



# Wentworth Prison Film Sites

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# Wentworth Prison

## Film Sites

### STARZ *Outlander* Season One

Wentworth Prison is a fictional location that infamously featured in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* novel and the STARZ TV series.

Not counting interior sets constructed on sound stages at Wardpark Studios in Cumbernauld—such as Sir Fletcher's office and the cell where Jamie was tortured—Wentworth Prison footage for *Outlander* episodes 112 and 113 was shot at three different locations:

- Bamburgh Castle, England
- Linlithgow Palace, Scotland
- Carlisle Castle, England



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot segment (enhanced)] [©2014 Rachel Newcombe]

**Bamburgh Castle** was used as a model for the CGI versions of Wentworth Prison's exterior. Above left is the prison as seen by Claire and her merry men when first approaching it in episode 115, "Wentworth Prison"—as well as at the beginning of episode 116, "To Ransom a Man's Soul," before they launched Jamie's rescue. Above right is Bamburgh Castle.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)] [©2017 Christopher Down segment]

The screenshot above left is from the scene following Claire's scramble out of a pit of frozen dead bodies. Above right is the section of Bamburgh Castle's external wall outside the King's Chamber. As you can see, although subtle, CGI alterations of Bamburgh Castle footage were significant.

Located in northeastern England, Bamburgh Castle is on our **Not Going to Go There** list. Why? Because the only filming that took place at Bamburgh Castle was for CGI background purposes—and, it’s rather out of the way.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/NotGoingThere.pdf>



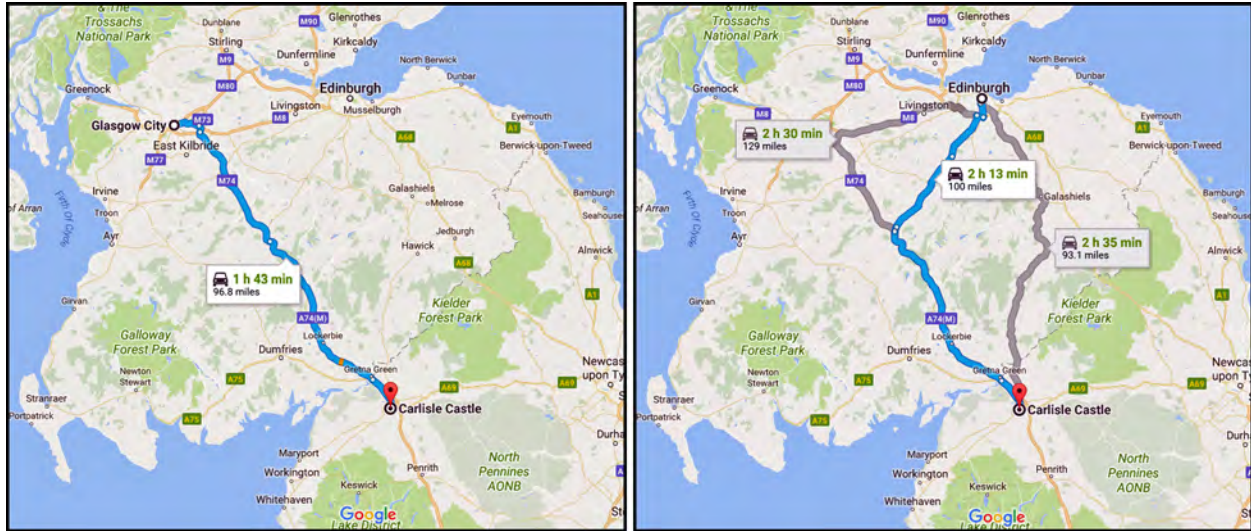
Carlisle Castle, above left. Linlithgow Palace, above right.  
 [©2016 James Lancaster CastlesFortsBattles.co.uk] [©2014 Victor Paul K]

As for **Carlisle Castle** (Site #65, in *Outlandish Scotland Journey Part 7*) and **Linlithgow Palace** (Site #34, in Part 4), many Internet resources report that all Wentworth Prison interior passageway scenes were filmed at Linlithgow Palace. That isn’t true.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshots (enhanced)]

It has long been known that the Wentworth Prison hanging scenes were shot in Carlisle Castle’s courtyard. Thanks to a Carlisle Castle expert consultant, we have recently confirmed that the “tunnel” through which Black Jack Randall led Claire when escorting her out of the prison is a passage beneath a structure at Carlisle Castle—not Linlithgow Palace.



[Google Maps UK ©2017 (enhanced)]

The problem with Carlisle Castle is that—like Bamburgh Castle—it’s out of the way.

- 1 hour and 43 minutes south of Glasgow
- 2 hours and 13 minutes south of Edinburgh

Unless you’ll be driving to Scotland from England (such as from London), it simply isn’t convenient to visit Carlisle during a Scotland holiday. Happily, Linlithgow Palace—located between Stirling and Edinburgh—has at least two equally familiar Wentworth Prison film sites to offer.



[Outlander Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)] [Internet-posted pic ©unknown segment (enhanced)]

The main entrance to Linlithgow Palace is easily recognized as where scenes of Claire and Murtagh entering and leaving the main entrance of Wentworth Prison were shot.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)] [Google Street View image segment (enhanced)]

The “hero” shot of Murtagh carrying Claire out of Wentworth Prison was filmed at Linlithgow Palace, then digitally inserted into CGI-enhanced footage filmed at Bamburgh Castle.



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)] [©Julie King unknown date]

As for the passageways that Claire traversed when sneaking through the prison in search of Jamie’s cell, we are only absolutely certain of a single Linlithgow Palace interior film site. The screenshot above left was filmed at one of the turnpike stair cases added by James IV around 1500—as seen in the photo above, right.



The enhanced *Outlander* Season 1 screenshots above and below *may* have been filmed at Linlithgow Palace. According to our Carlisle Castle expert consultant, James Lancaster of <http://castlesfortsbattles.co.uk/>

“These two screenshots are certainly a medieval site, but I can’t be certain which—they could both be Linlithgow. They certainly weren’t shot anywhere in Carlisle. Carlisle Castle is a medieval fortress and doesn’t have windows in its basements/vaults, whereas Linlithgow Palace does.”



During your Linlithgow Palace visit, be alert for locations that look like these two screenshots. If you find one or both of them, please snap several photos—framing them as close to the screenshots as you can—and send them to us so that we can update the information provided in this PDF, as well as within the Linlithgow Palace chapter. Please also indicate the photography credit you’d like us to use! [novelholiday@gmail.com](mailto:novelholiday@gmail.com)

After studying the final three screenshots of Claire’s journey through Wentworth Prison dungeon passageways (seen below), James opined:

“Based on the condition of the masonry, the arches and projecting line of stone on the walls, these scenes were filmed in a Victorian era structure. They weren’t shot in Linlithgow or Carlisle.”



Thanks to James' keen eye, we believe that these Wentworth Prison passageways are actually a *set* constructed at Wardpark Studios in Cumbernauld.



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

After all, these are the passageways through which Murtagh, Angus, and Rupert drove MacRannoch's cattle. You simply cannot film a herd of hairy coos rampaging through the halls of a real-world Victorian palace or castle!