, DG6 4QH
- 01557 500 262



12 Glenluce Abbey

Clad in white, the Cistercian monks who settled here most likely came from Dundrennan Abbey in the early 1190s. With them, they brought an austere way of life and sombre architecture. While the abbey is derelict, you can visit the on-site museum to discover more about monastic life here.

- Glenluce, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 0AF
- 01581 300 541



13 Kirkmadrine Early Christian Stones

Inspect the evidence of early Christianity in Britain dating back 1,500 years. The eight Kirkmadrine Stones include three of the oldest Christian memorials in Scotland, dating back to the AD 500s. They help us understand the story of northern Britain as it emerged from the shadow of Imperial Rome.

- In the Rhinns of Galloway, 2m south-west of Sandhead on the A716



14 Laggangairn Standing Stones

A pair of lonely stones have stood tall over a desolate moor for 4,000 years. Tradition has it that they were originally part of a circle of 14 stones. Nobody knows who raised them or why, but the name means ‘hollow of the cairns’, suggesting they were connected to burials.

- New Luce on the Southern Upland Way about 5m from Balmurrie Farm by foot



15 Lincluden Collegiate Church

Lincluden Collegiate Church was built in 1389, replacing a nunnery which had allegedly fallen into moral and physical decay. It was probably constructed by John Morrow, one of the finest master masons in Scotland. The church is in ruins, but the choir represents some of the best Scottish Gothic architecture.

- Abbey Ln, Lincluden, Dumfries, DG2 0DG





16 Lochmaben Castle

Lochmaben Castle may have originated as a curtain-walled castle built by Robert Bruce 'the Competitor', grandfather of the future Robert I (the Bruce), in the 1200s. It certainly spent much of the 14th century in English possession, as their principal garrison fortress in the Scottish West March, until its capture in 1384.

- Lockerbie, DG11 1JE



17 MacLellan's Castle

Unlike the heavily defensive model of old, MacLellan's Castle is an example of a castellated mansion, which favoured comfort over cannons.

A rare survival of a laird's lug, literally meaning 'lord's ear', can be found behind the fireplace. From this hidden closet, the laird could spy on his guests in the great hall.

- Kirkcudbright, DG6 4JD
- 01557 331 856



18 Merkland Cross

Visit one of the best preserved medieval wayside crosses in Scotland. A range of local traditions guess at its origins – one suggests it marks the site where a Maxwell was violently killed. Standing 3m high, its tapered shaft and flower-shaped head were carved from a single block of stone.

- A74(M), Lockerbie, DG11



19 Morton Castle

Morton Castle is situated on a remote, triangular spur of land, surrounded by steep banks that drop to an artificial loch. While it shares features with other castle sites, none seem directly comparable and ultimately Morton has a unique character. For this reason, scholars have long debated how to categorise it.

- Thornhill, DG3 5EH





© Neil Hanna

20 New Abbey Corn Mill

Known locally as ‘the Monks’ Mill’, this whitewashed stone building dates from the 1700s, but there may have been a mill on this site since the 1200s. Powered by water, New Abbey was used until 1948, mainly to mill oats, both for human consumption and for animal feed. Now it offers visitors a wonderful insight into Scottish rural life in years gone by.

Agricultural advances in the 1700s saw farmers vastly improve their crop yields, leading to the need for more mills. Originally two storeys high with two millstones, the mill grew in the 1800s when an extra floor and millstone were added.

In today’s world of fast food and convenience, it’s hard to grasp, but grinding grain between stones was an essential aspect to our ancestors’ lives. The machinery still operates on occasion to demonstrate the patient process.

- New Abbey, Dumfries, DG2 8BX
- 01387 850 260



21 Orchardton Tower

Orchardton Tower is an unusual round tower, the only one of its kind in Scotland. Circular towers, or donjons, were integral to many strongholds of the 1200s, but they were replaced by square and rectangular tower houses. Here, John Cairns built himself a round tower 200 years after they’d gone out of fashion.

- Near Palnackie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG7 1QH



22 Rispain Camp

Contrary to early archaeological belief, Rispain Camp is not medieval nor a Roman fort. Rather, it is much older – a fortified farmstead of the Late Iron Age. Its well-preserved earthworks consist of a double rampart and ditch – among the most impressive surviving defences from Iron Age Scotland.

- Near Whithorn





23 Ruthwell Cross

The Ruthwell Cross has been described as the most important sculptural survival of Anglo-Saxon Britain. It was carved in the 700s when this part of Scotland lay within Northumbria. The 5.2m cross was probably used for preaching – a focus to help priests bring the Christian gospel to their flock.

- Ruthwell Parish Church, Ruthwell, Dumfries and Galloway, DG1 4NP
- Access key to be collected from box outside church



24 St Ninian's Cave

Experience the solitude of a sea-side cave thought to be the hideout of the early Christian saint, Ninian. Ten crosses are cut into the cave wall itself, and 18 early Christian carved stones were found in the cave. They can now be seen at Whithorn Priory and Museum.

- Physgill, near Whithorn



25 St Ninian's Chapel

This 13th century ruined chapel stands in a wild and windswept setting, to which many souls trudged up from the shore and thanked God for their safe passage. It was one of several stopping places for worshippers. Today, pilgrims are invited to add stones to a Witness Cairn.

- Isle of Whithorn



26 Sweetheart Abbey

Curious about the tale of devotion behind the abbey's evocative name? Monks named it Dulce Cor in memory of Lady Dervorguilla, who founded the abbey in tribute to her beloved husband, John Balliol. He died in 1268 and his grieving widow had his embalmed heart placed in an ivory casket.

- New Abbey, Dumfries, DG2 8BU
- 01387 850 397





29 Wanlockhead Beam Engine

Witness a true industrial relic: the only reasonably complete water-powered beam pumping machine in Britain. Because of the mineral ores beneath them, Wanlockhead and Leadhills are known as ‘God’s Treasure House in Scotland’. Wanlockhead Beam Engine was built to pump water from the Straitsteps lead mine beneath it.

- Church St, Wanlockhead, ML12 6XB



27 Threave Castle

Watch a forbidding island fortress come into view as you cross the River Dee by boat. Built by Archibald ‘the Grim’, Threave Castle was a stronghold for the Black Douglases, complete with a massive 30m tower house. It is now an ideal spot for exploring, picnicking and, perhaps, even painting.

- Castle Douglas, Dumfries, DG7 1TJ
- 07711 223 101



28 Torhouse Stone Circle

Recorded in 1684 as ‘King Gauldus’s Tomb’, Torhouse is the best surviving monument in what was clearly an important landscape during prehistory.

The stone circle is in an excellent state of preservation. Its 19 stones are graded in height, with a line of three boulders in the centre.

- 4m west of Wigtown on the B733, Newton Stewart

30 Whithorn Priory and Museum

Visit a priory with a museum that holds one of the oldest Christian monuments in Scotland. Known as Scotland’s ‘cradle of Christianity’, Whithorn Priory was a centre of Christian worship for more than 1,000 years. One of the country’s earliest Christian communities lived and worshipped here, expressing their faith in stone.

- 6 Bruce Street, Whithorn, Newton Stewart, DG8 8PY
- 01988 500 700





Two children on a beach, possibly outside Ayr (date unknown)

Investigate Glasgow, Clyde & Ayrshire

Scotland's biggest city is surrounded by lush countryside rolling all the way to the ocean. Take a quick boat trip and you'll reach Arran or Bute, two of the country's most romantic islands, rich with history and natural splendour. Cairns to castles to abbeys, this area offers many great days out.



© Lee Howard

Lochranza Castle on the shores of Arran (see page 57)

Glasgow, Clyde & Ayrshire



1	Antonine Wall: Bar Hill Fort	13	Arran: Torrylin Cairn	25	Glasgow Cathedral
2	Antonine Wall: Bearsden Bath House	14	Barochan Cross	26	Kilwinning Abbey
3	Antonine Wall: Croy Hill	15	Biggar Gasworks Museum	27	Loch Doon Castle
4	Antonine Wall: Dullatur	16	Bothwell Castle	28	Maybole Collegiate Church
5	Antonine Wall: Westerwood to Castlecary	17	Cadzow Castle	29	Newark Castle
6	Arran: Auchagallon Stone Circle	18	Castle Semple Collegiate Church	30	Rothsay Castle
7	Arran: Carn Ban	19	Coulter Motte Hill	31	Skelmorlie Aisle
8	Arran: Kilpatrick Dun	20	Craignethan Castle	32	St Blane's Church
9	Arran: Lochranza Castle	21	Crookston Castle	33	St Bride's Church, Douglas
10	Arran: Machrie Moor Standing Stones	22	Crossraguel Abbey	34	St Mary's Chapel, Rothsay
11	Arran: Moss Farm Road Stone Circle	23	Dumbarton Castle		
12	Arran: Torr a'Chaisteal Dun	24	Dundonald Castle		

Little-known stories

Buster rescues Bothwell

Bothwell Castle was the ancestral home of Sir Andrew Moray of Bothwell, uncle of David II. His father, Andrew Moray, was mortally wounded at the Battle of Stirling Bridge and died before his son was born. The castle was besieged many times, once captured by Edward I. Famously, Moray later retook Bothwell with a siege engine called Buster. Not without causing damage to his own home, though. However, thanks to his victory, that wasn't held against him.

An uninvited visitor

One unassuming Spring, Craignethan Castle's cellar tunnel had to close after a 'very angry badger' took residence. Thinking it was lost, staff tried to lure the animal out with honey and cat food. Intrigued readers on social media advised that badgers prefer peanuts, and even bananas. Eventually, the badger decided to vacate of its own accord. However, the mess it left behind took some fixing and the tunnel was closed for another week.

On second thought...

Following defeat at the Battle of Bannockburn, many English generals fled to Bothwell Castle, which Walter Fitz Gilbert was holding for Edward II, the English king. When the party of generals arrived, Fitz Gilbert welcomed them in before taking them prisoner and switching his allegiance to the Scottish. Meanwhile, Edward II was ushered from the battlefield by Amer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. Edward retreated to England 'tae think again', in the words of the 'Flower of Scotland'.

Snapshots through time



Ferryboat to Arran taken before 1930



Ayr beach during a heatwave in August 1959



Child playing outside in Hutchesontown, Glasgow circa 1965



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1 Antonine Wall: Bar Hill Fort

Observe the spectacular views from the highest fort on the Antonine Wall, the Roman Empire's north-western frontier. With a sweeping perspective of the Kelvin Valley, Bar Hill Fort, one of 16 known stations along the wall, is the best place to understand the strategic importance of the wall.

- Near Twechar, Dunbartonshire



2 Antonine Wall: Bearsden Bath House

Bath houses, or *thermae*, were community centres in Roman society – socialising, business deals and political debate were all conducted there. Bearsden Bath House is one of the best surviving examples of stone structures on the Antonine Wall. A gaming board and the carved head of a goddess were found here.

- Roman Rd, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 2SR



3 Antonine Wall: Croy Hill

See where Romans cut a ditch through solid rock to build a fort on the Antonine Wall. Standing in a commanding position with excellent views, Croy Hill would have been an ideal lookout spot. At about 120m above sea level, it's one of the highest points of the wall.

- NCR754, Glasgow, G65



4 Antonine Wall: Dullatur

Dullatur is a tale of two camps. The first and larger camp covered about nine acres and was probably used to accommodate workers building the Antonine Wall. The second, smaller camp seems to have been built within the first camp to reuse its remaining defences after it fell into disuse.

- Near Dullatur, Lanarkshire



5 Antonine Wall: Westerwood to Castlecary

Roam a section of the Roman Empire's north-west frontier. The ditch between the forts at Westerwood and Castlecary is one of the longest continuous stretches of the Antonine Wall visible today. Here there were two temporary camps, a circular enclosure, and possibly a watchtower of an uncertain age.

- West of Castlecary, Lanarkshire



6 Arran: Auchagallon Stone Circle

Admire an ancient burial site on a hillside overlooking a bay on one of Scotland's most beautiful islands. It is one of the numerous ancient sites in this part of the isle of Arran. Auchagallon Stone Circle was built about 4,000 years ago and was probably a kerbed burial cairn.

- Auchagallon Jetty, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DZ



7 Arran: Carn Ban

Hike four miles to the peaceful surroundings of this remote 5,000-year-old burial cairn. Carn Ban is a remarkably complete Neolithic 'Clyde' style chambered cairn – a long cairn type unique to south-west Scotland. Out of the many burial cairns on Arran, Carn Ban remains largely undisturbed, having been excavated just once.

- 3.5m north-east of Lagg on the west of Arran



8 Arran: Kilpatrick Dun

Explore one of Scotland's most enigmatic sites. Until the 1970s, Kilpatrick was thought to be the remains of a cashel wall, part of an early Irish Christian monastery. Excavations have revealed it's actually a complex site which experienced several stages of occupation. The cist below suggests it was once a burial cairn.

- A841, Isle of Arran, KA27 8EY



9 Arran: Lochranza Castle

Lochranza Castle is situated on a peninsula extending into beautiful Loch Ranza in the north of Arran. At first glance, you might think it's a classic Scottish L-plan tower house of the 1500s. But looking closer, we can see that it's been redeveloped from a much earlier medieval hall-house.

- Lochranza, northern coast of Arran, KA27 8HL



10 Arran: Machrie Moor Standing Stones

Scout out a Neolithic centre of ritual and domestic activity scattered across a lonely moorland. This rich archaeological landscape includes stone circles, standing stones, burial cairns and cists, as well as hut circles and an extensive field system, all dating to between 3500 BC and 1500 BC.

- Near Blackwaterfoot, west side of Arran



11 Arran: Moss Farm Road Stone Circle

Visit a complex ring cairn with a high kerb, part of the rich archaeological landscape of Machrie Moor. Although it has a substantial kerb of upright stones, Moss Farm Road Stone Circle is in fact a burial cairn. Today, only seven large stones stand upright, with five on their sides.

- Isle of Arran, KA27 8DX



12 Arran: Torr a'Chaisteal Dun

Torr a'Chaisteal stands on an isolated grassy knoll. All that's left are the stone footings of what would have been a large circular structure with thick stone walls. It was likely a dun – a kind of fortified residence. It's still an impressive mound today, not unlike a medieval motte castle.

- Near Corriecavie, south-west Arran



13 Arran: Torrylin Cairn

Examine a Neolithic cairn that acted as a place for rituals and burials for more than 1,000 years. It has been greatly disturbed over the years – robbed, ploughed and used to store stones. But its exposed burial chamber lies well-preserved, enabling us to see an authentic Neolithic resting place.

- Near Lagg, south of Arran



14 Barochan Cross

Inspect the stonework of a rare cross from an early medieval kingdom. The Barochan Cross is one of only three complete crosses surviving from the kingdom of Strathclyde. Of the three, it is the most ornately designed. It's nearly 2m high and is decorated with striking martial imagery.

- Paisley Abbey, Paisley, PA1 1JG



15 Biggar Gasworks Museum

For more than 130 years, this industrial plant made coal gas to use in Biggar and beyond. You can still see some of the steam-driven machines in action today. The gasworks passed into state care soon after its doors shut and is the only preserved gasworks left in the country.

- Gas Works Road, Biggar, ML12 6BZ
- 01899 221 070



16 Bothwell Castle

Explore a castle hotly fought over during the Wars of Independence. Bothwell Castle, built in the late 1200s, frequently passed back and forth between English and Scottish hands. Consequently, the castle was never completed to its original plan. Yet, it's still one of Scotland's most impressive medieval strongholds standing today.

- Castle Avenue, Uddingston, Lanarkshire, G71 8BL
- 01698 816 894





16

19 Coulter Motte Hill

Little is known of Coulter Motte, a medieval motte-castle, in a strategic position overlooking a river. No archaeological excavation has taken place, so it remains unknown when it was constructed, what stood on top, and its original size. It's possible Flemish immigrants, invited by King Malcolm IV, built it.

- Biggar, ML12 6JT



17 Cadzow Castle

Track down the hidden 'castle in the woods', a late-medieval stronghold among ancient trees above a deep gorge. Cadzow Castle, now ruined, shows the influence of artillery warfare in this period. There aren't many references to it, but its 'dumb-bell' and 'wide-mouthed' gun loops place construction between 1475 and 1550.

- Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton, ML3 7UE



20 Craignethan Castle

Hidden among the rolling hills of Clydesdale sits Craignethan Castle, the last great private stronghold built in Scotland. Admire the exceptional residential tower and unusual defences of this important early artillery fortification. It also has a stone-vaulted shooting gallery called a caponier, a rare example of its kind in Britain.

- Blackwood, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, ML11 9PL
- 01555 860 364



18 Castle Sempill Collegiate Church

This late Gothic church was founded in 1504 by John, Lord Sempill to serve his castle. None of which remains today. Sempill was killed fighting the English at the Battle of Flodden and his son extended the church to accommodate his father's tomb in the church's unusual three-sided east end.

- Castle Sempill Loch, Lochwinnoch, PA12 4HJ



20

21 Crookston Castle

Enjoy a sweeping view of Glasgow from the only surviving medieval castle in the city. Crookston Castle is unusual with a distinctive layout set within earthworks constructed in the 1100s. The castle's layout is almost unique in Scotland. It comprises a high central tower, with four square corner towers.

- Brockburn Road, Glasgow, G53 5RY



22 Crossraguel Abbey

While Crossraguel Abbey stands ruined today, its relative completeness still conveys its past spiritual glory. The site of the abbey may have been an ancient holy place, as its name probably refers to the Irish saint, Raighill. Sadly, this place of worship saw considerable violence while supporting Robert I (the Bruce) during the wars with England.

- Maybole, Ayrshire, KA19 8HQ
- 01655 883 113



23 Dumbarton Castle

Dumbarton Castle guards the point where the River Leven joins the River Clyde. Its recorded history goes back 1,500 years, predating the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde. Set high upon a volcanic rock in the Firth of Clyde, the castle has been both a royal refuge and a border stronghold.

Waters swirl around the base of the volcanic rock, which rises almost vertically into the sky. From its twin peaks – White Tower Crag and the Beak – you can see for many miles. Geological research suggests the rock was formed some 340 million years ago.

- Castle Road, Dumbarton, Dunbartonshire, G82 1JJ



24 Dundonald Castle

On top of the prominent hill above Dundonald sits a stone castle built around 1371. Its first owner was Robert II, grandson of Robert I (the Bruce) and founder of the Stewart royal dynasty. He built the castle soon after he came to the throne and died here in 1390.

- Winehouse Yett, Dundonald, Kilmarnock, KA2 9HD
- 01563 851 489





25 Glasgow Cathedral

Stand in the capacious building where Scotland's largest city first began to take shape. The thriving burgh that sprang up around Glasgow Cathedral has since grown into the cosmopolitan centre we know today.

