



# You Can't Get There From Here

An Outlandish Extra PDF

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

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# You Can't Get There From Here

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Alas and alack, many of the places we've read about in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series of novels—places we've fallen deeply in love with—don't exist in the real world. Though founded on impressively thorough and extensive research, these places were invented by a talented author. As such, they are fictional locations that you cannot visit. This PDF is a collection of the most beloved, fictional, Outlandish sites.



### Craigh na Dun

Prehistoric stone circles—as well as many Neolithic and Bronze age cairns, standing stones, and the like—are found all over Scotland. Below are two of several websites solely dedicated to Scottish stone circles and cairns.

<http://www.stonepages.com/scotland/scotland.html>

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



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

Sadly, Craigh na Dun—the stone circle that transports Claire from 1945 to 1743—doesn't exist in the real-world.

From the *Outlander* Episode 1 script:

Frank: Apparently there's a circle of standing stones on a hill just outside [Inverness], and there's a local group who still observe rituals there.

As it happens, a stone circle just east of Inverness is convenient to visit when Outlandering in Scotland and fits the dialogue above. **Clava Cairns (Site #11)** is only a 4 minute drive (a 34 minute walk) from **Culloden Battlefield (Site #12)**. Unfortunately, the Clava Cairns site looks absolutely nothing like Diana's Craigh na Dun description, or the Craigh na Dun seen on screen.

Below is Claire's description of Craigh na Dun from *Outlander* chapter 2, *Standing Stones*:

"There were no signs of burial in the miniature henge atop the hill. By 'miniature,' I mean only that the [Craigh na Dun] circle of standing stones was smaller than Stonehenge; each stone was still twice my own height, and massive in proportion. ...

"Some of the standing stones were brindled, striped with dim colors. Others were speckled with flakes of mica that caught the morning sun with a cheerful shimmer. All of them were remarkably different from the clumps of native stone that thrust out of the bracken all around."



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

Happily, the standing stones constructed for Starz *Outlander* TV series filming were based on a real-world stone circle that you *can* visit: **The Callanish Stones (Site #20)**. As seen above, the Callanish Stones also are the standing stones that most resemble Diana's Craigh na Dun description.

Unfortunately, because they are located on one of the Outer Hebrides islands off Scotland's northwestern coast, the Callanish Stones are a 5 hour journey from Inverness. More unfortunately, since a Ferry ride is required to reach the island, this journey could take significantly longer if the sea happens to be rough during your visit.

As for the film site, *Outlander* Craigh na Dun scenes were shot on a remote hilltop within the Dunalastair Estate near Kinloch Rannoch, in Perthshire.

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

Go to Susanne's Adventures Around Scotland travel blog to read an Outlanderites' account of hiking to this hilltop.

<http://www.adventuresaroundscotland.com/travel-blog/in-search-of-outlander-witches-and-standing-stones>



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

## Cocknammon Rock

CGI (computer-generated imagery) was used to create the Cocknammon Rock seen on screen.

"Cocknammon Rock is a fictional rock formation in the Scottish Highlands that was well-situated for ambushes. Claire recalls Frank telling her that the British used the high ground to lay in ambush for Scottish rebels or brigands."

[http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Cocknammon\\_Rock](http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Cocknammon_Rock)



## Castle Leoch

Castle Leoch is a fictional location—yet, *not* a fictional place.

In *Outlander*, Colum Mackenzie is the Chief and Laird of Clan Mackenzie. As such, the place where he dwells is known as the "seat" of the clan. Diana based the name and description of Castle Leoch on the real-world Clan Mackenzie seat, **Castle Leod (Site #19)**.



[©scotland.org.uk segment (enhanced)]

In a March of 2015 Scottish Television interview, Diana reported that Castle Leod (above) was originally considered for the Castle Leoch film site.

"When the TV show began scouting locations, I suggested Leod as a possibility. It's entirely accurate as to period, of course, and has magnificent grounds, with a park of enormous, exotic trees planted by centuries of Mackenzies and their visitors."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle\\_Leod](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Leod)

<https://www.facebook.com/CastleLeod/posts/784090798334025>



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

Due to its more accessible location, however, **Doone Castle (Site #27)** was selected as the Castle Leoch film site. Which means that *Outlander*ites have *two* Castle Leochs to visit.



