



Scottish Castles

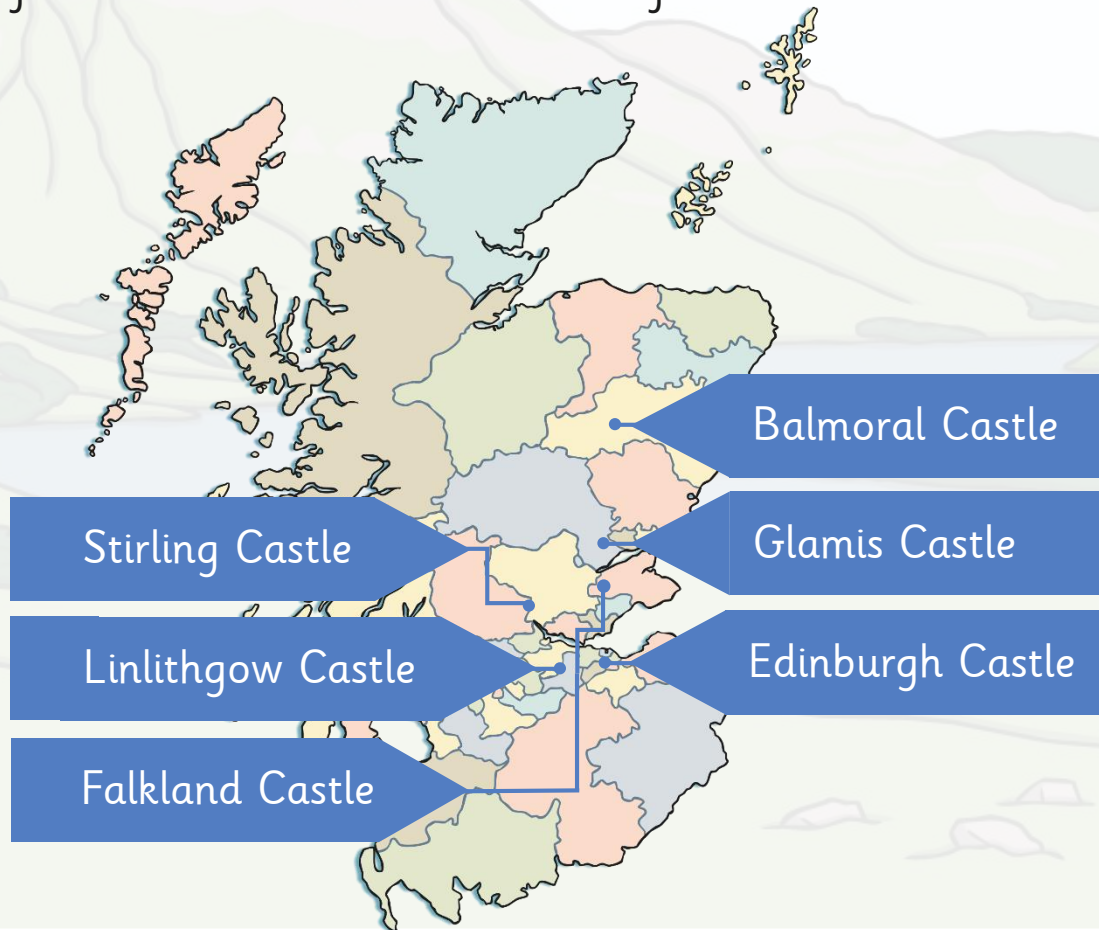




What is the Lion Rampant **flag**? The Lion Rampant **flag** is another well-known **flag** associated with **Scotland**, it is a **yellow flag** with a red lion and a red frame. This is considered the unofficial **flag** of **Scotland**, and is referred to as the 'Royal **Flag** of **Scotland**'.

Scottish Castles

- This is an informative PowerPoint about six of the main Scottish Castles:



Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle was built in 1130, on top of Castle Rock, which was formed after a volcano erupted over 340 million years ago. It is in the middle of what is now the city of Edinburgh. It was built for David I, son of the famous Saint Margaret of Scotland.

The buildings of the castle date from the 12th to the 18th century with St. Margaret's Chapel, being the oldest building in all of Scotland. This was built in the early 12th century in memory of Queen Margaret who died in 1093.