The awe-inspiring building dedicated to St Kentigern, also known as St Mungo, begun in the 1100s and drew countless pilgrims to his shrine. Kentigern is believed to have been the first bishop of the area that is modern Strathclyde. His influence spread widely, and it was later claimed he led a diocese stretching from Loch Lomond to Cumbria. It's thought that Kentigern was buried on the cathedral site around 612.

Today, it's the most complete medieval cathedral on the Scottish mainland, having survived the Protestant Reformation practically intact. However, it was 'cleansed' of its Catholic trappings and became three separate parish kirks.

- Cathedral Precinct, Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0QZ
- 0141 552 6891



26 Kilwinning Abbey

Roam the remains of the Tironensian monks' tranquil home, where they lived for around 400 years. While their tenure was peaceful, their displacement wasn't. The Protestant Reformation did not spare Kilwinning Abbey. John Knox wrote of the abbey being 'cast down' by a Protestant mob, goaded on by three earls.

- Off Vaults Ln, Kilwinning, Ayrshire



27 Loch Doon Castle

Trace the 11-sided stone curtain wall of a medieval castle that may originally have been built by Robert I (the Bruce) himself. Loch Doon Castle originally stood on an island in Loch Doon, fittingly. However, it was taken down, stone by stone, and built again on its present spot in 1935.

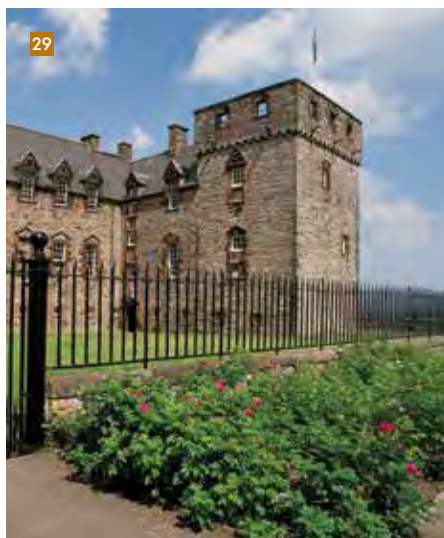
- Near Dalmellington, Ayrshire, KA6 7QE



28 Maybole Collegiate Church

The chapel was founded in 1371 by Sir John Kennedy of Dunure. In 1382 a college of priests was established here to pray for Sir John, his family and ancestors. In its day, the kirk was a grand building, and some fine architectural touches can still be seen.

- Abbot St, Maybole, Ayrshire, KA19 7AE



29 Newark Castle

For a long time, the giant cranes and sheds of the Clyde's great shipyards eclipsed this castle and its stunning Renaissance details. Only recently has it reclaimed its rightful place on the Port Glasgow skyline.

The beauty of this rediscovered treasure contrasts starkly with the notoriety of its most famous noble resident. Sir Patrick Maxwell murdered several neighbours – including two of the Montgomery of Skelmorlie family in one day. He even killed his own kin. His wife, Lady Margaret Crawford, while seemingly escaping murder, suffered endless cruelty. After 44 years of marriage and 16 children together, Lady Margaret fled.

- Castle Road, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, PA14 5NH
- 01475 741 858



30 Rothesay Castle

A circular sandstone wall encloses this mighty castle, famous for its long and close association with the Stewart kings of Scotland. Walter, the 3rd High Steward, probably built the first stone castle in the early 1200s as a defence against Norwegians. Nonetheless, the kings of Norway took Rothesay twice.

- Castlehill Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, PA20 0DA
- 01700 504 827



31 Skelmorlie Aisle

Study the beautiful painted ceiling and monumental tomb of a 1600s place of private worship. Skelmorlie Aisle, built in 1636 as a burial vault and place to worship, was an addition to Largs Parish Church. The church was demolished, but the splendid aisle was saved from destruction.

- Lade St, Largs, Ayrshire
- 07712 039 155



32 St Blane's Church

Picture the monastic life in a church founded on one of the earliest Christian sites in Scotland. St Blane's Church is rooted in a monastery founded here in the AD 500s. This was the home of St Blane – 'fair Blaen of Ceen Garad (Kingarth)' – who was potentially buried here.

- Isle of Bute



33 St Bride's Church, Douglas

Admire the mausoleum of the Black Douglases, friends to Robert I (the Bruce) and one of the most powerful noble families in 1300s Scotland. St Bride's Church was built as a parish church. Later, Archibald 'the Grim' modified the church into a resting place for his father.

- Douglas, South Lanarkshire

34 St Mary's Chapel, Rothesay

Marvel at the monumental tombs of a ruined chapel that served a mighty castle and medieval parish. All that remains of St Mary's Chapel at Rothesay today is its ruined chancel. Inside, you can find a pair of fine canopied tombs, one of which might house a knight of Stewart blood.

- Townhead, Rothesay, Bute





Monument
Conservation
Unit leaving Inch
Kenneth Island



The Central & West area of Scotland enjoys some of the country's most varied landscapes, including charming coasts, secluded islands and great glens. Among medieval towers, townhouses and churches, you'll find an unparalleled number of prehistoric remains, as well as evidence of Roman defences and early Christian activity.

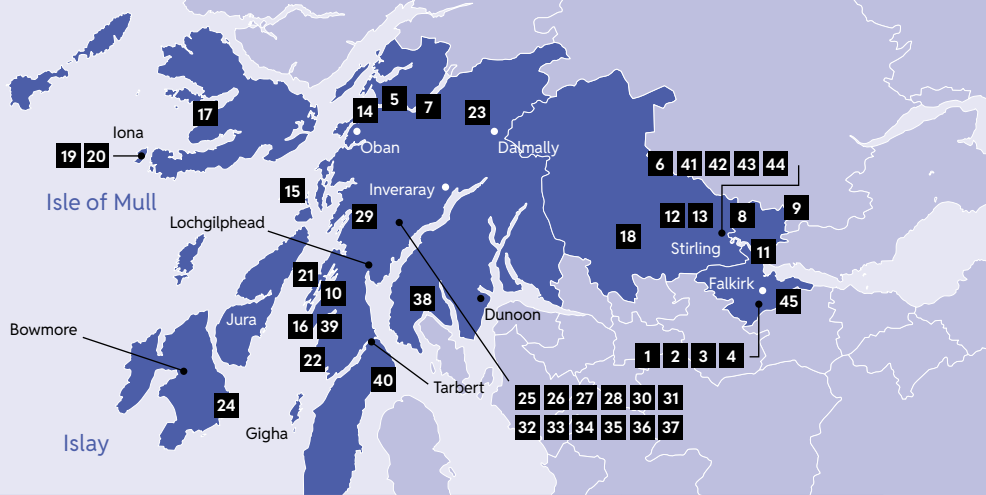
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Cruise through Central & West

The steamer King George V in the Western Isles, 1950



Central & West



1	Antonine Wall: Castlecary	16	Eilean Mor	31	Kilmartin Glen: Dunchraigaig Cairn
2	Antonine Wall: Rough Castle	17	Inchkenneth Chapel	32	Kilmartin Glen: Glebe Cairn
3	Antonine Wall: Seabegs Wood	18	Inchmahome Priory	33	Kilmartin Glen: Kilmartin Stones
4	Antonine Wall: Watling Lodge East and West	19	Iona Abbey and Nunnery	34	Kilmartin Glen: Kilmichael Glassary Rock Art
5	Ardchattan Priory	20	Iona: MacLean's Cross	35	Kilmartin Glen: Nether Large Cairns
6	Argyll's Lodging	21	Keills Chapel and Cross	36	Kilmartin Glen: Ri Cruin Cairn
7	Bonawe Historic Iron Furnace	22	Kilberry Sculptured Stones	37	Kilmartin Glen: Temple Wood Stone Circle
8	Cambuskenneth Abbey	23	Kilchurn Castle	38	Kilmodan Sculptured Stones
9	Castle Campbell and Gardens	24	Kildalton Cross	39	Kilmory Knap Chapel
10	Castle Sween	25	Kilmartin Glen: Achnabreac Rock Art	40	Skipness Castle and Chapel
11	Clackmannan Tower	26	Kilmartin Glen: Ballygowan Rock Art	41	Stirling Castle
12	Doune Castle	27	Kilmartin Glen: Baluachraig Rock Art	42	Stirling: King's Knot
13	Dunblane Cathedral	28	Kilmartin Glen: Cairnbaan Rock Art	43	Stirling: Mar's Wark
14	Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel	29	Kilmartin Glen: Carnasserie Castle	44	Stirling Old Bridge
15	Eileach an Naoimh	30	Kilmartin Glen: Dunadd Fort	45	Westquarter Dovecot

Little-known stories

Love is a battlefield

February 1449, Stirling Castle – chivalry and unadulterated violence are the order of the day. Two teams – one Scottish, one Burgundian – stand ready to engage in combat à outrance – to the death – or until the king intervened.

Why? The young King James II of Scotland was negotiating to marry Mary, great-niece of the Duke of Burgundy. The Burgundians challenged the Scottish to a tournament. They accepted, which almost cost them their lives. Luckily, the king called 'halt!'. James and Mary married soon after.

In each other's adoring arms

In Inchmahome Priory, visitors can see an unusually romantic monument. The double effigy of Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteith and his wife Mary was carved from the same block of stone and shows the loving couple facing each other adoringly.

Each of them extends an arm and embraces the other, unlike the usual knightly effigies, where the couple are side by side without touching. This monument stands as a symbol of true love and devotion that has survived for centuries.

Snapshots through time



Opening Ceremony, Denny Public Baths, 1909



Holidaymakers in Dunoon, 1954



Loganair Piper Aztec picking up passengers from Mull, 1967



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© Marcin Klimek



All Antonine Wall and its Monuments are part of a world heritage site.

1 Antonine Wall: Castlecary

Castlecary fort was one of 16 forts along the Antonine Wall, which was built across Scotland's central belt around AD 140. The wall formed the north-western frontier of the Roman Empire. Castlecary was protected by thick stone walls – one of only two forts along the wall that featured stone defences.

- Near Castlecary village, Lanarkshire



2 Antonine Wall: Rough Castle

Rough Castle is the second-smallest fort on the Antonine Wall, but it's in the best state of preservation. One of Rough Castle's most distinctive features is the group of lilia pits – a defensive measure fitted with a sharpened stake, pointed upright and hidden among brushwood serving to break up attacks.

- East of Bonnybridge, Falkirk



3 Antonine Wall: Seabegs Wood

Follow the footsteps of Roman troops along the Antonine Wall's military road. Seabegs Wood features a well-preserved stretch of rampart and ditch, accompanied by a section of the Military Way, situated on an attractive wooded plateau. It is also home to a small military fortlet where pottery has been found.

- 1m west of Bonnybridge, Falkirk





4 Antonine Wall: Watling Lodge East and West

See the best-preserved section of the ditch that forms part of the Antonine Wall. The ditch here has survived to almost its original dimensions, enabling visitors to picture how it would have looked in Roman times. There are two sections of ditch here, on either side of Watling Lodge.

- Tamfourhill Rd, Falkirk, FK1 4RH



5 Ardchattan Priory

Duncan MacDougall established Ardchattan Priory for Valliscaulian monks. He may have invited them to gain favour with the Scottish king Alexander II, who had recently founded a Valliscaulian monastery. The order followed a strict form of monastic rule, with an emphasis on ascetic religious life and depended on rents for incomes.

- Loch Etive, Argyll, PA37 1RQ

6 Argyll's Lodging

This house fit for a king was built in four phases. Most of the surviving detail of Argyll's Lodging are embellishments added by the 1st Earl of Stirling. Expecting a visit by Charles I, he embellished the house with fine suites of public and private rooms and a lavish exterior

- Castle Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1EG



7 Bonawe Historic Iron Furnace

Imagine the heat and noise that once dominated Bonawe, the most complete charcoal-fuelled ironworks in Britain. Founded in 1753, it only ceased firing in the 1870s. Today, you can see displays that show every stage of how pig iron was made – as well as the cannonballs used in the Napoleonic Wars.

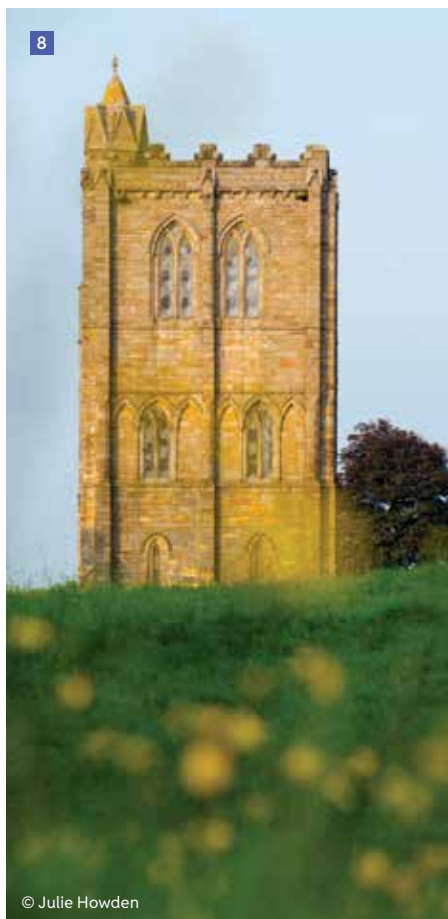
- Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1JQ
- 01866 822 432



8 Cambuskenneth Abbey

Visit the resting place of King James III and his wife Margaret in the shadow of Stirling Castle. Founded in about 1140 by King David I, Cambuskenneth Abbey's chief delight is the bell tower – an unparalleled structure in Scotland. The first floor of the bell tower is open to the public.

- 1m east of Stirling off the A907



© Julie Howden

9 Castle Campbell and Gardens

Look upon the Lowland stronghold and comfortable residence of a powerful Highland clan. Castle Campbell is a forbidding fortress positioned above Dollar Glen that belonged to the Campbells of Argyll. Steep ravines fall away on either side of the castle, through which thunder the Burn of Care and of Sorrow.

- Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7PP
- 01259 742 408



10 Castle Sween

Explore one of Scotland's oldest castles, the stronghold of Suibhne 'the Red' and the MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles. Castle Sween sits on a low ridge overlooking Loch Sween and Jura. A nearby islet acted as a boat landing, showing the importance of the sea-based travel at the time.

- Loch Sween, Knapdale, Argyll





Events, quizzes and space to play, make Doune Castle great for kids.



11 Clackmannan Tower

Clackmannan Tower is a historic five-storey tower house situated at the summit of King's Seat Hill. The imposing building was visited by Robert Burns and built by a descendant of Robert I (the Bruce). Its conspicuous hilltop position means it's visible from miles around.

- High Street, Clackmannan, FK10 4HR



12 Doune Castle

Marvel at the splendour of Doune Castle, built for the Regent Albany, 'Scotland's uncrowned king'. His rich tastes can be seen in the architecture of the medieval courtyard castle.

Albany was the younger brother of Robert III, who was politically weak and physically infirm after an injury. He became governor and the effective ruler of the kingdom – for all but two years – from 1386 until his death in 1420.

At Doune, you can walk in the footsteps of rulers both real and fictional. The castle is a popular filming location and has featured in Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones and Outlander.

- Castle Hill, Doune, FK16 6EA
- 01786 841 742



13 Dunblane Cathedral

Dunblane Cathedral stands on a site that has been sacred for well over 1,000 years. Its beautiful Gothic exterior, conserved by a 19th-century restoration, hides a past of neglect and renewal. Today, it is an active place of worship. Inside you'll find Pictish carved stones and rare 15th-century choir stalls.

- The Cross, Perthshire, FK15 0AQ
- 01786 823 388





© Lee Howard

14 Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel

Admire the mighty stronghold of the MacDougalls, built before 1240 on a huge rock above the Firth of Lorn. Captured by Robert I (the Bruce) in 1308, the castle remained in royal hands until 1469.

Dunstaffnage Castle is one of Scotland's oldest stone castles. This mass of masonry guards the seaward approach from the Firth of Lorn to the Pass of Brander – and therefore the heart of Scotland. It still stuns visitors today. The surrounding broadleaved woodland is home to pipistrelle bats, a rare species in the west of Scotland.

- Castle Grounds, Dunbeg, by Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PZ
- 01631 562 465



15 Eileach an Naoimh

Escape the frantic modern world to the solitude of the Island of the Saints, home to several early Christian ruins. The remote island of Eileach an Naoimh is the site of a monastery established by St Brendan of Clontarf in about AD 542, one of Scotland's best-preserved early Christian monasteries.

- The Garvellach group, north of Jura



16 Eilean Mor

Trace the trail of early Christians from a cave to a chapel and a cross on the 'big isle' at the end of Loch Sween. Eilean Mor has a history as a place of pilgrimage spanning almost 1,000 years and is traditionally associated with the Leinster St Cormac.

- On an islet off the coast of Knapdale



18

17 Inchkenneth Chapel

Inchkenneth Chapel was dedicated to Kenneth of Aghaboe, a contemporary of St Columba. Despite the presence of the chapel, there is no evidence for an early Christian monastery on the island. Legend says Scottish kings were buried here when stormy seas prevented safe passage to Iona.

- On Inch Kenneth, off the west side of Mull, PA68 6EL



19

18 Inchmahome Priory

Cross Scotland's only 'lake' to explore a peaceful, wooded island chosen as a monastic sanctuary. Robert I (the Bruce) sought solace at Inchmahome Priory and Mary Queen of Scots found safety here as a child. Later, Sir Walter Scott revived the island's popularity. His novels brought tourists flocking to it.

- Boatshed, Port of Menteith, by Kippen, Stirling, FK8 3RA
- 07388 709 398



19 Iona Abbey and Nunnery

Take the passenger ferry to Iona, one of Scotland's most sacred sites. This tiny island near Mull has been a centre of Christian worship since St Columba arrived in AD 563. Columba's monastery survived until the 12th century, despite repeated Viking raids. The Iona Cathedral Trust rebuilt the church in the early 1900s.

- Isle of Iona, Argyll, PA76 6SQ
- 01681 700 512



20 Iona: MacLean's Cross

MacLean's Cross stands on the point where Sràid nan Marbh, or 'the street of the dead', meets another track heading up from Port Ronain, where the modern pier can be found today. Pilgrims filing up from boats would have stopped here to say a prayer on their way to Iona Abbey.

- On Iona, about 250m south of the abbey

21 Keills Chapel and Cross

Keills Chapel was built in the 1100s and was dedicated to St Cormac. It contains almost 40 carved stones of varying ages. The Keills Cross is the most significant item in the chapel's collection. A free-standing high cross dating to the 700s, it's an excellent example of fine stone craftsmanship.

- Lochgilphead, PA31 8PQ



22 Kilberry Sculptured Stones

Take a close look at 26 sculptured stones from the Campbell family mausoleum. They cover a range of styles and eras – from early Christian grave-slabs to late-medieval cross fragments, including the medieval Kilberry Cross, a broken cross-shaft. Most of the stones were placed in a purpose-built shelter in 1951.

