

尼斯湖、格赖克（GLENCOE）山谷和苏格兰高地

如果你想一天之内，驾车游览北部的高地，观赏这本《旅游指南》里所介绍的景点——雄伟的高地山峦、‘流泪的山谷’格赖克（GLENCOE）以及神秘的尼斯湖，甚至传说中的尼斯水怪，如果这是你在苏格兰的一程旅游，或者你打算观光崎岖的北部高地，那么我们的旅游路线是为你量身定做的。你的旅行象是观赏连续 12 个小时的盛装表演，一路上有不少优美的风景都值得你停下来摄影留念，而且在尼斯湖区你还可以多待一会。

穿过斯特灵城（Stirling）时，你能看见一个巨大的城堡位于你的右侧。城堡矗立在火山岩扶墙上，俯瞰着福斯河冲积平原。城堡所处位置具有战略意义，它守卫着横渡福斯河的最低渡口，保卫着进出苏格兰高地的主要干线。至少自十一世纪始，这一战略据点上就筑有防御工事。顺着右侧继续前行，你还能看见俯瞰着整个斯特灵城的苏格兰独立纪念塔（National Wallace Monument），这个纪念塔是由公众捐款建立，以纪念伟大的苏格兰民族英雄威廉·华莱士。站在纪念塔上，你从近处的客莱克教堂（Abbey Craig）开始，一直能看到著名的布瑞克（Brig）战役所在地。在 1279 年的布瑞克之战中，威廉·华莱士率领苏格兰士兵击败了数量上占绝对优势的英格兰国王爱德华的军队。

离开斯特灵城，沿着这条路继续前行，我们最终来到了泰斯河边，过河后我们进入了杜恩（Doune）城。该城以盛产 Deanston 麦芽威士忌酒和制造遂发枪和锋利的刀片闻名。杜恩过去曾设有许多棉纺厂，在鼎盛时期所雇用的工人超过 2000。站在桥上，沿河远眺，你会看见雄伟的杜恩城堡。杜恩城堡不仅在历史上颇富盛名，而且是电影《巨蟒和圣杯》（Monty Python and The Holy Grail）的拍摄所在地。

我们在高地上继续前行，走进卡蓝德（Callander）村。村里还很好地保留着古罗马人的营地等历史遗迹。卡蓝德村之所以闻名，成为旅游胜地和商业中心，多半是由于维多利亚女王对荒原高地的爱以及十九世纪末这儿所发生的蒸汽铁路革命的缘故。

现在我们来到了秀丽的卓萨（Trossachs）镇和布巴德（Braes of Balquhiddy）镇，麦格哥族人罗布·罗伊（Rob Roy）所钟爱的地方。罗布·罗伊是苏格兰的罗宾汉。至于他究竟是英雄还是恶棍，就看你怎么看了。他生活在一个动荡不安的时代，经历了詹姆斯二世党人的三次起义，以及苏

格兰人与蒙特罗斯（Montrose）公爵长期的斗争。据说英语里的“blackmail”（“敲诈”）一词就是始自罗布·罗伊：‘mail’在古语中是钱的意思，指他从当地的地主和那些从北方沿着这条古老的不通机动车辆的小路到南方市场的高地牧人身上勒索的钱财。

在风景如画的克莫霍（Kilmahog）镇，我们一般会将车停下一会，在这儿舒舒服服地休息一下，喝杯咖啡，吃点零食，补偿一大早出发还没有填饱的肚子。但我们的主要目的是参观一下当地赫赫有名的何美狮（Hamish, the Heelan’ Coo）（实际上是头公牛！）。当地人饲养牛主要是为了牛肉而不是牛奶。这个温和的庞然大物幸运地免去了被宰杀的命运。当它步履蹒跚地回到围栏来会见来访的游客时，即使那些有着铁石心肠的人也会对它手下留情。

