



Blackness Castle Accessibility

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Blackness Castle

Site #36

Accessibility Issues



[*Outlander* Season 2 screenshot (enhanced)]

The surfaces seen onscreen during Roger and Bree's 1968 visit are exactly as they are found in the modern-day Blackness Castle courtyard. Historic Environment Scotland has a webpage that describes the many *general* mobility challenges faced by all those who visit. It also clearly identifies that the upper levels of the castle are *not* wheelchair accessible.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/blackness-castle/access/>

We believe that *Outlander*ites who are wheelchair athletes—or those accompanied by a strong pusher—*can* visit the Blackness Castle courtyard, where all *Outlander* filming took place.

This PDF contains photos of the various wheelchair access impediments to the courtyard, courtesy of Jo Woolf and her husband, Colin.

<https://the-hazel-tree.com/2017/07/22/blackness-castle/>

*Outlander*ites with other mobility difficulties may also find this PDF helpful.



[©2017 Jo Woolf <https://the-hazel-tree.com>]

The car park has a rough gravel surface and the castle entryway is about 30m (33 yards) from the car park. At the end of the gravel is a short cement “landing” of sorts.



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The landing has a handrail, but ends in a shallow step just before the steep, uneven cobbled path that descends to the entrance tunnel. The view from the landing, looking down to the entrance, is above, left. Above right, is the reverse view.



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The tunnel's passageway is lined with relatively level cobbles, which continue as you turn a corner and travel through the open-air passageway leading to the courtyard entrance.



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The entry to the courtyard is paved with uneven cobbles and stones.



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Once inside the courtyard, the Pier Gate will be to your left. There are three steps (with a handrail) at the gate. There also is a ramp, but you must negotiate uneven cobbles and stones to reach it. The pier is planked wood, covered with an anti-slip surface.



[*Outlander* Season 2 screenshot segment (enhanced)]

There are uneven, algae-covered cobbles and bricks in the south section of the courtyard (slippery when wet). After passing the Central Tower you'll reach the area where the whipping platform and post were erected. Although this area is composed of uneven and jagged bedrock, there is a winding

dirt path that leads between the worst bits. Unfortunately, the dirt path is uneven and likely muddy when wet.

Outlanderites with other mobility issues also may have difficulty visiting the other areas of Blackness Castle. In addition to the conditions described above, here are the challenges as described by Historic Environment Scotland:

- The Blackness Castle visitor center is in an outbuilding close to the car park, but its entrance has 3 concrete steps (with handrails).
- The south (stern) tower is up a rough-cut rock stair and a spiral staircase of 51 steps.
- The east courtyard parapet (wall walk) is reached either:
along the west spur and up a series of stone staircases
through the great hall, via a spiral staircase (no handrail)
- The roof of the north (fore) tower is reached via 40 stone steps (to the spur battery), then along the battlements and up a further two sets of 7 steps.
- The first floor is up a further 16 timber steps (with handrail).
- The mid tower is reached via a spring mounted wooden door.
- Access to the upper levels is via a wide and even spiral staircase (no handrails).

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/blackness-castle/access/>