



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
ALBA AOSMHOR


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# ROBERT THE BRUCE EARL OF CARRICK, LORD OF ANNANDALE & KING OF SCOTS [1274–1329]

Part of Historic  
Environment  
Scotland





A man with a beard, wearing a yellow tunic with red lion rampant patterns and chainmail arm guards, stands with his arms crossed against a rough stone wall. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression.

We fight not for glory,  
nor for wealth, nor honour  
but only and alone for freedom  
which no good man surrenders  
but with his life.

The Declaration of Arbroath, 6 April 1320



## WHO WAS ROBERT THE BRUCE?

Robert the Bruce was one of the most revered warriors of his generation. Often referred to as 'Good King Robert', he is best known for his defeat of the English army under Edward II at Bannockburn in 1314.

A Netflix original, *Outlaw King*, follows Robert the Bruce's battle to regain control after being made an outlaw by the King of England for taking the Scottish Crown.

Feeling inspired by the film? Follow in Bruce's footsteps and discover the real stories and locations at the heart of the tale. From magnificent castles to imposing abbeys, discover the best of Scotland as you uncover the life and times of Bruce across different regions.

This period drama was also filmed at six of our locations, so don't forget to get behind the scenes and visit the film sets themselves.

## THE HISTORIC SCOTLAND EXPLORER PASS

Visiting the *Outlaw King* filming locations and discovering the real story of Robert the Bruce can create an intriguing and fascinating theme for a visit to Scotland. Our Explorer Pass makes it simple to travel around the sites that tell Bruce's tales, and is excellent value for money.

Ideal for groups or individuals visiting a number of properties, holders can visit as many Historic Scotland sites as they wish – there are many not connected to Robert the Bruce to visit in addition to the sites featured in our trail. Passes can be used as part of a package or offered as an optional add-on.

- Includes access to all 77 Historic Scotland attractions
- Fast track entry to all sites





# ROBERT'S TRAIL

## NORTH & GRAMPIAN

### 1 KILDRUMMY CASTLE

Postcode AB33 8RA

Open summer only

'The noblest of northern castles', Kildrummy was owned by the Earls of Mar, who were linked to Bruce by marriage. After seizing the throne in 1306, Bruce sent his wife Elizabeth and daughter Marjorie to Kildrummy for their safety, but the castle was soon besieged by English forces. In 1335, Bruce's sister Christina defended Kildrummy against a pro-English force under David, Earl of Atholl.

### 2 DEER ABBEY

Near Mintlaw

Open all year

These tranquil Cistercian monastery ruins were founded by William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, in the early 1200s. In 1308, the abbey was probably sacked when Bruce drove William's grandson John into exile and ordered Buchan be ravaged '*fra end till end and sparyt nane*'.

### 3 URQUHART CASTLE

Postcode IV63 6XJ

Open all year

Magnificent Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness was captured by Bruce in 1307 as he unleashed his fury against the Comyns (Sir Alexander Comyn of Badenoch had been made constable at Urquhart by Edward I three years earlier). Around 1312, Bruce gave Urquhart to his favoured nephew, Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, who later led a heroic raid on Edinburgh Castle.

### 4 BALVENIE CASTLE

Postcode AB55 4GH

Open summer only

A wide ditch encircles this striking, curtain-walled castle. On 22nd May 1308, Bruce defeated John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, in battle at Inverurie, 30 miles south-east of Balvenie Castle, after which he brutally stamped out the inhabitants of Buchan, which he '*burned from end to end and spared none*'.







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## KINGDOM OF FIFE

### 5 DUNFERMLINE ABBEY NAVE & PALACE

**Postcode** KY12 7PE

**Open all year**

Some of Scotland's greatest medieval monarchs were laid to rest at Dunfermline Abbey Church. Robert the Bruce was buried here in 1329, though not before his heart was removed to be taken on Crusade. Near the end of his life, Bruce contributed funds for the rebuilding of the abbey buildings, which had been damaged during the Wars of Independence. A skeleton, which at the time was thought to be Bruce's, was found during construction of the new parish church in 1818 and his name is memorialised in the parapet of the 19th century church tower.