继续向前和向高处走，我们来到了真正的苏格兰高地。沿着蕾尼（Leny）隘口前行，你能看到路边的蕾尼（Leny）瀑布奔流直下。我们向山里前进，沿着拉布内（Lubnaig）湖（被扭曲的湖）行走在蜿蜒曲折的山路上。穿过格拉斯哥、斯特灵和挪斯之间的主要道路交叉口克赖安拉利（Criannlarich），我们来到了町卓默（Tyndrum）。町卓默曾是高地铁路系统中两条主要铁轨的交汇处，一条通向西部的欧本（Oban），另一条通向北部的威廉堡（Fort William）；直到今天公路仍沿着这两条铁轨的方向延伸。

我们攀上旅程中的第一座山峦的关隘，通过雪门，登上马龙（Mamlorn）山。经过土拉（Tulla）湖，伫足欣赏湖区的美景和壮观的黑山。我们继续前行，登上兰诺克（Rannoch）荒地的最高峰——兰诺克（Rannoch）荒地是苏格兰高地最大的荒地之一，荒凉无人的石楠荒地给我们留下了深刻的印象。这时我们离格赖克（Glencoe）山谷已经很近了。1692年这儿发生过残酷血腥的大屠杀，坎贝尔（Campbells）家族遵从英格兰国王的命令杀死了麦当劳（MacDonalds）家族。我们在峡谷待了一会，拍摄了有名的三姐妹山，实际上是有三段锯齿状的巨大阿诺克（Aonach Eagach）山脊。

沿着格兰峡谷（Glen Orchy）前行，穿过峡谷桥，我们来到了一片稀无人烟的沼地兰诺克（Rannoch）。继续向下走，就来到了位于格赖克（Glencoe）群山之间的海滨一带。就是在格赖克地区，苏格兰高地世代相传的热情招待疲惫游客的优良传统遭到了背叛，那时罗伯特·坎贝尔（Robert Campbell）领导下的国民自卫队，听从了国务卿约翰·达瑞普的命令，实际上是听从了威廉国王的命令，武装起来，试图屠杀热情招待他们的东道主麦克多纳一家。

沿着林尼湖（Loch Linnhe）继续前行，我们到达了威廉堡。威廉堡的得名源于当时政府所建的一个城堡（该城堡是遍及全国一直到因弗内斯（Inverness）的系列城堡之一），以守卫詹姆斯二世党人的心脏地带，并控制各个部落的要塞。奔宁山是英国最高的山脉，高 1343 米，离海岸线仅六公里，这使威廉堡每年的降雨量丰富。

奔宁山山下是奔宁山谷。奔宁山是英国最高的山，高 1343 米，离林尼湖仅有 6 公里，湖水的源头就发源于此。这是威廉堡每年有丰富降雨量的原因，也使山谷植被绿意盎然，郁郁葱葱。从这儿，我们开始了攀登英国最高的山峰、最崎岖的路段。

也是从这儿，你才可以领略得到奔宁山全部的雄伟壮观和该山得名的原因。奔宁山没有阿尔比斯山高，位于更北的纬度上，气候与北极地区的气候差不多。在林尼湖湖畔吹拂的温煦海风，到奔宁山山顶经常变成刺骨的冷风。

沿着这条路前行，我们现在来到了大峡谷（Great Glen），这儿的地理断层实际上将整个英国分成两个部分，现在这一带地质仍然很不稳定。峡谷地区遍布湖泊，有林尼湖、洛奇湖、奥奇湖以及闻名世界的尼斯湖，传说在湖的深处居住着尼斯湖水怪。所有这些湖泊都由喀里多尼安（Caledonian）运河和众多水闸连接，由托马斯·泰福德十九世纪早期所建。

奔宁山向南的那一侧耸立着威廉堡，壮观的突击队纪念碑（Commando Memorial）位于史宾（Spean）桥边。二战期间，就是通过这儿的火车站，英勇的小伙子来到这里进行军事训练，然后又从这儿奔向前方的战场。

