



Part Three

Preview

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

OUTLANDISH SCOTLAND JOURNEY

A Novel Holiday

EBOOK PART 3

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Photo by Ian Parker; Evanescent Light Photography

Outlandish Scotland Journey

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

eBook Part 3

SAMPLE!

By CD Miller

Table of Contents

[Below is the full Table of Contents for *Outlandish Scotland Journey Part 3*.

Only a few chapters, however, are included in this sample. Additionally, every time you see this "... " it means we've cut text from the sample chapter—often a great deal of text!]

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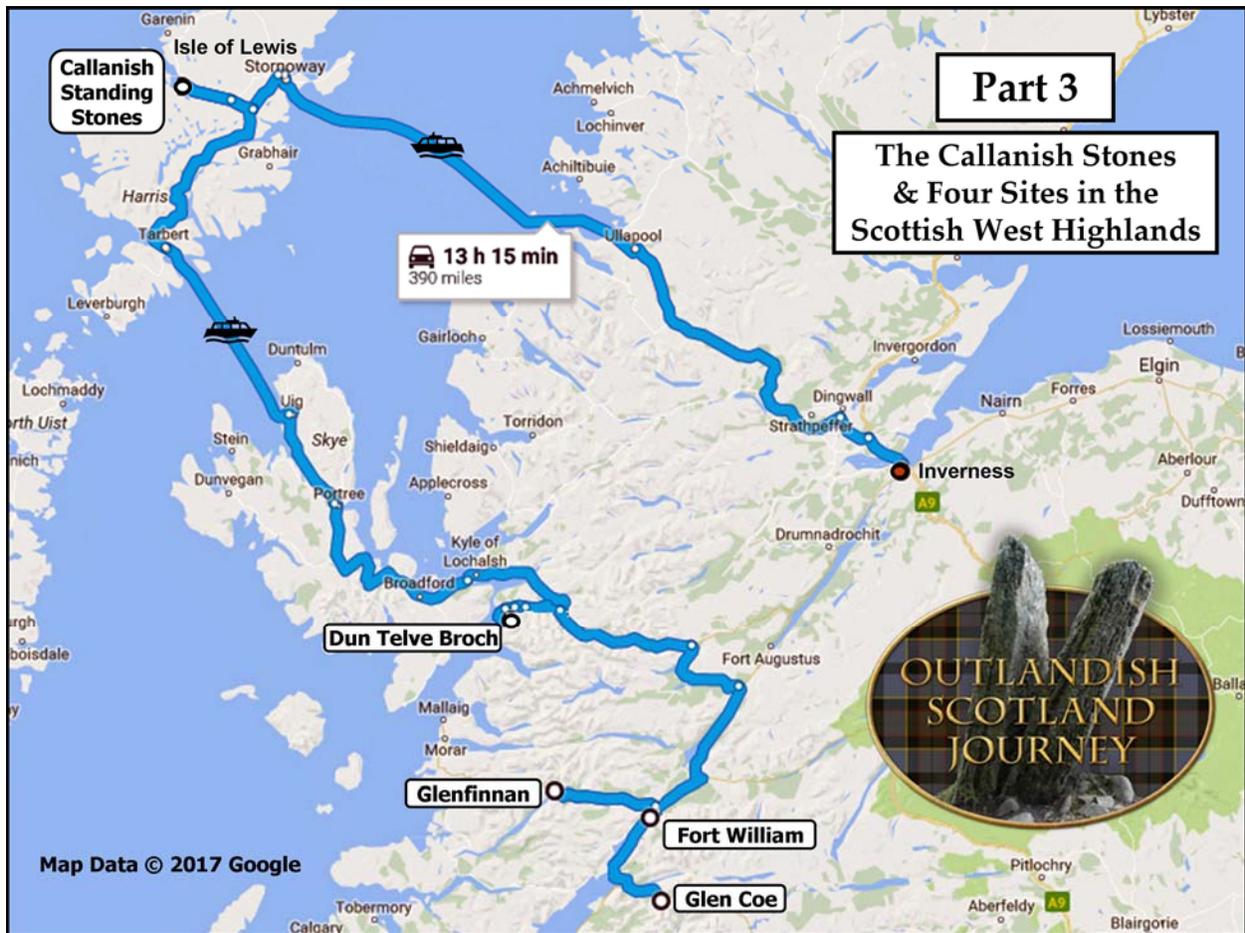
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Part Three Introduction



