

Outlandish Scotland Journey

Free Entry Passes for Visiting Scotland

Purchasing a special sightseeing pass when visiting Scotland has the potential of saving you a lot of money in individual entrance fees. If you'll not be visiting enough of the properties included in the pass, however, it could end up costing you more than it's worth.

As with any aspect of planning the best possible Outlandish Scotland Journey, deciding whether or not to buy one of these passes requires a good deal of investigation.

This PDF contains tips and directions designed to minimize the amount of time you'll have to spend investigating the Free Entry passes available.

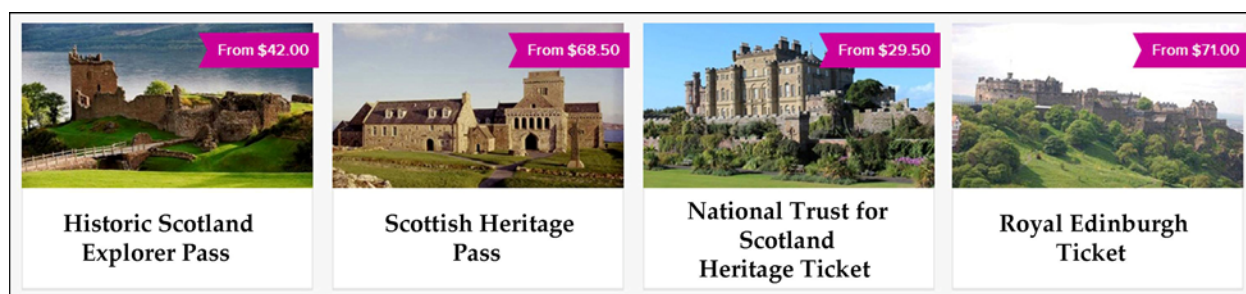
Plan Parts of Your Holiday *Before* Deciding Whether to Buy a Free Entry Pass

- If you'll be booking a guided Outlander tour, do that first.
[See our Outlander Tours PDF: www.OutlandishScotland.com/OutlanderTours.pdf]
Admission fees for the Outlandish places you'll be taken are almost always included in a guided tour fee. You'll not need a Free Entry pass to visit them.
- After successfully booking a guided tour—or, if you'll *not* be booking one—make a list of the places you plan to visit during your self-guided touring days.
- Compare your self-guided Outlandish site list to the properties covered by the Free Entry passes available.

[At the end of this PDF you'll find a table that lists the Outlander-related properties associated with each of the Scottish Free Entry passes, with 2016 entry and pass fees.]

After performing a comparison, you should be able to determine which pass (if any) will save you enough money to be worthwhile.

- Create itineraries for your self-guided touring days following the time-period limitations for the pass you select. If it seems doable, buy the pass.



The Visit Britain Website Offers Four Scottish Free Entry Passes

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/sightseeing-passes/scotland=r/#filter-area>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/sightseeing-passes/scotland=r/#filter-area>

Above and below (within the individual pass highlight sections) we provide links to both the Visit Britain **USA** website and the Visit Britain **world** website.

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Visit Britain's **USA** website presents pass prices in US dollars. While this may be handy for US and Canadian Outlanderites, it can be confusing when you see pass prices presented in British pounds on the websites of the organizations they are associated with.

Those who prefer seeing the pass prices in British pounds can use the link to Visit Britain's **world** website.

Whichever site you use, please know that Visit Britain sells all four of these Free Entry passes at the *same price* as the organizations they are associated with.

Something else you should know:

If you purchase any of the four Scotland Free Entry passes from Visit Britain's website, you'll be receiving an electronic *voucher*—not the pass. According to Visit Britain:

- When you purchase this product, you will receive an eVoucher by email.
- Print this voucher and take it to one of the redemption properties ... where it will be exchanged for a pass.

Within each of our Free Entry pass highlight sections we provide a list of the Outlander-related properties associated with the pass, and indicate where you can exchange your Visit Britain voucher for the pass. The available redemption properties are convenient to almost any itinerary.

BTW: If you'll be visiting **London** before or after your Outlandish Scotland Journey, Visit Britain also offers **The London Pass**. It includes 60+ central London attractions, as well as a day of enjoying one of London's Hop-On-Hop-Off city tour busses.

