



STIRLING  
CASTLE

# Stirling Castle visual story

Use this guide to help you plan your visit to Stirling Castle.

This spectacular royal castle stands on a high volcanic crag. Its strategic location meant it played a key role in the Wars of Independence (1296-1357). In the sixteenth century, it was adapted into a magnificent Stewart royal court.



## Castle staff

The castle staff will be wearing a black jacket or fleece with a white unicorn on it. They will also wear a name badge.



They might also wear a tartan waistcoat or trousers, a bright yellow vest or a face mask.



**The castle esplanade is also a car park.**

**Space is limited so it is recommended to pre-book online. On the day, payment is by card only.**



**At the ticket office you can buy a ticket if you have not bought one in advance.**

**You can pay by cash or card.**

**You can also choose to buy a guidebook or pay to borrow an audio guide.**

**You might have to wait in a queue.**

**Tickets cost:**

<b>Ticket Type</b>	<b>Online Price</b>	<b>Ticket Office Price</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>£17.50</b>	<b>£19.50</b>
<b>Concession (65+)</b>	<b>£14.00</b>	<b>£15.60</b>
<b>Child (7-15)</b>	<b>£10.50</b>	<b>£11.70</b>
<b>Child 6 and under</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>FREE</b>



**Before you enter the castle, you may need to queue to have your ticket scanned.**



There are also **toilets** in this square area. The entrance looks like this:



On the left of this area is the castle shop.





To explore the rest of the castle, you can go up the paved slope through the Inner Gate.



**After the Inner Gate, the castle café will be on your right.**

**It can be loud and busy. It sells hot and cold food and a range of drinks.**



The café has both indoor and outdoor seating available.



If you want to, you can join a **guided tour**. These are free of charge and times are advertised on the board.

Just wait by the meeting point sign at the advertised time to hear some of the history of the castle from a guide.



The castle is made up of many different buildings and exhibitions. The places you could visit include...

**The Castle Exhibition.** This offers an introduction to the castle and explains how it was shaped by different monarchs.



To get to the Royal Palace you go through the **Palace Vaults**. This is a dark, stone passageway.

If you would prefer to avoid this route, a member of staff can show you an alternative route.



The **Palace Vaults** are a group of small rooms with interactive displays for all the family. These include dress up costumes, musical instruments, and games. The rooms can get busy and noisy.



There is also an **Access Gallery** which allows visitors with limited mobility to find out about inaccessible parts of the castle. It also includes a BSL video about the castle. Anyone can use this room.



**The Royal Palace, a royal residence commissioned by James V.**

**These were recently recreated in the style of the 1540s and feature costumed interpreters.**





## The Stirling Heads Gallery.



This exhibition tells the story of the Stirling Heads, carved sculptures which originally featured on the palace ceilings.

The exhibition space has low lighting, and you may hear music and videos playing.



The **Great Hall**. Originally built in the 1500s by James IV, the hall underwent restoration in the 1990s when the magnificent hammerbeam roof was replaced.

There may be music playing in this space.



At the back of the hall is an accessible toilet.



**The Chapel Royal. This is a wide, open, calm space.**

**It has natural light and may have choral music playing in it.**



**The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum is free to enter with your ticket.**

The entrance looks like this:



The museum staff and volunteers wear a different uniform to the castle staff. It consists of a green shirt with a gold badge or a dark blazer and a Glengarry hat.



Please ask them if you have any questions or need help during your time in the museum.



The rooms in the museum are often busy and warm. Most rooms have interactive displays that

play videos or audio so can be noisy and all the rooms have bright lighting.



Please follow the signs around the museum, they will lead you to the exit.