Part 3 of *Outlandish Scotland Journey* consists of Five Sites:
 The Callanish Stones on the Isle of Lewis,
 and four locations in the Scottish West Highlands.



The Callanish Stones are rated *both* **Great Site** and **Skip-It!**



Dun Telve Broch is rated **Skip-It**.



Glenfinnan, Fort William, and Glen Coe each warrant a **Great Site** rating.

The chapters describing these five sites provide information important to making your holiday itinerary decisions.

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The Callanish Stones: Site #20



The 5000 Year-Old Standing Stones
That Inspired the Craigh na Dun Set



[©2012 Chmee2 segment (enhanced)]

No other standing stones in Scotland has a circle of stones that look like those of Callanish. Their influence on the set constructed for *Outlander's* Craigh na Dun stones is undeniable.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot segment (enhanced)]



Why the Strange Dual Rating?

The Callanish Stones are amazing and fully merit a Great Site rating.

Unfortunately, they are located on the Isle of Lewis—part of the Outer Hebrides (“HEB-rah-dees”), a chain of islands off the western coast of Scotland. As such, visiting them is time-consuming, and some may consider the excursion expensive.

- Ferries between the Scottish mainland and the Isle of Lewis/Harris only run once or twice a day—even in the summer months. Thus, you’ll need to overnight on the isle in order to visit the Callanish Stones.
- Adverse weather conditions occasionally result in ferry delay or cancellation. This occurs more often in the fall and winter, but can happen anytime of the year.

If the ferry *to the isle* is cancelled due to weather, and you cannot reschedule your Callanish Stones visit on the next day—or space is not available on the next ferry—your prepaid fares will be refunded.

If the ferry *back to the mainland* is cancelled due to weather, you may have to spend a second night on the isle.

- In 2017, the total cost of two ferry trips for two people and a car (leaving the mainland at Ullapool and returning to Uig—or vice-versa) is £110 (\$138).
- If you’re willing to leave your car on the mainland and use a bus to get around on the isle, the total fare for two passengers is £37 (\$46) for a Ullapool return ferry ticket, £24 (\$30) for a Uig return ferry ticket.
- Lastly, the Callanish Stones are not in the novel(s) and no *Outlander* filming took place here.

If your itinerary can afford dedicating at least an entire day and night to visiting the Callanish Stones, keep reading. There’s plenty to do on the isle, and you’ll be thrilled by the options that staying overnight afford you.

If you cannot dedicate an entire day and night to the Callanish Stones, SKIP this site, and head to the next chapter: Dun Telve Broch, Site #21.



[©2012 Ian Parker; Evanescent Light Photography (segment)]

The Gaelic name for this magical collection of megaliths is “Calanais.” Pronounced “KAL-ah-nish,” the site’s English name is exactly the same, but spelled as it is pronounced: Callanish.

The meaning of the word, Calanais, is among the many mysteries associated with these stones. According to a staff member at the Callanish Visitor Centre:

“No one really knows what Calanais means with any certainty. The spelling of the Gaelic word changed over the centuries, and may originally have derived from a Norwegian word or phrase. ... [My best guess is that it means,] ‘settlement beside the bay.’ ”

<http://www.callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk/>

...