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/the-london-sightseeing-pass/>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/the-london-sightseeing-pass/>

<https://www.goldentours.com/london-hop-on-hop-off-open-top-bus>

Scottish Free Entry Passes Highlights



Historic Scotland Explorer Pass

Created in 1991, **Historic Scotland** was an executive agency of the Scottish Government responsible for the conservation and maintenance of a number of the country's historic monuments. In October of 2015, Historic Scotland was dissolved and its functions assumed by a new executive, non-departmental, public body called, **Historic Environment Scotland**.

Happily, all of the old Historic Scotland website links redirect to the new agency's website. And, although the new agency calls their Free Entry pass simply, the "Explorer Pass," it remains commonly known as the **Historic Scotland Explorer Pass**.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/explorer-passes/>

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Excerpts from Historic Environment Scotland's website:

Free admission to Scotland's top visitor attractions is yours with an Explorer Pass. Buy an Explorer Pass valid for 3 days or 7 days and visit as many of our properties as you wish within that time—for no additional cost.

A 3-day pass can be used on any 3 days within a 5-day period. A 7-day pass is for any 7 days within a 14-day period. Multiple sites can be visited on any single day. You can visit a specific site only once.

Explorer Pass benefits:

- Free admission to all 77 of our paid attractions.
- Free entry to daytime events.
- Fast Track entry to Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle.
- 20% discount on audio tours at Edinburgh Castle (must be purchased on site).

When you buy an Explorer Pass online, you'll receive an email with your pass attached as a PDF. This can be printed and used at any site. You must select the date of your first visit when purchasing a pass online—your pass will become valid from this date.

You can also buy an Explorer Pass in person at the first property you visit.

Please Note: * A red star in the property lists provided within this PDF indicates a *non-Outlander-related* property, but one that most Outlanderites *will* want to visit.

Outlander-Related Historic Environment Scotland Properties

Aberdour Castle & Gardens

Blackness Castle

Callanish (Calanais) Stones & Visitor Centre

Doune Castle

*Edinburgh Castle

Glasgow Cathedral

Linlithgow Palace

*Stirling Castle

*Urquhart Castle

Explorer Pass Prices	3-day pass	7-day pass
Adult (16-59)	£30 / \$42	£40 / \$56
Child (5-15) [under 5 free]	£18 / \$25.50	£24 / \$33.50
Concession (Senior, 60+) & Student (with valid ID)	£24 / \$33.50	£32 / \$44.50
Family (2 adults + 6 children)	£60 / \$83.50	£80 / \$111.50

Visit Britain's Historic Scotland Explorer Pass webpages:

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/historic-scotland-explorer-pass/>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/historic-scotland-explorer-pass/>

You can redeem your Visit Britain eVoucher and obtain your Explorer pass at *all* of the Historic Environment Scotland properties listed above, except for the Callanish Stones.



The Scottish Heritage Pass

The Scottish Heritage pass was created when the **National Trust for Scotland** joined forces with **Historic Environment Scotland** and a group called **Discovering Distilleries** to create a Free Entry pass that includes more properties than any of these organizations could offer individually.

Oddly enough, Scottish Heritage passes are *not* sold by the NTS, Historic Scotland, or Discovering Distilleries. They are exclusively offered to travel trade businesses, so that those businesses can sell them.

If you'll be booking one of Alastair Cunningham's marvelous **Clans & Castles Outlander Tours**, purchase a Scottish Heritage Pass from him.

<http://www.clansandcastles.com/heritage-pass.htm>

Alternatively, buy your Scottish Heritage Pass from Visit Britain.

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/scottish-heritage-pass/>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/scottish-heritage-pass/>

Excerpts from Visit Britain's website:

Spend your summer break in Scotland exploring some of the country's mesmerizing heritage sites. Valid from April to October, the Scottish Heritage Pass is exceptional value for money and includes access to Scotland's finest castles, distilleries, grandest palaces and most popular stately homes and gardens.

- Free access to more than 120 sites across Scotland
- Includes full color brochure containing maps, opening times and inspiration for your itinerary
- Popular attractions include Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Culzean Castle, Glasgow Cathedral and the Culloden Battlefield
- Visit just five popular attractions and save over 25% on individual entry prices
- Pass is valid for 7 consecutive days

This pass is available to purchase year-round, but can only be used to visit heritage sites from 1 April–31 October. Please check individual websites for opening times and pre-booking is required for distilleries.

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When you purchase this product, you will receive an eVoucher by email that is valid for one year unless otherwise stated. Print this voucher and take it to one of the redemption properties [identified in the list below with a ✓] where it will be exchanged for a pass.