- Kilberry Castle, west coast of Knapdale, PA29 6YD



23 Kilchurn Castle

Look out over Loch Awe at one of the most photographed castles in Scotland. Kilchurn Castle was a fortress, a comfortable residence and later a garrison stronghold. Its five-storey tower house dominates the complex, with a lower hall, courtyard and the oldest surviving barracks on the British mainland.

- Lochawe, Dalmally, PA33 1AF



24 Kildalton Cross

The Kildalton Cross is a sculptural masterpiece and one of the finest carved stones from medieval Scotland. Carved in the 700s, it's still standing where it was first erected more than 1,200 years ago. It is one of very few early Christian crosses still in its original position.

- West of Ardmoy, Islay, PA42 7EE





25 Kilmartin Glen: Ach nabreac Rock Art

See some extraordinary Neolithic rock art in a glen rich with remnants of Scotland's prehistoric inhabitants. The Ach nabreac markings are believed to be about 5,000 years old, and we can only speculate about their meaning. Spread over several outcrops, the carvings of spirals and massive rings are extensive and complex.

- Near Cairnbaan, Argyll



26 Kilmartin Glen: Ballygowan Rock Art

Try to decipher the mysterious messages left in stone by Scotland's prehistoric inhabitants. Kilmartin Glen is full of ancient remains, and the decorations at Ballygowan, thought to be about 5,000 years old, may be among the oldest. The carvings here are dominated by more than 43 plain cup marks.

- Near Kilmartin, Argyll



27 Kilmartin Glen: Baluachraig Rock Art

The Baluachraig Rock Art are pleasingly simple works, the meaning of which remains a mystery to us. The designs are primarily hollows, or cups, some of them surrounded by one or more rings. We can tell that no metal tools were used – they have been pecked out of the stone.

- Near Kilmartin, Argyll



28 Kilmartin Glen: Cairnbaan Rock Art

The mysterious carvings at Cairnbaan date back about 5,000 years. A variety of different markings can be found across three separate rocky outcrops. The carvings are reached through a peaceful wooded path, and it's best to view them in the late afternoon when low light helps pick out their detail.

- Cairnbaan, Argyll



29 Kilmartin Glen: Carnasserie Castle

Take in the view from the top at one of Argyll's finest Renaissance buildings. Carnasserie Castle is a roofless ruin today, but it was once a fashionable residence. It was the home of the first Protestant Bishop of the Isles, Master John Carswell, and its design reflects his status.

- Near Kilmartin, Lochgilphead PA31 8RQ



30 Kilmartin Glen: Dunadd Fort

Clamber to the top of a spectacular rocky outcrop fort that's been occupied since the Iron Age. Dunadd Fort rises proudly from Moine Mhor – the 'great moss' – an expanse of bog that carpets Kilmartin Glen. Find some extraordinary features carved into the rock, including two human footprints.

- Near Kilmartin, Argyll



31 Kilmartin Glen: Dunchraigaig Cairn

Visit a tomb set apart from the others of Kilmartin Glen, on a shaded, tree-covered terrace. Like most of the other Bronze Age cairns in Kilmartin Glen, Dunchraigaig Cairn is a large, round burial mound about 4,000 years old. Scotland's earliest animal carvings were discovered inside the cairn in 2021.

- Near Kilmartin, Argyll



32 Kilmartin Glen: Glebe Cairn

Glebe Cairn is the northernmost of the five burial cairns that line the valley floor of Kilmartin Glen. Excavations revealed a long history of ritual activity. Two concentric rings of boulders at the centre, with a burial cist inside, may be the earliest part of the structure.

- Kilmartin Glebe, Argyll





33 Kilmartin Glen: Kilmartin Stones

The graveyard at Kilmartin Church is home to over 20 fine sculptured stones, ranging in date from the 900s to the 1600s. Together with the sub-circular form of the church graveyard, the stones hint at a much longer history of religious activity at Kilmartin.

- Kilmartin Churchyard, Kilmartin, Argyll



34 Kilmartin Glen: Kilmichael Glassary Rock Art

Kilmartin's many rock art sites share similar motifs, but the Kilmichael Glassary carvings each possess their own unique character. Among the cup and ring marks are several keyhole-shaped carvings, which aren't found anywhere else in the area. The precise meaning of these carvings will always be a fascinating mystery.

- Kilmichael Glassary, Argyll



35 Kilmartin Glen: Nether Largie Cairns

Visit the Nether Largie Cairns that stand at the heart of the 2km line of cairns in Kilmartin Glen. These burial monuments are all associated with the many other ritual monuments of the area. Rare axe-head carvings found in one of the cairns suggests a high-status person was buried here.

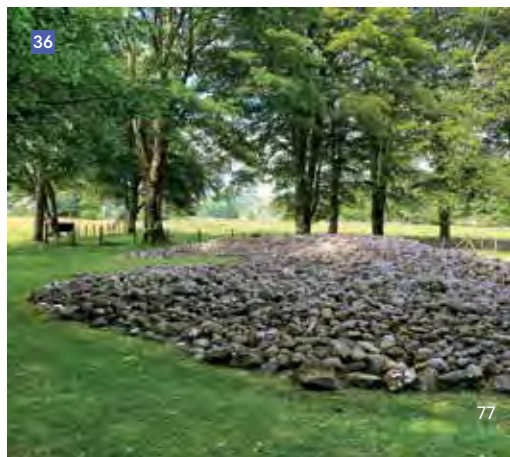
- Near Kilmartin, Argyll



36 Kilmartin Glen: Ri Cruin Cairn

In the 1700s and 1800s, the layer of peat that covered Kilmartin Glen was removed for fuel, revealing the area's cairns and ancient monuments. Ri Cruin was damaged during agricultural improvements, and in the 1700s a lime kiln was built into the cairn, damaging one of the cists.

- Near Kilmartin, Argyll





37 Kilmartin Glen: Temple Wood Stone Circle

Temple Wood Stone Circle was used as a place for ritual and funerary ceremonies for thousands of years from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age. Today its most immediately visible feature are 13 standing stones. One is marked with a spiral, a motif closely paralleled in Irish passage-grave art.

- Near Nether Largie, Argyll



38 Kilmodan Sculptured Stones

Admire the carvings on this collection of late-medieval sculptured stones, set in a churchyard burial aisle. The Kilmodan Sculptured Stones boast panels of interlace and intertwined plant stems. There are human figures on four of the nine slabs, and animals both real and fantastic, including a unicorn feature prominently.

- Clachan of Glendaruel, Argyll and Bute



40



39 Kilmory Knap Chapel

Kilmory Knap Chapel was built in the early 1200s, but judging by the early Christian carved stones found here, this was also the site of a much older church. Nearly 40 carved stones sit inside the chapel and several other pieces of historic sculpture can be found in the churchyard.

- Kilmory, Knapdale, PA31 8PB



40 Skipness Castle and Chapel

Relive the story of three nations and three families at this 1200s castle and chapel. The castle was rebuilt several times over three different centuries and has changed hands, and as such it offers a snapshot of the evolution in form of Scottish castle architecture between the 1200s and 1500s.

- Skipness, Tarbert, PA29 6XT



39





You get 10% discount at the Stirling Castle café with your membership card.



© Lee Howard

41 Stirling Castle

Stirling is one of Scotland's greatest castles – an icon integral to how we understand the nation's story. It has been likened to 'a huge brooch claspings Highlands and Lowlands together'. The castle peaked in importance in the 1500s, but the volcanic crag beneath it has been fortified since ancient times.

Generations of Scottish monarchs have enlarged, adapted and embellished Stirling Castle. The palace's lavish design drew on European Renaissance fashions to show off Stewart's power and good taste.

The Great Hall, for instance, is the largest banqueting hall ever built in Scotland and was the centre of royal celebrations.

We have recreated the palace interiors in keeping with the king's original grand scheme. The Royal Palace has been splendidly decorated and furnished to reflect how the castle would have been during the years it was Mary Queen of Scots' childhood home.

- Castle Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1EJ
- 01786 450 000





42 Stirling: King's Knot

The earthworks known as the King's and Queen's Knots were part of the formal gardens of Stirling Castle. These were remodelled during Charles I's 'hamecoming' for his Scottish coronation, which took place in 1633. It was subject to extensive restoration under orders of Queen Victoria in 1842.

- Below castle rock, off Dumbarton Road, Stirling

43 Stirling: Mar's Wark

Imagine the life of an earl at this remarkable Renaissance mansion near Stirling Castle. John Erskine, Earl of Mar, was the keeper of Stirling Castle when he began building Mar's Wark. Sadly, the façade is all that survives today, but it remains an impressive example of Renaissance architecture.

- Castle Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1ED

44 Stirling Old Bridge

Traverse the River Forth at one of the most important crossing points in Scotland. The present Stirling Old Bridge replaced a succession of timber bridges. Undoubtedly the best-known of these was one that stood nearby in the 1290s, when Sir William Wallace and Sir Andrew Moray defeated Edward I's forces.

- Off Laurencecroft Road, on the River Forth, Stirling, FK9

45 Westquarter Dovecot

Admire a very complete example of a dovecot. It was built to house hundreds of pairs of pigeons destined for the laird of the Westquarter Estate's table. The estate and its mansion house are long gone, but the dovecot sits incongruously in the middle of a modern housing estate.

- Dovecot Road, Westquarter, Falkirk, FK2 9YT

Visit the Kingdom of Fife

Ancestral home of Scottish monarchs, Fife is rumoured to house the remains of eight kings and four queens.

The area's royal history is matched by its religious significance. Despite its tiny size – barely 50 miles at its widest point – Fife was once the mighty seat of Scotland's leading archbishops.

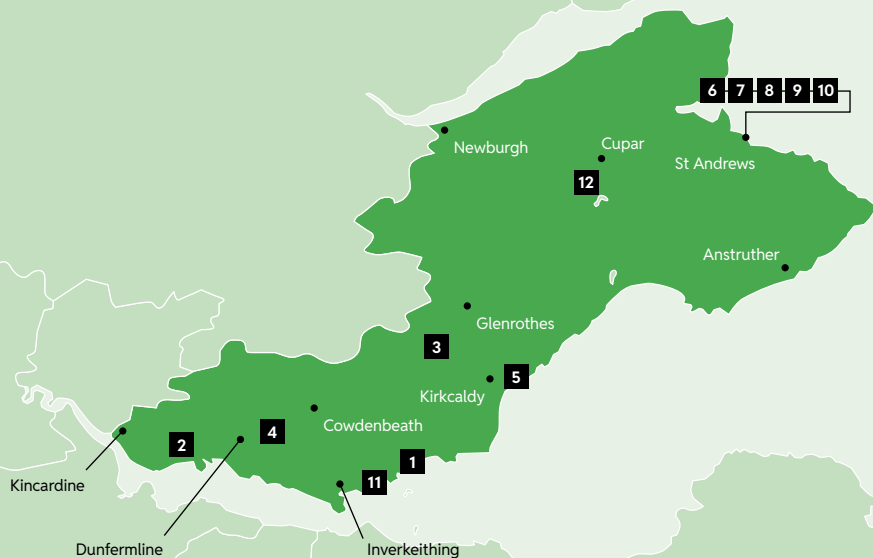


The Old Course, St Andrews

A huge crowd watching Bobby Locke on the 18th green during the Open Championships, 1957



The Kingdom of Fife



1	Aberdour Castle and Gardens	5	Ravenscraig Castle	9	St Andrews: St Mary's Church, Kirkheugh
2	Culross Abbey	6	St Andrews Castle	10	St Andrews: West Port
3	Dogton Stone	7	St Andrews Cathedral	11	St Bridget's Kirk
4	Dunfermline Abbey and Palace	8	St Andrews: Blackfriars Chapel	12	Scotstarvit Tower

Little-known stories

Dunfermline welcomes the world

After Anne of Denmark married James VI and I, he gifted her Dunfermline Palace as a wedding present. Not only did she extend the palace, but she turned it into a multicultural court. She had Danish gentlewomen, including Anna Kass, who stayed with her until her death.

Another one of her loyal servants was an African man, clothed in orange velvet and Spanish taffeta. Her German goldsmith, Jacob Kroger, was less dutiful. He ran off with her jewels when he wasn't paid and was duly executed.

Trouble at home

Cardinal Beaton lived in St Andrews Castle, where he was also assassinated during religious tumult. His household had a staff of over 100 people, including a baker and a brewer, cooks, musicians and a fool.

He also had an inhouse tailor, upholsterer and barber. Not to mention his two apothecaries and two chaplains. Seemingly, not one member of staff intervened in his murder. Not successfully, at least.

Abundant Aberdour

Aberdour Castle accounts from the 1690s list the seeds bought for the castle garden. They were growing leeks, onions, radishes, beetroot, spinach, asparagus, purslane and marjoram. Later, they added a 'wilderness dyke'.

Snapshots through time



© National Museums Scotland

Mrs Watson, despite being in her nineties, still doing the laundry for the local football team in Crail. Eventually, the club presented her with a washing machine which she took as a great insult to her – she thought that this was a hint that she was not doing the work well enough, 1970s



© The Scotsman Publications Ltd

Teenagers in a coffee bar, Fife, 1956



Bing Crosby golfing, St Andrews, 1950



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1 Aberdour Castle and Gardens

Aberdour is among the oldest masonry castles still standing in Scotland. Tucked in the complex are the remains of a two-storey hall-house, which may date from the early to mid-1100s.

Its walls are built from square-cut stones called ashlar. The nearby St Fillan's parish church is built with stones that look remarkably similar and the structure dates to the same era.

The castle was first built to give its owner, Sir Alan Mortimer, a secure place of strength and comfort.

Aberdour was later extended in several stages and became a sprawling, outward-looking residence surrounded by pleasure grounds complete with an orchard.

Fine walled and terraced gardens sit to the east and south of the castle buildings. The terraces are no longer cultivated, but many plants were likely brought here, such as feverfew, periwinkle, pink sorrel and blue sow-thistle.

- Aberdour, Fife, KY3 0SL
- 01383 860 519





4 Dunfermline Abbey and Palace

Dunfermline Abbey holds a special place in the nation's heart. Some of Scotland's great kings and queens were laid to rest here – including Robert I (the Bruce). Monarchs were born here, too – Charles I being the last in 1600. The Nave is also a stunning example of Romanesque architecture in Scotland.

- St Margaret's Street, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 7PE
- 01383 739 026



2 Culross Abbey

Explore the ruins of a Cistercian monastery, once home to a community of monks and lay brothers. Culross Abbey was built in the 1200s and survived until the Reformation, when part of the abbey became the parish church. Situated on a steep slope, this historic site offers fine views.

- Kirk Street, Culross, Fife, KY12 8JD



3 Dogton Stone

Pore over a free-standing Pictish cross still in its original location. The Dogton Stone, an unusual monument, is decorated on all sides. The ornamentation is largely abstract, but it does feature an armed horseman above two beasts. The stone is best appreciated when conditions highlight the surviving carvings.

- Dogton farmhouse, Fife



5 Ravenscraig Castle

Cower in the shadow of a heavily fortified castle's towering defensive façade, originally built as a royal residence. Ravenscraig Castle was built for Queen Mary of Gueldres. But its time as a royal residence was short-lived, and it was granted to the Sinclairs, who built the 3.5m thick walls.

- Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 2QG



6



6 St Andrews Castle

Explore a castle caught up in the Protestant Reformation. St Andrews Castle was a bishops' palace, a fortress and an infamous state prison. Protestant preacher George Wishart may have been imprisoned in the castle's bottle dungeon, and Cardinal Beaton's murdered body was certainly kept in this dank and airless hole.

Beaton was killed after he had Wishart burnt in front of the castle. These acts of violence sparked the brutal siege of 1546–47, which saw opposing sides dig the remarkable mine and countermine into the rock close to the castle walls. These underground passages of medieval siege warfare are unique to St Andrews Castle.

- The Scores, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AR
- 01334 477 196



7 St Andrews Cathedral

Pay your respects to the remains of Scotland's largest and most magnificent medieval church. Even in its ruinous state, the cathedral is still a prominent landmark visible from the sea.

As the effective headquarters of the medieval Scottish Church, the cathedral was an important site in Scottish religion until 1560. Its great scale was an appropriate setting for the seat of Scotland's leading bishops and later archbishops.

Perhaps the most striking architectural feature on the site is St Rule's Tower. Standing at 33m tall, it could have acted as a beacon for pilgrims heading to the shrine of St Andrew.

- The Pends, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QL
- 01334 477 196



7



8 St Andrews: Blackfriars Chapel

Visit a tranquil ruin on a bustling street. Blackfriars Chapel is a rare remnant of the many Dominican friaries built across Scotland. Dating from the 1520s, it wasn't used for long. In 1559, Protestant reformers 'violently expelled' the friars 'from their destroyed place'. This chapel is all that remains.

- South Street, St Andrews, KY16 9EH

9 St Andrews: St Mary's Church, Kirkcubright

Visit the cliffside site of the earliest collegiate church in Scotland. St Mary's Church was built in 1123 as a permanent home for the Culdees, an order of monks who rejected the new monastic orders of the Middle Ages. It was known as 'St Mary on the Rock'.

- The Pends, St Andrews, Fife

10 St Andrews: West Port

Pass through the best-preserved city gate in Scotland, leading to the heart of the medieval town of St Andrews. The West Port was more a symbol of civic pride than a defensive structure. Its design was based on Edinburgh's Netherbow – which, in turn, was modelled on Paris's Porte Saint-Honore.

- Junction of South Street and Bridge Street, St Andrews, KY16 9EG

11 St Bridget's Kirk

Explore the ruins of a medieval church that endured as a house of worship for 700 years. Built in the 1100s, the Augustinian church remained in use after the Protestant Reformation in 1560, though it was significantly altered. However, the original medieval church's outline can still be traced.

- St Colme Rd, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline, KY11 9LH



12 Scotstarvit Tower

Puzzle over the eccentricities of this gentry tower house with an edge. Scotstarvit isn't your usual 1500s tower house. There's no kitchen, one floor has no fireplace, and another has no windows. Owned by an Edinburgh lawyer and poet, Sir John Scot, the quirky tower reflects his unique tastes.

