

罗斯林教堂、《达·芬奇密码》、神话与传说 (包括格阑金奇酿酒厂 (Glenkinchie) 的参观)

罗斯林村位于爱丁堡的最南端。尽管它在近代史上以煤矿和火药制造闻名，但是它在历史上重要性，却来自于它的城堡，教堂和峡谷。

现已荒废的罗斯林城堡屹立于一块岩石的海岬上，俯视北爱斯克河从城堡的三面流过。城堡保留完好的最古老的部分是14世纪末由亨利·辛克莱尔——奥克尼的第2位王子(伯爵)所建造。后来他的儿子威廉(也是罗斯林教堂的建筑者)在15世纪时对城堡进行了扩建，增进了城堡的防御性能，并在通往城堡的路上挖掘了一个深深的峡谷，两岸只用吊桥连接(后改为木桥)。在亨利八世统治期间的1544年，英国发生了“争夺苏格兰女王玛丽之战”(rough wooing)，城堡被赫特福德率领的部队严重损坏。直到1580年才被重新修复，并在16到17世纪时增添了居住面积。

城堡附近的罗斯林教堂又被称作“密码教堂”。它极具传奇色彩，在无数的传记和作品中被提及(最近的作品当属丹布朗的流行小说——《达·芬奇密码》)。该教堂是1447年由威廉·辛克莱尔所建，作为圣迈克尔学院教堂。虽然教堂从真正意义上来说，从未彻底完工，但是从已建成的用于唱诗班表演的场所以及教堂东侧十字型翼的建筑和一个圣器室来看，教堂已经算得上是石建筑艺术中的珍品。从地板到穹顶，整个礼堂都被大量雕刻所装饰，其中最为著名的是“普伦蒂斯支柱”(Prentice Pillar)以及它所涉及到的妒忌，忿怒和谋杀的传说。在克伦威尔围攻城堡期间，该教堂曾被当做马厩使用。1688年，教堂被爱丁堡暴民损坏。1862年教堂由罗斯林伯爵做了一次完整修复，作为主教礼拜之用。

从城堡和教堂一路下来，我们来到了位于附近的山谷。该山谷一直被人们认为是一片圣地，长满了郁郁葱葱的树木，分布着奇形怪状的洞穴和岩石。传说威廉·华莱士和其后的美王子查理都在此地隐匿过。关于这个地区还有很多传说：圣殿骑士传奇，圣杯传奇，前基督教神秘主义与崇拜，共济会传说，玄学和力量的传说等等，不一而足。

爬出峡谷我们拾级南行，回望教堂和城堡，无限美景尽收眼底。

1303年2月在罗斯林村和它附近的山谷（Glen），一支只由8,000苏格兰人组成的军队，赢得了对三万英格兰人的三场战斗。苏格兰联军是由约翰·康明（John Comyn）的军队，威廉·华莱士（Sir William Wallace）的军队，奈德帕思的西蒙·弗雷泽爵士（Sir Symon Fraser of Niedpath）的军队，克恩沃斯的撒姆菲尔德（Sommerfield of Carnwarth）的军队，李·西蒙（Simon of the Lee）的军队，Cumbernauld的佛兰芒的军队和托菲肯的Hospitallers爵士（Hospitallers of Torphichen）的军队以及亨利爵士圣·克莱尔（Sir Henry St. Clair）的军队组成。而英格兰的军队由三支一万人的士兵组成。苏格兰人之所以一天赢得三场战役，据说是在那一天，他们得到了罗斯林村附近、寺庙“西大门”的洛锡安区的西多会修道院的僧侣们的及时消息通报（修道院位于穿过Cauldhall荒野的B 6372主路的右边）。修道院院长爱博尼斯（Abernethy）可能以前曾是圣殿武士，肯定对这三场战争的胜利起到了决定性的作用。英格兰此次战争的意图是在博思威克堡（Borthwick castle）攻击海伊（Hays）的部队，在罗斯林城堡攻击圣·克莱尔的军队，并且在戴尔豪斯（Dalhousie）堡‘保护’玛格丽特·拉姆齐女士。在这场战斗中，他们兵分几路，结果却被人数较少的苏格兰部队运用有利的地形打的他们落花流水。村庄边上的一个小石碑标志了这一重要却又被忽略的胜利。在追求苏格兰国王宝座的竞争者中康明后来被他的对手布鲁斯所谋杀。在罗斯林的战斗开始之前，布鲁斯实际上已经在爱尔兰了。战争自然宣传获胜者的故事（胜利者是布鲁斯）。而苏格兰人在罗斯林村在康明的带领下所取得的难以置信的成就在历史书中几乎没有什么记载。

