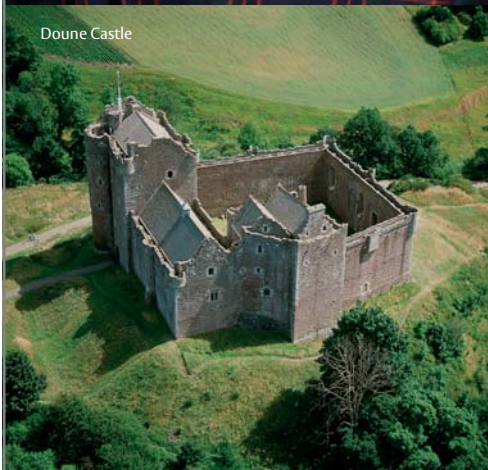


Scotland's most powerful clan – they rose through Medieval society to become high office holders. Then they took the ultimate leap, from nobility to royalty, becoming monarchs of Scotland then England. But kings fear rivals and James I destroyed a branch of his own clan that he believed wanted to rule Scotland themselves.



STEWARTS ROSE TO BECOME HIGH ROYAL OFFICIALS. THEN RULERS OF SCOTLAND AND EVENTUALLY OF BRITAIN

Stewart Clan tartan



Doune Castle



Falkland Palace

FORTUNES OF THE STEWARTS

From Anglo-French incomers the **Stewarts rose to become high royal officials, then rulers of Scotland and eventually of Britain.**

They were the most successful clan in Scottish history and are associated with castles and palaces all over the land.

Their ups and downs are etched in ancient stone.

Royal residences included Stirling and Edinburgh castles and the palaces of Holyroodhouse, Linlithgow or Falkland.

In around 1200 Rothesay Castle was granted by William I to Alan, his steward, as a bulwark against the Norwegians.

By the time Robert II took the throne in 1371 as the first Stewart king, Bute was no longer disputed and Rothesay was a favourite residences.

When James I was captured by pirates and handed to Henry IV of England the running of the country passed to the Albany Stewarts.

The king spent years in captivity and blamed his kin for not doing enough to release him.

Certainly Duke Robert Stewart of Albany (c.1340-1420) didn't shrink for being in charge.

When he died at Stirling Castle power passed to his son Duke Murdoch until James I's release in 1424.

The king arrested Murdoch and his wife Isabella, seizing their castles of Doune and Falkland.

The duke's youngest son, James the Fat, led a rebellion – playing right into the king's hands.

In 1425 Murdoch and his sons Walter and Alexander were executed on the Heading Hill to the north of Stirling Castle.

Royalty did not always get its way and Lochleven Castle recalls a particular low point.

Mary, Queen of Scots imprisoned in the island castle from 1567-8 and forced to abdicate in favour of her son, James VI.

Her escape was followed by defeat at the Battle of Langside and flight to England where her repeated involvement in plots led to her eventual execution.



KING OF DUNDONALD

Dundonald Castle in Ayrshire was built by the first of the Stewart kings, Robert II, in the 1370s to celebrate his accession to the throne.

Aged 55 when he became monarch the first decade of his reign was a peaceful time.

Robert used his power to install his three sons and other kinsmen in positions of power throughout the land – firmly establishing the new dynasty.

By 1388 he went into semi-retirement and lived at Dundonald while his second son, Robert, earl of Fife, was guardian of the kingdom.

And it was at Dundonald he finally died in 1390.

GLAMIS AND DUMBARTON

Glamis Castle was a stronghold of the Douglases but James V made it his own and visited frequently between 1538-42.

Lady Janet, widow of the 6th Lord Glamis, had been burned as a witch outside Edinburgh Castle.

The Douglases were eventually restored and Mary, Queen of Scots paid a visit in 1562.

The fortress on Dumbarton Rock was a stronghold for the Stewart kings and still has a royal governor.