- Near Cupar, Fife, KY15 5PA
- No internal access to the tower



© Lee Howard



Circus elephants in the
River Tay, Perth, 1910

Dunkeld Bridge, River Tay



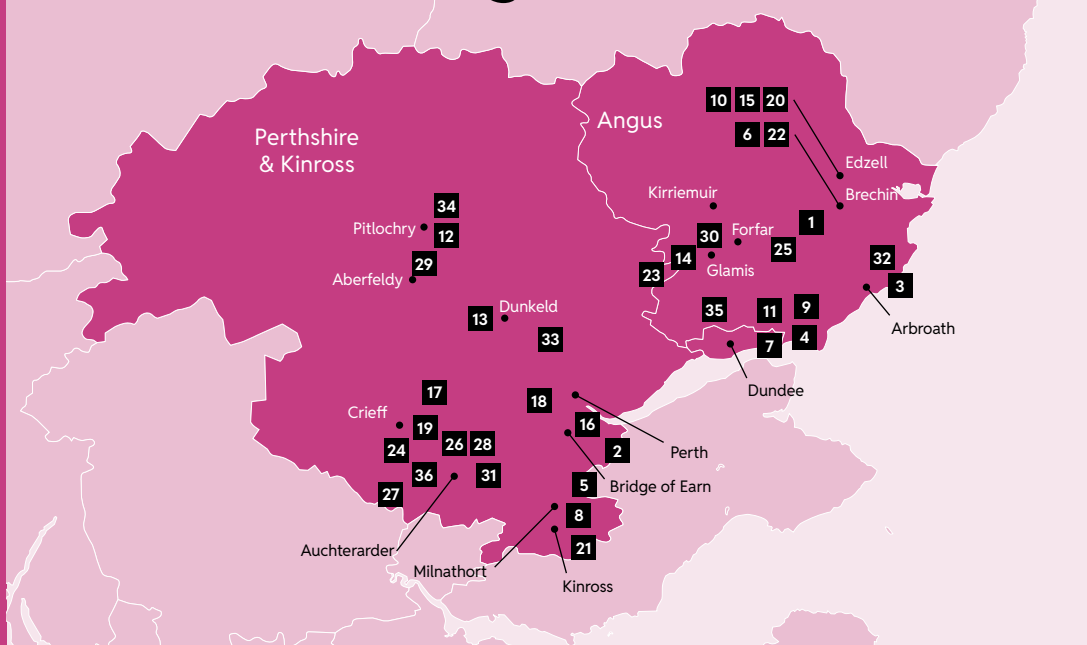
Amble around Perthshire, Kinross & Angus

Nestled between Scotland's rugged Highlands and lush Lowlands sit acres and acres of romantic woodlands, rivers and glens. Among this natural beauty, you'll find ancient sites of ritual, churches with complex histories and some of the oldest and best-preserved castles in the country.



© Marcin Klimek

Perthshire, Kinross & Angus



1	Aberlemno Sculptured Stones	13	Dunkeld Cathedral	25	Restenneth Priory
2	Abernethy Round Tower	14	Eassie Sculptured Stone	26	Roman Site: Arduie Roman Signal Station
3	Arbroath Abbey	15	Edzell Castle and Garden	27	Roman Site: Black Hill Camps
4	Ardestie Earth House (Souterrain)	16	Elcho Castle	28	Roman Site: Muir o'Fauld Roman Signal Station
5	Balvaird Castle	17	Fowlis Wester Sculptured Stone	29	St Mary's Church, Grandtully
6	Brechin Cathedral Round Tower	18	Huntingtower Castle	30	St Orland's Stone
7	Broughty Castle	19	Innerpeffray Chapel	31	St Serf's Church and Dupplin Cross
8	Burleigh Castle	20	Lindsay Burial Aisle	32	St Vigeans Stones and Museum
9	Carlungie Earth House (Souterrain)	21	Lochleven Castle	33	Stanley Mills
10	Caterthuns (Brown and White)	22	Maison Dieu Chapel, Brechin	34	Sunnybrae Cottage
11	Claypotts Castle	23	Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum	35	Tealing Dovecot and Tealing Earth House (Souterrain)
12	Dunfallandy Stone	24	Muthill Old Church and Tower	36	Tullibardine Chapel

Little-known stories

Execution after declaration

One of the most visible seals found on the Declaration of Arbroath belonged to Marie Ramsay, the wife of David, Lord of Brechin. A prominent Scottish knight, Brechin changed sides during the War of Independence more than once.

In the same year as appending his seal to the Declaration, Brechin was found complicit in a conspiracy to depose the king. For this treasonous offence, he was executed.

It's a wash

By 1334, Lochleven Castle was one of only five strongholds that hadn't given into the English onslaught. Alan de Vipont defended the castle for a whole nine months against the pro-Balliol forces before victory.

Legend has it that the English attempted to flood the castle by damming the stream leading out of the loch. However, four brave men snuck out and dug through the blockade. The subsequent flood supposedly swept away the English camp.

Snapshots through time



Airship SSZ 57 at Montrose (Broomfield) aerodrome on a visit, 1918



Highland cattle in the centre of Crieff on the Skye to Crieff cattle drive, 1981



The Stone of Destiny being removed from Arbroath Abbey, four months after it was taken from Westminster Abbey by Scottish independence activists, 1951



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1 Aberlemno Sculptured Stones

See a battle and a hunt on a magnificent range of sculptured stones. In Aberlemno, you'll find four stones with some of the finest surviving Pictish carvings. Three stand on the roadside, while one stands in the village churchyard.

- School Ln, Aberlemno, Forfar, DD8 3TE



2 Abernethy Round Tower

Scale one of Scotland's most unusual historic sites. Abernethy Round Tower is one of only two Irish-style round towers in Scotland, and its origins remain a mystery. It's 5m wide and 22m high, making the climb to the top well worth it for the 360° views.

- Abernethy, Perth and Kinross, PH2 9RT



© Lee Howard

3 Arbroath Abbey

Founded in 1178 by William I (the Lion), Arbroath Abbey is best known for the Declaration of Arbroath, the most famous document in Scottish history. In response to the renewed excommunication of Robert I (the Bruce), 39 Scottish nobles, barons and freemen sent this letter to Pope John XXII.

- Abbey Street, Arbroath, DD11 1EG
- 01241 878 756



4 Ardestie Earth House (Souterrain)

Uncover an ancient 24m long underground passage and trace the remains of long-abandoned buildings. Earth houses, like Ardestie, were not dwellings, but stone-lined passages, also known as souterrains, that were used for unknown purposes. Ardestie is remarkably complete and transports you back in time.

- Off the B962 to Monikie, DD5 4HW



5 Balvaird Castle

Experience the life of a wealthy 16th century landowner at this unusually complete tower house complex. Most tower houses from this period now stand alone, but Balvaird shows more. It has inner and outer courtyards, service buildings and a walled garden.

- South-east of Bridge of Earn, KY14 7SR



6 Brechin Cathedral Round Tower

Gaze upon a Scottish rarity. Brechin Round Tower, 25m tall and 5m wide, is one of only two Irish-style round towers still standing in Scotland. The tower's finest feature is its original doorway featuring Romanesque carvings of a crucified Christ and two saints.

- 6 Church St, Brechin, DD9 6EU

7 Broughty Castle

Take a trip to the 'strong point on the Tay', where Broughty Castle towers over the river. It was built in 1490 in response to increased English naval activity. In 1547, it was taken without a shot fired by the English before being rescued later.

- Broughty Ferry, DD5 2TF



8 Burleigh Castle

Visit the ruin of Burleigh Castle, once home to the Balfours. Although the heart of the castle is the 500-year-old, three-storey tower house, its chief delight is its remarkable Jacobean corner tower. Round at the base, its rectangular top floor is corbelled out.

- 0.5m east of Milnathort on the A911
- 01241 878 756



9 Carlungie Earth House (Souterrain)

Carlungie Earth House, or souterrain, is one of the largest and most complex examples of its kind in Scotland, discovered in 1949 while a farmer was ploughing. Excavations during the following two years also revealed about eight associated stone dwellings.

- Near Templehall, Angus, DD7 7SD



10 Caterthuns (Brown and White)

Take in spectacular views from two of Scotland's most impressive Iron Age hilltop enclosures. The Brown and White Caterthuns are a pair of large hill forts sitting on adjacent hills overlooking Strathmore.

- West of Edzell, Angus



11 Claypotts Castle

Admire a gem of Scottish architecture built in the late 1500s. Claypotts is perhaps the quirkiest castle in Scotland. Walk around its outer perimeter to see the complex geometry of round towers, stair turrets and the corbelled attic rooms. It is quite the time capsule, having barely been altered.

- Claypotts Rd, Dundee, DD5 3JY

12 Dunfallandy Stone

The red sandstone Dunfallandy Stone is one of Scotland's finest surviving Pictish cross-slabs. Several human figures along with animals carved into the stone may speak to some ancient religious allegory.

- Near Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5NA



13 Dunkeld Cathedral

Wander among the ruins of Scotland's most romantic cathedral, Dunkeld, set on an ancient ecclesiastical site. In 849, relics of St Columba were brought to Dunkeld from Iona by King Kenneth MacAlpin to protect them from Viking raids.

- Cathedral Street, Dunkeld, Perthshire, PH8 0AW



14 Eassie Sculptured Stone

Observe the details of this fine cross-slab, probably intended to promote the Christian message. It's remarkably well preserved – while weathered, even details of a deer's physique are still visible

- Old Church of Eassie, near Glamis, Angus



15

15 Edzell Castle and Garden

Edzell Castle was home to the 'lichtsome [carefree] Lindsays', a gifted, turbulent and tragic noble family. The lordly seat was originally a motte and bailey residence near the medieval church. In the 1500s, the family built a new castle – the one we admire today. The red sandstone walls, set amid the great garden and pleasant green parkland, make for a picturesque setting.

The 9th Earl's son, David, Lord Edzell, added the walled garden in 1604. Its most striking and unique features are the four original enclosing walls, which display a series of carved panels. They show the seven Cardinal Virtues, the Seven Liberal Arts and the Seven Planetary Deities. Sir David clearly wanted to stimulate both mind and senses.

- Edzell, by Brechin, Angus, DD9 7UE
- 01356 648 603





16 Elcho Castle

Imagine the comfortable life of a Renaissance laird and lady. Built around 1560, Elcho Castle is one of Scotland's best-preserved 16th-century tower houses. Situated by the 'Silvery Tay', the mansion still has a roof and its interior is well preserved.

- Rhynd, Perth, PH2 8QQ
- 01738 639 998



17 Fowlis Wester Sculptured Stone

Inspect the stonework of a tall Pictish cross-slab, adorned with symbols, scenes and ornate details. The Fowlis Wester Sculptured Stone is unique in that it's a cross-slab with cross-arms projecting from the sides. The stone's reverse face is also noteworthy for its mysterious scene involving a procession of horsemen and beasts.

- Near Crieff, PH7 3NL

18 Huntingtower Castle

Huntingtower Castle has hosted many notable figures. Most famously, Mary Queen of Scots honeymooned here with Lord Darnley in 1565.

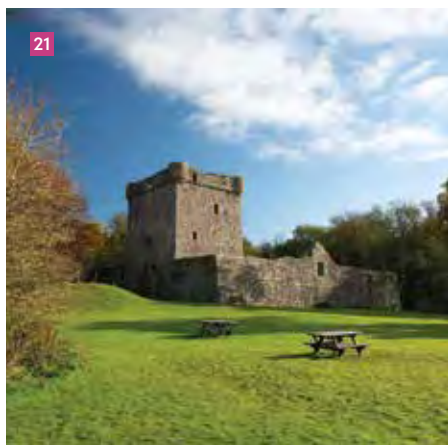
The castle has an odd layout. Today, it looks like one building, but it's in fact two tower houses built side by side and joined by a unified facade. Adding to the intrigue, it's unknown how and why this highly unusual structure developed.

Inside, seek out the secret compartment, a cupboard within a cupboard, hidden behind a stone, where Ruthven, the original owner, stored his treasures. You can also see the oldest painted ceiling in Scotland.

- Huntingtower, by Perth, PH1 3JL
- 01738 627 231



Events, quizzes and space to play, make Huntingtower Castle great for kids.



21

21 Lochleven Castle

Mary Queen of Scots was once a guest here, but later it became her jail. She eventually escaped Lochleven Castle, not knowing she would soon be leaving Scotland forever. It was here that she was forced to abdicate in favour of her son, James VI.

- Pier Road, Kinross, KY13 8UF
- 07836 313 769



19 Innerpeffray Chapel

Visit a chapel that once housed Scotland's first public lending library. Innerpeffray Chapel appears plain now, but it still retains features from its days as a Catholic church, when it would have been gloriously decorated. The library is now in the building next door.

- Near Crieff, Perthshire, PH7



20 Lindsay Burial Aisle

See what remains of the medieval parish church of Edzell, situated in a sleepy rural graveyard. The Lindsay Burial Aisle was built in about 1550 as a chantry chapel, where Mass was sung for the dead, before it was adopted as a burial aisle.

- Edzell, Angus



22 Maison Dieu Chapel, Brechin

Encounter something unexpected in an urban setting: the remains of a 13th century hospital chapel. The Maison Dieu hospital was founded in the 1260s to serve Brechin's poor. Today, fragments of the church still survive.

- Maison Dieu Lane, Brechin off the B9134

23 Meikle Sculptured Stone Museum

Meikle Museum's collection of early medieval sculpture is one of the most important in Western Europe. Learn about Pictish society from a striking set of 26 carved stones. Dating from the late 700s to late 900s, these sculptures are all that survive of the Picts' power centre at Meikle.

- Dundee Road, Meikle, PH12 8SB
- 01828 640 612



24 Muthill Old Church and Tower

Admire the medieval church of Muthill with its remarkably complete Romanesque tower. A small religious community was established here in the late 1100s, perhaps by the Bishops of Dunblane. It's thought that this high-status church might have acted as a substitute cathedral at times.

- Station Rd, Muthill, Crieff, PH5 2AR



25 Restenneth Priory

Admire a sacred place of enduring importance – the site of an ancient church where the annals of Iona were once kept. The earliest masonry at Restenneth Priory dates to the 1100s and it's where Robert I (the Bruce) buried his young son, John.

- B9113, Forfar, DD8 2SZ



26 Roman Site: Arduie Roman Signal Station

Arduie Signal Station is a Roman station dating to about AD 100. It forms part of the Roman military system now known as the Gask Ridge, regarded as the earliest example of a Roman frontier system.

- Near Trinity Gask, Perthshire



27 Roman Site: Black Hill Camps

Emperor Septimius Severus and his son Caracalla led an army of over 30,000 men north of Hadrian's wall to conquer the Caledonian tribes. Black Hill is one of several camps built during this conquest. The camps were probably completed in a mere afternoon, evidencing Roman efficiency.

- Near Braco, Perth and Kinross



28 Roman Site: Muir o'Fauld Roman Signal Station

Muir o'Fauld is one of the best-preserved stations along the Gask Ridge, the defensive line of the initial Roman invasion of Britain. The frontier was short-lived – the sites were abandoned when the Roman Army withdrew from Scotland.

- Roman Rd, Auchterarder, PH7 3PH





31 St Serf's Church and Dupplin Cross

See where the 6th-century St Serf supposedly slew a dragon. Parts of the church are 800 years old, and its layout shows how the Reformation shaped worship. This site is also home to the Dupplin Cross, an extremely rare and impressive Pictish carved stone.

- Tron Square, Dunning, PH2 0RG



29 St Mary's Church, Grandtully

Examine a simple Highland church's rare and fascinating 17th century painted ceiling. There's record of a church at 'Carantuli' in about 1250, though the existing St Mary's Church probably dates from about 1533.

- Near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, 2EQ



32 St Vigeans Stones and Museum

St Vigeans was likely an important Pictish religious centre, judging by the sophisticated carved stones found here. The stones were dotted around the village church, which sits on a natural mound that likely accommodated a Pictish church or monastery.

- St Vigeans, Arbroath, Angus, DD11 4RB
- 01241 878 756



30 St Orland's Stone

St Orland's Stone is a rare example of a Pictish cross-slab still standing in its original location. It uniquely depicts a Pictish boat – the only known image of a boat in early medieval Scottish sculpture.

- Near Forfar, Angus, DD8 1QY





33 Stanley Mills

Visit one of the Industrial Revolution's best-preserved relics. For 200 years, Stanley Mills harnessed the power of the River Tay to produce textiles. Built in the 1780s, the complex was altered many times before it finally closed in 1989.

Today, you can imagine the clamour of the factory floor. And learn how engineers harnessed waterpower. Or see the machinery that turned raw cotton into products that were exported across the globe from Scotland.

While the mill had an illustrious career, it can't be forgotten that it was built on the back of a cruel regime of the labour of enslaved people.

- Stanley, Perth, PH1 4QE
- 01738 825 901



34 Sunnybrae Cottage

Peek at unique details of this 1700s Highland home – a simple building with a complex history. Sunnybrae Cottage, one of Pitlochry's oldest buildings, tells the story of how ordinary people lived 200 years ago.

- Atholl Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5AS

35 Tealing Dovecot and Tealing Earth House (Souterrain)

Everything on the Tealing estate was designed to show off its owner's taste and culture, and the dovecot was no exception. Though small, Tealing Dovecot is an impressive building, with satisfying proportions and symmetry. Whereas the nearby Tealing Earth House, discovered later, is of a grand size. Also known as a souterrain, this Iron Age underground passage was used for unknown reasons.

- Tealing, Angus, DD4 0QZ



36 Tullibardine Chapel

Tullibardine Chapel is one of the few Scottish churches that survived the Reformation largely unaltered. It's in a romantic spot, sitting alone in a neat graveyard dotted with pine trees. Masons' marks and the Murray family coats of arms can be seen inside.

- Near Auchterarder, PH3 1NU





Elgin Cathedral, 1959

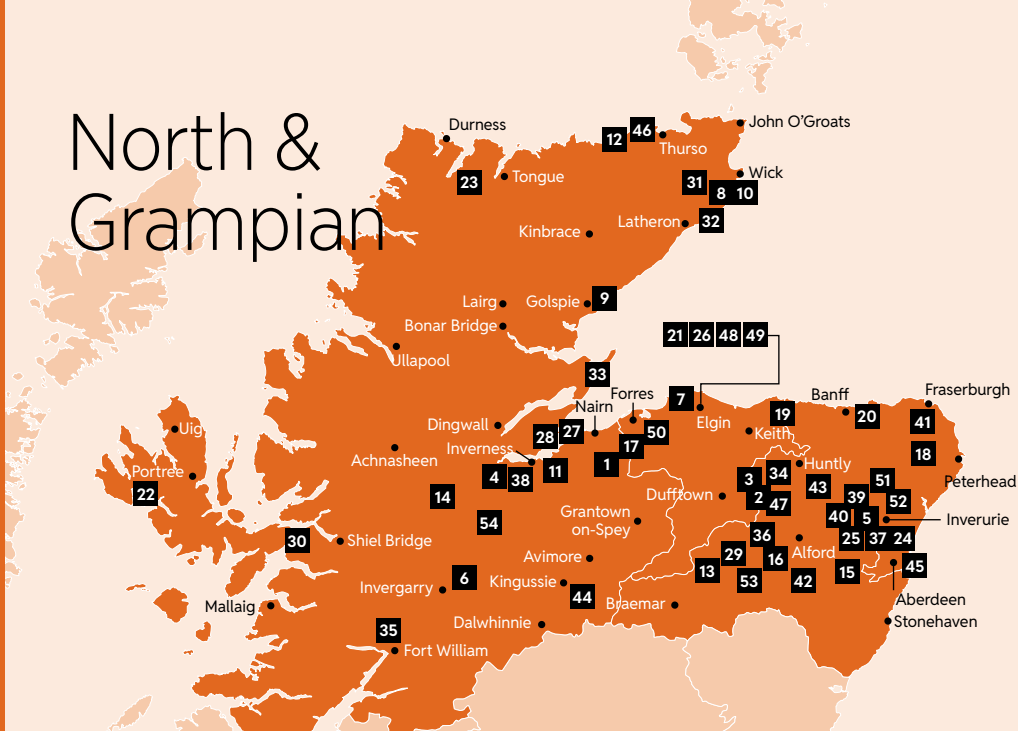
Navigate the North & Grampian



Elgin Cathedral, 2018 (see page 111)

A series of rugged mountain ranges are framed by golden coastlines in this vast area at the top of the country. Amid the dramatic landscape, North & Grampian is home to some of Scotland's most remote and distinctive monuments – expect austere castles, prehistoric stones and crosses and a Georgian fort.

