

Scotland's Heroes



Scotland.
Welcome to our life.



Your Detailed Itinerary

Scotland's
Heroes

Day 1

To see some of the sites associated with the Scots and their battles, start on the A1 and travel to **Dunbar**. Though the castle here is no more than a fragment by the harbour, it once controlled routes south. King Edward I of England defeated John Balliol, King of Scotland here in 1296. Balliol had been appointed king by Edward but his divided loyalties meant he made the wrong political moves.

Continue round the Edinburgh city bypass for **Roslin**. In 1303 the Scots defeated a superior English force here. Roslin has a Wallace's Cave nearby and is also home to the famous Rosslyn Chapel. Return to the city bypass, taking the Forth Bridge for Fife.

Day 2

Take the A921 coast road. Look for the monument to King Alexander III at Kinghorn. Alexander died here when his horse stumbled and he fell to his death in 1286. The

incident began a period of turmoil, culminating in the Wars of Independence. (The intermarrying of the royal houses of Scotland and England had created controversies of inheritance and succession.)

Continue through Fife, as time permits, taking the Tay bridge via Dundee and the coast road for **Arbroath**. This town with its abbey, founded in 1178, is associated with the Declaration of Arbroath, a letter to the Pope, signed by all the churchmen and nobility of Scotland, asking him to accept Scottish independence. Some say this was the most important document in Scotland's history, and uniquely described a king's right to rule as dependent on the approval of the people.

Continue to Aberdeen, where a magnificent statue of Sir William Wallace stands in Union Terrace. He appears to be gesturing towards His Majesty's Theatre!

Day 3

Take the A96 north-west beyond Inverurie, following signs for **Archaeolink**. Here you can find out more about the Battle of Mons Graupius – a reminder that the country which became Scotland has always been a battleground – on this occasion the local tribes were defeated by the Romans in 83 AD. Continue west by the B9002, reaching the A97 and head south for **Kildrumny Castle**. This castle was visited at least twice by King Edward of England when his forces occupied Scotland.

Continue south to reach Royal Deeside, taking the A93 over Glenshee for Perth, then the A9 for Stirling.

Day 4

The historic town of Stirling with its strategic location in the centre of Scotland is closely associated with the Wars of Independence. **Stirling Old Bridge** over the River Forth is one of Scotland's finest surviving

mediaeval bridges and recalls the famous victory of Sir William Wallace in 1297. The full story is told at the **National Wallace Monument** nearby.

The **Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre** on the outskirts of Stirling tells the dramatic tale of how a great army, sent with King Edward II of England at its head, to relieve Stirling Castle, confronted a smaller Scots' force who gradually forced them into the river-marshes. Unable to deploy heavy cavalry effectively, the English were then destroyed, King Edward barely escaping.

Day 5

Continue south through Glasgow via the M80/A80. Sir William Wallace was betrayed here (at Robroyston) in 1305 and sent as a prisoner to England where he was subjected to the grisly English penalty for treason, namely the ritual of hanging, disembowelling while still alive, and finally beheading, his limbs being sent for display in Scotland as an example

to others. Take the A73 for **Lanark**. This town in the Clyde Valley is strongly associated with Sir William Wallace as he lived and was married here at St Kentigern's Church.

Other sites associated with Scotland's freedom fighters in the south of Scotland include Elderslie, between Johnstone and Paisley, west of Glasgow. **Bruce's Cave**, associated with the story of Bruce's encounter with a spider whose efforts inspired the Scots leader to 'try, try, try again' is on the island of Arran – though other caves elsewhere in Scotland also have claims to the story!

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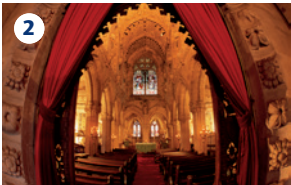


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Some say the most important date in Scotland's history was 1314, the year of the Battle of Bannockburn, when she won four centuries of independence from her larger and more powerful neighbour, England. Sir William Wallace of Elderslie played an important part in the campaign known as the Scots Wars of Independence – a story which inspired the movie Braveheart.



1 **DUNBAR** – Attractive resort town with a little harbour, overlooked by the remains of the 12th century Dunbar Castle, once one of the most important in Scotland.



2 **ROSLIN** – Take a walk in Roslin Glen (in the woods below the famous Rosslyn Chapel) to see Wallace's Cave, cut into the red stone of the far bank of the river.



3 **ARBROATH ABBEY** – The Declaration of Arbroath was drawn up here on the 6th April 1320. The visitor centre tells the story of the Abbey.



4 **ARCHAEOLINK** – Scotland's pre-history park, thought to be the site of the Battle of Mons Graupius, when the Caledonian tribes were defeated by Roman forces.



5 **KILDRUMMY CASTLE** – Picturesque ruined castle and the scene of a siege in 1306. Defending Scots were betrayed and the Castle fell into English hands.



6 **STIRLING OLD BRIDGE** – Late 15th century handsome bridge very near the site of the wooden bridge on which Wallace's forces trapped and defeated English mounted forces.



7 **NATIONAL WALLACE MONUMENT**
Landmark tower on Abbey Craig, built to commemorate Scots patriot Sir William Wallace. Audio-visual display, Hall of Heroes, plus superb views



8 **BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN VISITOR CENTRE**
– Site of the famous battle in 1314 when Robert the Bruce defeated King Edward II and his invading army.



9 **LANARK** – Flashpoint of the Wars of Independence after Wallace slew the English Sheriff here. A plaque marks the site of Wallace's House.



10 **BRUCE'S CAVE, ARRAN** – The scene of an encounter between a despairing Bruce hiding from the English and a spider eventually succeeding in building a web.