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### 6 ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL

**Postcode** KY16 9QL

**Open all year**

The remains of Scotland's largest and most magnificent medieval church, St Andrews Cathedral is a prominent landmark. Bishop William Lamberton of St Andrews was the head of the Scottish church and one of Bruce's main allies; they were appointed joint Guardians of Scotland in 1298-9, together with Bruce's rival John Comyn. In 1309, Bruce held his first parliament at the cathedral, and on 5th July 1318 he attended the cathedral's consecration by Lamberton, which had been delayed by the Wars of Independence.



## PERTHSHIRE, KINROSS & ANGUS

### **7** ARBROATH ABBEY

**Postcode** DD11 1EG

**Open all year**

At Arbroath Abbey, explore the origins of the famous Declaration of Arbroath. Bruce is at the heart of the story of the Declaration, which was dispatched to the Pope from Arbroath in April 1320. 2020 will mark the 700th anniversary of this important event in Scottish history, when Scottish nobles swore their independence from England.







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## GLASGOW, CLYDE & AYRSHIRE

### 8 DUMBARTON CASTLE

**Postcode** KA2 9HD

**Open all year**

Dumbarton Castle stood at the heart of an ancient kingdom covering the area now known as Strathclyde. The castle was captured in 1296, during Edward I's first campaign in Scotland, but fell back into Scottish hands after Wallace and Moray's victory at Stirling Bridge in 1297. There is a myth that Dumbarton may possibly have been used to imprison William Wallace after his capture in 1305, but there is no evidence of this. Bruce died nearby in his manor at Cardross in 1329.

### 9 GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

**Postcode** G4 0QZ

**Open all year**

Visit Glasgow Cathedral, the spot where Scotland's largest city first began to take shape. The Cathedral was the seat of Bruce's key ally, Bishop Robert Wishart, who helped arrange the lifting of his original excommunication.

### 10 DUNDONALD CASTLE

**Postcode** G82 1JJ

**Open all year**

The second castle at Dundonald was destroyed around 1298, possibly by Bruce while Earl of Carrick. The castle's owner, Walter, the 6th High Steward, fought with Bruce at Bannockburn. He married Bruce's daughter Marjorie; their son became King Robert II, founder of the Stewart line, the UK's most enduring royal dynasty. Visit this mighty hilltop castle, which also stands on the site of Bronze and Iron Age remains.

### 11 BOTHWELL CASTLE

**Postcode** G71 8BL

**Open all year**

Hotly fought over during the Wars of Independence, Bothwell Castle was captured by Edward I in 1301, and remained in English hands until June 1314. In the aftermath of Bannockburn, many of Edward's senior knights took shelter here. Bruce sent his brother Edward Bruce here, where he captured some very valuable English prisoners.



## CENTRAL & WEST

### 12 STIRLING CASTLE

**Postcode** FK8 1EJ

**Open all year**

Stirling is one of Scotland's greatest stone castles. Bruce would have been present at the siege of 1304, as an ally of Edward I. Stirling Castle was also besieged by Bruce's forces in May 1314 which led to the Battle of Bannockburn, a turning point in the Wars of Independence and in the fortunes of Bruce and his foe Edward II of England. The face of the statue at Bannockburn battlefield was modelled on the skull found at Dunfermline.

### 13 KILCHURN CASTLE

**Postcode** PA33 1AF

**Open summer only**

From a galley on Loch Awe, close to where the castle stands today, John MacDougall of Lorne watched his army routed by Bruce's forces in the Battle of the Pass of Brander in 1308. The Campbells, who had supported Bruce, were rewarded with lands around Loch Awe, replacing MacDougall as Argyll's dominant family. The castle that stands now came later.

