



Part Two

Preview

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Part Two Introduction



Part 2 of *Outlandish Scotland Journey* consists of Nine Sites:
The City of Inverness and 8 nearby locations.



Seven are rated **Great Site**.



One is rated **Might-Be-Fun**.



One is rated *both* **Skip-It** and **Might-Be-Fun**!

City of Inverness: Site #10



A Novel Location
A City Rich with Jacobite History



[©2011 Avarim]

Inverness is the United Kingdom's northernmost city and the administrative center for the Highland Council Area. It is regarded as the capital city of the Scottish Highlands. In the Scots Gaelic language, Inverness means "Mouth of the River Ness."

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverness>

"The Clan Fraser of Lovat has been strongly associated with Inverness and the surrounding area since the Clan's founder gained lands there in the 13th century ... The Clan Fraser of Lovat in Inverness-shire has historically dominated local politics and been active in every major military conflict involving Scotland. ... 'Fraser' remains the most prominent family name within the Inverness area."

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

First, the Bad News

All of the Inverness city locations we've come to know and love from reading Diana's novels are *fictional*. The following places, for example, do not exist in the real-world:

- Mrs. Baird's B&B
- Reverend Wakefield's home
- The pub where Frank and Claire met up with Reverend Wakefield
- The Institute for the Study of Highland Folklore (where Geillis studied before journeying back through the stones)



[Enhanced segments of fan film-site pix and one screenshot]

More Bad News: No Filming Took Place in Inverness

The iconic Inverness *exterior* scenes for Seasons 1, 2, and 4 of the *Outlander* TV series were filmed in **Falkland Village (Site #6)**.

- Frank and Claire’s second honeymoon in 1945
- The days just before the Battle of Culloden in 1746
- Claire’s visit to the Inverness County Records Office in 1968
- Roger’s hunt for Brianna in 1971

The Good News

When compared to Edinburgh or Glasgow, Inverness is a relatively small city and is easy to reconnoiter. Inverness also is home to many marvelously historic sites.

Schedule at least one day to visit sites within the Inverness City Centre.

Begin by heading to the **VisitScotland Inverness iCentre** (information center) at the southwestern corner of the intersection at Bridge/High Streets and Church/Castle Wynd streets, in the center of the city. (Directions for reaching this area are provided below, in the **Time & Travel** section.)

...[Section Removed]

Again, the shops and pub mentioned above—along with several others—are all found on Bridge Street, which is only one block long. For info about visiting shops, restaurants and pubs on other Inverness City Centre streets, check out the **Shopping Tour of Inverness** page on the **GPS My City** website.

<http://www.gpsmycity.com/tours/shopping-tour-of-inverness-5270.html>

“This self-guided walking tour is included in the iOS app ‘Travel Articles, City Maps and Walking Tours’ on iTunes App Store and the Android app ‘Inverness Map and Walks’ on Google Play.”

We, however, highly recommend limiting your Inverness City Centre shopping excursion to Bridge Street—*skipping* the small Highland House of Fraser store there, as well as the Gellions pub (best visited during evening entertainment hours)—then walking over Ness Bridge to the west side of the River Ness. Once there, turn right on Huntly Street and head to the main Highland House of Fraser store.



[©2014 Tobie Stafford segment (enhanced)]

The Highland House of Fraser

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

“A family business, Highland House of Fraser is steeped in the tradition of Highland Dress. ... [We] have been making bespoke kilts within our premises for over 50 years, continuing the tradition of the finest hand sewn kilts.

“A [kilt] rental service is also available.

“Peruse our online shop for just a taste of our many Scottish delights or visit us in person and browse our entire collection.”

If you have time for more than a grab-and-go souvenir purchase while visiting Inverness City Centre, you will thoroughly enjoy visiting the Highland House of Fraser’s main store. Not only does their main store offer a larger selection of Scottish products and souvenirs than the Bridge Street shop, you’ll be able to visit their Scottish Kiltmaker exhibition.

The Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre

<http://www.highlandhouseoffraser.com/exhibition.asp>

“Welcome to Scotland’s only visitor attraction devoted to our famous national dress. When you visit the Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre in Inverness, you’ll enjoy a fascinating insight into the history, tradition and culture of the kilt—from its origins through to the present day.

“Set within our kiltmaking workshop, the Centre creates a colorful, authentic and memorable experience, brought to life with audio-visual, costume and tartan displays in all their brilliance. You’ll see kilts being made for export all over the world and kilts being made for our own retail shops in Inverness.”

Although it looks like the Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre is next door to the main Highland House of Fraser store, it actually is housed on a floor above the store. To enter, go to the store's desk and ask for a Scottish Kiltmaker exhibition ticket. In 2019, the entry fee was a whopping £2.50.

"The exhibition takes you on a self-guided tour about the fascinating history of tartan all with a touch of humor!

"There are displays of tartan dress throughout the centuries showing the development of the kilt from a full wrap around blanket to what we know today. ...

"After the Battle of Culloden it was illegal to wear Highland Tartan, as it was symbolic of the Jacobite cause. However soldiers were allowed to wear the kilt (in a pragmatic effort to recruit to the army). There is still a strong association between tartan and the Scottish Regiments. Look out for the Black Watch and Gordon Highlander kilts." ...

"Other parts of the exhibition include a kilt making film, and a display of accessories including sporrans, dirks and Sgian Dubh. In the latter part of the exhibition there is a viewing area where you can watch the highly skilled Kiltmakers at work."

<http://www.seeinverness.co.uk/attractions/kilt-exhibition.html>

When finished at the Highland House of Fraser store and the Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre, exit to Huntly Street, turn right, and head next door to the Glenalbyn Bar.

[End of Site #10 Sample]

Culloden Battlefield: Site #12



A Novel Location

Historic Site of the Final Jacobite Battle

Culloden is a village located three miles east (and slightly north) of Inverness. Three miles east of Culloden village is Drumossie Moor—now commonly known as Culloden Moor. This moor is where the brief and bloody Battle of Culloden was waged on April 16th, 1746.



[©2005 Auz section (enhanced)]

Culloden Moor is *not* the breathtakingly romantic type of windswept landscape featured in beloved Bronte novels or Scottish bodice-rippers. In April of 1746, it was a bleak, wide-open expanse of miserably swampy, boggy ground, and completely inappropriate for the highland style of guerrilla warfare. It is mind-boggling that 5000 starved, exhausted, and ill-equipped highlanders were compelled to confront a vastly superior force of English artillery and 8000 well-rested, well-provisioned British soldiers on this moor.

...[Section Removed]

Learn More about Culloden Battlefield

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Culloden
- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3528248/Battered-skull-gives-glimpse-brutality-Battle-Culloden-3D-model-soldier-s-remains-shows-shot-head-1745.html>

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

<https://www.pinterest.com/chasOSJ/culloden-battlefield/>

OutlanderLinks

All website addresses and coordinates found in this chapter (including those in the Time & Travel sections, below) are available in the **Site #12 OutlanderLinks** PDF, posted free of charge on the **Part 2 OutlanderLinks** directory of our website.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/12OutlanderLinks.pdf>

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

Time & Travel: Culloden Battlefield

Visiting Time

Schedule at least **2 hours** to visit the Culloden Visitor Centre Exhibition and Culloden Battlefield.

Allowing **3 hours** at this site would be even better—more time to tour the centre’s exhibition and new museum, more time to wander the moor, plus time to shop and enjoy a meal in the café.

If your itinerary limits you to only a 1 hour Culloden visit—*gasp*—you’ll have to choose: tour the exhibition, or meander the battlefield. If you elect to skip the exhibition, you may enjoy the centre’s shop and café without paying for exhibition entry.

Culloden Battlefield is open all day, every day of the year—for FREE.