之后，我们经过了卡拉号（Caulahall）荒野，观赏了保德斯（Borders）一带的美丽景色奇。路途渐行渐下。这次我们进入了树木繁茂的南爱斯克河峡谷以及教堂村（Temple）。Temple这个名字源自圣殿骑士的军事宗教神职。他们在苏格兰的总部成立于1153年，大维一世授给他们“Balantrevach的领地与教堂”。1312年，他们遭到教皇克莱门特五世的镇压，圣殿骑士团的领地给了Hospitallers骑士（knights Hospitallers）或者叫托菲肯的圣约翰骑士（St John at Torphichen）。

苏格兰教堂遭到破坏的时间要晚一些，可能是在十四世纪中叶就开始了。旧的“圣殿骑士勋章”采用三角形饰物，而钟楼下面的题字“VAESACMHIM”却让古文物研究者大伤脑筋。教会四周的墓地有很多坟

墓带有圣殿骑士和共济会会员的徽章。有些圣殿骑士墓地是中世纪的，但其他就晚一些，有些甚至是 20 世纪的。

在迷人的乡村旅途中，我们开车离开了中洛锡安郡 (Midlothian) 前往东洛锡安区 (East Lothian)，打算在让人愉悦的小村庄纪福德 (Gifford) 进午餐。

纪福德 (Gifford) 村的村名来源于纪福德 (Gifford) 家族。他们的祖先在大维一世的时候从英格兰来到这里，在洛锡安区 (Lothian) 得到了很多地产。在十三世纪狮心王威廉 (William the Lion) 为了奖励 Hugh de 纪福德 (Gifford) 对国王的尽忠，将 Yester 的土地赏给了他，并建立了 yester 城堡。除了宏伟的地下拱顶和司科特爵士在长诗 (《玛米思》 (Marmion) 中所提到的“地下室的妖精” (Goblin Ha?) 外，多数建筑都已经成为废墟。由于没有男性子嗣继承，家产首先成了其姻亲博思威克 (Borthwick) 的海伊家族 (Hay) 的财产，随后又归属皮布尔斯郡 (Tweeddale) 的伯爵和侯爵，他们最终建立了怀旧小屋 (Yester House)。后来在威廉的手里又得到了修缮，而 John 和 Robert Adams 将之改建的更为富丽堂皇。在逐渐得以扩大的纪福德 (Gifford) 村里，在怀旧小屋的门前有 18 世纪早期所建立的约翰-威瑟斯潘 (John Witherspoon) 纪念碑，威瑟斯潘是美国独立宣言的签名人之一，于 1723 年生于纪福德 (Gifford) 村。

东南部低地出产苏格兰最好的大麦。在离数里之遥就有格阑金奇酿酒厂 (Glenkinchie)，是现存为数不多的低地麦芽酿酒厂之一。1837 年 Rate 兄弟在此建厂后该厂就一直出产纯麦芽酒。美丽的欧西兰 (Oencaitland) 村坐落于兰茂密友尔 (Lammermuir) 山区，我们在该村不仅可以参观酒厂是如何酿造威士忌的，而且还有可能品尝一下香醇的威士忌酒。之后，我们回到了我们旅程的终点爱丁堡。

ROSSLYN CHAPEL, THE DA VINCI CODE, MYTHS & MYSTERY

(INC GLENKINCHIE DISTILLERY TOUR)

On the southern edge of **Edinburgh** is the village of **Roslin**. Despite its recent history of coal-mining and gunpowder manufacture, its real historical importance derives from its **Castle**,

Chapel, and Glen.