North & Grampian



1	Ardclach Bell Tower	19	Deskford Church	37	Kinkell Church
2	Auchindoun Castle	20	Duff House	38	Knocknagael Boar Stone
3	Balvenie Castle	21	Duffus Castle	39	Loanhead Stone Circle
4	Beaulie Priory	22	Dun Beag Broch	40	Maiden Stone
5	Brandsbutt Stone	23	Dun Dornaigil Broch	41	Memsie Cairn
6	Bridge of Oich	24	Dyce Symbol Stones	42	Peel Ring of Lumphanan
7	Burghead Well	25	East Aquhorthies Stone Circle	43	Picardy Symbol Stone
8	Cairn o'Get	26	Elgin Cathedral	44	Ruthven Barracks
9	Carn Liath Broch	27	Fort George	45	St Machar's Cathedral Transepts
10	Castle of Old Wick	28	Fortrose Cathedral	46	St Mary's Chapel, Crosskirk
11	Clava Cairns	29	Glenbuchat Castle	47	St Mary's Kirk, Auchindoir
12	Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns	30	Glenelg Brochs: Dun Telve and Dun Troddan	48	St Peter's Kirk and Parish Cross, Duffus
13	Corgarff Castle	31	Grey Cairns of Camster	49	Spynie Palace
14	Corrimony Chambered Cairn	32	Hill o'Many Stanes	50	Sueno's Stone
15	Cullerlie Stone Circle	33	Hilton of Cadboll Chapel	51	Tarves Tomb
16	Culsh Earth House (Souterrain)	34	Huntly Castle	52	Tolquhon Castle
17	Dallas Dhu Historic Distillery	35	Inverlochy Castle	53	Tomnaverie Stone Circle
18	Deer Abbey	36	Kildrummy Castle	54	Urquhart Castle

Little-known stories

Soldiers of poor fortune

When Fort George was completed in 1769, military quarters for ordinary soldiers were very basic. Men often slept two to a bed, cooked their meals in the barracks room fireplace and had paltry access to toilets and washing facilities. Only a small number of soldiers were allowed to marry, and their wives would have to sleep in the men's dorm. A blanket hung from a string was the only form of privacy.

A slippery escape

The Grant lairds, who held Urquhart Castle from the 1480s, had the unenviable remit of policing a notoriously lawless region. One Grant laird even found himself tasked with arresting his own cousin, an infamous bandit known as Seaumas an Tuim – 'James of the Hillock'. He fulfilled his duty, but according to legend Seaumas later escaped from Edinburgh Castle using a rope hidden in a block of butter.

Fired

Duff House, a fine Georgian mansion, was commissioned by William Duff, 1st Earl Fife, but he fell out with the architect–builder William Adam over escalating costs. His son James Duff oversaw the completion and decoration of the house and became the first aristocratic resident. He shared the huge house with his new wife, Lady Dorothea Sinclair. While it began as a happy marriage, it soured. Some say Dorothea tried to shoot James in the house's top-floor gallery.

Snapshots through time



Tossing the caber at the Braemar Gathering, 1973



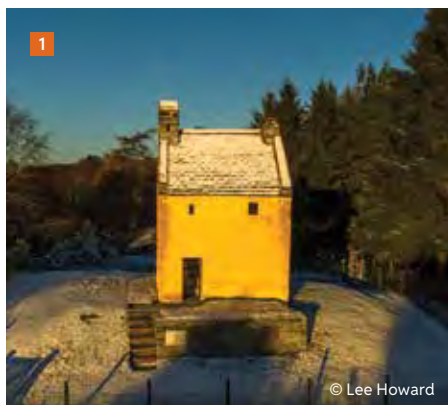
Brothers on horseback at Glenfinnan, Inverness shire, c. 1890s



Ethnographer, photographer and author, Mary Ethel Muir Donaldson, c. 1910



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1 Ardclach Bell Tower

Visit a true architectural oddity: a fortified bell tower, standing alone on a hill. Ardclach Bell Tower was probably built by Covenanter Alexander Brodie in 1655 and may have begun life as a watchtower-cum-prison. The small belfry was likely added later to summon the Findhorn Valley parishioners.

- Ardclach, near Nairn, IV12 5JF



2 Auchindoun Castle

Stroll up to the lonely ruin of a 1400s stronghold and its surrounding earthworks. Auchindoun Castle may have been built by Thomas Cochrane, a favourite of King James III. Sadly, the castle was burnt down in an act of revenge during a feud between two families.

- Near Dufftown, Moray, AB55 4DR



3 Balvenie Castle

This well fortified stronghold was probably begun in the 1200s. It changed hands several times before James II granted it to his kinsman John Stewart, later Earl of Atholl. His descendants developed the elegant Atholl Lodging that now dominates the castle's south-eastern range.

- Castle Road, Dufftown, Keith, AB55 4GH
- 01340 820 121



4 Beaulieu Priory

Explore the ruined church of a little-known order of monks in a wooded, riverside location. Beaulieu Priory was one of three Scottish priories of the Valliscaulian order, monks who came from Val-des-Choux, 'Valley of the Cabbages', near Dijon, France.

- Beaulieu, Inverness-shire, IV4 7DY



5 Brandsbutt Stone

The Brandsbutt Stone is an excellent example of an early Pictish stone. A 1m-high dark whinstone slab, its face is incised with a crescent and a serpent. Its carvings date to around AD 600, but the stone may have been part of a prehistoric stone circle.

- Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 4GT

6 Bridge of Oich

Designed by a brewer-turned-engineer, James Dredge, the Bridge of Oich is a suspension bridge found along the Great Glen Way. The 46m long bridge was built in 1854, five years after floods swept through the Great Glen and destroyed the previous stone bridge that stood over the River Oich.

- Invergarry, PH35 4HN



7 Burghead Well

Enter the darkened chamber of one of Scotland's most mysterious sites. No one knows who made Burghead Well, when they made it, or what it was for. What we do know is there was once a Pictish fort at Burghead, though little of it remains today.

- King Street, Burghead, IV30 5XA



8 Cairn o'Get

Tiptoe into a tomb that's experienced human activity for thousands of years. Cairn o'Get is an impressive chambered burial cairn set amid a landscape rich in historic monuments. When it was first built, its walls would have risen over 3m high, sealed by massive lintel stones.

- 1.5m south-west of Ulbster on the A99



9 Carn Liath Broch

Visit Carn Liath, a sophisticated Iron Age building called a broch – which is a uniquely Scottish structure. Even in its ruined state, Carn Liath shows the ingenuity of Scotland's Iron Age farmers. The complex design and architecture made the settlement easier to defend.

- Brora, near Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SF



10 Castle of Old Wick

Negotiate your way along a slender promontory and reach one of Caithness's most dramatic sites. Castle of Old Wick stands ruined on a spine of rock projecting into the North Sea, between two deep, narrow gullies. To some, the castle is known as 'The Old Man of Wick'.

- March Rd, Wick, KW1 5TY



11 Clava Cairns

The evocative Clava Cairns were built about 4,000 years ago to house the dead. Set on a terrace above the River Nairn, the cemetery remained a sacred place for millennia and provides many clues to the beliefs of Bronze Age society.

- Near Inverness, IV2 5EU



12 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns

Two long-horned burial cairns, set at right angles to each other, sit on the skyline at Cnoc Freiceadain. Looming large over the surrounding rural Caithness landscape, they have never been excavated. What Neolithic secrets could they reveal?

- Near Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7RP



13 Corgarff Castle

Originally a noble residence, Corgarff Castle became an army barracks for hunting down Jacobite sympathisers and, later, whisky smugglers. The castle looks like many others from a distance but get closer and you'll see the distinctive star-shaped perimeter of the barracks.

- Near Strathdon, AB36 8YP
- 01975 651 460



14 Corrimony Chambered Cairn

Journey to a 4,000-year-old circle of standing stones and an ancient passage grave. Crawl through a low and long passage to reach a circular chamber and leave the present behind. Originally, a corbelled roof would have enclosed the chamber. Today, the sky is visible above you.

- Glen Urquhart, IV63 6TW



15 Cullerlie Stone Circle

Some way into the wilderness, you'll come to Cullerlie Stone Circle. This extensive collection of stones was organised with numbers in mind. Eight standing stones enclose eight ring cairns, six of which are surrounded by 11 kerb stones, another by 22. For reasons unknown, these numbers were significant to the builders.

- Near Garlogie, Aberdeenshire, AB32



© Lee Howard



16 Culsh Earth House (Souterrain)

Squeeze your way into this Iron Age souterrain and imagine what purpose it might once have served. Culsh Earth House, built about 2,000 years ago, was not a dwelling, despite its name. In fact, it was a stone-lined underground passage. Being in good condition, you can go inside.

- Near Tarland, Aboyne, AB34 4TP



17 Dallas Dhu Historic Distillery

Step back in time to see and discover the whisky distillation process from the 1900s. The picturesque Dallas Dhu Distillery originally made malt whisky for the popular Roderick Dhu blend during a time when the world's thirst for whisky was growing.

- Mannachie Road, Forres, Morayshire, IV36 2RR
- 01309 676 548



18 Deer Abbey

For more than 300 years, Deer Abbey was home to Cistercian monks. It takes its naming from being close to the long-gone monastery where a gospel called the Book of Deer was produced. The monks appear to have lived a quiet and contemplative life until the Protestant Reformation brought the abbey's spiritual use to a close.

- Near Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire



19 Deskford Church

The roofless and ruined Deskford Church is a simple, rectangular parish church dating to about 1540. It's an extremely well-preserved example of a typical rural parish church, surrounded by a burial ground which remains in use. Its sacrament house is a particular extraordinary feature complete with 16th century carvings and furniture.

- Near Cullen, Moray





20 Duff House

Unpick the tale of two Williams – William Duff, owner of Duff House, and William Adam, its architect. It was a hugely expensive project and a giant status symbol. But the cost of the build was its undoing, as the Williams fell out over money, which led to a five-year court case.

His heirs were left to complete the work, which they did to great effect. Six staircases acted as vertical corridors. A great salon and drawing room occupied most of the 2nd floor. And many rooms were finished with fine decorative features and filled with treasures.

The fashionable country mansion was occupied by the earls of Fife and their families for over 150 years. Today, its lavish 18th and 19th century interiors have been recreated. The house has been furnished and boasts a large collection of artworks, which are mostly on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland.

- Banff, AB45 3SX
- 01261 818 181



21 Duffus Castle

Duffus Castle was the Morays' fortress-residence for about 500 years. The stone castle we see today was built in the 1300s, replacing an earlier timber building. It was once one of the strongest castles in Scotland, but by the time the Morays abandoned it, Duffus was in ruins.

- Near Elgin, Moray, IV30 5RH



22 Dun Beag Broch

Standing at the top of a rocky knoll on the Isle of Skye, Dun Beag Broch commands magnificent views of its surroundings. It was built around 2,000–2,500 years ago and medieval coins were found inside, suggesting it was intermittently occupied for a very long time.

- Near Bracadale, Skye



23 Dun Dornaigil Broch

Dun Dornaigil Broch, also known as Dun Dornadilla, is a drystone roundhouse that stands 7m high in places. Long ago, though, it could have been twice as tall. Its distinctive entrance, with a massive triangular lintel, is visually striking and suggests it was occupied by someone of status and prestige.

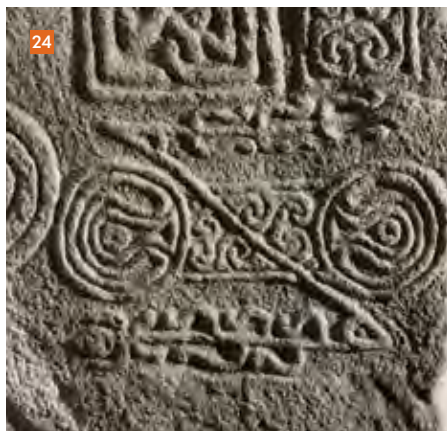
- 10m south of Hope, Sutherland



24 Dyce Symbol Stones

Ponder the meaning behind the mysterious carvings on a pair of Pictish stones. The Dyce Symbol Stones sit in the ruined kirk of St Fergus. One shows a beast swimming above a cluster of symbols. The other has an ogham inscription, a script introduced to the Picts by Irish missionaries.

- Dyce, Aberdeenshire, AB21 0HA



25 East Aquhorthies Stone Circle

Wander among one of Scotland's best-preserved recumbent stone circles and consider its original purpose. East Aquhorthies Stone Circle has a large stone set on its side, flanked by two upright stones – an arrangement found only in north-east Scotland. All pinkish, these stones might have been chosen for their colour.

- Near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire



26 Elgin Cathedral

See for yourself why Elgin Cathedral earned itself the name 'Lantern of the North'. Even as a ruin, the cathedral shines out as one of Scotland's most ambitious and beautiful medieval buildings. It would have once been richly carved and adorned with stained glass and painted decorations.

- King Street, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1HU
- 01343 547 171



© Malcolm McCurrach



While you're here, why not visit Spynie Palace – only a 10 minute drive away.



Events, quizzes and space to play, make Fort George great for kids.



27 Fort George

Stand in awe of Fort George, one of the most outstanding fortifications in Europe. It is also the finest example of 18th-century military engineering anywhere in Britain. The fort was built in the wake of the Battle of Culloden as a secure and imposing base for King George II's army. Strategically located on a promontory jutting into the Moray Firth, the impregnable military site would easily repel attackers.

It took 22 years to complete, by which time the Jacobite threat had subsided. But it has served the British Army ever since. Today, the fort would cost nearly £1 billion to build and equip.

- Near Ardersier, Inverness, IV2 7TD
- 01667 460 232



28 Fortrose Cathedral

Fortrose Cathedral stands in a green square at the heart of Fortrose. Only a small portion of the building still stands, but it shows some fine architectural details – including stone vaulting and the remains of window tracery. The oldest part of the ruins dates from the 1300s.

- Cathedral Square, Fortrose, IV10 8SU



29 Glenbuchat Castle

Glenbuchat Castle has a Z-plan form, comprising a main block with square wings projecting from the north-east and south-west. The castle is unusual in the region for this emphasis on horizontal rather than vertical mass, giving it the appearance of a fortified house rather than the conventional tower house.

- Near Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire, AB36 8TN



30



© Laurie Risk

30 Glenelg Brochs: Dun Telve and Dun Troddan

Admire a pair of 2,000-year-old tall broch towers set in a beautiful glen. Dun Telve and Dun Troddan are unusually close together for brochs, standing just 500m apart. Their excellent state of preservation attracted attention early on, but they're also noteworthy for their design, scale and quality of build.

- Glenelg, Lochalsh



31 Grey Cairns of Camster

Crawl through narrow passages to stand up inside two of the oldest stone monuments in Scotland. An amazing experience, but not for the claustrophobic. The Grey Cairns of Camster are hauntingly sited on a windswept moor, in the middle of the famous Caithness 'Flow Country' – now a World Heritage Site.

- Near Lybster, Caithness



32 Hill o' Many Stanes

Behold the strange sight of about 200 stones in more than 22 rows on hillside moorland. They were erected about 4,000 years ago, possibly for gatherings and religious ceremonies. Stone rows like this are rare and are only found in a few European locations.

- Near Lybster, Caithness



33 Hilton of Cadboll Chapel

Visit the turf covered remains of a ruined chapel, near where a fine Pictish cross-slab stood for 800 years. The remains of Hilton of Cadboll Chapel imply a simple, rectangular chapel. There was a tradition of burying unbaptised infants here until the end of the 1800s.

- Hilton, Easter Ross



31



34 Huntly Castle

Visit the seat of one of medieval and Renaissance Scotland's most powerful families. Now a noble ruin, Huntly Castle still boasts heraldic sculpture and inscribed stone friezes fitting for the home of the Earls of Huntly. Its situation is equally fine, sitting in the green heart of the Aberdeenshire countryside.

- Castle Avenue, Huntly, AB54 4SH
- 01466 793 191



35 Inverlochy Castle

Much of what we see at Inverlochy Castle today was built by the Comyns, one of Scotland's most powerful families in the 1200s. It's a formidable fortress, which has survived remarkably well. Few castles from this era survive unaltered in Scotland today, and Inverlochy is one of the most complete.

- Near Fort William, Highland



36 Kildrummy Castle

Visit 'the noblest of northern castles'. The stronghold of the mighty Earls of Mar is a fine example of a 13th-century castle, with its curtain wall, round tower, hall and chapel. Even as a ruin, Kildrummy's great size and strength are easy to appreciate. In its heyday, it dominated Strathdon.

- Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire, AB33 8RA
- 01975 571 331



37 Kinkell Church

Kinkell Church, built in the 1200s, is a classic medieval Highland church: simply designed and rectangular in shape. But the liturgical features installed in the 1520s are anything but plain. The stone sacrament house of the church is an especially fine fixture, complete with a crucifixion scene.

- Near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

38 Knocknagael Boar Stone

Examine a remarkably animated carving of a boar on this early Pictish carved stone. The expertly carved boar of the Knocknagael Boar Stone is emphasised by spirals and spiky bristles and accompanied by a mirror. It isn't easily dated, but probably dates to between AD 400 and AD 600.

- Highland Council offices, Inverness

39 Loanhead Stone Circle

Experience the atmospheric setting of this fine stone circle, in the rolling hills above Oldmeldrum. Loanhead is much more than just a stone circle, though. It is a complex funerary and ritual monument with a long and varied history of use, which likely began in the late Neolithic period.

- Near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire



40 Maiden Stone

The Maiden Stone is a 3m-tall cross-slab of pinkish granite. It's a sculptural delight, bearing both characteristic Pictish symbols and what may be a biblical scene. Plenty of local folklore exists around the stone. One tale claims it was once a maiden who lost a bet with the Devil.

