



# Part Three

# Preview

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

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

## 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.

Part of the reason that the Callanish Stones and Dun Telve Broch have Skip-It ratings is the amount of time required to visit them. Below are route graphics demonstrating the journey time if you skip the Callanish Stones—which requires two ferry trips and at least one overnight stay on the Isle of Lewis—and the journey time if you also skip Dun Telve Broch.



By skipping the Callanish Stones, your total journey time drops from 13 hours and 15 minutes—three and a half days of visiting time—to 4 hours and 46 minutes. Itinerary-wise, this means you could visit the four Scottish West Highland sites in two and a half days.



If you also skip the Dun Telve Broch site, it becomes possible to spend plenty of time at the three Great-Site-rated Scottish West Highland locations in Part 3 within two days.



## 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 site in Scotland has a circle of stones that look like those of Callanish. Their influence on the set designed for *Outlander's* Craigh na Dun 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).**

[End of Site #20 Sample]



## 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.

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[©2012 CA Hauglie segments (enhanced)]

The site of the Glenfinnan Monument 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 when the Visitor Centre is open. Access to the tower is allowed after paying £4 at the 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 once had to be squeezed through—literally—in order to reach the viewing platform, as seen above right, and below. This has been improved and made “more accessible,” but we’ve yet to see a photograph of the improved hatch.



[©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#](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.

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Learn More about Glenfinnan

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince%27s\\_Cairn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince%27s_Cairn)

<http://glenfinnanstationmuseum.co.uk/>

<https://monkeyandmouse.co.uk/glenfinnan-monument-viaduct/>

**Glenfinnan TripAdvisor Reviews:**

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g1029082-d536268-Reviews-Glenfinnan\\_Monument-Glenfinnan\\_Lochaber\\_Scottish\\_Highlands\\_Scotland.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g1029082-d536268-Reviews-Glenfinnan_Monument-Glenfinnan_Lochaber_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html)

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

<https://www.pinterest.com/chasOSJ/glenfinnan-monument/>

OutlanderLinks

All website addresses and coordinates found in this chapter (including those in the Time & Travel section, below) are available in the **Site #22 OutlanderLinks** PDF, posted free of charge on the **Part 3 OutlanderLinks** directory of our website.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/22OutlanderLinks.pdf>

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

## Time & Travel: Glenfinnan Monument

### Visiting Time

With so much to see and do here, we suggest scheduling no less than **2 hours** for your visit. If your itinerary allows, **3 hours** would be even better.



## Hours of Operation

The Glenfinnan Monument site—the tower’s base and its stone enclosure with commemorative plaques—as well as the path to the Glenfinnan Viewpoint above the Visitor Centre, are open every day, all year long.

### 2019 Glenfinnan Monument Visitor Centre Hours

- November through February: Daily, 10am–4pm
- March: Daily, 9am–5pm
- April through September: Daily, 9am–7pm
- October: Daily, 9.30am–5pm

Closed December 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st.

Closed New Years Day.

## Admission Fees

The Visitor Centre (including the shop and café), the Exhibition, the monument site, and the Glenfinnan Viewpoint above the Visitor Centre, are free.

Those who wish to climb to the top of the monument should head to the Visitor Centre and obtain a tour timeslot ticket before doing anything else.

- The Monument tour is free for those with a Scottish Heritage Pass or National Trust for Scotland Discover Ticket—but you still must obtain a tour ticket upon arrival.
- For those without a Heritage Pass or Discover Ticket there is a small charge for the monument tour.

Adult: £4

Senior (“Concession”): £3

Family: £10 for two parents, £7 for one parent

## Accessibility

The Glenfinnan Visitor Centre is fully accessible to Outlanderites in wheelchairs. To see additional accessibility information, visit the link below.

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glenfinnan-monument/planning-your-visit#accessibility-information>

## Glenfinnan Viaduct Steam Train Crossing Times

Times that correspond with the Jacobite Steam Train’s crossing of Glenfinnan Viaduct are times when the Visitor Centre’s car park may be **full**! Even if the car park is not full, the Visitor Centre may be extremely crowded surrounding these times.

Outlanderites who also are *Potterites* will want to arrive at the Glenfinnan Visitor Centre well before the crossing times to secure a Visitor Centre parking place and be ready to snap iconic photos from the road or (even better) the Glenfinnan Viewpoint.

Outlanderites who *aren’t* also *Potterites* will want to **avoid** visiting the Glenfinnan Visitor Centre, up to an hour before and an hour after the Jacobite Steam Train’s crossing times.

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## Public Transportation Directions

Use Traveline Scotland to plan your journey.

[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

[www.travelinescotland.com/apps](http://www.travelinescotland.com/apps)

Your destination is “Glenfinnan Monument, Highland.”

## Driving Directions

**Glenfinnan Visitor Centre Car Park Coordinates:** 56.870499, -5.435653

This is a large Pay & Display car park that costs £3.

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.

**Secondary Glenfinnan Car Park Coordinates:** 56.871724, -5.437691

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

<https://scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/st-mary-and-st-finnan-glenfinnan/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Mary-St-Finnan-Church/824349191054726>

<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.