Learn More About The Callanish Stones:

<http://www.ancient-scotland.co.uk/site.php?a=38>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callanish_Stones

https://sacredsites.com/europe/scotland/callanish_stones_isle_of_lewis.html

<http://www.ancient-wisdom.com/scotlandcallanish.htm>

<https://must-see-scotland.com/isle-of-lewis/>

To see additional site photos, go to the **Callanish Stones** board on our **Outlandish Scotland Journey Pinterest Site**:

<https://www.pinterest.com/chasOSJ/callanish-stones/>

OutlanderLinks

All website addresses and coordinates found in this chapter (including those in the Time & Travel section, below) are available in the **Site #20 OutlanderLinks** PDF, posted free of charge on the **Part 3 OutlanderLinks** directory of our website.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/20OutlanderLinks.pdf>

Updated information available after *Outlandish Scotland Journey* is published will also be posted in this directory.

Time & Travel: Callanish Stones

Visiting Time

As previously mentioned, visiting the Callanish Stones requires at least one overnight stay on the isle. Thus, you’ll have to dedicate at least 24 hours to this excursion.

The actual amount of time you spend enjoying the isle, however, is entirely dependent upon ferry (or flight) schedules, and how you use them.

Our Opinion: As long as you’re going to the trouble and expense of visiting the Callanish Stones, you may as well devote the better part of **two days** to this excursion. Take the earliest ferry to the Isle

of Lewis/Harris on one day, and take the last ferry back the next day. Or, stay a second night and catch the earliest ferry the following morning.

Callanish Stones Hours of Operation & Entry Fee

As previously mentioned, the Calanais Stones sites are unstaffed. Thus, they are accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And, there is no charge for visiting them.

Callanish Visitor Centre Hours of Operation

The visitor centre is open all year round, closed only on Sundays (and Mondays during the winter).

- June, July, & August: 9:30am to 8pm, Monday through Saturday
- April–May & September–October: 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday
- November–March: 10am to 4pm, Tuesday to Saturday

Story of the Stones Exhibition Fee:

- Adult £2.80
- Concession (Seniors & Students) £2.20
- Child £1.80

Callanish Visitor Centre Car Park: 58.195637, -6.742513

If you'll be driving while on the isle, use the coordinates above to reach the Callanish Stones and Visitor Centre.



[Google Street View image segment (enhanced)]

Visitors with Mobility Issues

The Callanish Visitor Centre is fully wheelchair accessible from its car park. As for visiting the stones, there is a small layby reserved for disabled parking at the north end of the Calanais I plateau.

Callanish Stones Layby: 58.198489, -6.745150

Please Note: There isn't a paved path leading into the main Calanais I circle. Visitors in a wheelchair—or those relying on a cane or walker—may have difficulty reaching them, especially

after a recent rain. You'll be able to get next to a few outlying stones, but may only be able to get *close* to the circle.

Public Transportation Directions

Info related to reaching the Callanish Stones via ferry or plane, and navigating the isle via bus or rental car, is provided on the Callanish Visitor Centre website.

<http://www.callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk/index.php/layouts/80-tourist-information/99-travel-to-the-isle-of-lewis>

Flights to Stornoway are available from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, or Aberdeen. Due to common flight schedules, however, you'll need to spend **two nights** on the isle if not flying there from Aberdeen.

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Glenfinnan Monument: Site #22



An Historic Jacobite Location

On August 19th, 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stuart arrived at Glenfinnan, on the north shore of Loch Shiel (“lock SHEEL”), to officially launch the last Jacobite rebellion.

No *Outlander* novel events took place at Glenfinnan and nothing was filmed here. If you travel to the Fort William area, however, Glenfinnan is only 17 miles from the city and is a great site to visit. Outlanderites who also are fans of the *Harry Potter* films will doubly enjoy Glenfinnan. (More about that, later.)

Thanks to the diligence of Diana Gabaldon’s research, the richness of her writing, and Andrew Gower’s splendid performance as the prince in the TV series, Outlanderites can easily picture the Charles we’ve come to know when learning about this historic site.



[©2011 J. Drevet segment (enhanced)]

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[©2012 CA Hauglie segments (enhanced)]

The Glenfinnan Monument site is open all day long, all year round. The tower's base and commemorative plaques are accessed by a level, paved path.