Now ruinous, the **Roslin Castle** stands on a rocky promontory with the River North Esk below it on three sides. The oldest part, the keep, dates from the end of the 14thC and was built by **Henry Sinclair¹, 2nd Prince (Earl) of Orkney**. Extended in the 15thC by his son, **William**, the builder of **Rossllyn Chapel** nearby, he improved its defences by cutting a deep gorge across the access on the fourth side and spanning it with a drawbridge (later replaced by a bridge). Seriously damaged by **Hertford** in 1544 during **Henry VIII** of England's '**Rough wooing**', the **Castle** was restored c1580 with a domestic range being added in the 16th/17thC.

Close by the **Castle**, stands **Rossllyn Chapel**; the '**Chapel of Codes**'; subject of intense speculation, wrapped in legends, and featured in innumerable works of fact and fiction (most recently Dan Brown's blockbusting novel, **The Da Vinci Code**). Established by **William Sinclair*** in 1447 as the **Collegiate Church of St Michael**, it was never finished, but what was built, a choir, parts of the east transept walls and a sacristy, is an amazing testament to the stonemasons' art; from floor to tunnel-vaulted roof, the whole chapel is profusely decorated with sculpture and carvings; the most famous feature being the '**Prentice Pillar**' and its legend of jealousy, rage, and murder! Used by **Cromwell** to stable his horses during his siege of the **Castle** and damaged by an **Edinburgh** mob in 1688, the **Chapel** was fully restored in 1862 by the **Earl of Rossllyn** for **Episcopalian** worship.

From **Castle** and **Chapel** we descend into the **Glen**; long regarded by some as a sacred grove, it is full of trees, caves, and interesting rock formations. Legends of both **William Wallace** and, much later, **Bonnie Prince Charlie**, hiding in caves here sit easily with the other legends with which the area abounds: legends of **Knights Templar**, of the **Holy Grail**, of **pre-Christian mysticism** and **worship**, of **Masonic** connections, of **hidden secrets**, **secret knowledge**, and **power**.

Climbing up out of the **Glen** to the South our road affords a wonderful view back across to the **Castle** and the **Chapel**.

It was at **Roslin** and along its **Glen** that, in February 1303, an army of **just 8,000 Scots** - the combined forces of **John Comyn**, **Sir William Wallace**, **Sir Symon Fraser of Neidpath**, **Somerfield of Carnwarth**, **Simon of the Lee**, **Fleming of Cumbernauld** and the **Knights Hospitallers** of **Torphichen**, along with **Sir Henry St. Clair** - successfully fought and won **three** separate engagements against **three** English armies, **each of 10,000 men, in the same day**, having been alerted of their advance by monks from the **Cistercian Mount Lothian Priory** close to **Rossllyn** and the western 'gate' of **Temple** (to the right off the B6372 across Cauldhall Moor); whose Prior, **Abernethy**, may have previously been a **Templar** knight and who certainly played a crucial role in the days victories. The English intention had been to attack the **Hays** at **Borthwick Castle**, the **St Clairs** at **Roslin Castle**, and to 'protect' **Lady Margaret Ramsay** at **Dalhousie Castle**. In the event all they achieved was to divide their forces and individually suffer defeat at the hands of a smaller Scottish force that made best use of knowledge of the terrain. A small cairn at the edge of the village is all that marks this remarkable but sadly overlooked victory. **Comyn**, a claimant of the Scottish Throne, and his bitter rival, was later murdered by **Bruce**. **Bruce** had been in Ireland at the time of the **Battle of Rossllyn** and as the propaganda war will tell the story of the winner (in this case '**The Bruce**'), the Scots incredible achievement under **Comyn** at **Rossllyn** has been all but expunged from the history books.

A brief journey over **Cauldhall Moor**, with its wonderful views over the **Borders**, and our road descends once again; this time into the deep-set, wooded valley of the River South Esk, and the hamlet of **Temple**. **Temple** takes its present name from the military religious order of the **Knights Templar** whose Scottish headquarters were established here in 1153 after **David I** granted them 'the manor and chapel of Balantravach'. Following their suppression in 1312 by

Pope Clement V, the preceptory was given to the **Knights Hospitallers** or **Knights of St John** at **Torphichen**.