For a more in depth Visual Story of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum please visit: <https://argylls.co.uk/accessibility/>

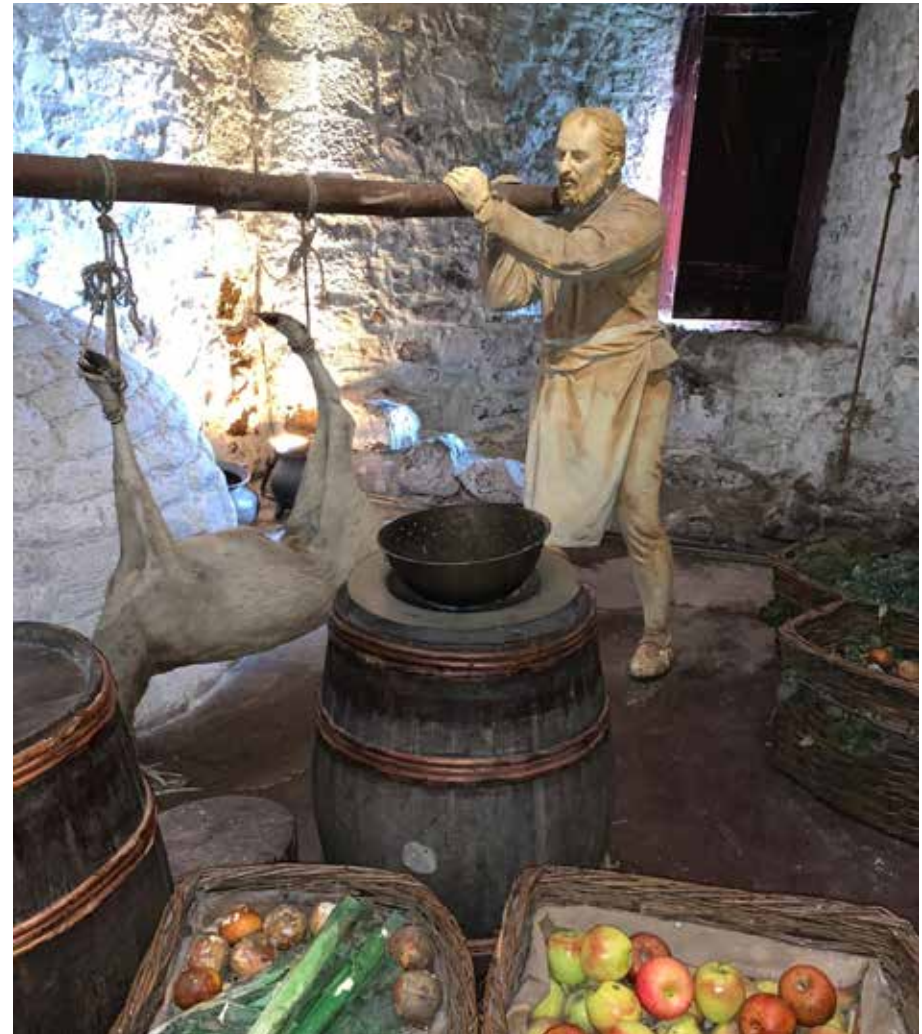




**The Great Kitchens.** These rooms are dark with kitchen sounds and models of people and food.



There is also a film which you can watch.



You can visit the **tapestry studio**, where four of the seven unicorn tapestries which hang in the Queen's Inner Hall were created.

It now houses the **'Weaving the Unicorn'** exhibition.



**It is possible to walk around the castle walls to see the incredible views.**

**There are also some beautiful gardens to explore.**



If you need a break or the use of a quiet space, please let a member of staff know and they can

direct you to a suitable area such as the one in the picture below.



As you explore the castle, you may see...



Cannons



Tapestries



Flags



Armour



Unicorns



Stained glass

# For futher information:

Please contact the castle on +44 (0)1786 450 000

The lines are open 9am - 5pm GMT (Monday to Friday).

Closed during UK public holidays and weekends.

Or email us at [stirlingcastle@hes.scot](mailto:stirlingcastle@hes.scot)

Many thanks to Lynsey Anderson and Colouring Outside the Lines,  
who helped us develop this resource.

If there's anything we should change in it, let us know at  
[interpretation@hes.scot](mailto:interpretation@hes.scot)

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(t = top; b = bottom; c = centre; l = left; r = right)