

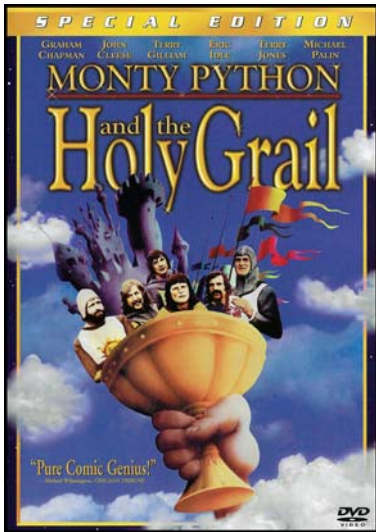


Doune Castle Monty Python Holy Grail Guide

OutlandishScotland.com

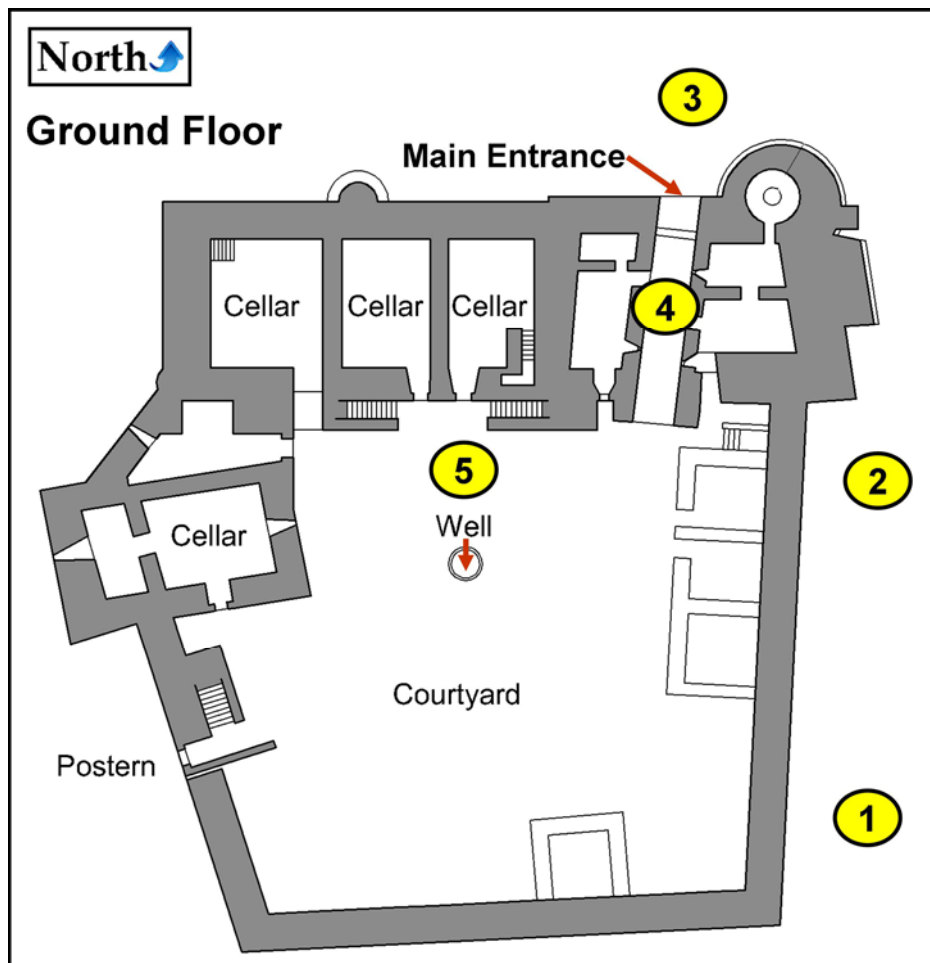
A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey's Guide to Doune Castle's Holy Grail Locations



The information and screenshots within this guide were primarily derived from *The Quest for the Holy Grail Locations*, a short documentary film starring Michael Palin and Terry Jones.