[End of Site #22 Sample]

## 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](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, Episode 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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[©2011 National Trust for Scotland segment (enhanced)]

### National Trust for Scotland Glencoe Visitor Centre

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glencoe>

The National Trust for Scotland has been charged with the care of Glen Coe since 1935. In 1992, the NTS launched an ambitious project, creating an all-new visitor centre to replace the old one and improving their protection of the area's diverse and fragile ecosystem.

“Visitors to the Highlands were once very familiar with the sight of the National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre, on the north side of the main A82 in lower Glen Coe. This was built in the 1970s in a fairly intrusive location in the centre of this spectacular and brooding glen, and by the 1990s it was simply too small to cope with the numbers of visitors.

“In 2002 the old visitor centre was removed, and a start was made on returning its site to nature. May 2002 saw the opening of the NTS's new £3m visitor centre in a much more discreet location on the south side of the main road and lower down the glen, nearer to the village of Glencoe. ...

“The buildings are laid out as a clachan, a settlement or village. Together they form a spindly ‘H’ shaped structure, built on stilts just above the ground amid a birch wood. The stilts are intended to ensure a light footprint that doesn't disturb the tree roots or groundwater. The green design of the Visitor Centre carries through to the use of filtered water from a nearby burn, and the on-site treatment of sewage.”

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/glencoe/visitorcentre/index.html>

In 2019 the Glencoe Visitor Centre underwent a £1million upgrade.

“Transformed in 2019, our eco-friendly visitor centre, nestled in a woodland glade, is an essential starting point for your adventures in Glencoe. ...

“New features include a powerful short film—*The Glen Revealed*—which takes you on a journey through millions of years, narrated by *Game of Thrones* actor, Rory McCann.

“Don't miss the ‘Pioneers of the Peaks’ exhibition, which shines a spotlight on those who climb Glencoe's mountains.

“Take in the panoramic views and refuel in our Highland Coo Café, or be tempted by exclusive Glencoe gifts in our fabulous new shop.”

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glencoe/highlights/visitor-centre>



[©2017 National Trust for Scotland] [©2014 Gary P.] Segments, enhanced.

When on the NTS Visit Glencoe website, be sure to click on the Events button.

“During the summer, our rangers offer a programme of walks and events. In addition, our popular Land Rover Safaris allow visitors of all abilities, including wheelchair users, to get a completely different view of the glen and its wildlife.”



[©2017 <https://www.islesofglencoe.co.uk/>] [©2017 <https://www.heatherleaglencoe.com/>]

## Lodging in Glen Coe

When we offer lodging suggestions they normally are found at the end of the chapter. Our Glen Coe chapter is different, because lodging here is part of the area’s attraction. When visiting Fort William and other West Highland locations, wouldn’t you rather lodge in a lovely little highland village, or in the gorgeous glen itself?

Whether you want to room in a resort hotel, board at a Mom-and-Pop-run B&B, or bunk in a hostel, there are loads of lodging options in Glencoe and the neighboring village of Ballachulish.

By far the most magical place to stay, however, is found on the Old Village Road.





[©2008 CD Miller] [©2011 Paul Hermans] Segments, enhanced.

## The Clachaig Inn

<https://clachaig.com/>

The Clachaig Inn is believed to date back to the 16th century, when it was a cattle drovers' inn—similar to a coaching inn, but situated in a location too rugged and remote for regular coach or carriage traffic. The inn was here at the time of the infamous massacre, in 1692, when Glen Coe MacDonalds occupied several cottages lining the Old Village Road between the inn and the current day Glencoe Village. Clachaig Inn's original structure probably suffered the same fate as those cottages—either destroyed during the massacre, or fallen to ruin during subsequent years of abandonment.

The oldest building currently in existence is the white harled structure seen above. It likely was built soon after 1696, when the surviving MacDonalds began their gradual return to Glen Coe. Thus, today's Clachaig Inn has borne witness to over 300 years of Scottish history—and you can lodge here!

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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."



[©2016 Rob C, Glasgow] [©2015 Marc Tilburg] Segments, enhanced.

In all fairness, we must report that a *few* rooms at the Clachaig Inn have a view that is less than stunning. Rooms on the Bidean Wing's north side look out into a fabulous forest. Unfortunately, the unattractive roof of a ground floor building extension lies between. (Photo above right.)

Additionally, the western end of the Ossian Wing slightly overlaps the eastern end of the Bidean Wing. (Photo above left.) Thus, at least one of the rooms on the south side of the Ossian Wing have a view of the Bidean building—*not* the magnificent mountains beyond.

**Solution:** Use the Clachaig Inn’s online booking resource to reserve a room *only* if you’ll be booking a room in the Clachaig Lodge, or one of the self-catering holiday cottages.

To book a room in the Ossian or Bidean wings, **call the inn**. Specifically ask for an Ossian room with a view that isn’t obstructed by the Bidean building, or a south-facing Bidean room.

If all Ossian and Bidean rooms with marvelous views are already booked on the dates of your visit, here are your options:

[End of Part Three Preview]