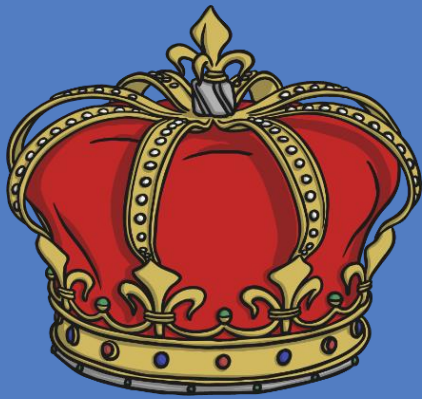


The land has been inhabited by humans since 900 B.C. and during medieval times, it was home to the kings and queens of Scotland when they were staying in the city. Its position, high above the rest of the land, offered great protection from enemies.

Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh castle has come under attack more than any other castle in the UK, probably because whoever inhabited the castle had the power and there was always someone else who wanted to take it! The castle has been the site of many famous battles. It was also used as a prison. Now, the castle is a national monument and museum. It is home to important Scottish symbols such as the ones below:

Crown Jewels or Honours of Scotland



The Stone of Destiny is the coronation stone of all Scottish and English kings and queens. It has been constantly fought over by Scotland and England.

Mons Meg is a cannon



open to the public
except Sunday.

[Click here](#)

Stirling Castle

Stirling Castle is also one of the most historically important castles in Scotland with many important events taking place here. One of which was the murder of the eighth Earl of Douglas by James II in 1452, whose body was then reportedly tossed from a castle window. It was also a favoured residence of the Stewart kings and queens, who added new buildings or changed existing ones.



15th and 16th centuries and only a few

es in Scotland and also said to be one
itecture.

Stirling Castle

These kings and queens held lavish celebrations at the castle, from christenings to coronations. Several Scottish kings and queens were actually crowned here, including the famous Mary Queen of Scots in 1542. Mary had spent the early years of her childhood here.

It has also been the site of many important battles. Several of those were during the Scottish Wars of Independence and involved many famous names such as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce.

Now the castle is a popular visitor attraction in the care of Historic Scotland.

The castle has also been used as an open-air venue for some of the world's most famous musicians including R.E.M, Bob Dylan and Wet Wet Wet and is available as a venue to hire.

Balmoral Castle

Balmoral is a working estate including grouse moors. These are areas of land managed to increase the numbers of red grouse (game birds), herds of deer, highland cows and ponies.

has been a royal residence since 1852 when

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The original estate was 6350 acres (25.6 square kilometres) but has since been expanded to 50 000 acres.

and build a new, bigger one which took around three years (1853-1856).

Balmoral Castle

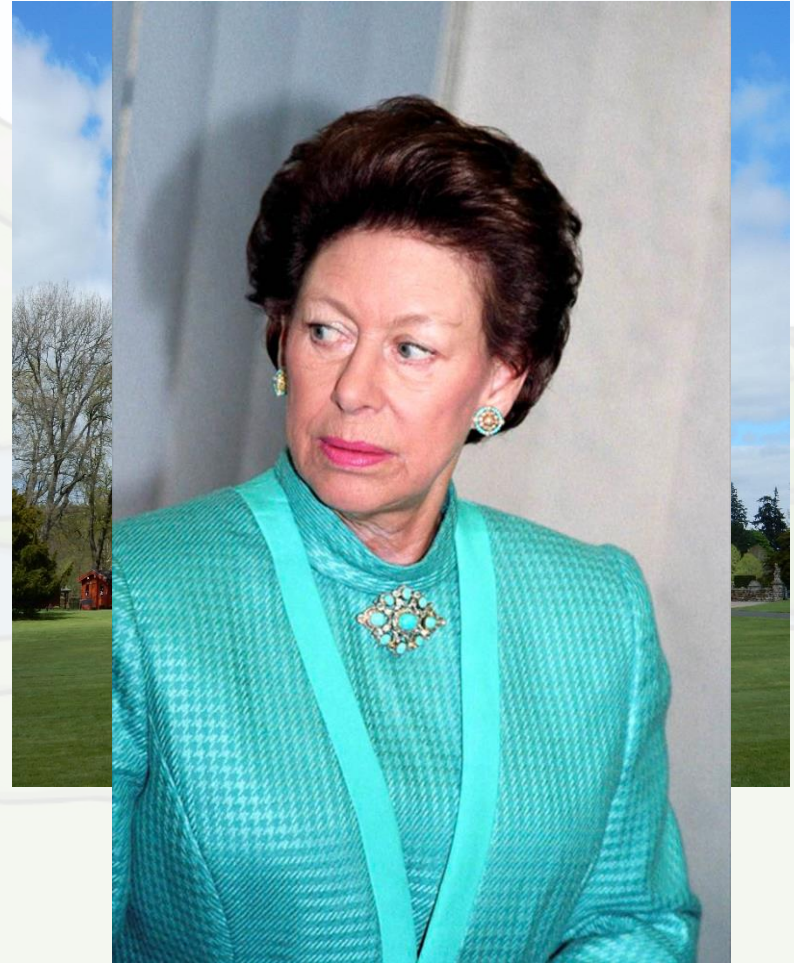
Now Balmoral Castle is still one of the Queen's residences and she usually visits in the summer holiday period of July and August.