To enter the tower and climb up to its top, however, you'll need to visit between April and October, when the visitor centre is open. Guided tours to the top of Glenfinnan Monument leave the visitor centre every 30 minutes.

Because space at the top is limited, no more than 6 people are admitted at a time. Thus, it is a good idea to obtain a tour ticket as soon as you arrive at the Glenfinnan Visitor Centre.



[Internet-Posted photos, ©unknown (enhanced)]

Not for Everyone!

The staircase within the Glenfinnan Monument tower is extremely *close* and can be difficult to climb. It consists of a circular rise of 62 shallow, narrow, often uneven and slippery stone steps. Furthermore, these scanty steps ascend through a space only 2.5 feet (0.82 meters) wide!

Happily, the floppy rope hand rail seen above left was replaced in 2016 by one that is more supportive. The tower's interior, however, remains illuminated only by a few slit window openings, as seen above, center. Thus, the staircase is close and *dark*.

At the top of the staircase is a very small hatch that must be squeezed through—literally—in order to reach the viewing platform, as seen above right, and below.



[©2012 CA Hauglie (enhanced)]

In his 2016 TripAdvisor review, “Aussieeod” aptly described the size of the Glenfinnan Monument staircase:

“I am a large man (2XL) and managed to fit, but there was one person from my tour who had to turn back as they were too wide for the stairs. If you are 4XL or larger, you may have to sit this one out.”

https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g1029082-d536268-r369180666-Glenfinnan_Monument-Glenfinnan_Lochaber_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html#

Outlanderites who suffer from claustrophobia or acrophobia also may want to skip the tower ascent. Happily, there is another Glenfinnan viewpoint that you’ll be able to enjoy (info upcoming)—one that many consider a far better view than that from the top of the monument.



[©2016 Kakegawa of Japan] [©2013 National Trust for Scotland]

The Glenfinnan Monument Visitor Centre

Constructed by the National Trust for Scotland, this visitor centre was last improved and updated in 2013.

“A new dual-language exhibition at the Glenfinnan Visitor Centre tells the story of this historic monument to the final Jacobite rising. National Trust for Scotland and Edinburgh-based Studio LR have joined forces to create the exhibition, which was part funded by Bord na Gaidhlig, and presents the story of the monument in both English and Gaelic.”

<https://www.historyscotland.com/articles/scottish-history/new-exhibition-at-the-glenfinnan-monument>

The new Jacobite exhibition includes elements of poetry, music, and imagery; original Jacobite documents and artifacts; as well as several interactive displays. There is an 8 minute audio commentary that also is available in Gaelic, German, Dutch, French, and Spanish.

In addition to the exhibition – which is free – the visitor centre includes a gift shop, café, and public toilets, all of which are wheelchair accessible.



[Google Street View image segment (enhanced)] [Internet-Posted pic ©unknown (enhanced)]

Behind the visitor centre is a path that leads to a magnificent viewpoint—a landing very near Torr a’ Choit (“tor-ah-HOYT”), the hilltop where the Prince actually raised his father’s standard in 1745. The

viewpoint path is somewhat steep in places, with occasional steps and sections of uneven ground. As such, this path is not wheelchair accessible.

Robust Outlanderites can accomplish the viewpoint trek in 10 minutes or less. Portly Outlanderites, seniors and young children, can comfortably ascend the path in 20 to 30 minutes, by taking rest stops at strategically situated benches. Outlanderites with limited mobility—those using a walking prop, such as a cane—can accomplish this climb if accompanied by someone to periodically provide assistance.

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Driving Directions

Glenfinnan Visitor Centre Car Park Coordinates: 56.870499, -5.435653

- This is a large Pay & Display car park that costs £2.
- If you have a Scottish Heritage Pass or National Trust for Scotland Discover Ticket, parking is free. Put your Heritage Pass or Discover Ticket on the dash of your car.
- If you have a Heritage Pass or Discover Ticket and want to climb the monument: park your car, go into the visitor centre and obtain your free monument tour ticket, then return to your car and put your Heritage Pass or Discover Ticket on the dash.