In 1489 it was held by Lord Darnley, who rebelled against the Crown, and James IV had to besiege it twice – the second time he used the great cannon Mons Meg which is still on display at Edinburgh Castle.

Blair Castle

Claypotts Castle



THE FAMILY FLOURISHED AND BECAME HEREDITARY ROYAL STEWARDS

ROYAL RISE AND FALL

The decision by Walter FitzAlan to head north in the reign of David I (1124-53) was one that changed history.

The family flourished and became hereditary royal stewards with Walter's grandson adopting the title as his surname.

In 1371 Robert II became the first Stewart king after the Bruce line died out.

Greater success followed with James VI and I uniting the crowns of Scotland and England after the death of Elizabeth I of England in 1603

Disaster struck in 1649 when Charles I was executed after civil wars over religious freedoms and parliamentary rights.

These resulted in a short-lived republic after which Charles II took the throne.

Further conflict with parliament followed when the Stuarts continued to demand absolute power and their last king, James VII and II was deposed in 1689.

Stewart or Stuart the spelling of the name can vary. The earlier kings called themselves Stewarts, but Mary, Queen of Scots preferred to be a Stuart and the new spelling was kept by her successors.

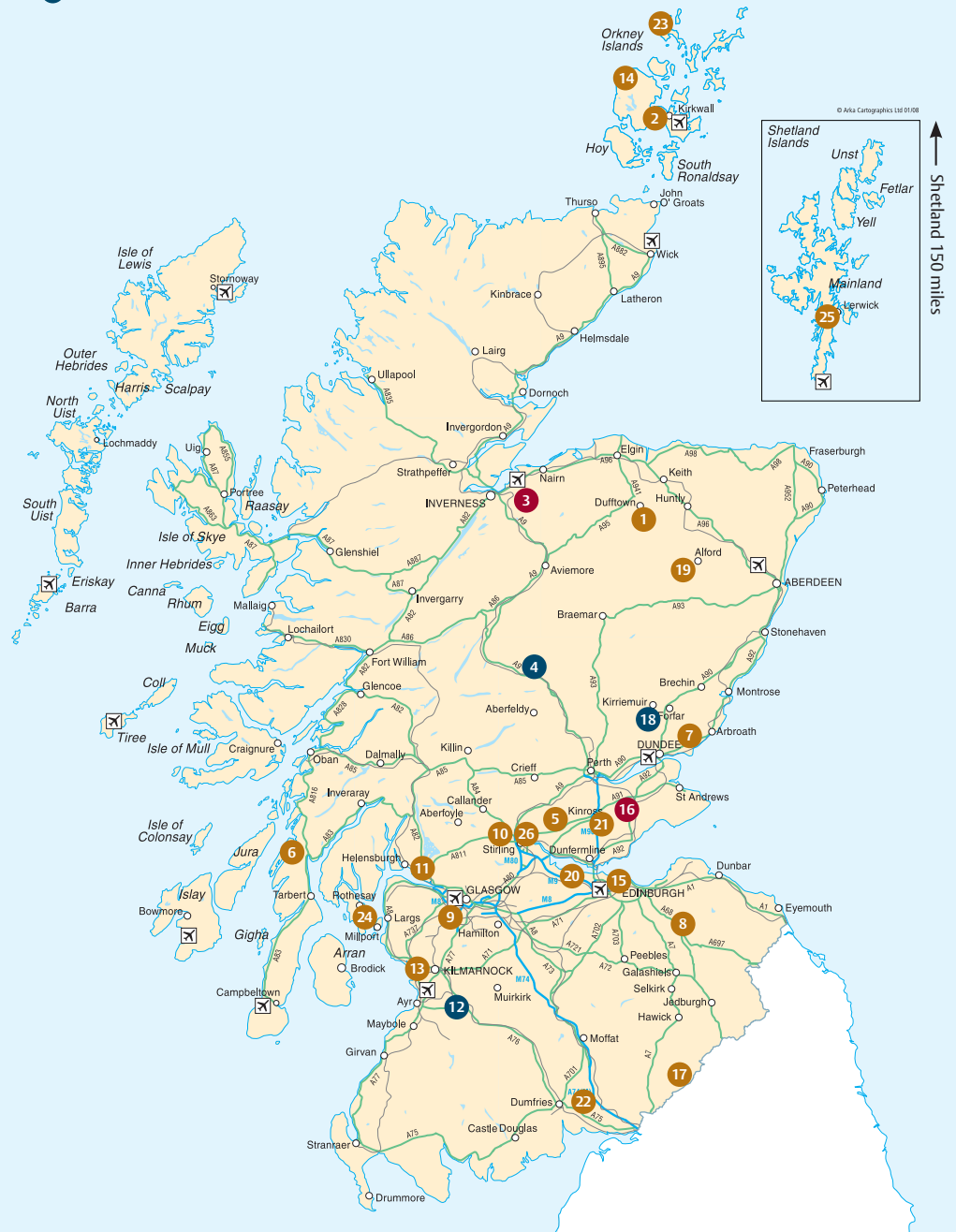


STEWART SITES

- 1 Balvenie Castle:**
Mostly rebuilt by Stewart Earls of Atholl, after the Douglas forfeiture of 1455.
- 2 Bishop's and Earl's Palace, Kirkwall:**
Home to Earl Robert Stewart and Earl Patrick Stewart.
- 3 Blair Castle:**
Linked to the Murray-Stewarts.
- 4 Castle Campbell:**
Queen Mary attended the wedding of James Stewart of Doune in 1563
- 5 Castle Sween:**
Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteith, gained the castle in 1262.
- 6 Crichton Castle:**
Francis Stewart, Earl of Bothwell built the beautiful north range.