Outlander-Related Scottish Heritage Pass Properties:

Aberdour Castle & Gardens ✓

Blackness Castle ✓

*Castle Fraser, Garden & Estate

Culloden Battlefield

Culross Palace & Garden

(*Please see the note below.)

Doune Castle ✓

Drumlanrig Castle

*Edinburgh Castle ✓

(Pass includes Fast Track entry)

Falkland Palace & Garden

Glasgow Cathedral ✓

Glenfinnan Monument

Linlithgow Palace ✓

Pollok House

Preston Mill & Phantassie Doocot

*Stirling Castle ✓

(Pass includes Fast Track entry)

*Urquhart Castle ✓

*If you follow our recommendation to begin your Outlandish Scotland Journey by heading north from the Edinburgh airport (saving the city of Edinburgh for later in your holiday), Culross Village is the site most efficiently visited first. If you purchase a Scottish Heritage Pass, however, you'll have to visit Aberdour Castle first, where you can exchange your voucher for a pass, then double back to Culross. Happily, your drive time will be increased by only 15 minutes.

If you've booked a guided Outlander tour, no worries! You'll probably be visiting Culross during the tour and won't need the Free Entry Pass there.



The National Trust for Scotland Discover Ticket

<http://www.nts.org.uk/Home/>

"The National Trust for Scotland is a charity set up in 1931 for the preservation and conservation of the heritage important to Scotland and beyond. If you want to see these landscapes, properties and treasures secured for future generations, then your donation is a tangible way to help.

"As a charity, The National Trust for Scotland relies on our circa 7,000 donors to keep our properties in order and open to the public. Together, our donors make up a crucial part of the vital conservation force that is The National Trust for Scotland."

As with the Scottish Heritage pass, the NTS does not sell their Discover Ticket to the public—only to travel trade businesses. You can purchase an NTS Discover Ticket from Visit Britain.

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/national-trust-for-scotland-discover-ticket/>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/national-trust-for-scotland-discover-ticket/>

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Excerpts from Visit Britain's website:

An NTS Discover Ticket really lives up to its name, giving ticket holders access to over 60 spectacular sites in Scotland. The flexibility of the ticket means you can explore at your own pace, too, whether you're on a short break or a longer tour.

As well as more than 30 superb gardens, ticket holders can access many famous and exceptional attractions such as Culloden Battlefield, Robert Burns' Birthplace Museum, Culzean Castle and Glencoe Visitor Centre. ...

You will be emailed an eVoucher. Please print and bring with you. Valid for one year unless otherwise stated. ... Your eVoucher can be exchanged for your National Trust for Scotland Discover Ticket at any National Trust for Scotland property.

Types of National Trust for Scotland Discover Tickets

- 3-day tickets are valid for 3 days out of 7 consecutive days
- 7-day tickets are valid for 7 days out of 14 consecutive days
- 14-day tickets are valid for 14 days out of 30 consecutive days

Adult (17+): 3-day: £26.50, 7-day: £31.50, 14-day: £36.50

Family (2 adults & up to 4 children under 17): 3-day: £53, 7-day: £63, 14-day: £73

Please note: There is no Senior or Student discount offered for the Discover Ticket, though many NTS properties offer such discounts on site.

Outlander-Related NTS Properties

*Castle Fraser, Garden & Estate

Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre

Culross Palace & Garden

Falkland Palace & Garden

Glenfinnan Monument

Pollok House

Preston Mill

The Pineapple

Although three days isn't enough time to visit all of these sites, the 3-day Discovery Ticket is still a great deal. Here's a table showing individual Adult entry fees for places that can be visited in 3 days, compared to the 3-day Discover Ticket cost.

Day 1:	Culross Palace & Garden, Falkland Palace & Garden	£23.00
Day 2:	Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre	£11.00
Day 3:	Two (at most) of the other properties	\$12.50
	Total Individual Adult Entry Fees:	£46.50
	Adult 3-day NTS Discover Ticket:	£26.50
	Savings of:	£20.00



The Royal Edinburgh Ticket

This Free Entry Pass can be purchased from Edinburgh Tours:

<https://edinburghtour.com/ticket-offers/the-royal-edinburgh-ticket>

Or, from Visit Britain:

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/usa/royal-edinburgh-ticket/>

<https://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/royal-edinburgh-ticket/>

The Royal Edinburgh Ticket is valid for two days (48 hours) from first use, and includes:

- ★ Edinburgh Castle – “Scotland’s most popular attraction, with 1,000 years of history and great views of the city.”
- Palace of Holyroodhouse – “The Queen’s official Scottish residence and a glorious regal palace.”
- ★ Royal Yacht Britannia – “Take a fascinating and intimate tour of the ship, officially owned by the Royal Family.
- Fast Track entry to each of the three attractions.
- Two days of unlimited travel on all **four** of Edinburgh Tours’ Hop-on-Hop-off city bus tours.

