

Outlander,
Culture
and Film

visit
east lothian
Edinburgh's Coast & Countryside

TRAVEL  TRADE

Love East Lothian

Scotland has provided the backdrop and setting for an increasing number of film and serial dramas and East Lothian's stunning scenery has played a starring role in filming locations alongside the likes of Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson, Gillian Anderson, Colin Firth, Oscar Isaacs and Jacob Elordi.

Historical facts blend with filmed fiction and add scope for developing touring itineraries around the region's heritage stories that include castles and landmarks, stunning beaches and historic villages and towns.

Follow in the footsteps of Claire and Jamie in the fictional Outlander as well as famous Scots from East Lothian like John Muir, the famous naturalist born in Dunbar.

Link East Lothian with nearby Edinburgh and other Scotland wide filming locations for unique touring programmes.

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Outlander

From the books by **Diana Gabaldon** and the series, the story follows the Jacobite Risings of 1745 and locations all over East Lothian have been film sets for many episodes as well as having strong connections with the Jacobite history that inspired the programme.

Preston Mill & Phantassie Doocot East Linton

East Lothian's last working water mill. A fine building with picturesque conical-roofed kiln. See the water-wheel and grain milling machinery in action, whirring and clanking as they would have back in the 17th century.

The location features as the mill on the Fraser estate (Lallybroch) that Jamie goes to repair while visiting his family home. When Redcoats arrive unexpectedly, Jamie hides underwater as Claire and his sister try to distract them. *National Trust for Scotland*.

Gosford House Longniddry

Historic House in extensive grounds and seat of the Earls of Wemyss and March. An imposing neo-classical mansion by Robert Adam, with its own dramatic stories as well as featuring in *Outlander* series 2 as a house at the Palace of Versailles. The grounds and gates of Gosford also play a role in the series. Private tours are available, house is available for corporate events and private hire..

Newhailes House and Gardens Musselburgh

This neo-Palladian villa, rescued using pioneering conservation methods, boasts some of the finest rococo interiors in Scotland. Discover exquisite Chinese hand-painted wallpaper, gilded golden eagles and Italian marble fireplaces. The beautiful interiors feature as Governor Tyron's house in North Carolina in series 4. Tours and private bespoke options available. *National Trust for Scotland*.

To find out more about the Battle of Prestonpans, a significant battle where Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces won in less than 30 minutes in 1745 visit the **museum** in Prestonpans

Home to the Ogilvy family **Winton Castle**, Pencaitland, was originally owned by the Seton Family. Supporters of the Jacobite cause, the Earl of Seton was sent the Tower of London in 1715, losing his home. In 1745 Winton was requisitioned by Bonnie Prince Charlie when his rebel army camped on the estate. Castle can be booked for private events, activities and has self catering on the estate.



Mary Queen of Scots

A major blockbuster film in 2018 with Saoirse Ronan, playing **Mary Queen of Scots**. **Seacliff Beach**, near North Berwick was the location for an important scene in the movie; the landing place for the Queen on her return to Scotland to take up her crown.

Seacliff has also featured in *The Buccaneers* and Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein* starring Christoph Waltz, Oscar Issac and Jacob Elordi.

Explore the real places in the region with important historical connections to Mary Queen of Scots. Mary was abducted and taken to **Dunbar Castle** where she was forced to marry Lord Bothwell and you can see the castle ruins in the picturesque harbour of Dunbar, as well as the better preserved landmark, **The Battery**.

Tantallon Castle near North Berwick

A cliff top, mid-14th century fortress and one of Scotland's finest. A stronghold of the Douglas family, one of the most powerful families in Scotland.

It was besieged many times through history and interpretation and artefacts tell its turbulent story. Mary stayed here in 1566. Enjoy fantastic views from the battlements out to the **Bass Rock** and to Seacliff Beach. *Historic Environment Scotland*.

Tantallon Castle was also a setting for *Under The Skin*, Starring Scarlett Johansson.

Lennoxlove House Haddington

The seat of the Duke of Hamilton, dating back to the 13th century, in lovely woodland and garden setting. Historic connections from Robert the Bruce to Mary Queen of Scots make an intriguing tour. Famous artists' paintings and artefacts relating to Mary Queen of Scots and Napoleon are to be seen, including Mary's death mask. Private guided tours available.

Carberry Tower Mansion and Estate, Musselburgh

One of Scotland's great mansion houses, which once provided a childhood holiday home for the Queen, is now a luxurious hotel for visitors from across the world. In 1567 on Carberry Hill Mary Queen of Scots surrendered to the Scottish lords before being imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle. The Queen's Mount still stands on Carberry Hill commemorating the incident.

Accommodation and dining packages available.



Frankenstein

This Netflix film from 2025 starring Oscar Issacs as Dr Frankenstein and Jacob Elordi as the monster was filmed in East Lothian.

Gosford House plays the family home and estate and **Seacliff beach** as the location where the monster washes up after escaping.



Local heroes in history

Exploring famous Scots, East Lothian has had its own heroes who have contributed to the world, starting with **John Muir**, the famous naturalist, born in Dunbar who became a pioneer of the whole National Parks movement in the US. Visit **John Muir's Birthplace Museum** and walk or cycle on the **John Muir Way**.

John Knox, the radical church reformer was born in Haddington. See his statue in the town centre. Also from Haddington, **Jane Welsh Carlyle** was a notable writer and intellect in the 1800s and **William Gillies** was one of the 20th century's celebrated artists painting mostly East Lothian, Fife and the borders. **Sir Walter Scott**, Scotland's literary hero featured **Tantallon Castle** in his famous poem *Marmion* making the castle a great link with other visits round Scotland.

All perfect content for thematic programmes including art, religion, literature and famous Scots. Visit **John Gray Centre**, Haddington to explore more local history links.

More to explore

Following other favourite TV shows and films in the region include the grandeur of **Gosford House**, as seen in *Castles in the Sky*, *Tommy's Honour*, *The Buccaneers* and *Belgravia: The Next Chapter* to Tynninghame, the setting for the fictitious village of Wychwood under Ashe for the Agatha Christie drama *Murder is Easy*.

More filming links -

East Lothian on Screen



More itineraries to download:



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