Filmed in 2001, the documentary is on disc two of the *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* Special Edition DVD, released in 2001.



Five filming locations are on the ground floor—the first three outside the castle.



Location (1) is the exterior south corner of Doune Castle's east curtain wall. This is the first chapter of the film, where Arthur introduces himself and Patsy. They are ridiculed for using coconut halves instead of riding horses by two guards, who end up debating whether swallows can carry coconuts.



GUARD #1: It's not a question of where he grips it! It's a simple question of weight ratios! A five ounce bird could not carry a 1 pound coconut.
ARTHUR: Well, it doesn't matter. Will you go and tell your master that Arthur from the Court of Camelot is here. ...
GUARD #2: It could be carried by an African swallow!



Location (2) is atop the north end of Doune Castle's east curtain wall. This is where the famous taunting French Guard was seen in wide shots.



To film close-ups of the taunting guard (like the one above), a small set piece was built behind the south curtain wall—which is why the close-ups don't look like Doune Castle's battlements.

FRENCH GUARD: You don't frighten us, English pig-dogs!

Go and boil your bottoms, sons of a silly person.

I blow my nose at you, so-called Arthur-king, you and all your silly English kaniggets. Thppppt!



Location (3) is the castle approach, where the Trojan Rabbit was left for the French Guards.

BEDEVERE: Now, Lancelot, Galahad, and I wait until nightfall, and then leap out of the rabbit, taking the French by surprise—not only by surprise, but totally unarmed!

ARTHUR: Who leaps out?

BEDEVERE: Uh, Lancelot, Galahad, and I. Uh, leap out of the rabbit, uh . . . and uh . . .

ARTHUR: Oh sh—

BEDEVERE: Um, I . . . Look, if we built this large wooden badger—



Location (4) is the castle's Entrance Passage, seen when Sir Lancelot dashed into Swamp Castle on his way to save what he thought was a *Princess* being forced to wed against her will.



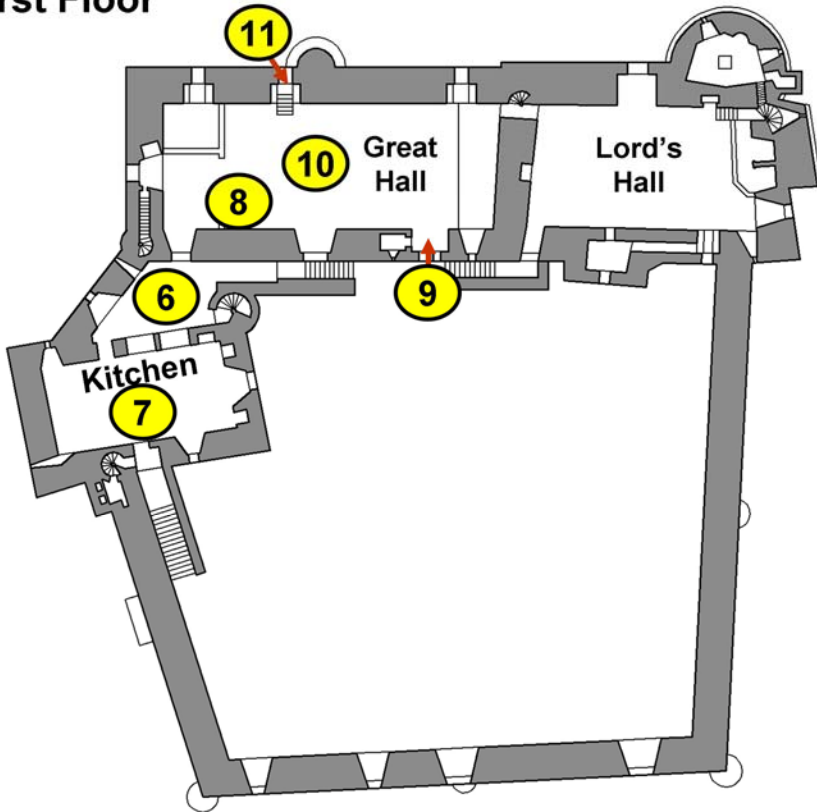
Location (5) is where Swamp Castle wedding guests were frolicking and minstrels were minstrelling. The screenshot above is from before Sir Lancelot's arrival.



