



Non-Outlander
Edinburgh
Sites of Interest

An Edinburgh Planning PDF

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey Non-Outlander Edinburgh Places of Interest



Craigmillar Castle (Site #48) Preston Mill (Site # 51) Roslin Glen Ruins (Site #53)

[See also: Prestonpans Battlefield (Site #49), Gosford House (Site #50), Glencorse Old Kirk (Site #52)]

Whether visiting *Outlander* sites near Edinburgh (above)

Before or *After* visiting the city,

Schedule at least **Two Days** to Enjoy the City of Edinburgh

- Dedicate one day to a morning Edinburgh Castle (Site #39) visit, followed by a downhill stroll along the Royal Mile, stopping at the *Outlander* film sites and novel locations (Sites #40 through #45). [Anticipate the Royal Mile *Outlander* stroll lasting at least 3.5 hours.]
- On another day, tour Holyrood Palace (Site #46) in the morning, followed by one or two **Non-Outlander** Edinburgh places or activities—such as those we suggest, below.

[*If you're interested in a Hop-on/off-Bus tour, make this your **first day's** itinerary.

See our **Edinburgh Hop-on/off-Bus Tours PDF.**]

<http://outlandishscotland.com/EdinburghHopOnOffBuses.pdf>

Outlanderites who have more than two days to spend in the city, can learn about a multitude of additional places of interest on Edinburgh.org.

<https://edinburgh.org/discover/must-see/top-attractions/>



There are several National Museums in Edinburgh that may be of interest to you.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/>

Surprise! Our favorite is *somewhat* related to *Outlander*.



The National Museum of Scotland

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

In 2017, the National Museum of Scotland (NMS) developed a special exhibition entitled, “**Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites.**”

Due to the popularity of her *Outlander* novels and the TV series—plus their undeniably positive contribution to Scottish tourism—the NMS invited Diana Gabaldon to attend the special exhibition’s opening on June 23rd.

“I wasn’t able to come then, though, owing to an impending first grandchild, but mentioned that I’d be in the UK in mid-May, if that was any use to them?”

“So they very kindly set up a mini-exhibition of their most prized and interesting Jacobite relics and artifacts, and The Guardian [newspaper] sent a photographer to take photos of me not-quite-touching Bonnie Prince Charlie’s picnic canteen (wearing purple nitrile gloves, just in case).”

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorDianaGabaldon/posts/1421754354534063>

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/jun/05/bonnie-prince-charlie-jacobites-exhibition-national-museum-of-scotland-diana-gabaldon-outlander>



Alas and alack, the special Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites exhibition closed on November 12th, 2017. Happily, you can still see photos of Diana’s NMS visit—and of the exhibit—online.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/things-to-see-and-do/past-exhibitions/bonnie-prince-charlie-and-the-jacobites/outlander/>

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/things-to-see-and-do/past-exhibitions/bonnie-prince-charlie-and-the-jacobites/>



Happier still, the National Museum of Scotland houses a *permanent* Jacobite exhibit: “**The Jacobite Challenge.**” This exhibit is in one of the **Scottish History and Archeology** galleries and displays many Jacobite artifacts and garments, including some that were part of 2017’s special exhibit. <https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/the-jacobite-challenge/>

[If you have difficulty with the link above, you may need to copy and paste it to reach the webpage.]

National Museum of Scotland

Operation Hours: Open daily from 10am to 5pm, throughout the year

Closed on Christmas Day

Boxing Day (December 26th) and New Years Day: open Noon to 5pm

Entry Fee: The National Museum of Scotland is free. Its enormous operation cost is almost entirely dependant on visitor donations. Please donate what you can afford.

Visit Time: Schedule at least 90 minutes to enjoy the Jacobite Challenge and visit one of the three gift shops. Scheduling 2 hours would be best.

Plan Your NMS Visit: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/plan-your-visit/>

Address: Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Edinburgh Hop-on/off-Buses stop at the National Museum of Scotland.



Outlanderites who also are **Potterites** (*Harry Potter* fans) will enjoy viewing the National Museum of Scotland's collection of **Lewis Chessmen** during their visit—found in another of the Scottish History and Archeology galleries.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/lewis-chess-pieces/> [You may need to copy and paste this link to reach the webpage.]

Below is an excerpt from *Harry Potter Places Book Five, Part One, National Museum of Scotland (Site #52)*:

“The **Hogwarts Wizard Chess Set** that Harry and Ron played with in *Sorcerer's Stone* was precisely modeled after the Lewis Chessmen, a collection of ancient Nordic chess pieces buried in a sandbank on the Scottish **Isle of Lewis** and discovered in 1831.

“Of the 93 Lewis Chessmen in existence, 82 are currently in the custody of London's **British Museum** (*Harry Potter Places Book One, Site #18*). The remaining 11 pieces belong to the National Museum of Scotland. As all 93 chess pieces were indisputably discovered on *Scottish* soil, the fact that so many of them are owned by an *English* museum is an ongoing source of (sometimes quite heated) contention.”

<http://harrypotterplaces.com/scotland-hogwarts-home/>

This seems to be a great place to segue into another activity that Outlandish Potterites can enjoy.



The Potter Trail

<https://www.pottertrail.com/>

The Potter Trail was the very first tour company dedicated to visiting *Harry-Potter*-related places in Edinburgh. It opened in 2012. (Yes, we also are amazed that it took so long for someone in Edinburgh

to Wizard-up!) Having corresponded with The Potter Trail people since they began their tours, we wholeheartedly endorse them.