Here is a comparison of the Royal Edinburgh Ticket price, when measured against all three of the individual attractions’ Adult entry fees (*without* Fast Track entry), and the 48-hour pass for all four of Edinburgh Tours’ Hop-on-Hop-off city bus tours.

Edinburgh Castle	£16.50
Palace of Holyroodhouse	£12.00
Royal Yacht Britannia	£15.00
48-hour-pass on Edinburgh Tours’ 4 Hop-on-Hop-off city bus tours	£22.00
Total Individual Entry Fees:	£65.50
Adult Royal Edinburgh Ticket:	£51.00
Savings of:	£14.50

For Outlanderites *not* interested in visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia, below is a comparison of the Royal Edinburgh Ticket price, when measured against the individual Adult entry fees (*without* Fast

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Track entry) to **Edinburgh Castle** and the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, in addition to the 48-hour pass for all four of Edinburgh Tours' Hop-on-Hop-off city bus tours.

Edinburgh Castle	£16.50
Palace of Holyroodhouse	£12.00
48-hour-pass on Edinburgh Tours' 4 Hop-on-Hop-off city bus tours	£22.00
Total Individual Entry Fees:	£50.50
Adult Royal Edinburgh Ticket:	£51.00
Savings of:	NADA (It costs you 50p more)

Please consider the fact that 50p is well worth spending to enjoy *Fast Track entry* at Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse.



Additionally, if you'll be visiting Edinburgh for two days, you *will* appreciate 48 hours of free access to all four of Edinburgh Tours' Hop-on-Hop-off bus tours. These busses go all over the city, and are fun to simply *ride* (without hopping off) for the entire 1-hour duration of each tour. After that, they are convenient for getting around the city.

Which is why we highly recommend purchasing a Royal Edinburgh Ticket, even if you'll not be visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Whether or not you purchase a Royal Edinburgh Ticket, be sure to see the Edinburgh Tours' **Suggested Itineraries** webpage.

<https://edinburghtour.com/discover-edinburgh/itineraries>

Page down to "**Make the most of the Royal Edinburgh Ticket**"

There they provide directions for which Hop-on/off-Bus to use to reach each various Edinburgh destinations.



The Stirling City Pass

This pass is *not* offered by Visit Britain. It can only be purchased from the **Destination Stirling** website or the **Stirling Visitor Information Centre**.

<http://www.destinationstirling.com/stirling-city-pass/>

Excerpts from Destination Stirling's website:

- Buy your City Pass online or upon arrival at the Stirling visitor information centre.
- Child passes apply to children aged 5-16 years. Entry is free for children under 5 years of age.
- The Battle of Bannockburn Experience is time ticketed and we recommend booking this in advance to get the time that suits you best. For the other [Stirling] City Pass attractions there is no need to book.
- The Old Town Jail in Stirling will close for the season on the [12th of] Sept.
- One discounted price—save 30% [off individual attraction entry fees]
- Fast track entry to each attraction
- Over £50 of local offers and discounts
- Free audio tours
- Free official guide book with map
- Your official City Pass is activated at the first attraction you visit and is valid for two days

The Stirling City Pass includes:

★ Stirling Castle

<http://www.destinationstirling.com/listing/stirling-castle/>

★ The National Wallace Monument

<http://www.destinationstirling.com/listing/national-wallace-monument/>

★ Stirling Old Town Jail

<http://www.destinationstirling.com/listing/stirling-old-town-jail/>

★ Battle of Bannockburn Experience

<http://www.destinationstirling.com/listing/battle-bannockburn-experience/>

While none of the Stirling City Pass attractions are *Outlander*-related, *Braveheart* fans may enjoy the Wallace Monument and the Battle of Bannockburn Experience. Stirling Castle is mentioned in *Dragonfly In Amber*, and is marvelous to visit, but you may want to reserve your time for visiting the many *Outlander* film sites in and around Stirling.

And that concludes our Scottish Free Entry Passes PDF, apart from the last 2 pages, containing a comparison table of the four passes, and the properties they include.