



CASTLESCOTLAND

INDEPENDENT FIELD GUIDE

Outlander

Castles in Scotland

Six filming locations.

Real places. Deeper stories.



ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY DG

A free guide from castlescotland.app

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FROM SCREEN TO SCOTLAND

Follow the story.

A familiar doorway can be the beginning of a different journey. This guide brings together six places from the CastleScotland collection that helped bring Outlander to the screen.

Come for Castle Leoch or Lallybroch, then take time to discover the real buildings and landscapes. The pages pair a short screen connection with historical context, original photographs and practical ideas for a visit.

INSIDE THE GUIDE

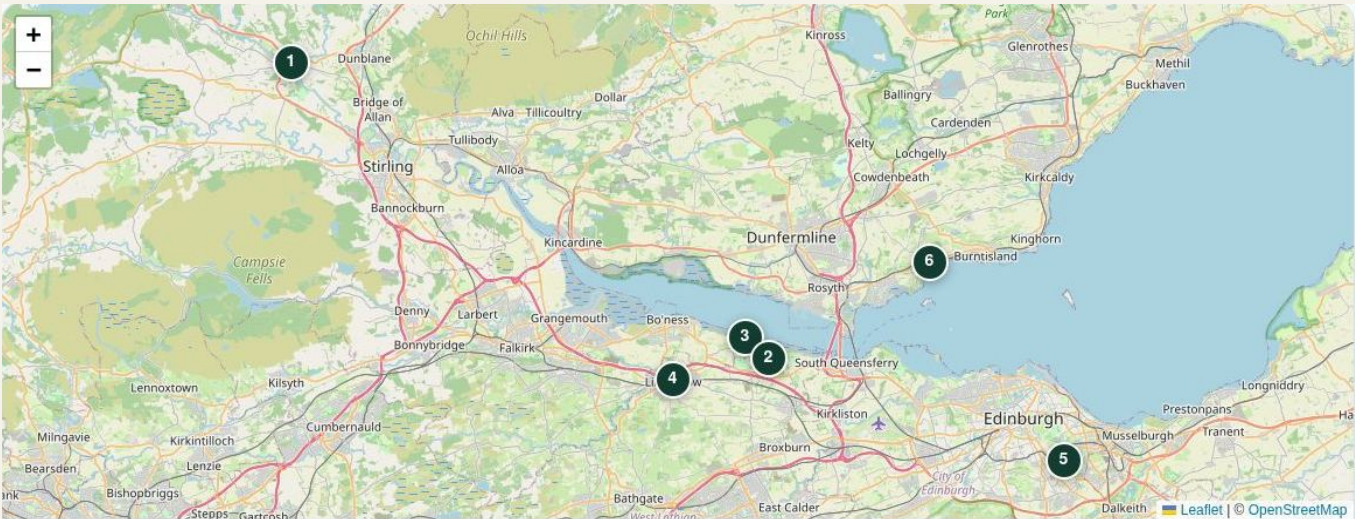
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Tap a contents entry to move through the PDF. Full-guide links and QR codes open CastleScotland; visitor links open the operator's website. The PDF stays readable offline; live links need a connection.

THE REAL GEOGRAPHY

Six places, one collection.

The numbers identify filming locations, not a recommended driving order. The fictional settings may be a long way from the places you will actually visit.



Map data: OpenStreetMap contributors. Location numbering: CastleScotland.

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Use the interactive map to open a castle guide. For driving directions, parking and access, check the operator's visitor information before leaving.

[Open the collection map](#)



01 / DOUNE, NEAR STIRLING

Doune Castle

ON SCREEN: CASTLE LEOCH / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 1



Doune Castle: a real medieval stronghold behind Castle Leoch.

ON SCREEN

Doune plays Castle Leoch, the home of Colum MacKenzie and his clan. Its courtyard makes the connection immediately recognisable.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

The real castle is associated with Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. Its connection with that powerful medieval household is separate from the fictional MacKenzie setting.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Make Doune the main destination of its own outing. Leave time for the courtyard and the rooms open on the day; check access details before booking.

[Scan for full guide](#)[Full castle guide](#)[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 1, 3



02 / HOPETOUN ESTATE, NEAR SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Midhope Castle

ON SCREEN: LALLYBROCH / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 1



Midhope Castle: the familiar exterior of Lallybroch.

ON SCREEN

The exterior of Midhope becomes Lallybroch, Jamie Fraser's family home. Look for the familiar approach, archway and steps.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Midhope is a historic tower house on the Hopetoun Estate. Lallybroch is its screen identity, not its historical name.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Plan for the grounds and exterior, not the castle interior. Arrange your return journey before arriving: the estate advises that Midhope is not served by public transport and taxis may be hard to find.

Scan for full guide

[Full castle guide](#)

[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 2



03 / BLACKNESS, ON THE FIRTH OF FORTH

Blackness Castle

ON SCREEN: FORT WILLIAM / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 1



Blackness Castle: stone defences beside the Firth of Forth.

ON SCREEN

Blackness stands in for Fort William. Its real setting is the Firth of Forth, far from the Highland town.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Built as a fifteenth-century residence for the Crichtons, Blackness developed into a heavily fortified stronghold. Its military character extends well beyond its screen role.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Pair Blackness with nearby Midhope. Allow time to enjoy the waterfront setting as well as the castle, and check the official access notes before travelling.