In recent years, other companies have jumped on the Edinburgh Potter tour bandwagon.

We do *not* endorse any other Edinburgh Potter tour—for a variety of reasons. The chief reason: other Edinburgh Potter tour companies require pre-booking and charge £15 (or more) per person for their tours.

The Potter Trail tour is *FREE*. If you enjoyed it, simply tip the Witch or Wizard who guided you at the tour's conclusion, when she/he passes the Sorting Hat.



The Potter Trail Highlights

- See where Lord Voldemort is buried
- Discover in which café Rowling wrote the **FIRST** Potter book [It is *not* the café you might think!]
- Take a trip down the real life Diagon Alley
- Have a chance to be sorted outside the school which inspired Hogwarts
- Learn who the world's worst poet was, and which Hogwarts teacher is named after him
- And much, much more!

How long does The Potter Trail tour last?

- 1 hour 30 minutes.

Where does The Potter Trail tour Start?

- [Meet at] the statue of Greyfriars Bobby, at the junction of Candlemaker Row and George IV Bridge.
[This is directly across from the National Museum of Scotland, making it easy to visit the museum before a Potter Trail tour during the winter months, or after the earliest Potter Trail tour in the summer.]

In addition to The Potter Trail tour being *FREE*:

- Our public tours require no booking and if you show up at the right time and place, you'll be guaranteed a spot! We may send two guides out to split the group if it gets too big but we never turn anyone away from our tours.
- Our tours start promptly at the times stated below, so we recommend arriving 5 to 10 minutes beforehand.

When does The Potter Trail tour Start?

- January through May 2018: 3pm every day
- June 2018: 12pm and 4pm every day
- July and August 2018: 12pm and 4pm every day
Additional 2pm tours every Sat and Sun
- September through October 2018: 2pm every day
- Dates for December and early 2019 will be added in September [2018]



Outlandish Potterites who prefer a self-guided tour will find instructions for 4 different **Edinburgh Potter Trek** itineraries on our *Harry Potter Places Book Five Supplementums* directory. Like the **OutlanderLinks** directories on *Outlandish Scotland Journey's* website, PDF files posted here can be accessed free of charge.

<http://harrypotterplaces.com/scotland-hogwarts-home/hpp-book-five-supplementums/>

All four Potter Trek itineraries include a stealthy dash to the Balmoral's 5th floor to obtain quick snaps of the door to **Room 552: The JK Rowling Suite**. This is accomplished during a Palm Court Café Afternoon Tea reservation, or a morning sip & sup at Hadrian's Brasserie.

[For more information, see The Balmoral Hotel (Site #50) chapter of *Harry Potter Places Book Five*.]

Below is an excerpt from *Harry Potter Places Book Five, Part One; Ambulatus Edinburgh*:

Our Favorite Edinburgh Potter Itinerary is Trek #1

Advocate's Close Encounter with Afternoon Tea

Following this route, you'll be able to visit Advocate's Close (Knockturn Alley) by walking *down* its several flights of steep and shallow steps. You'll reach the Balmoral Hotel in time to enjoy an Afternoon Tea reservation.

Our Least Favorite Edinburgh Potter Itinerary is Trek #4

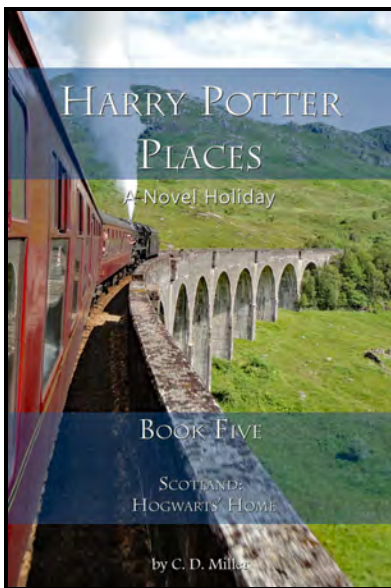
Aptly named **The Huffandpuff**, this tour begins with a morning sip & sup at Hadrian's Brasserie, and skips the Afternoon Tea. The first leg of the route, however, requires you to walk *up, up, up* the Advocate's Close steps. We created this itinerary for physically-fit Potterites divinely inspired to tackle such a challenge.

Potter Treks #2 and #3 are Designed for Potterites Who Wish to Avoid Advocate's Close Altogether

Follow either of these itineraries if having to trudge up—or *down*—long flights of steep and shallow steps would be too physically taxing, or if you're cursed with *Acrophobia* or *Climacophobia* (fear of heights or stairs).

Trek #2 will allow you to enjoy an Afternoon Tea reservation *without* descending the steps of Advocate's Close.

Trek #3 begins with a morning sip & sup at Hadrian's Brasserie, and skips the Afternoon Tea. The first leg of the route leads you to High Street via North Bridge (Street)—a non-taxing walk up a moderate incline.



Outlandish Potterites who wish to know *everything* there is to know about Edinburgh Harry Potter Places can purchase our full-color *Harry Potter Places Book Five* paperback for \$23.95:

<https://www.amazon.com/Harry-Potter-Places-Book-Five-Scotland/dp/1938285204>

OR, you can purchase the inexpensive *Harry Potter Places*

Book Five eBook for \$8.99:

<https://www.amazon.com/Harry-Potter-Places-Book-Five-Scotland-ebook/dp/B014K9JRLO>