- 4.5m north-west of Inverurie on the A96

41 Memsie Cairn

Memsie Cairn is a massive, well-preserved cairn built about 4,000 years ago. It was once flanked by two other stones, but today it stands alone in the landscape. It's impressive in size, measuring some 25m across and 4.5m high. Discoveries inside suggest it was used for burials until medieval times.

- Near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire



42 Peel Ring of Lumphanan

The Peel Ring of Lumphanan is an example of the earthworks that accompanied timber castles. It's one of only a few that were surrounded by a wet moat. Here, Sir John de Melville, Lord of Raith, submitted to Edward I of England in 1296. The castle was abandoned shortly afterwards.

- Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire



43 Picardy Symbol Stone

Ponder the enigmatic carvings on a 2m tall Pictish monolith, which once stood on a stone cairn. These mysterious symbols are typical of Pictish stones from around AD 600. It's potentially related to a burial, which would make it one of the few clearly associated with a grave.

- South of Huntly, Aberdeenshire



44 Ruthven Barracks

Spy the bulwark against the Jacobites on a prominent mound. The impressive structure is a striking detail in the landscape and can be seen for miles. Troops were stationed here to enforce law and order. A Jacobite attack failed to take the barracks in 1745, but an attack the next year succeeded.

- Near Kingussie, PH21 1NR



45 St Machar's Cathedral Transepts

St Machar's was the cathedral of the Aberdonian diocese in medieval times. Today, the transepts remain in good condition and contain some fine late medieval wall-tombs. The finest of the tombs commemorates Bishop Gavin Dunbar, who died in 1532. It features an ornate carving and an effigy of the bishop.

- The Chanonry, Aberdeen, AB24 1RQ

46 St Mary's Chapel, Crosskirk

In an isolated spot on the rugged north coast, you'll come across one of the oldest ecclesiastical buildings in Caithness. St Mary's Chapel was probably built in the 1100s, though the religious significance of the site may date back further with two long-cist burials being discovered on its grounds.

- Near Thurso, Caithness



47 St Mary's Kirk, Auchindoir

Roam the tranquil grounds of a simple parish church. St Mary's Kirk at Auchindoir is a rare survival. Although built simply like other parish churches of this date, it preserves some fine architectural details, including an example of a sacrament house.

- On a minor road off the road between Rhynie and Lumsden, Aberdeenshire



You get 10% discount in the café at Urquhart Castle with your membership card.

48 St Peter's Kirk and Parish Cross, Duffus

The 'Church of the Blessed Peter at Duffus' is first mentioned in a charter from 1190. The church was probably built by Freskin de Moray, who also constructed the mighty Duffus Castle nearby. Perhaps the finest medieval feature of St Peter's Kirk is the 14th century cross in the graveyard.

- Duffus, Moray



49 Spynie Palace

Spynie Palace was the seat of the bishops of Moray for 500 years. On the site, you'll find the imposing six-storey David's Tower, Scotland's largest surviving tower house. It was built around 1470 for Bishop David Stewart and is evidence of the power, wealth and lifestyle of the Moray bishops.

- Near Elgin, Moray, IV30 5QG
- 01343 546 358



50 Sueno's Stone

Admire the tallest and most complex piece of early medieval sculpture in Scotland. Sueno's Stone is a gigantic Pictish cross-slab standing 7m tall. Its ornate carvings detail a rare and complex narrative of a battle, as well as a unique scene interpreted as a royal inauguration.

- Findhorn Road, Forres, Moray, IV36 3WX



51 Tarves Tomb

Come face-to-face with a Jacobean lord and lady at this fine altar tomb. Tarves Tomb was constructed for Sir William Forbes in 1589. The remarkably lifelike portrait statuettes of Sir William and his wife Lady Elizabeth are as close as you'll ever get to meeting a 1500s lord and lady.

- Tarves, Ellon, AB41 7JF

52 Tolquhon Castle

Tolquhon is one of the most picturesque of Grampian's many castles. It was a noble residence for some 300 years, accommodating the Forbes family. The castle's lavish decorations include carved human figures on the twin-towered gatehouse, two of which are likely Sir William Forbes and Lady Elizabeth.

- Tarves, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7LP
- 01651 851 286



53 Tomnaverie Stone Circle

Amble around this stone circle in a sacred landscape. Tomnaverie is a recumbent stone circle, a kind of monument only found in north-eastern Scotland. Their characteristic features are a large stone on its side, flanked by two upright stones, usually on the south or south-west arc of the circle.

- Near Tarland, Aberdeenshire



54 Urquhart Castle

The magnificently situated Urquhart Castle, perched on the shore of Loch Ness, has seen some of the most dramatic chapters in our nation's story. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. The Lords of the Isles also regularly raided both castle and Glen Urquhart up until the 1500s.

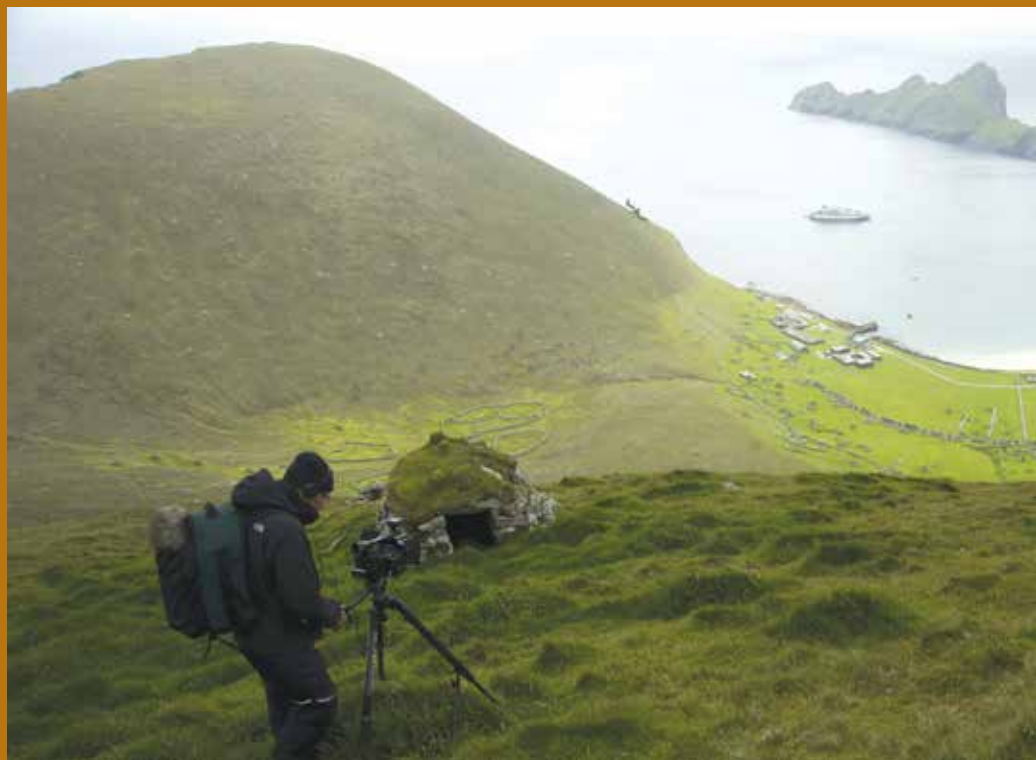
Despite its violent history, Urquhart's iconic ruins remain, offering glimpses into medieval times and the lives of its noble residents.

- By Drumnadrochit, near Inverness, IV63 6XJ
- 01456 450 551



The Western Isles, or Outer Hebrides, are situated in the extreme north-west of Scotland. Also known as The Long Isle, this chain of islands stretches for more than 100 miles. Considered the traditional heartland of the Gaelic language, the Western Isles are rich with culture and history going back thousands of years.

Overlooking the evacuated St Kilda Village





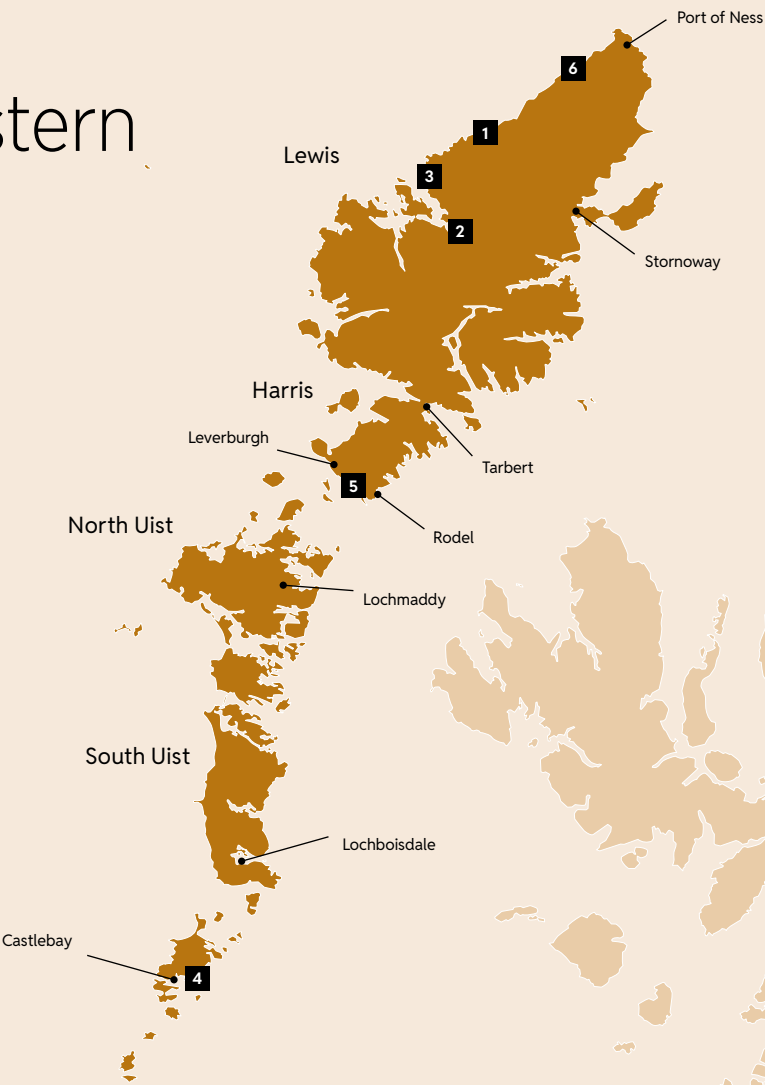
© Newsquest (Herald & Times)

St Kilda evacuees waiting at
the pier for their boat, 1929



Wander the Western Isles

The Western Isles



1	The Blackhouse, Arnol	3	Dun Carloway	5	St Clement's Church
2	Calanais Standing Stones	4	Kisimul Castle	6	Steinacleit Cairn and Stone Circle

Little-known stories

Heated by peat

For hundreds of years, most Hebrideans lived in blackhouses. These simple, thatched dwellings were heated by burning peat on an open-hearth. Typically, there were no chimneys or windows, so the thick, sweet smell of peat smoke hung in the air. In the 1920s, many families moved into newly built concrete 'white houses' with fireplaces and chimneys. Ironically, these dwellings were less healthy, as they trapped damp and caused pneumonia.

As old as stone

Calanais is one of Scotland's most distinctive and enigmatic Neolithic monuments. These tall standing stones are arranged in a cross shape, with a circle around the centre, which could suggest a Celtic cross. But don't be misled, Calanais Standing Stones pre-date Christianity by about 3,000 years. They sit in a coastal region on the Isle of Lewis which is peppered with clusters of Neolithic standing stones.

Broch solid

Brochs are circular towers unique to Scotland and mainly found in the highlands and islands. They were built in the Iron Age from drystone, where the stones are held together by friction and gravity rather than mortar. Many have suffered structural collapse, but the one at Carloway in Lewis is in good condition. It's believed the Morrison clan used it at least 1,500 years after it was built.

Snapshots through time



Using a metal detector on the wreck of The Adelaar, which sank in 1728



Men haggling over rolls of Harris Tweed on a ship, North Uist, 1940



Transporting of peat, Lewis, Ross shire, c. 1960s



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1 The Blackhouse, Arnol

Gain a unique insight into island life at The Blackhouse, Arnol. This traditional, furnished thatched house once sheltered a Hebridean family and its animals under the same roof. For hundreds of years, it was normal in rural Scotland for people and their animals to live in the same building. Sharing with animals made the house warmer and meant families needed fewer buildings.

A good number of Hebridean blackhouses were still used as homes as late as 1965, but few are left today. Number 42, Arnol is a unique and precious relic of a past way of life. This blackhouse, or taigh-dubh, in Gaelic, was built between 1852 and 1895. It may look primitive, but this kind of dwelling was well suited to the harsh climate and the residents' scarce resources.

- 42 Arnol, Bragar, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DB
- 01851 710 395



2 Calanais Standing Stones

Older than even Stonehenge, the Calanais Standing Stones can be found on the west coast of the wild and remote Island of Lewis. Erected roughly 5,000 years ago, the complex of monoliths stretches 83m and could have been an astronomical observatory, but its true use will likely remain a mystery.

- Callanish, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9DY



3 Dun Carloway

Rise to the ruins of a uniquely Scottish site atop a mound of rock on the Isle of Lewis. Dun Carloway is an excellent cross-section of a broch – a type of ancient structure only found in Scotland. At 9m tall, it still stands close to its impressive full height.

This example of Iron Age architecture may have been designed to make a bold statement of status, wealth or power. It was also easily defended, sitting high on a rocky outcrop, with wide views for miles around. It was likely occupied by a local chief who commanded control over the local environment and resources.

- 16 Doune, Carloway, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9AZ
- 01851 710 395



4 Kisimul Castle

Kisimul Castle, seat of the chief of the Macneils of Barra, lets us picture the nature of Gaelic lordship in the Middle Ages. Like all island lords, the Macneils were a seafaring clan. The island stronghold's Gaelic name, Caisteal Chiosmuil, means 'castle on the rock of the small bay'.

- Castlebay, Isle of Barra, HS9 5UZ
- 01871 810 313



5 St Clement's Church

Appreciate the quiet tranquillity of this isolated medieval church, a stone's throw from the sea. St Clement's Church has been praised as 'the grandest medieval building in the Western Isles', and it's easy to see why. It's an ambitious structure that owes its form to Ireland.

The church contains an unparalleled collection of later medieval and post-Reformation sculptures – the finest of these is the MacLeod tomb. The arched recess is a riot of carved ornamentation above the effigy of Alasdair, 8th Chief of MacLeod, dressed in armour and guarded by lions.

- Rodel, Harris, HS5 3TW

6 Steinacleit Cairn and Stone Circle

Wander around this curious prehistoric enclosure that lay buried under a metre of peat for thousands of years. Steinacleit was hidden until crofters clearing peat in the 1920s uncovered it. Originally, people thought it was a Neolithic stone circle but it's possible that it was actually a prehistoric farmstead.

- Loch an Duin, Shader, Lewis, HS2 ORH





Skara Brae, 2020 (see page 134)



A group of more than 70 islands and islets, only 20 of which are inhabited, the Orkney Isles are a treasure trove of prehistoric remnants. Explore underground passages, standing stones, burial sites and the best-preserved Neolithic village in western Europe.

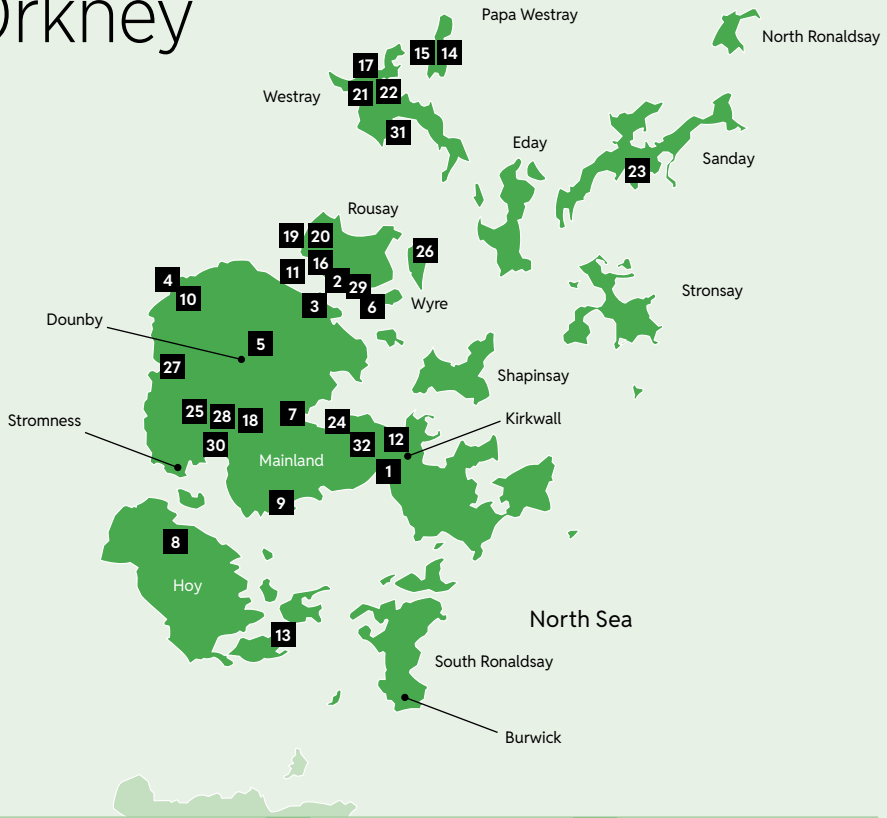


© Archive Services, University of Dundee

Tour the Orkney Isles

Abertay Historical Society
inspecting Skara Brae, 1955

Orkney



1	Bishop's and Earl's Palaces	12	Grain Earth House (Souterrain)	23	Quoyness Chambered Cairn
2	Blackhammer Chambered Cairn	13	Hackness Martello Tower and Battery	24	Rennibister Earth House (Souterrain)
3	Broch of Gurness	14	Holm of Papa Westray Chambered Cairn	25	Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle and Henge
4	Brough of Birsay	15	Knap of Howar	26	St Magnus Church, Egilsay
5	Click Mill	16	Knowe of Yarso Chambered Cairn	27	Skara Brae
6	Cubbie Roo's Castle and St Mary's Chapel	17	Links of Noltland	28	Stones of Stenness Circle and Henge
7	Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn	18	Maeshowe Chambered Cairn	29	Taversøe Tuick Chambered Cairn
8	Dwarfie Stane	19	Midhowe Broch	30	Unstan Chambered Cairn
9	Earl's Bu and Church, Orphir	20	Midhowe Chambered Cairn	31	Westside Church, Tuquoy
10	Earl's Palace, Birsay	21	Noltland Castle	32	Wideford Hill Chambered Cairn
11	Eynhallow Church	22	Pierowall Church		

Little-known stories

Puppy love

Noltland Castle was the grand and forbidding stronghold of the Balfour family, originally commissioned by Gilbert. Some say there was a den under the great staircase, occupied by a fearsome creature called the Boky Hound. The beast was rumoured to howl every time a Balfour died. In Gilbert's case, death came abruptly. He got embroiled in a plot at the Swedish court and was executed. Did the hound howl?