Explanatory posters are installed throughout the moor. In other words, those who wish to skip the exhibition (and its admission fee) will still be able to enjoy the battlefield.

Visitor Centre, Exhibition, Restaurant & Shop Opening Times

- Closed January 1st and 2nd
- January 3rd to February 28th: daily, 10am to 4pm
- March 1st to May 31st: daily, 9am to 6pm
- June 1st to August 31st: daily, 9am to 7pm
- September 1st to October 31st: daily 9am to 6pm
- November 1st to December 23rd: daily, 10am to 4pm
- Closed December 24th, 25th, and 26th
- December 27th to 30th: daily, 10am to 4pm

Culloden Battlefield Exhibition Entry Fees

- The car park fee is £2 for the duration of your visit.
- Free Entry is granted to NTS Members, NTS Discover Ticket holders, and Scottish Heritage Pass holders.
- Adult: £11
- Concession (Seniors 60+ & Students with valid ID): £9.50
- Disabled Visitor: £9.50 (Accompanying Carer: Free)
- Single Adult Family (1 adult with up to 4 children): £22
- Family (2 adults with up to 4 children): £27

- Use of a Battlefield Audio Tour device is included in the price of admission and can be checked out from the front desk. The unit uses GPS to display text, video and still images with audio that corresponds to the point you are on the battlefield.
- Guided Battlefield tours lasting approximately 40 minutes are offered throughout the day—frequency is dependent upon staffing. The cost to join one is £2 per person.

Accessibility

Both the Visitor Centre and the Battlefield are fully accessible.

To read details of the many amenities available to those with special needs, visit the link below.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/accessibility/culloden-accessibility-guide>

Book a Culloden Battlefield and Clava Cairns Private Tour

Would you like to be chauffeured to these sites and led by a guide? The Inverness Tours company (enjoyed by Herself) offers a 4-hour guided tour of Culloden and **Clava Cairns (Site #11)**.

Unfortunately, as of 2019, the 4-hour tours are only offered from October to May.

<http://www.invernesstours.com/h12-culloden-clava-tour.html>

Outlanderites also planning to visit Loch Ness should consider Inverness Tours' all-day Loch Ness, Culloden, and Clava Cairns tour. The 8-hour tours are available year-round. You'll learn more about this tour in our **Loch Ness (Site #14)** chapter.

<http://www.invernesstours.com/a01i-loch-ness-clava-culloden.html>

Public Transportation to Culloden Visitor Centre

Use Traveline Scotland to plan your journey.

www.travelinescotland.com

www.travelinescotland.com/apps

Your destination is "Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre."

Please note that the Clava Cairns site is only a 20 minute (1.5 mile) walk from the Culloden Visitor Centre. In fact, the centre has a map that shows you how to walk to Clava Cairns from Culloden Battlefield. Ask for it at the centre's front desk.

Driving Directions

Most UK GPS units will guide you to the Culloden Visitor Centre if you simply type in "Culloden Battlefield."

Car Park Coordinates: 57.477753, -4.091479

For lucky Outlanderites with time to spend an entire day touring the area north and east of Inverness, the Visit Inverness & Loch Ness website offers directions for a marvelous self-guided driving tour that includes the following sites:

- Culloden Battlefield
- Clava Cairns
- Nairn Viaduct (also known as the Culloden Viaduct)

- Cawdor Castle
- Fort George and the Highlanders Museum

<https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/explore-the-scottish-highlands/scottish-car-tours/car-tours-east-of-inverness-heritage-trail/>

The only important Outlandish site missing from this list is **Culloden House Hotel (Site #13)**. Add it to the beginning or end of the Visit Inverness itinerary—depending on the time you’ll be visiting, and the manner of your visit. [Our Culloden House Hotel chapter explains that caveat.]

A few Internet references for the three sites on this itinerary not found in *Outlandish Scotland Journey*—and their car park coordinates—are in the Clava Cairns chapter.

