

EDINBURGH

National Museum of Scotland

The museum's archaeological galleries present a detailed thematic narrative of Scotland from the Iron Age, displaying Celtic, Roman, and Viking artefacts, (cultures who also played a key role in shaping the history of Spain).

In the 18th century galleries, the Darien Scheme (1698–1700) explored, Scotland's ill-fated attempt to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Panama, then under Spanish rule.

The exhibition features maps, the Darien chest, commemorative medals, and documents relating to the failed expeditions; the second of which led to military conflict with Spain (the siege of Fort of St Andrews). The heavy financial losses suffered by Scotland were a key factor in the signing of the 1707 Act of Union with England.



Edinburgh Castle

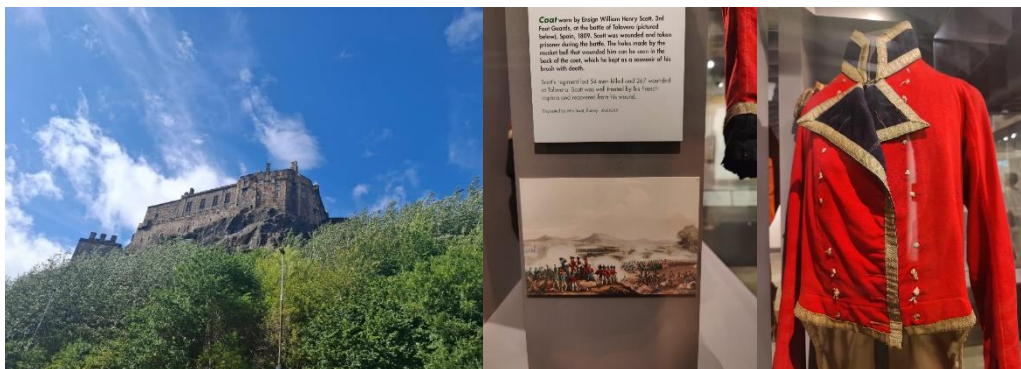
Historic Dungeons

Due to Spain's involvement in the 1719 Jacobite rising in support of the Stuarts, as well as in ongoing conflicts between Spain and Britain throughout the 18th century (such as the War of the Spanish Succession and the Seven Years' War), some Spanish soldiers were imprisoned here for years or died in these dungeons. Many of them were sailors captured in the North Sea.

Today, these spaces are open to visitors and feature commemorative plaques and exhibitions that explain the history of military prisons in Europe.

National War Museum of Scotland

There are memories of Scottish soldiers who fought in the Peninsular War.



National Library of Scotland

Astorga Collection

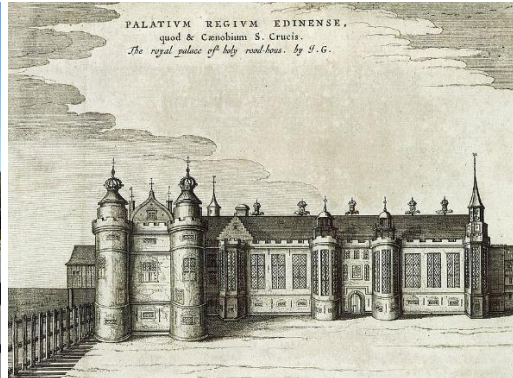
Printed books from the 15th to the 18th centuries. This collection includes over 3,000 Spanish books published before 1800, originally part of the library of the "Marqueses de Astorga". It features works censored by the Inquisition, maps, engravings, and unique copies—an exceptional example of Spanish bibliographic heritage preserved in Scotland.

In 1819, King Ferdinand VII authorised the "marqués" to sell properties and cultural assets to settle his debts. In 1826, the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh acquired the collection for £3,000, believing it contained 7,000 volumes, although only half that number was received.



Palace of Holyroodhouse

Pedro de Ayala was the first documented Castilian ambassador to the court of James IV of Scotland. His reports to the Catholic Monarchs provide detailed insights into the political climate of Edinburgh, the alliances with England, and the character of the Scottish king.



National Gallery of Scotland

The permanent collection includes works by Velázquez, El Greco, Murillo, Zurbarán, and Goya, highlighting Scotland's long-standing appreciation of Spanish art. The gallery also holds, in partnership with the National Gallery in London, two of the "Poesías" by Tiziano originally painted for Philip II of Spain.

British interest in Spanish themes during the 19th century is also reflected in the works of John Phillip, which are on display.



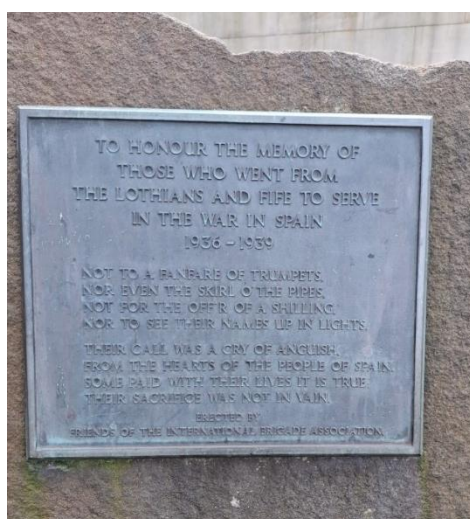
Calton Hill

The artillery piece known as the 'Portuguese cannon' was cast in bronze during the Iberian Union (1580–1640). It bears the royal coat of arms of Spain, along with an inscription in Spanish. British forces captured it in Burma, along with other cannons that were later lost, and donated it to Edinburgh in 1886.



Princes Street Gardens – Memorial to the Brigaders

Behind the extension of the National Gallery stands, a plaque dedicated to the volunteers from the Lothians and Fife who joined the International Brigades to fight in the Spanish Civil War. The inscription honours their struggle for freedom and social justice.



Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art One

The permanent collection includes Pablo Picasso's *Red Roofs (Dieppe)*. Painted in 1921 during his classical period, it is one of the few works by Picasso held in public collections in Scotland.



Author: National Galleries of Scotland

Consulate General of Spain

The Consulate General of Spain has occupied a building in the heart of Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage New Town since 1986. However, an honorary consulate existed in the city as early as 1932, and records show that a previous Consulate in Glasgow closed during the Spanish Civil War.

According to some documents, the Count of Aguilar, who was married to a Scottish woman from the McLean family, had already served as Spain's consul in Scotland in the late 18th century.



Scottish Parliament

Designed by Spanish architect Enric Miralles, this building blends Mediterranean aesthetics, organic forms, and Scottish symbolism. Although highly controversial at the time of its construction, it has since become one of Edinburgh's most iconic landmarks.