## Cranesmuir Village

"Cranesmuir is a fictional village located in the Scottish highlands. It is the closest village to Castle Leoch. It was the home of Geillis Duncan where she lived with her husband Arthur Duncan."

<http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Cranesmuir>



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)] [©2015 Peter of marketplace.500px.com segment (enhanced)]

The real-world village where Cranesmuir scenes were filmed is fabulous. **Culross Village (Site #1)** seems to have been frozen in time since the 1600s, largely because many of its buildings have been owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland since 1932.



## Lallybroch

Unfortunately, Lallybroch—one of the most beloved places in *Outlander*—is another fictional location. Claire first laid eyes on Broch Tuarach, the small estate that Jamie inherited, in *Outlander* chapter 26, *The Laird's Return*:

“It was larger than I had expected; a handsome three-story manor of harled white stone, windows outlined in the natural grey stone, a high slate roof with multiple chimneys, and several smaller whitewashed buildings clustered about it, like chicks about a hen. The old stone broch, situated on a small rise to the rear of the house, rose sixty feet above the ground, cone-topped like a witch’s hat, girdled with three rows of tiny arrow-slits.”



[*Outlander* Season 1 screenshot (enhanced)]

All interior Lallybroch scenes were shot on a Wardpark Studios sound stage—the film studio created in Cumbernauld by Starz *Outlander* filmmakers. All exterior Lallybroch scenes were shot at **Midhope Castle (Site #37)**. As seen above, Midhope is a 16th century tower house, not the 18th century manor house that Diana described. Still, Midhope is marvelous to behold. The stone broch seen in the background of some Season 1 footage was added with CGI.



[©2007 Alastair Cunningham]

Alastair Cunningham, founder and operator of Scottish Clans and Castles tours, snapped the photo above and offers the most likely reason for filmmakers using Midhope, rather than a manor house more closely resembling Diana's vision of Lallybroch.

"Fans of Diana Gabaldon in particular often ask me if they can see an 18th century highland farmhouse. ... There are a few nice old farmhouses near Inverness but they often have very un-eighteenth century additions like dormer windows and conservatories.

"Earlier this month [my wife and daughter and I] ... went for a hot chocolate right by one of the most perfect early 18th century farmhouses you could wish for. Notice the ridges on the chimney pots to throw the rain out on to the original thatch. The owner told me that initially there were no windows at the back, only at the front."

<http://alastaircunningham07.blogspot.com/search/label/Lally%20Broch>

<http://www.clansandcastles.com>



## Wentworth Prison

Though not a "beloved" place, Wentworth Prison prominently features in the plot of *Outlander*.

"Wentworth Prison is a fictional castle located in the Scottish Borders. Jamie stands trial there and is sentenced to hang, but not before Jack Randall has his way with him."

[http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Wentworth\\_Prison](http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Wentworth_Prison)



[*Outlander* Season 1, Episode 15 screenshot segments (enhanced)]

Three different castles were used to shoot Wentworth Prison scenes for *Outlander* Season 1. At left above is **Linlithgow Palace (Site #34)**, which lies between Stirling and Edinburgh. Above, right, is **Carlisle Castle** (in Part 7), found in northwestern England. Below is a screenshot demonstrating the CGI-enhanced version of **Bamburgh Castle** (a “Not Going There” site)—located in northeastern, England—which doubled as Wentworth Prison on approach.



[*Outlander* Season 1, Episode 15 screenshot segment (enhanced)]



### The Abbey of Ste. Anne de Beaupré

“The Abbey of Ste. Anne de Beaupré is a fictional Benedictine monastery located on the northern coast of France. One of Jamie’s six Fraser uncles, Alexander, is abbot there. Claire and Murtagh bring Jamie there to recover after his ordeal at Wentworth Prison.”