The estate grounds, gardens and Castle Ballroom, as well as the gift shop and tea room are open to visitors from the end of March to the end of July each year. They attract thousands of visitors.

Glamis Castle

Glamis Castle has been the home of the Lyon family since the 14th century. It was also the birthplace of Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret in 1930.

It is currently home to Simon Patrick Bowes Lyon, the 19th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. The castle's land covers over 57 square kilometres. Part of the estate is a farm which produces beef. There is also a forest which produces timber.



Glamis Castle

The castle is well known for being the setting for Shakespeare's play Macbeth. As a result, a picture of it features on a Royal Bank of Scotland ten pound note.

There are lots of stories and legends surrounding Glamis Castle and it is said to be very haunted.

Parts of Glamis Castle are open to the public. It was first opened in 1950. It holds various events throughout the year and is also available as a venue to hire for wedding receptions, grand dinners and other events.

Linlithgow Palace

Linlithgow Palace was built in the town of Linlithgow, West Lothian in Scotland by Stewart kings and queens over two centuries. Building work on the palace was first commissioned by James I in 1424. His heirs gradually completed the palace over the following hundred years. They took inspiration from the magnificent palaces of France and brought craftsmen from all over to work on the building.



The palace at Linlithgow soon became a favoured residence for Scottish royals. It was a good stop-off point if they were journeying between Edinburgh and Stirling. This location between the two places made Linlithgow an ideal military base.

Both James V (1512) and Mary Queen of Scots (1542) were born here. She also stayed here occasionally during her reign. The palace is actually said to be haunted by the ghost of Mary Queen of Scots' mother, Mary of Guise.

Linlithgow Palace



There are so many rooms, stairways and passageways that it would be easy to get lost walking round the palace. The centrepiece of the palace is the Great Hall, where kings and queens would have hosted banquets. It is still visible today.

The apartments are all arranged around a central courtyard. In the middle of this courtyard stands one of the highlights of the palace - a magnificent fountain decorated with motifs from the story of the Little Mermaid. The fountain is only turned on in July and August now to minimise the erosion of the stone by the water.

The palace was burned out in 1746 and all that remains now are ruins.

The ruins of the palace are now set in a park next to a Loch and are a popular visitor attraction. It is open to the public all year round. The palace has also been used to hold events such as fashion shows and music festivals.

Falkland Palace

Falkland Palace then became a country residence of the Stewart kings and queens for over 200 years. James V died at Falkland in December of 1542, just after receiving news of the birth of his daughter, Mary Queen of Scots. She was a frequent visitor of the castle as she enjoyed the tranquillity of its location away from busy Edinburgh.

Between 1501 and 1541, James IV and James V transformed the old castle into a lavish royal palace. Much of the work on the building was done by French architects and craftsmen.



Falkland Palace



There the royals practised falconry, which is hunting using a trained bird of prey. They also used the surrounding forests for hunting deer.

The palace is surrounded by gardens and includes an ancient orchard with a wild flower meadow. It is also home to the oldest royal tennis court in Britain.

Oliver Cromwell's army set the palace on fire in 1654, at which point the palace was left to fall into ruin. In 1887 restoration of the palace was begun by John Crichton-Stuart. The palace stayed in the hands of the family until the 1950s when the 5th Marquis of Bute appointed the National Trust for Scotland.

Although part of the Palace is now in ruins, it still attracts many visitors looking to learn more about the Stewart kings and queens of Scotland.



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