



CREATING A WORLD-CLASS ATTRACTION

HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S 20 YEAR TRANSFORMATION OF STIRLING CASTLE



STIRLING
CASTLE

The refurbishment of the royal palace is the fourth and most ambitious stage in Historic Scotland's 20-year programme to conserve Stirling Castle and enhance its position as a must-see visitor attraction. The Stirling Castle Project began in 1991 and the first three phases have achieved a huge amount. In a competitive market, annual visitor numbers have grown from around 290,000 to 380,000.

When the project was proposed, in 1990, it outlined a bold vision to 'enhance the castle as a visitor attraction, while continuing to conserve it as a monument of international importance'. It's easy to forget that back then the castle buildings were bare and visitor information was largely limited to a few information boards and a guidebook. The years since then brought major investments which mean there is now much more to see and do. This is thanks to the:

- restoration of James IV's Great Hall
- creation of an introductory multi-media exhibition telling the story of the castle
- refurbishment of King James VI's Chapel Royal
- furnishing, fitting and creation of displays of the medieval kitchens
- development of displays in the royal palace vaults
- creation of displays in the Great Hall vaults.

Other major improvements have included:

- a new café
- provision of a shop, ticketing and toilets in the Guard House
- the creation of a book shop
- provision of education rooms for schools and community groups
- floodlighting for the castle and Argyll's Lodging
- conservation and maintenance works to all areas of the castle
- creation of a studio where the tapestries for the palace are being woven.

Behind the scenes there have also been a variety of changes such as improved staff accommodation and upgrades to fire safety measures.