Upon entering, Lancelot cut and slashed his way through the innocent revelers, before ascending the steps seen in the background of the screenshot above.



First Floor



The First Floor has 6 filming locations in 3 rooms.

Location (6) is Doune Castle's Servedy, the first room after ascending the steps at the courtyard's northwest corner (the steps seen in the previous screenshot).

Here is where Sir Galahad the Chaste entered Castle Anthrax after seeing a vision of the Holy Grail floating above the castle.

He was greeted by Zoot, leader of the castle's only occupants: "eight score young blondes and brunettes, all between sixteen and nineteen and a half, cut off in this castle with no one to protect us!"



ZOOT: Welcome gentle Sir Knight, welcome to the Castle Anthrax. ... Yes, it's not a very good name. Oh, but we are nice and we shall attend to your every, every need!



Location (7) is Doune Castle's Kitchen, where two different Castle Anthrax rooms were filmed. The guest bedroom (above) was actually set up *within* the kitchen's giant hearth. Here, Galahad was tended to by two . . . doctors.



Upon escaping the bedroom and its seductive physicians, Galahad pushed through some tapestries and discovered himself in the Castle Anthrax Dormitory and Bathing Room.

For these scenes, Doune Castle's kitchen nooks were used as sleeping cubbies.



Discussion of spankings and whatnot ensued, until Sir Lancelot burst through the door of the Servery (on the other side of the nooks) to rescue Galahad. [These scenes came before the "Princess" rescue.]



On screen, location (8) appears to be a long corridor, through which Lancelot forcefully escorted Galahad (who had begun to have second thoughts about refusing the ladies' hospitality), saving him from the evil temptresses. Location (8) is actually the south wall of Doune Castle's Great Hall. The scene was simply lighted and shot in a manner suggesting a long, narrow space.



Location (9) is an alcove and a small closet. Filmmakers installed a few steps in front of the closet, so that Zoot could lead Galahad “through” it, ostensibly enroute to the Castle Anthrax guest bedroom.

ZOOT: I am afraid our life must seem very dull and quiet compared to yours. ... Oh, it is a lonely life—bathing, dressing, undressing, making exciting underwear. We are just not used to handsome knights.



Carol Cleveland, the actress who played Zoot, had to enter the closet as though it led elsewhere, then flatten herself against the back of the closet so as not to be seen any longer. Filming cut just as Galahad was about to enter the “passageway.”



Location (10) is the Great Hall of both Doune Castle and Castle Camelot. This is where the rollicking Knights of the Round Table dance sequence was filmed.

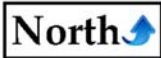


Location (11) is the alcove where the Knight Chorus performed.