Secondary Glenfinnan Car Park Coordinates: 56.871724, -5.437691

During the summer months, the Glenfinnan visitor centre car park may be full—especially around the times that the Jacobite Steam Train is scheduled to cross Glenfinnan Viaduct. A small, secondary car park is available one-tenth of a mile (about a 3 minute walk) west of the visitor centre. This car park is free.

Glenfinnan Church Car Park Coordinates: 56.871846, -5.441085

<http://glenfinnanchurch.org/>

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/glenfinnan/stmarystfinnan/>

If the secondary Glenfinnan visitor centre car park also is full, you'll find another small car park—also free—just a bit farther west. The little Glenfinnan Church car park is two-tenths of a mile from the visitor centre, about a 5 or 6 minute walk.

Glen Coe: Site #24



An Important Jacobite Historical Location
An *Outlander* Film Site—of Sorts

Glen Coe is an area of the Scottish West Highlands best known for events that occurred in the aftermath of the **Revolution of 1688**—when James II of England (VII of Scotland) was overthrown by the English, and his Dutch nephew, William of Orange, ascended the throne of England as William III in his stead. James II/VII was the grandfather of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution

Because Glen Coe is not related to the 1745 Jacobite uprising, it isn't featured in Diana Gabaldon's novels and no principal photography for the Starz *Outlander* TV series took place in the area.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)]

Scottish landscapes, however, *were* filmed in this glorious glen. In fact, the very first frames of the very first *Outlander* episode are shots of a Glen Coe location called “The Study,” with the peaks known as the “Three Sisters” beyond. Basically, Glen Coe was **Scotland’s** first appearance in the TV series.

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[©2017 Glencoe Folk Museum]

Places to Visit in Glencoe Village

Glencoe & North Lorn Folk Museum

<http://www.glencoemuseum.com/>

The photo above is of the Glencoe and North Lorn Museum—aka, the Glencoe Folk Museum—in Glencoe village. This little museum is the crown jewel of any trip to the Glen Coe area, and its website provides tantalizing hints about the terrific collections found within.

<http://www.glencoemuseum.com/collections>

Below is an excerpt from Undiscovered Scotland’s account of the Glencoe Folk Museum—a webpage that deserves a full read!

“The Glencoe and North Lorn Folk Museum occupies what started life as two thatched croft houses in the 1700s. It stands on the north side of Glencoe’s main street and extends rather beyond the croft houses themselves, as you discover when you begin to explore the knot of additional buildings to the rear of the main museum.

“This excellent little museum has to be considered a ‘must see’ for visitors to Glencoe. It is also one of only a few wet weather attractions in the area!

...”

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/glencoe/folkmuseum/>

The main museum building is wheelchair accessible, but the door leading to additional buildings behind the croft houses is too narrow for wheelchairs.

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[©2016 Clachaig Inn segment (enhanced)]

Throughout all centuries of its existence, the Clachaig Inn's most attractive aspect has been its location. Nestled at the foot of the Clachaig Gully, within the western end of Glen Coe, the view from anywhere on or near this property is positively breathtaking.



[©2017 Clachaig Inn] [©2008 CD Miller]

In October of 2008, CD Miller was researching *Harry Potter Places* when she stayed overnight in the Bidean Wing single bedroom seen above left.

<http://HarryPotterPlaces.com>

The photo above right was taken through this room's window. Below is her report.

"The Clachaig Inn is an absolutely glorious place to lodge! Although only half a mile away, the highway cannot be seen or heard. Whether wandering outside or relaxing in your room, you are surrounded by forest and mountains, and feel as though you've been magically transported to a place remote from all things Muggle (mundane)—or, perhaps, Outlandishly transported back in time. A stunning vista greets your eye everywhere you look."

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Thus ends the Outlandish Scotland Journey Part 3 eBook SAMPLE.

We hope you enjoyed it!