高地上的部落之间从来都不是和睦相处的，彼此之间的争斗极为常见。据说，湖区这一带曾发生过极有可能是最为血腥和毫无目的的部落争斗。在舍茨之战（Battle of the Shirts）中，高地上的两个部落，约有 800 到 1000 人打了整整一天，除了 12 个人幸免遇难外，其余参与争斗的人或死或伤。在因弗格瑞（Invergarry）路边，有一个“七头井”（the Well of the Seven Heads），由格兰格瑞（Glengarry）的部落首领 1812 年建立，是高地部落之间互相残杀和野蛮争斗的另一个见证。1665 年，杀死卡朴（Keppoch）全家的七个凶手的脑袋在这口井里被清洗过后，献给了因弗格瑞（Invergarry）城堡的部落首领。午饭后，我们开车向悠哈（Urquhar）峡谷入口处的庄娜（Drumnadrochit）行进，它位于海湾边上，离神秘的尼斯湖不远。在这里你会听到尼斯湖水怪的传说，信不信当然由你了。

接着，我们来到尼斯湖的最西部，进入奥古斯塔斯（Fort Augustus）镇。这个城堡也是詹姆世二世党人为了军事控制的需要而建立的。直到现在，它仍然有一个修道院，尽管再也没有修士住在这儿，修道院仍然静静地立在那儿，象个守门人，守卫着进出尼斯湖的第一个阶梯的水闸。看到形状各异的大小船只进出水闸系统，不仅使你心情愉快，而且还具有教育意义。

在因弗莫瑞斯顿（Inver 莫瑞斯顿（Moriston）），我们会在莫瑞斯顿（Moriston）河边逗留一会，尽情地欣赏这一带的自然美景。同时，你也可以欣赏到托马斯·泰富的另一杰作——莫瑞斯顿（Moriston）桥。泰富除了设计喀里多尼亚（Caledonian）运河，完成了多项土木工程等功绩外，还设计了多座看起来简朴实际上却起着重大作用的桥梁。比如说，莫瑞斯顿（Moriston）桥就是由他抽空设计的。这座桥于 1813 年完工，是他为改善苏格兰地区的交通状况所设计的众多桥梁中的一座。

沿尼斯湖北岸行驶，你能看见悠哈（Urquhar）t 城堡。城堡那居高临下的岬角似乎仍在守卫着通向大峡谷、湖区以及湖岸四周的通道。从这儿开始，我们才能真正欣赏到“尼斯”湖区的风景。尽管悠哈（Urquhar）t 城堡现在已成为废墟，但城堡的建筑格局依稀可见，站在一度雄伟的城堡上眺望远方湖区的秀美景色仍然是最佳选择。

再往前行，我们开车经过悠哈（Urquhar）峡谷入口处的庄娜（Drumnadrochit）。它位于海湾边上，离神秘的尼斯湖不远。在这里你会听到尼斯湖水怪的传说，信不信当然由你了。

战争失败后，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量四处逃散。汉诺威的骑兵部队在返回因弗内斯的路，听从上边的命令将对方军队的幸存者全部杀死，甚至处死那些仅仅被怀疑是詹姆世二世党人的无辜者。同样地，步兵则将战场上那些被找到的、受伤的詹姆世二世党人一律杀死。“杀光”政策和后来的“高地绥靖”政策，以及对高地部落的残酷镇压，标志着传统的高地部落文化的结束。而最后的武装清除高地政策迫使当地的居民离开他们世代生活的家园，高地成了饲养绵羊的农场，以为新兴的工业革命服务。这一残酷的悲剧在英国历史上得到了保留，最显著地体现在人们对公爵所起的绰号“刽子手康巴伦（Cumberland）”上。

回到 A9 路，在荒原的南边，有史前新石器时代的建筑棒状石冢（Clava Cairns），这个建筑是用来做什么的至今人们争论不一。考古学家认为这个

建筑可能是为了举行某种仪式，实际上等于说他们也不知道当时的人们为什么要建筑它。

沿着这条向南的小路，我们来到了茹思文（Ruthven） 驻营地。营地是遵从魏德将军的指令，为当时的卫戍部队而建立的，属于高地政策的一部分，于 1721 年完工。坐在高高的曾经作为防御工事的土墩上，很容易理解营地是如何控制周边地区的。对于住在营地中的人来手，此处确实是个安全的隐蔽地。在 1745 至 1746 年的起义中，詹姆世二世党人的武装力量用火焚烧了城堡，现在的城堡已是一片废墟。

