

CASTLES AND ABBEYS OF CENTRAL SCOTLAND



Central Scotland was the scene of many battles because Stirling guarded the route to the north - the Battle of Bannockburn and the Battle of Stirling Bridge both played their part in Scotland's wars to gain independence from English domination. These wars may be at an end now, but the castles stand as reminders of more troubled times.

Duration: We suggest that you take 7 days for this tour.

Stirling Castle (in the centre of Stirling) 'The Key to the Kingdom' towers above the surrounding countryside and was for centuries the home of Scotland's monarchs. It includes the soldiers' barracks, medieval kitchen, the Chapel Royal and the Great Hall (visit: 2 hours).



Argyll's Lodging (in the centre of Stirling) an impressive 17th century townhouse, furnished as it would have been in the 1680s (visit: 45 minutes).

Linlithgow Palace (in Linlithgow, off the M9, 19m S of Stirling) is a magnificent building, set in its own picturesque park by Linlithgow Loch. For centuries a favourite residence of the Stewart monarchs (visit: 1 hour).

Castle Campbell (at the head of Dollar Glen, 10m E of Stirling on the A91) is situated in a glorious location and has a tranquil beauty (visit: 1 hour).

Lochleven Castle (Loch Leven, by Kinross, signposted from the A922, 25m E of Dollar). On a small island in Loch Leven, easily reached by boat. An early 15th century tower from which Mary, Queen of Scots escaped in 1568 (visit: 1.5 hours, including boat trip of 10 minutes each way).



St. Andrews Castle and

St. Andrews Cathedral (in St. Andrews on the A91, 30m E of Kinross). The castle has a bottle dungeon, mine and counter-mine. The cathedral ruins house an outstanding collection of medieval sculpture. Splendid views from the top of St. Rule's Tower. In the cathedral graveyard are buried Old Tom Morris and his son, also Tom, two legendary figures in golf (visit: 45 minutes in each).



Arbroath Abbey (in the centre of Arbroath on the A92 N of Dundee, 30m N of St. Andrews). Substantial ruins of a 12th century abbey, associated with the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. The visitor centre provides an insight into the Abbey's history (visit: 1 hour).

Edzell Castle and Garden (near Edzell village, off the B966, 6m N of Brechin and 25m NW of Arbroath). A beautiful walled garden, created in 1604, with sculptured stone panels and flower boxes (unique in Britain), as well as a medieval tower house (visit: 1 hour).



Huntingtower Castle (2m W of Perth, off the A85, 58m SW of Edzell). Two substantial towers, built in the 15th and 16th centuries, with fine, painted ceilings (visit: 45 minutes).

Doone Castle, (west of Stirling in Doone, off the A820, 30m SW of Perth), a remarkably complete 14th century castle built for Robert Stewart, virtual ruler of Scotland from 1388-1420 (visit: 45 minutes).



Inchmahome Priory (on an island in the Lake of Menteith, 4m E of Menteith, 4m E of Aberfoyle on the A81, 13m W of Doone). A 13th century Augustinian priory, where Mary, Queen of Scots stayed as a young girl (visit: 1.5 hours, including boat trip of 10 minutes each way).

Normal cost of entry - £52.50

Savings with a 7 day Explorer Pass - £25.50