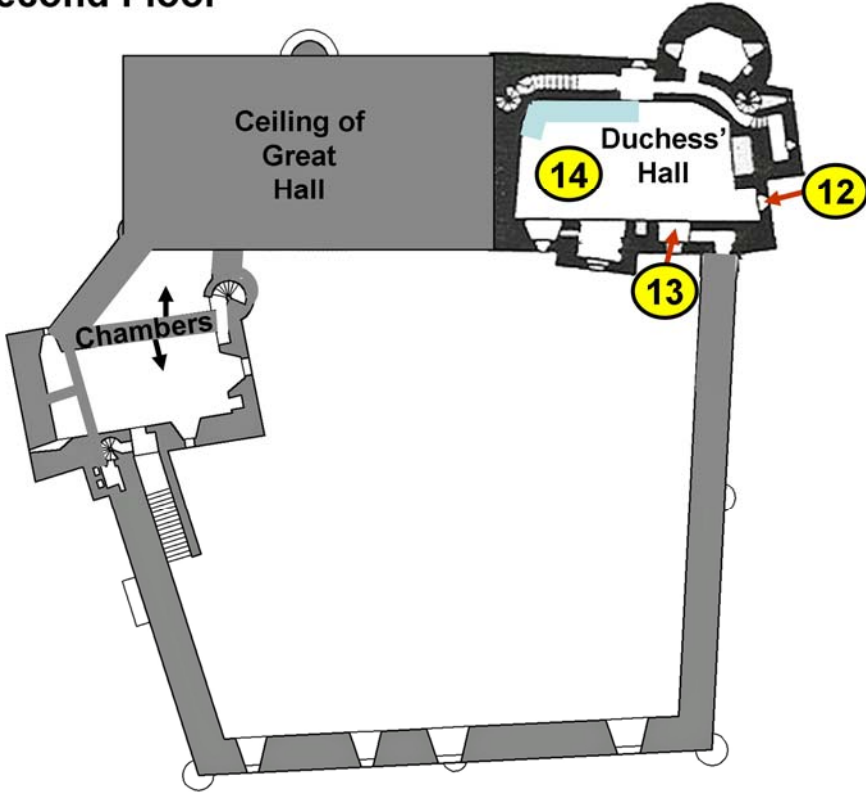
We're knights of the Round Table // Our shows are for-mid-able
Though many times we're given rhymes // That are quite un-sing-able
We not so fat in Camelot // We sing from the diaphragm a lot



The Camelot Minstrels also performed in the location (11) alcove.



Second Floor



The last 3 film sites are in the Duchess' Hall, found above the Lord's Hall.



Location (12) is the east window of the Duchess' Hall: Prince Herbert's room in Swamp Castle.

SWAMP KING: Now listen lad, in twenty minutes you're getting married to a girl whose father owns the biggest tracts of open land in Britain. ...

PRINCE HERBERT: But I don't like her.

SWAMP KING: Don't like her?! What's wrong with her? She's beautiful, she's rich, she's got huge . . . tracts of land.



PRINCE HERBERT: You got my note!

LANCELOT: Uh, well, I got A note. ...

PRINCE HERBERT: He's come to rescue me, father.

LANCELOT: Well, let's not jump to conclusions.



Location (13) is an alcove on the south wall of the Duchess' Hall that served as the entrance to Prince Herbert's room. A short passage leads from the alcove to Doune Castle's eastern range of battlements. Filmmakers built a false wooden wall with shelves to hide the alcove's window.

One of the movie's most hilarious segments took place here. Below is a tiny bit of script from location (13)'s scene—which lasted one and a half minutes onscreen.

SWAMP KING: Guards! Make sure the Prince doesn't leave this room until I come and get 'im.

GUARD #1: Not to leave the room even if you come and get him.

GUARD #2: Hic!

SWAMP KING: No, no. Until I come and get 'im.

GUARD #1: Until you come and get him, we're not to enter the room.

SWAMP KING: No, no, no. You stay in the room and make sure 'e doesn't leave.

GUARD #1: And you'll come and get him.

GUARD #2: Hic!

SWAMP KING: Right.

GUARD #1: We don't need to do anything, apart from just stop him entering the room.

SWAMP KING: No, no. Leaving the room. ...



Location (14) is the Duchess' Hall, itself. This is where the Wedding Party scenes were filmed.

When first seen onscreen, Sir Lancelot was on his way to rescue the "Princess." He entered from the location (13) passage (above, center—a false *stone* wall hiding the window in these scenes).



Lancelot then cut and slashed his way through the unarmed guests, past what later would be used as Herbert's window (seen at the right of the screenshot above), and finally dashed up a flight of steps to a landing—neither of which actually exist.

On our Second Floor map, the landing and steps' location is indicated by a blue shaded area.



Filmmakers built the flight of steps and short landing—including a wooden hide at it's end to disguise the fact that there's nothing there but a stone wall. Later, when Lancelot accompanied the King back to the party, the two of them entered from the hide and descended the steps.



At the end of this *Holy Grail* chapter, Lancelot made a suitably dramatic exit by using a rope to swing down from the top of the steps.

The End!