[http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Abbey\\_of\\_Ste.\\_Anne\\_de\\_Baupr%C3%A9](http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Abbey_of_Ste._Anne_de_Baupr%C3%A9)



[*Outlander* Season 1, Episode 16 screenshot (enhanced)]

Filming for the *Outlander* Season 1 finale events that occurred in the novel's Abbey of Ste. Anne de Beaupré took place at **Aberdour Castle (Site #3)** in September of 2014.

Interestingly enough, Aberdour Castle wasn't a stand-in for the French location. With Diana's blessing, the abbey was moved to Scotland for the television series. Additionally, its name was never mentioned onscreen.

In an *Entertainment Weekly* interview, posted in May of 2015, Ron Moore explained the reasons behind the Abbey's relocation.

"The book version of events lays out a different chronology after the rescue at Wentworth Prison. There's a sea voyage and they go to France. There's an abbey and it's much more distant from events. Jamie is in a safer place. For TV, I felt that structurally and dramatically you didn't want Jamie and Claire to go scot-free. [*Laughs*] By keeping the action in Scotland, there's much more tension and everything feels much more immediate. You know, all those events he's remembering are much closer. It's literally a day or so since it happened, so it's all with him in the now. It's not quite as removed in time and space as it was in the book. ...

"It felt like that if they had escaped and were already in a safe place in France, then a lot of the drama had been taken away. Whereas the way it's currently structured, it's very tense and gripping. They've had a harrowing journey, but then there's almost a cleansing quality to that shot at the beach. Instead of being in these dark, claustrophobic, fire-lit holes where terrible things happen, you're outside in the blue sky and beautiful ocean—you're getting on a ship and literally sailing away. It provides this glorious moment and creates an uplifting feeling of happiness and something to look forward to."

<http://www.ew.com/article/2015/05/30/outlander-season-finale-rape-scene>



## Fictional Outlandish Locations Not Seen in *Outlander* Season One

We'll be updating this information when they appear on screen!



Claire at L'Hôpital des Anges, *Outlander* Season 2

[A Tweeted screenshot, July 31st, 2015, ©unk]

### L'Hôpital des Anges

"L'Hôpital des Anges is a fictional charity hospital in Paris, France. Claire Fraser volunteers there while she and Jamie live in Paris in 1744. Located near the Notre Dame de Paris, the hospital is run by Mother Hildegarde and the nuns of the Couvent des Anges [Convent of the Angels]."

[http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/L'H%C3%B4pital\\_des\\_Anges](http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/L'H%C3%B4pital_des_Anges)

Scenes within L'Hôpital des Anges were filmed in **Glasgow Cathedral** (in Part 7).



### Ardsmuir Prison

Ardsmuir Prison features prominently in *Voyager*, Diana Gabaldon's third *Outlander* novel. After spending seven years hiding in a miserably small cave [**The Dun Bonnet Cave (Site #17)**] following the 1746 Jacobite defeat at Culloden, Jamie arranged to be captured, so that those living at—and under the care of—Lallybroch could benefit from the reward offered for his apprehension. Thus, in 1753, Jamie was sent to Ardsmuir Prison.

"Ardsmuir Prison is a fictional fortress located in the north of Scotland, near Coigach. It was used as a prison after the Jacobite Rising of 1745."

[http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Ardsmuir\\_Prison](http://outlander.wikia.com/wiki/Ardsmuir_Prison)



[©2013 Meredith Coombs segment]

Though not a film site—at least, not *yet*—**Ruthven Barracks (Site #9)** is an English fortress that was built in Scotland by the government of King George II following the failed Jacobite Rising of 1715. Only a hop, skip, and a jump (3 miles) north of the **Highland Folk Museum (Site #8)** *Outlander* film site, Ruthven Barracks will give you a taste of what Ardsmuir would have been like.



## Helwater

The fictional English estate of the equally fictional Lord and Lady Dunsany, Helwater is located in the Lake District of England—a real-world place.

When Ardsmuir Prison was closed in 1756, Lord John Grey arranged for Jamie to be sent to Helwater as an indentured servant, in order to save him from being transported across the ocean to America. Jamie spent 8 years at Helwater before finally being paroled and returning to Lallybroch.



Thus ends our **You Can't Get There From Here** Outlandish Scotland Journey PDF. As mentioned before, we will update and repost this PDF each time more information becomes available.