路上，我们还可以参观一下达尔维尼（Dalwhinnie）酿酒厂奇特的宝塔建筑，建筑的顶层是麦芽作坊。该酒厂是苏格兰海拔以上最高的麦芽酒厂。你也可能有幸看到当地的新尼球（Shinty）运动场地。新尼球（Shinty）是高地人所玩的一种古老的球棍游戏。胆小怯懦的人不仅不敢玩，而且也不敢观看金古思（Kingussie）和牛顿莫（Newtonmore）之间进行的这种当地球类运动。在布莱尔阿萨，你可以眺望一下布莱尔城堡。城堡是阿萨公爵祖传的老宅，在詹姆士二世党人的最后一次起义过程中，这儿发生了英国历史上的最后一次城堡保卫战。该城堡是英国唯一拥有合法的私人军队的所在地。

在奇里克朗基（Killiecrankie）隘口，你可以了解到 1689 年发生在这儿的著名战役。这儿是詹姆士二世党人发动第一次起义的制高点，是詹姆士二世党人武装力量的杰出首领约翰·格拉姆顿德子爵惨死的地点，也是传说中士兵一跳过河的所在地。

在敦克尔德（Dunkeld）附近，我们可以欣赏一下贺米达几（Hermitage）的美丽景色。贺米达几（Hermitage）是林地散步优美的场所，这儿种植的树木来自世界各地，是苏格兰当地红松鼠的栖息地。附近是十八世纪所建的奥西恩厅（Ossian's Hall），是在阿萨公爵的命令下而建的。后来该厅为了纪念麦克森（Macpherson）的作品而重新命名，麦克森声称他发现了三世纪时的诗人奥西恩（Ossian）久已失传的作品，这些作品都是以史诗的形式讲述了古老的凯尔特英雄的故事。敦克尔德（Dunkeld）镇被称作是“凯尔特人的城堡”，在肯·金特一世（Kenneth I）统治时期，曾是苏格兰的首府。圣哥伦布或圣阿达姆南所建的修道院也位于该镇，不过现在已由 13 世纪所修建的一个大教堂所取代了。该镇也是历史上一场著名的反败为胜的包围战所发生的地点。在包围战之前，詹姆士七世率领的高地士兵在奇里克朗基（Killiecrankie）之战中刚刚大获全胜，然而卡梅伦（Covenanting Cameronians）坚守作战，最终击败了军事力量上占优势

的高地士兵。位于小镇高处的巴南 (Birnam) 林地以在莎士比亚的剧本《麦克白斯》中被提到过而闻名。

敦克尔德 (Dunkeld) 镇离爱丁堡不远。离开敦克尔德 (Dunkeld) 镇，我们进入美丽之城佩斯 (Perth)。佩斯曾是司康 (Scone Palace) 的首府所在地。传说中的命运之石就躺在这片狭长的地带。命运之石是苏格兰国王在古老的加冕典礼仪式上所用的石头，后来在爱德华一世的指令下被偷到英格兰去了。

命运之石被偷走运到南方后，成为威斯敏斯特大教堂王位加冕典礼的一部分。1951 年，一伙学习法律的苏格兰学生、苏格兰民族主义者和爱国者把它运到别处一段时间，之后则放在艾布洛夫 (Arbroath) 大教堂附近，又回到了伦敦。

1996 年，在盛大隆重的欢迎仪式中，命运之石最终永远地回到了苏格兰，现在放在爱丁堡城堡中。

穿过福斯路桥，我们达到了我们行程的终点。大桥于 1964 年开通，横跨福斯河两岸。而位于福斯河上游的是雄伟的福斯铁桥，其悬架于 1889 年完工，1890 年正式开始通行。不论你从哪个方向进入爱丁堡，都能看到通往亚瑟王宝座和爱丁堡城堡的路标。

LOCH NESS, GLENCOE, AND THE HIGHLANDS

A tour that gets you just about as far north as it's possible to drive in a day, taking all the sights you'll have seen in the guidebooks – the majestic mountains of **THE HIGHLANDS**, the 'Valley of the Weeping' **GLENCOE**, the mysterious **LOCH NESS** and – who knows – maybe even its legendary monster, 'Nessie'. If this is your one shot at Scotland, or you're looking for ideas for touring in the rugged north, this is the tour for you. It's a 12-hour extravaganza, with lots of stops along the way for photos plus a major stop at Loch Ness itself.