Lodging Near Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre

Our favorite Inverness-area lodging near the Culloden Battlefield is the Culloden House Hotel (Site #13). Two other lodging options that are even closer can be found in our Clava Cairns chapter.

[End of Site #12 Sample]

Culloden House Hotel: Site #13



A Novel Location

A Location with Significant Jacobite History



[©1885 Ordnance Gazetteer] [©2016 Visit Scotland] Segments, enhanced.

Culloden House

Above left is a wood engraving print that shows what Culloden House looked like in April of 1746, when Charles Edward Stuart lodged there for the last time. Built in the late 1500s by the Strachan family, this structure was a typically Scottish form of tower house, though it also was known as “Culloden Castle.” The MacIntoshes acquired the estate from the Strachans in 1576, and sold it to Duncan Forbes in 1626. Thereafter, Duncan became known as the 1st Barron of Culloden. Unfortunately, the original Culloden House was gutted by a terrible fire sometime in the mid-1700s.

Above right is a photo of what Culloden House looks like today. It is a gorgeous Georgian mansion that was constructed for 1st Barron Duncan’s grandson—Arthur Forbes—between 1772 and 1778.

...[Section Removed]

The Culloden House Hotel

<https://www.cullodenhouse.co.uk/#>

If you are considering one or more lodging splurges during your Outlandish Scotland Journey, this hotel should be a strong contender. After all, Culloden House is a truly significant *Outlander* novel location.

According to Herself:

“This place is a marvel; a very old, very large, stone-built country house, renovated and restored into a four-star hotel. Victorian wallpapering and furniture, luscious thick carpeting, windows with ancient wooden shutters to keep the morning light out, and a first-class dining room,

equipped with Royal Worcester china, etched crystal goblets, heavy silver—and a menu to die for. ...

“You might be more interested in the fact that during the final days before the Battle of Culloden, Jacobite troops rested on the grounds [of Culloden House]—and Jacobite officers stayed in [the original house]. ...

“[This place is also important] because it was in one of the attic rooms of Culloden House that Jamie had his final, fatal confrontation with his uncle Dougal.”

<http://www.dianagabaldon.com/2008/04/culloden/>



[©2011 Elenna Loughlin] [©2012 Karen Henry] Segments, enhanced.

The Forbes Walled Garden at Culloden House contains another important Outlandish point of interest: the **Diana Gabaldon Bench**.

[End of Site #13 Sample]

Castle Leod: Site #19



Sort Of a Novel Location
The Real-World Seat of the Clan Mackenzie



[©2005 Colin Hepburn segment (enhanced)]

Castle Leod crowns a mound once occupied by a Pictish fort. In the 11th century, Norse Earls replaced the fort with a stone keep.

Please Note: Leod is pronounced “LOUD” (rhymes with “cloud”).

And, as long as we’re at it: The real-world clan uses “Mackenzie,” while Diana uses “MacKenzie” in her novels.

...[Section Removed]

Castle Leod and Castle Leoch

One is real and one is fictional, but it cannot be denied that Castle Leod and Castle Leoch share many similarities. Both are the Seat of the Clan Mackenzie. Both have similarly-spelled names—though, remember that Leod is pronounced “LOUD,” while Leoch is pronounced “LEE-ock.”

Lastly, Diana Gabaldon’s description of Castle Leoch could easily be used to describe Castle Leod.

“The castle itself was blunt and solid. No fanciful turrets or toothed battlements. This was more like an enormous fortified house, with thick stone walls and high, slitted windows. A number of chimney pots smoked over the slick tiles of the roof, adding to the general impression of grayness.”

Outlander, Chapter 4, “I Come to the Castle”

These similarities have led many to suggest that Castle Leod was the “inspiration” for Diana’s Castle Leoch. Such is not the case. Diana created the fictional Castle Leoch prior to 1991 (*Outlander’s* publication date)—long before she ever learned of the real-world Castle Leod.

