

The Outlander, Palaces & Jacobites Experience

Our Outlander tour departs from the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. The Royal Mile is the backbone of Edinburgh's Old Town, a world heritage site, that historically became so overcrowded and full of disease by the 18th century that it earned its nickname "Auld Reekie". Various streets around Old Town and the Royal Mile have been the scene for Outlander filming. In the books, Jamie is found in a Royal Mile print shop when Claire first returns to the 18th century after realising he didn't die, as previously thought.

We leave the Old Town and Edinburgh behind to travel to Midhope, Outlander's Lallybroch. "Lallybroch" is the fictional home of the Laird and Lady Broch Tuarach and features in Season one and two. Outlander portrays it as both a fully functional tower house castle in the 17th Century, and as a ruin in 1968 when Claire returns for a nostalgic visit. Today's Midhope is a type of castle known as a tower house. It was originally built in the 16th Century, close to the Hopetoun Estate, and survives today as a ruin. You will have time to pause for photos and walk up close to the tower house, taking in its surroundings.

From Midhope, or 'Lallybroch', our tour travels to the impressive Blackness Castle*. In Outlander, the Castle is located in Fort William, and is the headquarters of Black Jack Randall. In reality, the Castle is located on the shores of the Firth of Forth, and looks like 'a ship that never sailed'. Built in the 1440s, it was home to the Crichtons, one of Scotland's most powerful families. Over the years Blackness played many roles; a Royal Castle to Scottish monarch James II, a garrison fortress, a state prison and an ammunition depot in the 19th Century. Spend time here exploring the Castle and enjoy the magnificent views over the Firth of Forth.

From the Headquarters of Black Jack Randall, we travel on to the Royal Borough of Linlithgow. Earliest signs of a village at Linlithgow date to 900 BC. Scottish Monarch James I ordered work on a palace to begin in 1424, which soon became a favourite rest stop for royals between Edinburgh and Stirling Castle. The Stewart Queens appreciated the peace and fresh air, and Linlithgow Palace soon became a royal nursery for James V (1542), Mary Queen of Scots (1542) and Princess Elizabeth (1596). Here you will have time to enjoy a break to explore Linlithgow Palace* and the small town.

We then travel to Callendar House Museum; the fictional setting of the Duke of Sandringham's kitchen at Bellhurst Manor. The House, now a museum, once belonged to the 4th Earl of Callendar, who was a staunch supporter of the Jacobite rebellion. The Earl soon lost the house due to his sympathies to the Jacobite cause, where it then passed through various hands. By the 18th Century, the house had become a ruin, and was donated to Falkirk Council, who restored it and maintained it to the present day.



On first appearance, the house bears a striking resemblance to a French chateau. Parts of the house date back to a 1400s tower, and due to close ties between France and Scotland, it is common to see the French Baronial style in Scottish architecture.

We will spend 30 minutes at Callendar House Museum to explore the infamous kitchen, with a presentation from one of the expert guides, who will tell us all about the kitchen's use in the Georgian period, and perhaps, if we are lucky, there may be some baking for us to try!

From Callendar House Museum we journey on to Culross. The Royal Burgh of Culross is a splendid example of a 17th Century village in Scotland. The village was used for various sets for Outlander; its Palace Gardens were used as Claire's herb garden; the Mercat Cross was used for the village of Cranesmuir; the Study Building as Geillis Duncan's House; the Palace Courtyard was a village encampment.

Culross Town House was built in 1626 and was the administrative centre of Culross with a tollbooth and witches' prison. The old buildings of the village create a fascinating glimpse into Scottish village life in the 17th Century. You have time here to explore the village, view its palace gardens and wander to the Mercat Cross, before enjoying some refreshments at its quaint biscuit café.

From Culross, we travel on to Hopetoun House*. The magnificent stately home was used as the set of the Duke of Sandringham's residence in Outlander. In fact, multiple locations within the house and estate have been used throughout the Outlander series. A few notable examples include The Red Drawing Room as the Duke of Sandringham's residence; The Sea Trail and West Lawn to the rear of the house was the set for the duel between the Duke and the MacDonald clan; the Rear Steps of the house was the scene for a sword fight in season 1; and the Courtyard behind the stables tearoom was regularly used as a Parisian street location in season 2.

The Hopetoun Estate is a place of outstanding natural beauty. Situated on the outskirts of Edinburgh, near Queensferry, it was built in 1699 and designed by Sir William Bruce. Its English garden style park was laid out in 1725 and its walled garden dates back to the late 18th Century. Excellent guides are on hand at the stately home to help you enjoy your visit by providing information on the house and the family, and answer any questions you may have. Visitors are free to explore the house at their own leisure.

From Hopetoun, we return to Edinburgh, where our Outlander tour ends.

*Optional Extra