### 14 IONA ABBEY

**Postcode** PA76 6SQ

**Open all year**

Take the foot ferry to Iona and step off onto one of Scotland's most sacred sites. Angus Og MacDonald, a follower of Bruce, is buried here.

### 15 CAMBUSKENNETH ABBEY

1m east of Stirling

**Open summer only**

During the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, the disaffected Earl of Atholl led his men against the troops guarding the Scottish supply depot. Shortly after the battle, Bruce held a parliament at Cambuskenneth at which those Scots who had opposed him were stripped of their titles and estates, and he compelled landowners to choose between Scottish and English estates. Before this, many held lands on both sides of the Border, leading to divided loyalties. In 1326, another Cambuskenneth parliament agreed the royal line of succession to follow Robert, via his daughter Marjorie, which ultimately put the Stewart dynasty on the throne in 1371.

### 16 DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE

**Postcode** PA37 1PZ

**Open all year**

Dunstaffnage was the seat of the MacDougalls of Argyll. They sided with the Balliols during and after the Great Cause of 1290-1, which led to John Balliol being selected over Robert Bruce (Robert the Bruce's grandfather) as King. After seizing the throne in 1306, Bruce moved ruthlessly to eliminate his rivals and enemies. After wiping out the Comyns, largely in the north-east, he besieged Dunstaffnage in August 1308. After trapping MacDougall's forces at the Pass of Brander, Bruce pursued them to Dunstaffnage, which he besieged. Despite MacDougall's appeal to Edward II for assistance, the castle soon fell to Bruce.







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## EDINBURGH & LOTHIAN

### 17 EDINBURGH CASTLE

Postcode EH1 2NG

Open all year

In March 1314, Bruce sent his nephew, Sir Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, to attack the castle. In a daring raid, Randolph and his men scaled the rock and captured the castle. Bruce then had most of it demolished to prevent it from being useful to the English. Discover more of this story in the 'Fight for the Castle' exhibition. 20th century statues of Bruce and Wallace guard the door at Edinburgh Castle.

### 18 HOLYROOD ABBEY

Postcode EH8 8DX

Open all year

Bruce held a parliament at Holyrood Abbey in 1328, at which the Treaty of Edinburgh was ratified. This recognised Bruce as rightful King of Scots, and brought a temporary halt to the Wars of Independence. Its terms also included a marriage between Bruce's son (later David II) and Edward III's sister Joan. Bruce stayed here during the parliament.

**Note.** Accessed in the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse – tickets for the Palace must be purchased to visit.

### 19 LINLITHGOW PALACE

Postcode EH49 7AL

Open all year

Explore the magnificent ruins of Linlithgow Palace, where a royal manor once stood. Edward I made Linlithgow his base during his campaigns of 1296 and 1301, and expanded it in 1302-3. The site remained in English hands and, in 1310, Edward II spent a week at Linlithgow during one of his Scottish campaigns. It was recaptured by Bruce's followers in 1313. John Barbour's famous epic poem *The Brus* describes at length how a cattleman named Bunnock jammed the gates open with his cart and slew the porter with a single blow, allowing Bruce's troops to flood in and overwhelm the English garrison.



## DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

### 20 CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE

Postcode DG1 4RU

Open all year

Besieged and captured by Edward I in 1300, Caerlaverock Castle remained in English hands until 1312 when the keeper Sir Eustace Maxwell changed his allegiance to Robert the Bruce. He was besieged by the English, but held out. In 1313, with the castle secured, Bruce ordered it to be demolished to prevent the English invaders from using it. You can now explore this unique triangular wide-moated castle.



## SCOTTISH BORDERS

### 21 MELROSE ABBEY

Postcode TD6 9LG

Open all year

Discover a place so beloved by Robert the Bruce, he chose it as the final resting place for his heart. In 1302, Bruce wrote to Melrose Abbey to apologise for attempting to press its tenants into battle against the English. His heart was buried here after being taken on crusade by his loyal ally Sir James Douglas, which was his dying wish.