Passing **Stirling**, to the right can be seen the mighty castle standing on its volcanic rock buttress and commanding the flood plain of the **River Forth**. Guarding the lowest crossing point of the river, it was a strategic point defending the main route to and from the Highlands. There have been fortifications on this site since at least the 11th C. Further to the right, towering over the town can be seen the **National Wallace Monument**. Built by public subscription in memory of one of Scotland's greatest heroes, **William Wallace**, it looks down from **Abbey Craig** on to the site of his famous victory over the numerically superior forces of **King Edward's Army** at the **Battle of Stirling Brig** in 1297.

Leaving **Stirling** the road eventually leads us across the **River Teith** and in to the town of **Doone**, famous for, among other things, **Deanston Malt Whisky** and the

manufacture of weaponry: flintlock pistols and fine blades. It was also the site of cotton mills employing in excess of 2000 people at its height. On crossing the bridge, glance down river and you will see the imposing **Doone Castle**. Famous throughout history but mostly as a film location in Monty Python and The Holy Grail.

We continue our journey into the Highlands passing through the village of **Callander**, with its **Roman** camp and other historical connections. Its expansion as a tourist and commercial centre is owed to the Victorian love affair with the Highlands and with the steam railway revolution of the late 19th C.

Now we are passing through **The Trossachs** and the **Braes of Balquhiddy**, the stamping ground of **Rob Roy MacGregor**: hero or villain styled by some as Scotland's Robin Hood, depending on your perspective. He lived through turbulent times including three Jacobite Uprisings and a long-standing feud with the Marquis of Montrose. He is credited with giving us the term '**blackmail**': 'mail' being an old word for money and referring to the fees he extorted from local landowners and highland cattlemen following the old drove roads from the North to markets in the South.

At picturesque **Kilmahog** we usually stop for a well-earned comfort stop, a coffee, a late breakfast to make up for such an early start, but especially to make the acquaintance of a noted local character - **Hamish**, the **Heelan' Coo** - (he's male actually!) Bred more for beef than for milk this gentle giant has been spared such a fate and softens even the hardest heart as he trudges to the fence of his paddock to greet visitors.

Resuming our journey it onwards and upwards to the **Highlands** proper. Taking the **Pass of Leny** the white rushes of water of the **Falls of Leny** run alongside the road. As we head into the mountains for the first time the road twists and turns along the side of **Loch Lubnaig** (the twisted lake). On through **Crianlarich**, the main junction of routes between Glasgow, Stirling, and the North, and we come to **Tyndrum**, once a major rail junction of the Highland Railway, one route heading west to **Oban** and the other northwards to **Fort William**; routes followed to this day by the roads.

We climb up on to our first mountain pass, through the snow gates and up into the **Mamlorn Mountains**, past **Loch Tulla** and stop at the viewpoint here for fine views over the loch and the imposing **Black Mount**. As we go on to pass over the summit of **Rannoch Moor** – the haunting, desolate heathland that forms one of Scotland's largest wildernesses – we draw ever closer to the **Glencoe**. Hearing the story of the bloody massacre which took place here in 1692, when the Campbells fell on the MacDonalds on the orders of the English king, we'll stop in the glen for photos of the famous **Three Sisters** mountains, the mighty ridge of **Aonach Eagach** (the notched ridge).

Travelling close by **Glen Orchy** and through **Bridge of Orchy** the road rises to the haunting and uninhabitable desolate heathland that is **Rannoch Moor**, one of Scotland's largest wildernesses, before descending to the coast between the brooding might of the mountains and atmospheric valley of **Glencoe**. Glencoe - site of an infamous betrayal of age-old Highland traditions of hospitality to the weary traveller, when, in 1692, militia under the command of **Robert Campbell of Glenlyon**, on direct instructions of **John Dalrymple, Secretary of State**, and ultimately of **King William** himself, rose up and attempted the total massacre of their hosts, the **MacDonalds**,

Now it's on alongside **Loch Linnhe** and through **Fort William**. Its name was given to it when a Government fort, one of a string of such forts that was to stretch across the country all the way to **Inverness**, was established as a garrison to police the **Jacobite heartland** and to control the clans.