In March of 2015, Diana was interviewed by Neil Drysdale of Aberdeen STV (Scottish Television). His article is full of interesting information, primarily presented as quotes from Herself—such as the story below.

...[Section Removed]



[©2005 Colin Hepburn] [*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot] Segments, enhanced.

Considering the fact that Castle Leod looks exactly as Castle Leoch ought to, why didn’t they film Leoch scenes at Leod? Neil Drysdale’s article provides that answer as well—again, as described by Herself.

...[Section Removed]

Visiting Castle Leod

Castle Leod is a mere 19 miles west of Inverness City Centre. Unfortunately, it is only open to the public on 25 select days of the year, between spring and fall.

When we first learned this, we considered a **Might-Be-Fun** rating for Castle Leod—perhaps even a **Skip-It** rating. After all, it’s not *actually* the castle referred to in the novel, and it isn’t a film site.

During our research, however, we learned that the castle’s limited number of open days is largely due to a much-needed restoration and renovation project currently underway. Again, Neil Drysdale’s article provided Diana’s account of this work.

“On a recent trip to Scotland [in 2012], John [The Mackenzie] and [his wife] Eve invited my husband and I to stay at the castle for a couple of days: we did, and enjoyed their hospitality very much. But we were also treated to an in-depth tour of the castle, which featured enough instances of shocking disrepair to keep any fix-up show on TV in business for years.

“John described to us his heroic efforts to get much-needed funding for things such as new lead for the roof.

“This struck us as being more than a Sisyphean task, but as John said: ‘After 600 years, you don’t really want to be the one to give up.’

“That stuck with me. John and his family are constantly exploring ways and means of maintaining and improving the wonderful asset that has been entrusted to them.

“I consider it both a responsibility and an honor to help them. And I have a keen interest in the well-being of the castle and its inhabitants.”

If Herself is dedicated to supporting The Mackenzie’s efforts to restore Castle Leod, how could we fail to do our part by supporting the site’s tourist trade? Furthermore, after additional research we came to realize that Outlanderites will absolutely love this place.



Thus, we have given Castle Leod a **Great Site** rating, and wholeheartedly recommend that you support this site by visiting it.

...[Section Removed]

Driving Directions

Castle Leod Entrance Coordinates: 57.593671, -4.529971

FYI: Outlanderites who read the Facebook post where Diana included the directions sent to her by John Mackenzie, the fifth Earl of Cromartie (aka the chieftain of Clan Mackenzie), can relax. He was having fun with her—and she with her readers. You’ll be fine using the coordinates above, whether driving to Castle Leod from Inverness or elsewhere.

For, those of you who didn’t read the post, here is a taste of its content.

“ ‘Dear Diana; How to get here. Firstly you will need the Second Sight and a brilliant navigator, followed by The Magic Map which is best read upside down and back to front. **[Lengthy (hilarious) directions omitted—skipping to the end.]** Watch out for the gates! Drive up the drive admiring the potholes which resemble a B52 strike over Nam and you will see the castle straight ahead. Park at the back.’ ...

“Let me just say that John’s directions were extremely accurate. It took us only three tries to find the castle entrance—no doubt owing to my having neglected to turn the map upside down—and we eventually bumped up the long, long lane to the small eminence on which the castle sits, made our way round to the back as instructed, and finding a door ajar and no one in sight, knocked and stuck our heads in.”

<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorDianaGabaldon/photos/a.287216804654496.69164.175126332530211/515534478489393/?type=3>



[©2011 Google Street View image segment (enhanced)]

The entrance gate is rather nondescript, but there is a charming little gatekeeper's cottage next to it that you cannot miss. Above is what you'll see when approaching from the northwest—Inverness. If approaching from Beaulieu or other points southeast, the gatekeeper's cottage and entrance gate may be hidden by foliage until you are right on top of them, as seen below.



[©2011 Google Street View image segment (enhanced)]

[End of the Part Two Preview]