For opening times, prices and more information on each site, please visit [historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place](https://historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place)





Go behind the scenes and visit the filming locations that brought *Outlaw King* to life.



**1 Blackness Castle**

**Postcode** EH49 7NH

Known as 'the ship that never sailed', Blackness becomes Yorkshire Castle.



**2 Craigmillar Castle**

**Postcode** EH16 4SY

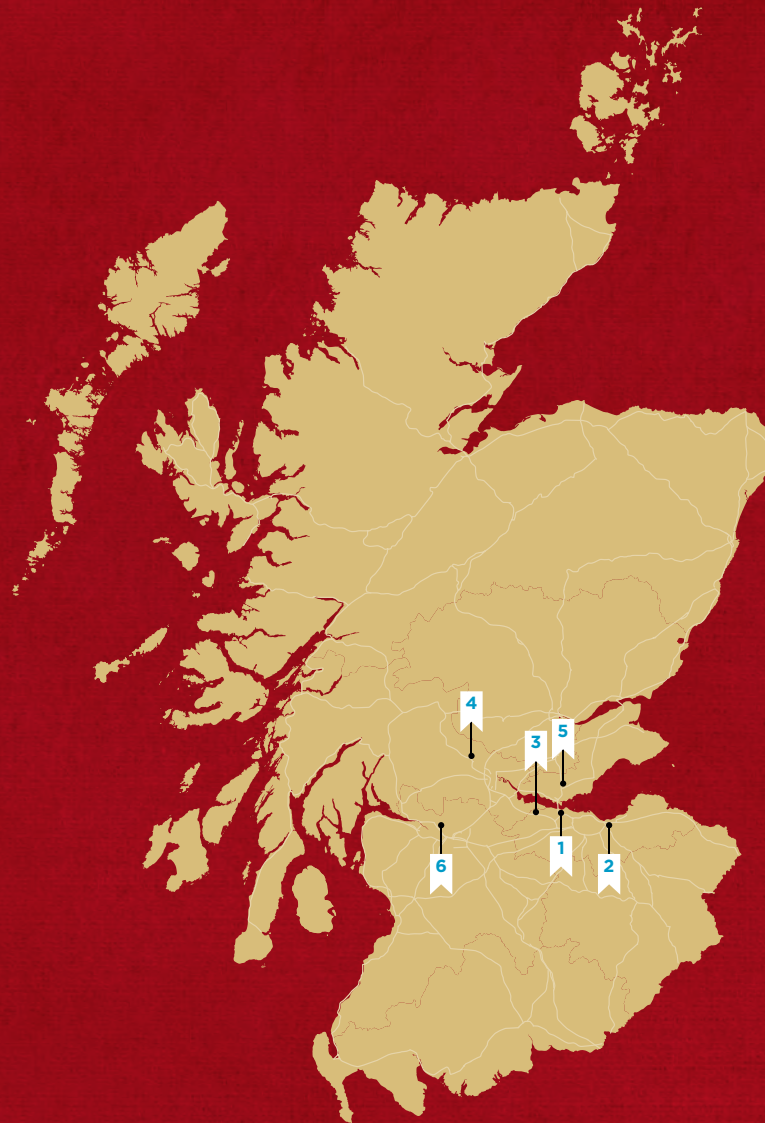
Edinburgh's 'other castle' stars as Bruce's castle and village.



**3 Linlithgow Palace**

**Postcode** EH49 7AL

A superb Renaissance residence, Linlithgow plays Bruce's castle chapel.



Available this November on

**NETFLIX**



**4 Doune Castle**

**Postcode** FK16 6EA

Popular filming location Doune becomes Douglas castle and church.



**5 Dunfermline Abbey**

**Postcode** KY12 7PE

The place where medieval monarchs were laid to rest plays Westminster.



**6 Glasgow Cathedral**

**Postcode** G4 0QZ

This awe-inspiring building becomes Greyfriar's Cathedral and the Lord's Hall.





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