Sheltered at the foot of **Ben Nevis** is **Glen Nevis**. **Ben Nevis**, the highest mountain in Britain rises to its 1343 metres within just 6 km of the shoreline of **Loch Linnhe** at whose head it lies. It is this that gives **Fort William** its generous volume of annual rainfall and imparts lush green-ness to the glen. From here the pathway to the peak of Britain's highest mountain begins its precipitous climb.

It is also from here that the full looming majesty of **Ben Nevis** and the range that bears its name can be appreciated. Not as high as Alpine mountains, **Ben Nevis** lies on a more northerly latitude and the climate can be considered similar to Arctic regions. What appears a balmy sea breeze on the shores of **Loch Linnhe** may not infrequently transmute into 20-30 knots of chilling wind on the summit of the Ben!

The road now leads into the **Great Glen**; a geographical fault that virtually splits the country in two at this point and still remains an area of geological instability. The Glen is now characterised by its chain of lochs: **Loch Linnhe**, **Loch Lochy**, **Loch Oich**, and the world famous **Loch Ness** with its legendary alleged monster inhabiting its depths. The lochs are all linked by the **Caledonian Canal** and its many locks; built in the early 19thC by Thomas Telford.

On a hillside looking south to **Fort William** stands the impressive **Commando Memorial** by **Spean Bridge**; whose railway station would have received the brave young men coming here for their training and from there they took trains to fight in World War II.

Clans were never easy neighbours and inter-clan warfare was rife. On the banks of the lochs there allegedly took place what would seem to be probably the most bloody and pointless of any such confrontations: The **Battle of the Shirts** when a reputed 800-1000 men of two Highland clans fought a day long battle that left all but 12 men dead or injured on the field. Whilst on the roadside at **Invergarry** there stands the **Well of the Seven Heads**, erected in 1812 by the **Glengarry** chief, and yet another testament to the ferocity and savagery of inter-clan feuding. Here it was that the heads of the seven murderers of the family of **Keppoch** were washed in the well before being presented to the Clan chief at **Invergarry Castle** in 1665!

Then it is on to the westernmost end of the Loch and the town of **Fort Augustus**: Once again, a product of the need for military control of **Jacobite** areas. Until recently it could also boast a monastery and, although the brethren may no longer occupy it, the monastery still stands a tranquil guardian at the foot of **Thomas Telford's** ladder of locks leading in and out of **Loch Ness** at this point. It both educating and entertaining to see the many boats of all shapes and sizes negotiate this lock system.

At **Invermoriston** by the **River Moriston**, the natural beauty of the place almost hides yet another example of the work **Thomas Telford**, who, between constructing the **Caledonian Canal** and similar major feats of civil engineering, also found time to create more modest yet effective bridges such as that over the river here. Completed in 1813 it is one of many he built to improve the transport links throughout the country.

Driving along the banks of **Loch Ness**, on its northern shore, we soon come to **Castle Urquhart** on its dominating promontory still seeming to guard passage along **The Great Glen**, the Loch, and the shore. It is off this point that most of the sightings of '**Nessie**' have taken place. Although now a ruin, much of its structure remains and its impressive power and views over the loch amply repay a visit.

A little further and we pass through **Drumnadrochit** at the mouth of **Glen Urquhart**, nestling in a bay off of this most mysterious of lochs. Here it is that you will learn of the **Loch Ness Monster**. It is left to you to determine for yourself the fact from the fiction.

After **Loch Ness** with its magic and mystery it is a relatively short and uneventful journey to **Inverness, Capital of the Highlands**.

Time permitting it might be possible to pass by **Drumossie Moor**, better known as the **Battlefield of Culloden**, after the nearby village of that name; the site of the last major land-battle fought on British mainland soil. Here the **Jacobite** forces and their leader, **Prince Charles Edward Stuart**, were defeated by a much larger, better fed, and militarily superior **Hanoverian** army under the **Duke of Cumberland**. Outnumbered, out-gunned, and out-manoeuvred the tactically limited Jacobite army never stood any realistic chance and the entire event lasted barely 40 minutes.