Blind faith

The Bishop's Palace was probably built for Bishop William 'the Old', who presided over the construction of the magnificent cathedral of St Magnus. William was reportedly slow to adopt the cult of St Magnus, an Earl who had been murdered 20 years earlier on the orders of his cousin, Earl Hakon. However, William began to believe in St Magnus's saintly power when he was miraculously cured of blindness.

Whisky and history

Midhowe Chambered Cairn was excavated by Graham Callander, Director of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. He was sponsored by whisky magnate, Walter Grant, owner of the Highland Park distillery who lived at Trumland House on Orkney. This unlikely partnership became known as 'the Broch Boys'.

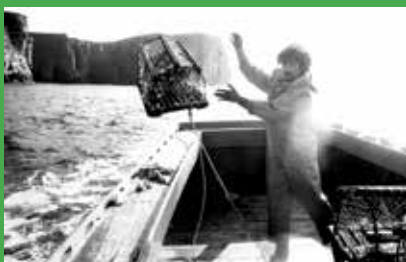
Snapshots through time



Playing golf at midnight, Kirkwall, 1974



The earliest photo of the Orkney Ba' game, 1898



Lobster Fisherman, Orkney, 1974 1976



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1 Bishop's and Earl's Palaces

Centuries before Orkney joined Scotland, Kirkwall was a bustling Norwegian port. The town's oldest surviving domestic building, the Bishop's Palace, is at the heart of the medieval cathedral complex. Along with St Magnus Cathedral itself, the Bishop's Palace is one of the best-preserved buildings from this era. It is the only episcopal palace ever built in Norse Scotland.

The ornate Earl's Palace was added much later, in the early 1600s. Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney, had the ambitious plan to make the Bishop's Palace part of a splendid palace complex, 'The Palace of the Yards'.

- Watergate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1PD
- 01856 871 918



2 Blackhammer Chambered Cairn

Enter the chamber of a 5,000-year-old burial monument on the small Orcadian island of Rousay. Blackhammer is a fine example of a Neolithic chambered tomb – a type known as a stalled cairn with a long central chamber divided into seven stalls. It's one of 15 chambered cairns on Rousay.

- Island of Rousay, Orkney, KW17 2PT



3 Broch of Gurness

Explore an iconic relic of Orkney's rich archaeological heritage. This Iron Age complex is one of the most outstanding examples of a later prehistoric settlement surviving in Scotland. Many brochs stood alone, but sizeable villages often surrounded those in Orkney.

The broch village at Gurness is one of the most impressive. It has been excavated and so gives a more vivid impression of life in the Middle Iron Age than similar sites. The Broch of Gurness was probably home to the chief family of the community. With its massively thick walls, it may also have been a defensive refuge. At the site, you can also see a Pictish house and a Viking grave.

- Aikerness, Evie, Orkney, KW17 2NH
- 01856 751 414





3

6 Cubbie Roo's Castle and St Mary's Chapel

Cubbie Roo's Castle is first mentioned in the Orkneyinga Saga as a 'fine stone castle' built in 1145 by the great Kolbein Hruga – also known as Cubbie Roo. This makes it the earliest documented medieval stone castle in Scotland. The accompanying St Mary's Chapel was built a short time later.

- Island of Wyre, 0.5m from pier, Orkney



4 Brough of Birsay

Reach this very special tidal island by causeway and explore Pictish and Norse remains. Brooches, rings, dress pins and a symbol stone found on the Brough of Birsay suggest that it was a Pictish power centre. The Norse settled the island 200 years later but may have lived peacefully alongside the Picts.

- Birsay Orkney, KW17 2LX
- 01856 841 815



5 Click Mill

Marvel at the charm and craftsmanship of a fully restored early 1800s water mill. The Click Mill was built in the early 1820s and was operational until the mid-1880s. It's the only mill on Orkney to retain all its internal machinery, including a horizontal paddle wheel, grindstones and a hopper.

- Hillside Rd, Dounby, Orkney, KW17 2HU



7 Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn

Find a 5,000-year-old Neolithic tomb where bones of men, dogs and oxen were found buried. Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn illustrates the sophisticated lives of Scotland's earliest agricultural communities. It has fine Neolithic architectural design, with evidence of complex burial rites, which suggests an ancient belief in an afterlife.

- Near Finstown, Orkney



7

© Rob McDougall

8 Dwarfie Stane

Crawl into a unique prehistoric tomb hollowed out from a massive block of sandstone before the invention of metal tools. The Dwarfie Stane has attracted curiosity for centuries. The little chambers, too small to stand up in, are thought to have given rise to legends about ‘dwarfs’ – hence the name.

- Island of Hoy, Orkney, KW16 3NJ



9 Earl's Bu and Church, Orphir

Trace events told in a Norse saga at the ruins of this church. The Orkneyinga Saga, dating to about 1136, tells of a great Yule feast given by Earl Paul at his bu, or residence, in Orphir. It describes a ‘large drinking-hall’ next to a ‘magnificent church’.

- Orphir, Orkney, KW17



10 Earl's Palace, Birsay

Roam the ruins of the residence of Robert Stewart, half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots, who became Earl of Orkney in the late 1500s. He was a notoriously harsh earl. When Robert died, his son Patrick succeeded him and continued his father's ruthless practices until he was arrested in 1609.

- Birsay, Orkney



11 Eynhallow Church

Explore the ruins of the ‘Holy Isle’. Eynhallow is an important place in Norse folklore, said to be the home of the finfolk. The ruins of a Norse church were discovered by accident in 1851, when fever struck the island and houses were dismantled to make them uninhabitable.

- Island of Eynhallow, Orkney



12 Grain Earth House (Souterrain)

Climb down into an underground Iron Age chamber supported by stone pillars. Grain Earth House is an exceptionally well-built and well-preserved example of an earth house, also known as a souterrain. Its original entrance survives today, leading to a 5m-long passage winding its way to an oval chamber.

- Swordfish Road, Hatston Industrial Estate, Orkney





13 Hackness Martello Tower and Battery

Explore Hackness Battery and Martello Tower, a mighty coastal defence built to protect merchant shipping interests during the Napoleonic Wars. At the time French and American warships were wreaking havoc on British merchant ships going through the Pentland Firth. Despite their impressive heft, these rare military remains never saw action.

- Hackness, South Walls, Orkney, KW16 3PQ
- 01856 701 727



14 Holm of Papa Westray Chambered Cairn

Travel to the chambers of an unusual Neolithic burial tomb on a small uninhabited island. Today, visitors descend into the Holm of Papa Westray through a hatch in the cairn's reconstructed roof and down a vertical ladder. But in Neolithic times entry was through a long, low and narrow passage.

- Island of Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney



15 Knap of Howar

Drop in on the oldest standing stone buildings in north-west Europe, first occupied more than 5,000 years ago. The Knap of Howar consists of two 'houses' with surviving stone cupboards and stalls. The site has not yet been completely explored. The two houses are certainly part of a larger settlement.

- Island of Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney



16 Knowe of Yarso Chambered Cairn

Knowe of Yarso is one of at least 15 chambered tombs on the small island of Rousay. These were used for multiple burials. The remains of at least 29 people were discovered inside the cairn during excavations in 1934. Curiously, there were also the bones of 36 red deer.

- Island of Rousay, Orkney





17 Links of Noltland

Links of Noltland is a brilliantly preserved Neolithic and Bronze Age farming settlement made up of over 30 buildings, and famous for the discovery of the Orkney Venus or 'Westray Wifie' figurine. Archaeologists might be working on site at times and it might therefore be covered up for protection.

- Island of Westray, Orkney



18 Maeshowe Chambered Cairn

Maeshowe, a monumental chambered tomb, is the finest Neolithic building surviving in north-west Europe. Built around 5,000 years ago, it's a masterpiece of prehistoric design and construction. Precisely positioned, for the three weeks around the winter solstice, the setting sun shines straight through the entrance and down the long passage to illuminate the chamber.

- Maeshowe Visitor Centre (at Stenness), Ireland Road, Stenness, KW16 3LB
- 01856 851 266



19 Midhowe Broch

Explore a well-defended Iron Age settlement, perched on a coastal promontory. Midhowe Broch is one of many structures along the banks of narrow, dangerous Eynhallow Sound in Orkney. It's in an excellent state of preservation, especially its stone internal fittings that were added later. You can see a water tank, fireplace and room partitions.

- Island of Rousay, Orkney



20 Midhowe Chambered Cairn

Experience one of the finest chambered cairns in Scotland, in its rather unusual setting. Midhowe is one of 15 Neolithic chambered cairns on the island of Rousay, and by far the largest you can visit. Chambered tombs like this were burial places, frequently visited by the living.

- Island of Rousay, Orkney, KW17 2PS



21 Noltland Castle

Inspect the evidence of gun damage on the exterior of this unique and imposing structure. Noltland Castle was built for Gilbert Balfour, master of Mary Queen of Scots' household and a man who had a need for strong defences. Balfour was implicated in the murder of Mary's husband, Henry Lord Darnley.

- Island of Westray, Orkney, KW17 2DW



23 Quoyness Chambered Cairn

Crawl into the elevated central chamber of a megalithic tomb dating back 5,000 years. To access Quoyness Chambered Cairn, visitors crawl through the 9m-long entrance passage leading into the 4m-tall central chamber. Once a well-appointed tomb, Quoyness hints at its makers reverence towards their dead.

- Island of Sanday, Orkney



24 Rennibister Earth House (Souterrain)

Descend underground into one of Scotland's most mysterious subterranean passages. Rennibister Earth House is a fantastic example of an Orkney souterrain – a stone-lined underground passage, with a small chamber at the end. Rather hauntingly, a pile of human bones was found on the floor when Rennibister was discovered in 1926.

- Kirkwall, KW15 1TX



22 Pierowall Church

Wander the ancient graveyard of Ladykirk, set in an area occupied for centuries. Pierowall Church was first built in the 1200s, though its safe natural harbour has welcomed visitors since Viking times, if not before. Much of what we see today, though, was the product of an extensive rebuild in the 1600s.

- Pierowall, Island of Westray, Orkney, KW17 2DG





27

25 Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle and Henge

Walk among the enigmatic stones of one of the most spectacular prehistoric monuments in the British Isles. The Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle and Henge is an enormous ceremonial site dating back to the third millennium BC. Ceremonies conducted here could have celebrated the relationship between living and past communities.

- Mainland, Orkney, KW16 3JZ



26 St Magnus Church, Egilsay

Follow the path of pilgrims to a fine Norse church marking the site of a saint's martyrdom. Earl Magnus was murdered in a confrontation with Earl Hakon about who should rule Orkney in 1116. The church dates to around 1136, when Bishop William of Orkney recognised Magnus as a saint.

- Island of Egilsay, Orkney, KW17 2QD



27 Skara Brae

Long before Stonehenge or even the Egyptian pyramids were built, Skara Brae was a thriving village. Step back 5,000 years in time to explore the best-preserved Neolithic settlement in western Europe.

First uncovered by a storm in 1850, Skara Brae remains a place of discovery today. Visit a replica Neolithic house to see how its full interior might have looked. Then follow the path that overlooks the ancient buildings, imagining what life was like for the farmers, hunters and fishermen who lived here. The prehistoric houses still contain stone 'dressers' and box-beds.

A larger structure at one end of the village has a special hearth and no box-beds, so may have been a workshop. No one knows why village life seems to have ended around 2500 BC. Some argue that a huge sandstorm covered the houses. Others believe it was a more gradual process.

- Sandwick, Orkney, KW16 3LR
- 01856 841 815





© Mark Ferguson Photography

30 Unstan Chambered Cairn

Explore a Neolithic round chambered cairn, known for its 'Unstan Ware' pottery. Unstan Chambered Cairn was probably built about 5,000 years ago as a burial place. It's an unusual example of a stalled cairn, with internal divisions or stalls, and a single side cell.

- Mainland, Orkney, KW16 3JX



28 Stones of Stenness Circle and Henge

Step back in time more than 5,000 years at what may be the earliest henge in Britain. The enormous Stones of Stenness are all that remains of a great stone circle on an ancient ceremonial site. Today, Stenness consists of four upright stones up to 6m in height.

- Mainland, Orkney, KW16 3JZ



31 Westside Church, Tuquoy

Explore the remains of a remote Norse church in what was once a wealthy corner of the Orkney earldom. The Orkneyinga Saga suggests that Westside Church was built by Haflidi Thorkelsson, neighbouring his farm. Today the church stands as a roofless ruin, though its beautiful simplicity still shows through.

- Island of Westray, Orkney



29 Taversöe Tuick Chambered Cairn

Explore three tombs in one at this unusual Neolithic chambered cairn. Taversöe Tuick Chambered Cairn has an unusual design. The main cairn has two burial chambers, one above the other – an arrangement seen at only one other Orkney tomb. Slightly downhill from the lower chamber is a third chamber.

- Island of Rousay, Orkney, KW17 2PR



32 Wideford Hill Chambered Cairn

Descend into the darkness of a 5,000-year-old chambered tomb. Wideford Hill Chambered Cairn is an excellent example of Neolithic design and construction. Today the tomb is accessed through the roof, rather than the long and narrow original passage. Once inside, you'll find rare examples of Neolithic scratch art.

- Kirkwall, Orkney





© National Museums Scotland

Ox drawn carts, Fair Isle, Shetland, c. 1900



The Fair Isle, 2015

Voyage to the Shetland Isles

An archipelago 110 miles off the coast of mainland Scotland, the Shetland Islands are the northernmost region of the UK. The Shetland Islands are known as the islands of opportunity and accordingly has plenty to see and do. Visit prehistoric structures, castles that housed notorious lords centuries ago or historic military fort.

Shetland



1	Clickimin Broch	5	Muness Castle
2	Fort Charlotte	6	Ness of Burgi
3	Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement	7	Scalloway Castle
4	Mousa Broch	8	Stanydale 'Temple'



Little-known stories

A novel choice

On the southern tip of Shetland's mainland sits Jarlsholm, a fascinating site that gained a new name in the 19th century. It was once called Sumburgh, a name still used by the neighbouring airport. Walter Scott renamed it Jarlshof, meaning 'Earl's Hall', when he featured the site in his novel *The Pirate*. He knew Shetland, having visited on a six-week voyage around Scotland with the Commissioners of Northern Lights, responsible for lighthouses.

Escaping north

Set on the remote island of Unst, Muness is Britain's northernmost castle. It was built in the 1580s for Laurence Bruce, a colourful character who allegedly had to flee Perthshire after committing murder. He probably came north to seek refuge with his half-brother, Robert Stewart, the notorious Lord (later Earl) of Orkney and Lord of Shetland.

Norse romances

Standing on a small island a short distance from the mainland, 13m-high Mousa is the tallest surviving broch tower. It is mentioned in Egil's Saga and the Orkneyinga Saga, two Norse stories. Both are Romeo and Juliet style stories about couples who fled to Shetland after marrying without the permission of their families. Orkneyinga notes that it 'was not easy to come and attack that place'.

Snapshots through time



Shetland knitwear, 1910



A Shetland Wedding, 1912



Bagpiper in Shetland, 2000



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1 Clickimin Broch

On the shore of Clickimin Loch, you'll find an outstanding example of a broch, stone round towers only found in Scotland.

- The Willows, South Rd, Lerwick, ZE1 0RD



2 Fort Charlotte

Fort Charlotte was built in 1665 to protect the Sound of Bressay from the Dutch, who took and burnt it down in 1673. It was rebuilt in 1781.

- Harbour St, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0JL



3 Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement

The fertile land around Sumburgh made Jarlshof the focus of settlement for millennia. Explore remains from the Bronze Age through the Viking period and into the 17th century.

- Sumburgh, ZE3 9JN



4 Mousa Broch

Climb the winding staircase of Scotland's best-preserved broch. At 13m tall, it stands as an amazing survivor from Scotland's prehistory.

- Island of Mousa, ZE2 9HP



5 Muness Castle

Muness Castle, Britain's northernmost castle, was built for Laurence Bruce of Cultmalindie – a prominent figure from turbulent times.

- Island of Unst, ZE2 9DL



6 Ness of Burgi

Situated on a promontory, Ness of Burgi is dominated by a so-called 'blockhouse fort', bordered on three sides by steep coastal cliffs.

- Scatness, Shetland



7 Scalloway Castle

Explore the fine castellated tower house of the infamous 'Black Patie'. He was accused of oppressing local labourers.

- Scalloway, Shetland



8 Stanydale 'Temple'

Stanydale 'Temple' is the only truly megalithic structure surviving from prehistoric Shetland. It might have been a village hall, courtroom or chieftain's hall.

- Near Bixter, mainland, Shetland



Anglo Saxons cultural group who inhabited and ruled much of what is now England and southern Scotland in the Early Middle Ages.

Augustinians a monastic order, established in the later 11th century, whose canons followed the teaching of St Augustine of Hippo (d. 430). The first Scottish house was founded at Scone (Perthshire) by Alexander I around 1120.

Bailey the outer courtyard of a castle.

Blockhouse a small fort or artillery fortification.

Bombard a large medieval siege cannon.

Broch a circular drystone tower of the Iron Age; unique to Scotland.

Bronze Age the prehistoric era during which copper and tin were smelted and alloyed as bronze, but before iron was used. In north-west Europe, the Bronze Age is usually taken to mean around 2000 BC to around 700 BC.

Brough a settlement located on a naturally defensive headland.

Burn a small river or stream.

Cairn a burial mound constructed from stones, containing one or more chambers.

Canon a member of a body of clergymen serving a cathedral or other church and living under a rule.

Caponier a stone-built, covered gunhouse in a ditch.

Castellated (of a wall) built with indentations from which a defender can fire weapons.

Celtic relating to an ancient European people who included Irish, Scots, Welsh and Bretons, their languages and culture.

Chancel the eastern section of a church or cathedral, including the altar, sanctuary and choir.

Chapter house a meeting room for canons or monks.

Choir the part of a church east of the nave, where clergymen or monks stood or sat.

Cist a burial chamber formed from stone slabs.

Cistercians a monastic order founded at Cîteaux, Burgundy, by St Robert of Molesme in 1098. The first Scottish house was established by David I at Melrose in 1136.

Cloister the domestic ranges of a monastery, usually built around a square garth or garden.

Collegiate church a church endowed with canons to provide Masses for the soul of a private patron.

Corbel a projection from a wall which supports a beam or similar structure.

Covenanters members of a religious, political and military movement to resist reform of the church in Scotland. The original National Covenant of 1638 provoked civil war in Scotland, which spread to England and Ireland and led to the overthrow and execution of Charles I. The Covenanting cause continued for much of the 17th century, with much bloodshed.