[Scan for full guide](#)[Full castle guide](#)[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 1, 4



04 / LINLITHGOW, WEST LOTHIAN

Linlithgow Palace

ON SCREEN: WENTWORTH PRISON / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 1



Linlithgow Palace: royal architecture around an open courtyard.

ON SCREEN

The palace entrance and corridors were used for Wentworth Prison scenes. The screen setting draws on parts of the building.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

The real building is a royal palace and the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Its open courtyard and ruined royal apartments tell a very different story.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Choose a relaxed Linlithgow visit, or treat the palace as an optional extra after Midhope and Blackness. Add it only if admission times allow a proper visit.

[Scan for full guide](#)[Full castle guide](#)[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 1, 5



05 / EDINBURGH

Craigmillar Castle

ON SCREEN: ARDSMUIR PRISON / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 3



Craigmillar Castle: a historic residence on the edge of Edinburgh.

ON SCREEN

Craigmillar becomes Ardsmuir Prison in season three. The real filming location is on the edge of Edinburgh.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Craigmillar's medieval walls also belong to the real story of Mary, Queen of Scots, who stayed here. Explore it as a historic residence as well as a screen location.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Give Craigmillar a separate Edinburgh outing. This avoids turning the western castle route into a cross-city journey and leaves more time for the place itself.

Scan for full guide

[Full castle guide](#)

[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 1



06 / ABERDOUR, FIFE

Aberdour Castle

ON SCREEN: ABBEY SCENES / FIRST APPEARANCE: SEASON 1



Aberdour Castle: surviving buildings and a domestic landscape.

ON SCREEN

Aberdour provides the abbey setting in season one, with the Old Kitchen and Long Gallery used for filming.

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Aberdour was a residence of the Earls of Morton. Its surviving buildings and gardens form a domestic setting, not the monastery portrayed on screen.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Plan a separate Fife outing. Check opening days before setting off, particularly outside the main season, and leave time to enjoy the castle and its setting.

Scan for full guide

[Full castle guide](#)

[Official visitor information](#)

Sources: 1, 6



PLAN A VISIT

Four unhurried outings.

Choose an outing to suit your starting point and the admission slots available. These are planning suggestions, not a promise that all six places fit into one day.

01 West of Edinburgh

Midhope + Blackness; Linlithgow optional

Start with Midhope and Blackness. Add Linlithgow only if opening times and your pace leave enough time for the palace. Confirm return transport for Midhope first.

02 An Edinburgh castle visit

Craigmillar

Make Craigmillar a separate stop. It gives you room to explore without adding a cross-city detour to the western route.

03 The Castle Leoch day

Doune

Let Doune be the main destination. Take time for the real castle as well as the familiar screen setting, and build the journey around its entry times.

04 Across to Fife

Aberdour

Keep Aberdour as its own outing. A separate visit leaves space for the castle and its surroundings without chasing another distant admission slot.

Book first, then arrange transport. Leave room for weather, photographs, a meal and a slower visit when a place deserves it.

MAKE THE VISIT WORK

A little planning helps.

Check access before booking

Use the official links on each castle page for opening days, tickets and temporary restrictions. A filming connection does not guarantee access to every room seen on screen.

Plan the return journey

Think about the last part of the trip, not only the train or bus to a nearby town. Midhope needs particular care: the estate advises arranging transport and warns that a return taxi can be difficult to find.

Match the visit to your needs

Read the operator's accessibility information for steps, surfaces and available routes. Contact the site if a particular area or facility matters to your visit.

Prepare for an outdoor day

Take comfortable footwear and a waterproof layer. Leave spare time for weather and for walking between the arrival point, the entrance and the viewpoints you want to enjoy.

Keep photography considerate

Follow signs and staff instructions. Keep entrances clear, respect other visitors and use only areas open to the public.

Save what you need

Keep this PDF on your phone or tablet before leaving. The photographs, map and text work offline; websites opened by links or QR codes require an internet connection.

KEEP EXPLORING

Browse more original photographs, castle histories and the full interactive map at **castlescotland.app**.

THE DETAILS BEHIND THE GUIDE

Sources & credits.

Screen roles and historical identities are kept separate throughout. The numbered references below support the short summaries; official visitor links on the castle pages provide current admission information.

01 VisitScotland

Outlander filming locations: special edition

Screen roles for the six locations; sections East and Central.

02 Hopetoun Estate

Outlander at Hopetoun / Midhope Castle

Lallybroch; grounds-only admission; arrival and return transport.

03 Historic Environment Scotland

Doune Castle: history and stories

Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, and the real castle.

04 Historic Environment Scotland

Blackness Castle: history and stories

The Crichtons and the development of the fortress.

05 Historic Environment Scotland

Linlithgow Palace

The royal palace and Mary, Queen of Scots.

06 Historic Environment Scotland

Aberdour Castle and the 8th Earl of Morton

The Earls of Morton and the castle as a residence.

Photography: DG / CastleScotland. Cover: Midhope Castle.

Map: OpenStreetMap contributors; numbering by CastleScotland.

Edition: September 2026. References reviewed on 9 September 2026.

An independent CastleScotland guide. Not an official Outlander publication. The screen notes identify locations without retelling the main plot.

[Read the collection online](#)