As battle turned to rout the pursuing **Hanoverian** cavalry summarily executed any surviving or merely suspected **Jacobites** on the roads back to Inverness whilst their infantry colleagues dealt similarly with any **Jacobite** wounded found lying on the field. This policy of 'no quarter' and the subsequent 'pacification of the Highlands'; the brutal suppression of the Clans; signalled the end of the traditional Highland Clan culture and the eventual **Highland Clearances** when people were forcibly evicted from their traditional homes and the land given over to sheep farming on an industrial scale. This brutal and tragic episode survives in history and its effects are best summed up in the name given to the Duke: **Butcher Cumberland**.

Returning to the A9, on the South edge of the moor, stand the prehistoric **Clava Cairns**, **Neolithic** constructions whose exact purposes are open to debate; being described by archaeologists as 'ritual' and meaning they don't know for certain what they were erected for!

On our way south look out on your left for **Ruthven Barracks**. Built to house a garrison as part of the policing of the Highlands on the orders of **General Wade**, it was completed in 1721. Sitting atop its defensive mound it is easy to see how it would have commanded the surrounding area and would have appeared a safe haven for its occupants. It has stood in ruins since being set fire to by **Jacobite** forces during the 1745-6 uprising.

Look out also for the quaint pagoda roofed malting houses at **Dalwhinnie Distillery**, the highest malt distillery above sea level in Scotland, as well as the local **Shinty** pitches (**Shinty** is an ancient stick and ball game native to the Highlands and local derbys between **Kingussie** and **Newtonmore** are not for the timid or the faint-hearted, whether playing or spectating!) Hopefully, at **Blair Atholl**, you should catch a glimpse of **Blair Castle**, ancestral home of the **Dukes of Atholl**, site of the last ever castle siege in Britain during the last **Jacobite** rising, and home of Britain's only legal private army.

At the **Pass of Killiecrankie** learn of the famous battle there in 1689; the highpoint of the first **Jacobite** uprising; the tragic death of **John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee**, the brilliant leader of the **Jacobite** forces; and the story of **The Soldier's Leap** over the river below.

Approaching **Dunkeld** watch out for signs for **The Hermitage**, the site of wonderful woodland walks boasting examples of tree species from all around the world and habitat for a resident population of the native red squirrel and 18thC **Ossian's Hall**, a 'folly' built on the orders of the **Duke of Atholl** and renamed in reference to the works of **Macpherson** who claimed to have discovered the lost works of 3rdC poet **Ossian**; epic tales of ancient **Celtic** heroes. Look for mention of **Dunkeld**, "**Fort of the Celts**", itself, once capital of Scotland in the time of **Kenneth I, Kenneth MacAlpin**; site of a monastery founded by **St Columba** or **St Adamnan** on a site now occupied by a late 13th C Cathedral, and location of a famous siege when **Covenanting Cameronians** stood, fought, held, and defeated **James VII's** Highlanders, fresh from their victory at Killiecrankie. Above the town stands **Birnam Wood**, famed for its mention in **Shakespeare's Macbeth**.

From there it is but a relatively straightforward journey towards Edinburgh, passing **Perth, The Fair City**, one-time capital and location of **Scone Palace**; long the site of the fabled **Stone of Destiny**, the ancient coronation stone of countless **Scots Kings**, before being stolen on the orders of **Edward I**.

The **Stone of Destiny**, having been stolen and taken south, remained part of the Coronation Throne in **Westminster Abbey**, save for when a group of Scots law students, nationalists and patriots, removed it in 1951, eventually turning up in the environs of **Arbroath Abbey** and being returned to **London**.

In 1996, amid great pomp and ceremony, it was finally permanently restored to Scotland and is now held in **Edinburgh Castle**.

We approach our journey's end by crossing the **Forth Road Bridge**; opened in 1964 it spans the Forth just upstream of the mighty **Forth Rail Bridge** whose cantilever construction was completed in 1889 and officially opened for traffic the following year. Coming into the city from almost any direction the landmarks of **Arthur's Seat** and **Edinburgh Castle** guide us.