Cross-shaft the upright section of a standing cross.

Donjon the main tower of a medieval castle.

Dovecot (or Scots 'doocot') a building to house doves or pigeons.

Drystone a building technique that does not use mortar.

Earthworks a fortification, burial mound or other construction created by excavating earth.

Ecclesiastical relating to church buildings or procedures.

Fresco a painting completed rapidly on wet plaster, the colours becoming fixed as the plaster dries.

Gothic a style of architecture prominent in southern and western Europe from the 12th to the 16th century, characterised by pointed arches, elaborate stone carving, large windows and lighter stonework (compared to Romanesque), designed to distribute the weight of upper levels via the ingenious arrangement of arches, pillars and other structural elements.

Henge a circular enclosure defined by a ditch and bank, often in association with a wood or stone circle.

Iron Age the prehistoric era following the Bronze Age, during which iron was used to create tools, weapons and other items. In north-west Europe, the Iron Age is usually taken to mean around 700 BC to around 400 AD.

Jacobites supporters of the exiled Catholic Stuart successors to the throne. After the Glorious Revolution in 1688, King James VII was forced to abdicate. The first Jacobite Rising of 1689 was a failed attempt to restore him to the throne. Several more Risings followed in support of his son, Prince James Francis. The last and most successful of these was led by Prince James's son Charles Stuart ('Bonnie Prince Charlie') in 1745–46. Despite early victories, the Jacobites were crushed at Culloden in 1746.

Keep the main tower of a medieval castle.

Kirk; Kirkyard (Scots) a church; a churchyard.

Laird (Scots) a lord or landowner.

Laird's lug (literally 'laird's ear') a hidden opening in the wall of a public room which allowed the owner to monitor conversations taking place within.

Lilia pits fitted with sharpened stakes: a defensive measure used by the Romans along the Antonine Wall.

Lintel a horizontal structural support that spans an opening in a wall, such as a doorway or window.

Monastic relating to a religious order.

Motte the mound on which a castle was built.

Nave the western section of a church, used by the congregation.

Neolithic the late Stone Age, when agriculture began to develop but metals were not used. In north-western Europe, the Neolithic era is usually taken to mean around 4500 BC to around 2000 BC.

Norse relating to the Scandinavian peoples who raided and invaded parts of Scotland and England from the 8th to the 11th centuries. Norse settlers had a particular influence on the culture of Orkney, Shetland and Caithness.

Ogham a writing system used by some groups of Celts, comprising straight lines drawn or carved at varying angles.

Peel (Scottish Borders) a fortified tower.

Picts the native peoples who occupied much of what is now Scotland around 400–900 AD.

Priory a small monastery or nunnery that is governed by a prior or prioress.

Ptolemy's Geography a comprehensive work of cartography and geography written in the 2nd century AD.

Rampart(s) the wall or embankment surrounding a fortification.

Reformation the emergence of Protestant Christianity in northern Europe as a break from the Roman Catholic church. In Scotland, this was formalised in 1560 with the re-establishment of the Church of Scotland and the founding of the Reformation Parliament, which rejected papal authority.

Regent an administrator who governs on behalf of a monarch, usually because the latter is too young to rule.

Renaissance (literally 'rebirth') a period of great cultural flowering which occurred throughout Europe in the 14th to 17th centuries.

Romanesque (sometimes called 'Norman') a style of architecture prominent in southern and western Europe during the 10th, 11th and 12th centuries, characterised by massive stone constructions and rounded arches.

Roundhouse a building type common in Iron Age Scotland.

Scots originally a Celtic tribe that established itself in the north-eastern part of Ireland. The Scots became a significant force in what is now Scotland around the 6th century AD.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) a protected area designated for conservation by NatureScot.

Souterrain an Iron Age underground chamber, probably associated with a house at ground level. Sometimes called an earth house.

Transepts the northern and southern limbs of a cross-shaped church.

Vaulted (of a ceiling) arched over in stone.

Viking a Norse raider or invader of the 8th to 11th centuries. Viking settlers are usually called Norse.

Whinstone any hard, dark-coloured rock, sometimes used as gravel and for similar purposes.

World Heritage Site a protected site designated by UNESCO as having outstanding cultural and/or natural importance.

Yett (Scots) an open-barred iron gate.

A

<input type="checkbox"/> Aberdour Castle and Gardens	86
<input type="checkbox"/> Aberlemno Sculptured Stones	94
<input type="checkbox"/> Abernethy Round Tower	94
<input type="checkbox"/> Ach-na-breac Rock Art	75
<input type="checkbox"/> Arbroath Abbey	94
<input type="checkbox"/> Ardchattan Priory	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Ardcloch Bell Tower	106
<input type="checkbox"/> Ardestie Earth House (Souterrain)	94
<input type="checkbox"/> Arduvie Roman Signal Station	99
<input type="checkbox"/> Argyll's Lodging	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Auchagallon Stone Circle	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Auchindoun Castle	106

B

<input type="checkbox"/> Ballygowan Rock Art	75
<input type="checkbox"/> Baluachraig Rock Art	75
<input type="checkbox"/> Balvaird Castle	94
<input type="checkbox"/> Balvenie Castle	106
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar Hill Fort	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Barochan Cross	58
<input type="checkbox"/> Barsalloch Fort	44
<input type="checkbox"/> Bearsden Bath House	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaulieu Priory	106
<input type="checkbox"/> Biggar Gasworks Museum	58
<input type="checkbox"/> Bishop's and Earl's Palaces	128
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackhammer Chambered Cairn	128
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Hill Camps	99
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackhouse, Arnol	122
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackness Castle	22
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonawe Historic Iron Furnace	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Bothwell Castle	58
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandsbutt Stone	106
<input type="checkbox"/> Brechin Cathedral Round Tower	95
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge of Oich	107
<input type="checkbox"/> Broch of Gurness	128
<input type="checkbox"/> Brough of Birsay	129
<input type="checkbox"/> Broughty Castle	95
<input type="checkbox"/> Burghead Well	107
<input type="checkbox"/> Burleigh Castle	95

C

<input type="checkbox"/> Cadzow Castle	59
<input type="checkbox"/> Caerlaverock Castle	44
<input type="checkbox"/> Cairn Holy Chambered Cairns	44
<input type="checkbox"/> Cairn o'Get	107
<input type="checkbox"/> Cairnbaan Rock Art	75
<input type="checkbox"/> Cairnpapple Hill	22
<input type="checkbox"/> Calanais Standing Stones	122
<input type="checkbox"/> Cambuskenneth Abbey	70
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardoness Castle	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Carlungie Earth House (Souterrain)	95
<input type="checkbox"/> Carn Ban	57
<input type="checkbox"/> Carn Liath Broch	107
<input type="checkbox"/> Carnasserie Castle	76
<input type="checkbox"/> Carsluith Castle	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle Campbell and Gardens	70
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle Cary	68
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle of Old Wick	107
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle Semple Collegiate Church	59
<input type="checkbox"/> Castle Sween	70
<input type="checkbox"/> Castletlaw Hill Fort	23
<input type="checkbox"/> Caterthuns (Brown and White)	95
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Finian	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Chesters Hill Fort	23
<input type="checkbox"/> Clackmannan Tower	71
<input type="checkbox"/> Clava Cairns	108
<input type="checkbox"/> Claypotts Castle	95
<input type="checkbox"/> Click Mill	129
<input type="checkbox"/> Clickimin Broch	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns	108
<input type="checkbox"/> Corgarff Castle	108
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrimony Chambered Cairn	108
<input type="checkbox"/> Corstorphine Dovecot	23
<input type="checkbox"/> Coulter Motte Hill	59
<input type="checkbox"/> Craigmillar Castle	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Craignethan Castle	59
<input type="checkbox"/> Crichton Castle	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Crookston Castle	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Kirk, Peebles	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossraguel Abbey	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Croy Hill	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Cubbie Roo's Castle and St Mary's Chapel	129
<input type="checkbox"/> Cullerlie Stone Circle	108
<input type="checkbox"/> Culross Abbey	87
<input type="checkbox"/> Culsh Earth House (Souterrain)	109
<input type="checkbox"/> Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn	129

D

<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas Dhu Historic Distillery	109
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer Abbey	109
<input type="checkbox"/> Dere Street Roman Road, Soutra	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Deskford Church	109
<input type="checkbox"/> Dirleton Castle and Gardens	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Dogton Stone	87
<input type="checkbox"/> Doon Hill	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Doune Castle	71
<input type="checkbox"/> Druchtag Motte	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Drumcoltran Tower	45
<input type="checkbox"/> Drumtroddan Cup and Ring Marked Rocks	46
<input type="checkbox"/> Drumtroddan Standing Stones	46
<input type="checkbox"/> Dryburgh Abbey	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Duff House	110
<input type="checkbox"/> Duffus Castle	110
<input type="checkbox"/> Dullatur	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Dumbarton Castle	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Dun Beag Broch	110
<input type="checkbox"/> Dun Carlaway	123
<input type="checkbox"/> Dun Dornaigil Broch	111
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunadd Fort	76
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunblane Cathedral	71
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunchraigaig Cairn	76
<input type="checkbox"/> Dundonald Castle	60
<input type="checkbox"/> Dundrennan Abbey	46
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunfallandy Stone	96
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunfermline Abbey and Palace	87
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunglass Collegiate Church	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunkeld Cathedral	96
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel	72
<input type="checkbox"/> Dwarfie Stane	130
<input type="checkbox"/> Dyce Symbol Stones	111

E

<input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Rock, Cramond	25
<input type="checkbox"/> Earl's Bu and Church, Orphir	130
<input type="checkbox"/> Earl's Palace, Birsay	130
<input type="checkbox"/> Eassie Sculptured Stone	96
<input type="checkbox"/> East Aquhorthies Stone Circle	111
<input type="checkbox"/> Edin's Hall Broch	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Edinburgh Castle	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Edrom Church	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Edzell Castle and Garden	96
<input type="checkbox"/> Eileach an Naoimh	72
<input type="checkbox"/> Eilean Mòr	73
<input type="checkbox"/> Elcho Castle	97
<input type="checkbox"/> Elgin Cathedral	111
<input type="checkbox"/> Eynhallow Church	130

F

<input type="checkbox"/> Fort Charlotte	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Fort George	112
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortrose Cathedral	112
<input type="checkbox"/> Foulden Tithe Barn	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Fowlis Wester Sculptured Stone	97

G

<input type="checkbox"/> Glasgow Cathedral	61
<input type="checkbox"/> Glebe Cairn	76
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenbuchat Castle	112
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenelg Brochs: Dun Telve and Dun Troddan	113
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenluce Abbey	47
<input type="checkbox"/> Grain Earth House (Souterrain)	130
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenknowe Tower	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Grey Cairns of Camster	113

H

<input type="checkbox"/> Hackness Martello Tower and Battery	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Hailes Castle	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermitage Castle	38
<input type="checkbox"/> Hill o'Many Stanes	113
<input type="checkbox"/> Hilton of Cadboll Chapel	113
<input type="checkbox"/> Holm of Papa Westray Chambered Cairn	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Holyrood Abbey	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Holyrood Park	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Huntingtower Castle	97
<input type="checkbox"/> Huntly Castle	114

I

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchcolm Abbey and Island	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Inchkenneth Chapel	73
<input type="checkbox"/> Inchmahome Priory	73
<input type="checkbox"/> Innerpeffray Chapel	98
<input type="checkbox"/> Inverlochy Castle	114
<input type="checkbox"/> Iona Abbey and Nunnery	73
<input type="checkbox"/> Iona: MacLean's Cross	74

J

<input type="checkbox"/> Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Jedburgh Abbey	39

K

<input type="checkbox"/> Keills Chapel and Cross	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Kelso Abbey	39
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilberry Sculptured Stones	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilchurn Castle	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Kildalton Cross	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Kildrummy Castle	114
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilmartin Stones	77
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilmichael Glassary Rock Art	77
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilmodan Sculptured Stones	78
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilmory Knap Chapel	79
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilpatrick Dun	57
<input type="checkbox"/> Kilwinning Abbey	62
<input type="checkbox"/> King's Knot	81
<input type="checkbox"/> Kinkell Church	114
<input type="checkbox"/> Kinneil House	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Kirkmadrine Early Christian Stones	47
<input type="checkbox"/> Kisimul Castle	123
<input type="checkbox"/> Knap of Howar	131
<input type="checkbox"/> Knocknagael Boar Stone	114
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowe of Yarso Chambered Cairn	131

L

<input type="checkbox"/> Laggangairn Standing Stones	47
<input type="checkbox"/> Lauderdale Aisle, St Mary's Church	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincluden Collegiate Church	47
<input type="checkbox"/> Lindsay Burial Aisle	98
<input type="checkbox"/> Links of Noltland	132
<input type="checkbox"/> Linlithgow Palace	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Loanhead Stone Circle	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Loch Doon Castle	62
<input type="checkbox"/> Lochleven Castle	98
<input type="checkbox"/> Lochmaben Castle	48
<input type="checkbox"/> Lochranza Castle	57

M

<input type="checkbox"/> Machrie Moor Standing Stones	57
<input type="checkbox"/> MacLellan's Castle	48
<input type="checkbox"/> Maeshowe Chambered Cairn	132
<input type="checkbox"/> Maiden Stone	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Maison Dieu Chapel, Brechin	98
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar's Wark	81
<input type="checkbox"/> Maybole Collegiate Church	62
<input type="checkbox"/> Meigle Sculptured Stone Museum	98
<input type="checkbox"/> Melrose Abbey	39
<input type="checkbox"/> Memsie Cairn	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Merkland Cross	48
<input type="checkbox"/> Midhowe Broch	132
<input type="checkbox"/> Midhowe Chambered Cairn	132
<input type="checkbox"/> Morton Castle	48
<input type="checkbox"/> Moss Farm Road Stone Circle	57
<input type="checkbox"/> Mousa Broch	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Muir o'Fauld Roman Signal Station	99
<input type="checkbox"/> Muness Castle	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Muthill Old Church and Tower	99

N

<input type="checkbox"/> Ness of Burgi	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Nether Largie Cairns	77
<input type="checkbox"/> New Abbey Corn Mill	49
<input type="checkbox"/> Newark Castle	62
<input type="checkbox"/> Noltland Castle	133

O

<input type="checkbox"/> Orchardton Tower	49
<input type="checkbox"/> Ormiston Market Cross	29

P

<input type="checkbox"/> Peel Ring of Lumphanan	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Picardy Symbol Stone	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Pierowall Church	133
<input type="checkbox"/> Preston Market Cross	29

Q

<input type="checkbox"/> Quoyness Chambered Cairn	133
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R

<input type="checkbox"/> Ravenscraig Castle	87
<input type="checkbox"/> Rennibister Earth House (Souterrain)	133
<input type="checkbox"/> Restenneth Priory	99
<input type="checkbox"/> Rì Cruin Cairn	77
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring of Brodgar Stone Circle and Henge	134
<input type="checkbox"/> Rispaig Camp	49
<input type="checkbox"/> Rothesay Castle	63
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough Castle	68
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruthven Barracks	115
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruthwell Cross	50

S

<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrews Castle	88
<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrews Cathedral	88
<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrews: Blackfriars Chapel	89
<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrews: St Mary's Church, Kirkheugh	89
<input type="checkbox"/> St Andrews: West Port	89
<input type="checkbox"/> St Blane's Church, Kingarth	63
<input type="checkbox"/> St Bride's Church, Douglas	63
<input type="checkbox"/> St Bridget's Kirk	89
<input type="checkbox"/> St Clement's Church	123
<input type="checkbox"/> St Machar's Cathedral Transepts	116
<input type="checkbox"/> St Magnus Church, Egilsay	134
<input type="checkbox"/> St Martin's Kirk, Haddington	29
<input type="checkbox"/> St Mary's Chapel, Crosskirk	116
<input type="checkbox"/> St Mary's Chapel, Rothesay	63
<input type="checkbox"/> St Mary's Church, Grandtully	100
<input type="checkbox"/> St Mary's Kirk, Auchindoir	116
<input type="checkbox"/> St Ninian's Cave	50
<input type="checkbox"/> St Ninian's Chapel	50
<input type="checkbox"/> St Orland's Stone	100
<input type="checkbox"/> St Peter's Kirk and Parish Cross, Duffus	116
<input type="checkbox"/> St Serf's Church and The Dupplin Cross	100
<input type="checkbox"/> St Triduana's Chapel, Restalrig Collegiate Church	29
<input type="checkbox"/> St Vigean's Stones and Museum	100
<input type="checkbox"/> Scalloway Castle	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Scotstarvit Tower	89
<input type="checkbox"/> Seabegs Wood	68
<input type="checkbox"/> Seton Collegiate Church	29
<input type="checkbox"/> Skara Brae Prehistoric Village	134
<input type="checkbox"/> Skelmorlie Aisle	63
<input type="checkbox"/> Skipness Castle and Chapel	79

<input type="checkbox"/> Smailholm Tower	39
<input type="checkbox"/> Spynie Palace	116
<input type="checkbox"/> Stanydale 'Temple'	139
<input type="checkbox"/> Stanley Mills	101
<input type="checkbox"/> Steinacleit Cairn and Stone Circle	123
<input type="checkbox"/> Stirling Castle	80
<input type="checkbox"/> Stirling Old Bridge	81
<input type="checkbox"/> Stones of Stenness Circle and Henge	135
<input type="checkbox"/> Sueno's Stone	117
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunnybrae Cottage	101
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweetheart Abbey	50

T

<input type="checkbox"/> Tantallon Castle	30
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarves Tomb	117
<input type="checkbox"/> Taversøe Tuick Chambered Cairn	135
<input type="checkbox"/> Tealing Dovecot and Earth House (Souterrain)	101
<input type="checkbox"/> Temple Wood Stone Circle, Kilmartin	78
<input type="checkbox"/> Threave Castle	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Tolquhon Castle	117
<input type="checkbox"/> Tomnaverie Stone Circle	117
<input type="checkbox"/> Torhouse Stone Circle	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Torphichen Preceptory	31
<input type="checkbox"/> Torr a'Chaisteal Dun	58
<input type="checkbox"/> Torrylin Cairn	58
<input type="checkbox"/> Trinity House Maritime Museum	31
<input type="checkbox"/> Tullibardine Chapel	101

U

<input type="checkbox"/> Unstan Chambered Cairn	135
<input type="checkbox"/> Urquhart Castle	117

W

<input type="checkbox"/> Wanlockhead Beam Engine	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Watling Lodge East and West	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Westerwood to Castlecary	56
<input type="checkbox"/> Westquarter Dovecot	81
<input type="checkbox"/> Westside Church, Tuquoy	135
<input type="checkbox"/> Whithorn Priory and Museum	51
<input type="checkbox"/> Wideford Hill Chambered Cairn	135



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