- 7 Crookston Castle:**
Home of John Stewart, 1st Lord Darnley, from 1361. Mary, Queen of Scots reputedly came here during the battle of Langside.
- 8 Culloden:**
Site of the famous battle in 1746 between the Jacobites, led by Charles Edward Stuart, and the Hanoverian British Government.
- 9 Doune Castle:**
Built by Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany and Earl of Menteith and Fife – a son of King Robert II.
- 10 Dumbarton Castle:**
A royal castle that sheltered Mary Queen of Scots in 1548.
- 11 Dumfries House:**
Once belonged to John, Lord Mount Stuart.
- 12 Dundonald Castle:**
Built by Robert II.
- 13 Earl's Palace, Birsay:**
A palace of the Stewart Earls of Orkney.
- 14 Edinburgh Castle:**
A major residence of the Stewart/Stuart kings and queens.
- 15 Falkland Palace:**
A secluded royal residence which frequently welcomed the full Stewart court.
- 16 Hermitage Castle:**
Mary Queen of Scots came here from Jedburgh to visit the Earl of Bothwell.
- 17 Glamis Castle:**
A hunting lodge of King James V.
- 18 Kildrummy Castle:**
Alexander Stewart, 'the Wolf of Badenoch' seized the castle and the heiress Isobel in 1404.
- 19 Linlithgow Palace:**
A favourite royal residence of royal Stewarts.
- 20 Lochleven Caste :**
Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned here until her dramatic escape in 1568.
- 21 Lochmaben Castle :**
James V came here before the battle of Solway Moss.
- 22 Noltland Castle:**
Seized by Lord Robert Stewart in 1572.
- 23 Rothesay Castle:**
Alan High Steward of Scotland, Walter Stewart.
- 24 Scalloway Castle:**
Patrick Stewart, 7th Earl of Morton.
- 25 Stirling Castle:**
Mary, Queen of Scots was crowned at Stirling in 1543, and her son, the future James VI, was baptised here in 1566.

Key to sites

- Historic Scotland
- National Trust Scotland
- Historic Houses Association



Dumbarton Castle

Re-enactment at Linlithgow Palace

Lochleven Castle