The **ruined parish kirk** is of a later date although it is possible it existed as early as the mid-14th century; the old **'Templars' Cross'** adorned the gable but the inscription - **'VAESACMHIM'** - below the belfry baffles antiquarians. The graveyard surrounding the church contains many graves bearing **Templar** and **Masonic** symbolism. Some of the **Templar** graves are medieval but others date from later times, up to and including the 20th century.

A very pleasant drive across country and one leaves **Midlothian** and enters **East Lothian** where we stop for lunch in the charming village of **Gifford**.

The village name derives from the **Gifford** family whose ancestors came from England in the time of **David I** and obtained extensive estates in the **Lothians**. In the 13thC **Hugh (or Hugo) de Gifford** was granted the lands of **Yester** by **William the Lion** for distinguished service to the Crown and built **Yester Castle**, now in ruins but for the magnificent underground vault or **'Goblin Ha'** which featured in **Sir Walter Scott's Marmion**. Failure of male succession led to the estates passing into the **Hay** family of **Borthwick**, later the **Earls** then the **Marquises of Tweeddale**, on marriage and they eventually built **Yester House**; subsequently improved by **William** and, later, spectacularly remodelled **John** and **Robert Adams**. The village that grew up by the gates of **Yester House** has a memorial in its early 18thC church to **John Witherspoon**, signatory to the **American declaration of Independence**, who was born in **Gifford** in 1723.

The fine Lowland agricultural soil of South-East produces some of the best barley in Scotland. A few short miles from **Gifford** lies **Glenkinchie Distillery**; one of the very few surviving Lowland malt distilleries; producing **Glenkinchie Single Malt** since its foundation in 1837 by the Rate brothers. Sited near the pretty village of **Pencaitland** in the **Lammermuir Hills**, how better a way to end our tour than with a visit to see how whisky is made and possibly to savour 'a wee **deoch an dorus**' to see us on our way back to **Edinburgh**?

Notes:

¹ The **St Clairs** arrived with **William the Conqueror**, and the barony of **Rosslyn** was granted to them in the 12th century.

Sir William's grandfather was **Henry, first Prince of Orkney**, who is said to have sailed to **Nova Scotia** and **Massachusetts** in 1398, almost a century before Columbus. The evidence for this lies both in the folklore of the Micmac Indians and in carvings of maize, then unknown in Europe, surrounding a window in **Rosslyn Chapel**.

The **Chapel** also contains a tomb ascribed (dubiously) to an earlier William, killed by the Moors while escorting Robert the Bruce's heart to the Holy Land in 1330. Twenty-eight years earlier, incidentally, William Wallace fought a battle thereabouts, and hid in a nearby cave; more than four hundred years later, Bonnie Prince Charlie was rumoured to have done likewise.

What is most interesting about the **St Clairs** is their centuries-old affiliation to two of the most potent and secretive organisations in history, the **Knights Templar** and the **Freemasons**. Both orders have left their mark, and their mysteries, at **Rosslyn**, in a collection of peculiar devices and still more peculiar legends.

The **St Clairs'** alleged connections to the **Templars**; guardians of the treasures from the **Temple of Solomon**; inventors of modern banking; financiers to many of Europe's mediaeval thrones; and the most powerful order in pre-Reformation Europe; are said to have been established by marriage in the 12th century, and to have remained close.

When the **Templars** faced persecution in the 14th century, many fled to Scotland. **Freemasons**, of which the **St Clairs** were **hereditary Grand Masters**, are said to have abetted their escapes (**Freemasonry** is also supposed later to have

spared the **Chapel** from destruction by **Cromwell, a brother mason**, though his troops rather disrespectfully stabled their horses there).

Thus has arisen a lively speculation as to what holy booty the **Templars** might have secreted in the **Chapel**. There is certainly documentation suggesting that, at various points in history, the **St Clairs** were said to be in possession of great and secret treasures; the current generation declines comment.

Ever more extravagant theories have arisen about artifacts rumoured to lie in sealed vaults below the **Chapel**: the **True Cross** (or **Holy Rood**, from which Edinburgh's Holyrood Palace takes its name), the **Ark of the Covenant**, the **Holy Grail**, a lost **Gospel** or even the original **Stone of Destiny** and, most incredibly and most extravagant of all, **the mummified head of Jesus!**