



Sample

SCOTTISH  
CASTLES

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that we visited  
Scotland



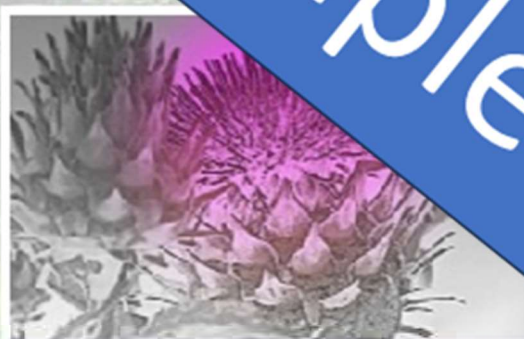


A photograph of a garden path. In the foreground, there are several tall, feathery pink ferns. A path leads into the background, flanked by dense green foliage and bright orange flowers. A wooden bench is visible on the path. A large, leafy tree dominates the upper half of the image. A blue diagonal banner with the word "Sample" is overlaid on the image.

Sample

Culzean Castle Gardens

# THE EDINBURGH CASTLE





## THE STONE OF DESTINY

*Student, Kay Matheson along with Ian Hamilton, Alan Stuart, and Gavin Vernon pulled off one of the most famous thefts in the history of England by stealing the Stone of Scone (or Stone of Destiny) from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950.*

*Five months later the students placed the stone in Arbroath Abbey. The authorities had it taken back to Westminster Abbey but in that time everyone involved had achieved their aim: the students raised the issue of Scotland's independence in the minds, not only of their fellow Scots, but the whole world. The authorities got their Stone back; and the Scots had the satisfaction of knowing that their country had finally gotten revenge for Edward I of England's theft. In 1996 it was returned to Scotland as a symbolic gesture and is now in Edinburgh.*

Sample



# STIRLING CASTLE

Stirling Castle is one of Scotland's grandest castles, if not the grandest of all. The castle is situated on top of the 250 ft high Castle Rock, an extinct volcano and is open for visitors all year round. It is surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, giving it a very strong position. It is approximately 45 minutes from Glasgow (about 45 minutes by car) and is slightly north of the city of Edinburgh. More than 300,000 people every year visit the castle.

**Knights, nobles and foreign dignitaries** flocked to Stirling Castle to reveal the king's will. The castle was a favoured residence of the Stewart kings and queens who held grand celebrations from christenings to coronations.

In 1314, The Battle of Bannockburn took place very close to the walls of Stirling Castle. In this conflict, the Scots led by Robert the Bruce, defeated Edward II's army and eventually captured the castle.





WALLACE  
MONUMENT  
OUTSIDE  
STIRLING

Sample

## EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

The castle was founded in the 14th century and was heavily damaged by bombardment from British ships in 1719 at the Battle of Glenshiel. It was rebuilt between 1919 and 1932 at a cost of £10,000. The castle is a fine example of Scottish architecture and the mainland was added. This modern addition has very little resemblance to the original castle.

It is considered one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland and is very highly photographed and visited. It is a popular location for many television shows and has been featured in The World is not Enough.

On the day we stopped by at a spot where three sea lochs converge, Eilean Donan Castle looked as if it was floating on the glistening surface of the water. Cost for admission is about 7 ½ pounds

<http://www.eileandonancastle.com>



## THE UNICORN - NATIONAL ANIMAL OF SCOTLAND



A country's 'National Animal' should represent  
the best, and defining, qualities of the nation  
who chose it.

Scots have a strong sentimental streak under that plaid  
and Scottish culture is rich in superstitions, myths and legends.  
So, choosing a heraldic symbol as awe-inspiring as the unicorn makes  
sense even though the symbol is a fictitious creature!

In Celtic Mythology the Unicorn of Scotland symbolized innocence and purity,  
healing powers, joy and even life itself.

It was also seen as a symbol of masculinity and power.

Two sides of the same coin as it were, a blend of male virility and female  
nurturing - a perfect mix of yin and yang!

It's not quite clear exactly when the Unicorn first appeared in Scottish heraldry,  
but one of the earliest examples is seen in the 'Royal Coat of Arms' at Rothesay  
Castle which is believed to have been carved sometime before the 15th century.  
Before England and Scotland came under joint rule, Scotland's Coat of Arms  
featured two Unicorns supporting a shield.

MacLellan's Castle in the town of Kirkcudbright, southwest Scotland, was built in the late 16th century. It stands in the centre of the town which in itself is worth a visit. The castle is situated on a hill which flows into the town. It is one of the better castles to visit. A fairly typical Scottish castle, being 'on the High Street'.

The shell of the building stands largely complete. The ground floor retains its vaulted ceilings. The location is amazing, so close to a main road and a bustling harbour.

Good number of history boards are located for easy access to information. Not a lot to see in terms of artefacts etc.

**Admission price approx... 4 pounds**

[https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/maclellan-s-castle/)

[a-place/places/maclellan-s-castle/](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/maclellan-s-castle/)



## THE SCOTTISH THISTLE



The Scottish Thistle is the most well-known, and easily recognized, of all the plants that might seem an odd choice for a flower that could be better than a native-born plant which is as bold as a lion.

One of the best-known thistle legends dates from the 13th century during a surprise invasion by the soldiers of the King of Norway (who had taken control of western Scotland's coastal towns). The story has it that after coming ashore, the invaders began to creep up on the Scottish Clansmen and Highlanders and were caught off guard by this amount of stealth required that they go barefoot - which

Unfortunately for these unwary invaders, one of their men stepped hard on a Scottish thistle and his cries of shock and pain were enough to alert the Scots.

Leaping to their feet, the clansmen charged into battle and the rest, as they say, is history... and yes, the fiery Scots were victorious :)

Legend has it that because of the heroic role the plant played in the outcome of the battle, the thistle was immediately chosen as a national emblem.



# DUNBAR CASTLE



# LOCH NESS MONSTER



## THE LEGEND OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

The stories seem as tall as the lake is deep.....

The Loch Ness Monster is a mythical animal that allegedly lives in Loch Ness, a large freshwater lake near Inverness, Scotland. Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in the lake date back 1,500 years, all efforts to find any credible evidence of the animal have failed. That hasn't dampened the public's enthusiasm, however, for any news about "Nessie."

As recently as May of this year, a New Zealand scientific party set out to take DNA samples from around the loch to prove or disprove her existence. No findings as of yet!

In 2003 the BBC funded an extensive search of the loch using 600 sonar beams and satellite tracking but came up empty handed.