

Central-Eastern Scotland (Fife and Lothian)

Dunfermline, in Fife (north of the Firth of Forth), near Edinburgh

Abbey. The remains of Saint Margaret of Scotland were once kept here, until her chapel was destroyed during the Reformation. Philip II of Spain showed great interest in the saint's relics, and after those in Scotland and Paris were dispersed, only the ones preserved at the Basilica of San Lorenzo de El Escorial remain. In one of its reliquaries, Saint Margaret and her husband Malcolm are depicted in a central position.



St Andrews, East coast of Fife, northeast of Dunfermline

University of St Andrews. The oldest university in Scotland. Its foundation charter was granted in 1413 by Pedro de Luna, known as "Pope Luna" Benedict XIII. A reproduction of his skull, made from the original in the palace of the Count of Argillo in 1897, is preserved in the University Museum.



East Lothian, near North Berwick, overlooking the North Sea

Tantallon Castle. Stronghold of the Douglas family. Sir James Douglas, lieutenant of Robert the Bruce, travelled to Spain to fight against Muslim forces at the Battle of Teba (see reference at Melrose). He died after throwing Bruce's embalmed heart into battle and shouting "Forward! A cry that became the enduring motto of the Douglas family.



Tantallon Castle and commemorative banner of the Battle of Teba in the Church of the Comendadoras de Santiago in Madrid.

Haddington, East Lothian



Barnes Castle

The ruins of Barnes Castle, near Haddington, evoke the figure of Sir John Seton, a Scottish courtier in the service of Philip II of Spain. Though unfinished, his castle symbolises the diplomatic ties between Scotland and the Spanish monarchy in the 16th century. Today, its towers and vaulted chambers, still visible, recall a time of international

alliances and unfulfilled ambitions. It is currently used as storage for a nearby farm. Not a tourist site, but it can be visited via rural paths near Haddington.

Culross, Fife

“La Mancha in Scotland”



In 1726, Thomas Cochrane, future Earl of Dundonald, renamed his estate “La Mancha”, inspired by *Don Quixote*. This gesture reveals how Spanish literature left its mark on the Scottish nobility. Although the name is no longer officially used, the cultural link between Scotland and Spain lives on in this corner of Fife. The Culross area is managed by the National Trust for Scotland and is a

heritage tourism destination, renowned for its 16th-century architecture and for serving as a filming location for series such as *Outlander*. Culross is open to the public and offers guided tours, particularly of Culross Palace and its historic gardens..

Southern Scotland (Scottish Borders)

Melrose

Abbey. In this famous abbey, now in ruins, lies the heart of Scotland’s national hero, Robert the Bruce. In his will, he requested that his heart be taken to fight in the Crusades, something he had been unable to do in life.

His lieutenant, Sir James Douglas, carried it with him to battle against the Kingdom of Granada under the command of Alfonso XI of Castile. A commemorative plaque in the town of Teba (Málaga) honours this episode.



North-east Scotland (Aberdeenshire and Moray)

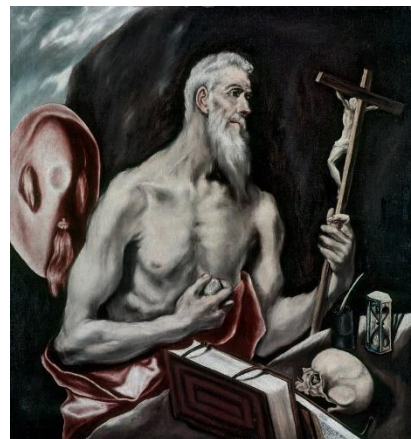
Aberdeen



St Machar's Cathedral. The wooden ceiling of the main nave dates back to 1520, and features 48 polychrome coats of arms carved into the bosses, arranged in three rows of sixteen, ordered from greatest to least importance. The central row displays arms of the Church; the southern row, those of Scotland; and the northern row, those of the European powers of the time. In a place of honour, just after the imperial arms of Charles V, are the coats of arms of the kingdoms of Castile, Aragon, and Navarre. St Machar's stands as a symbol of Scotland's ties with Europe during the 16th century.

Banff, Aberdeenshire

Duff House. Located in Banff, it is a gem of Georgian Baroque architecture designed by William Adam in the 18th century. Today, it forms part of the National Galleries of Scotland and houses a remarkable art collection, including a very special piece: El Greco's *Penitent Saint Jerome*.



Aberdeenshire



Beldorney Castle

Beldorney and Wardhouse.

A castle and manor house belonging to the Gordon family, who had close ties with Spain. The house, now in ruins, served as the summer residence of these 'Scots of Spain' and was built in the 19th century, showing clear Spanish architectural influence. King Alfonso XIII spent his honeymoon here.

Balmoral and Fyvie

Balmoral Castle. In 1887, Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg was born at Balmoral, granddaughter of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom and future Queen Consort of Spain. Her birth in this Scottish castle marked the beginning of a personal bond between the British and Spanish royal families. Decades later, her husband, King Alfonso XIII, visited Balmoral to meet his fiancée, further strengthening both familial and diplomatic ties.



Fyvie Castle. King Alfonso XIII of Spain planted a tree in the gardens of Fyvie Castle during his honeymoon in 1906, following his marriage to Victoria Eugenia of Battenberg. The tree is still preserved today as part of the castle's heritage. Fyvie Castle is now managed by the National Trust for Scotland and is open to the public.



West and Highlands (Highlands and Argyll)

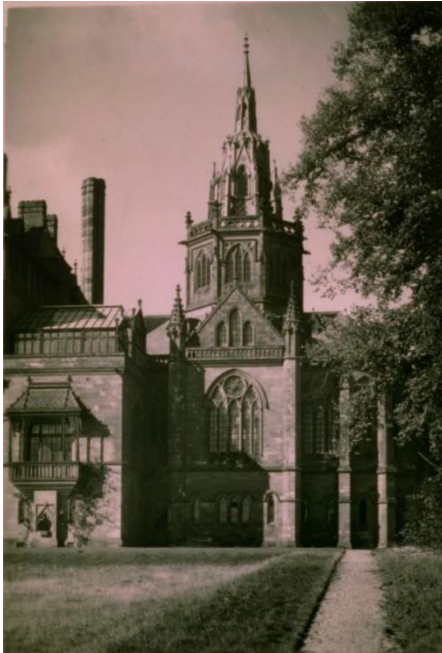
Western Argyll and Bute

Ruins of Auchenbreck Castle. Ancestral home of the Campbell family. James Campbell supported the Jacobite cause in 1715 and defended the rights of Charles Stuart, for which he died in prison in 1756. His granddaughter, María Felipa Campbell, born in El Puerto de Santa María (Cádiz), became a prominent figure in the Spain of Charles III. She is one of several women of Scottish origin who, after the Jacobite defeat, chose to settle in Spain, from where they continued to support the Stuart cause. The “Scottish nation” in Spain revolved around the Royal Scots College, a centuries-old institution that still exists today in Salamanca.



Fragment of Timothy Pont's map (late 16th century), courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Isle of Bute



Marble Chapel at Mount Stuart

In 1896, the Marquess of Bute commissioned the construction of a neo-Gothic chapel at Mount Stuart as a tribute to Pope Benedict XIII, known as the “Papa Luna.” Fascinated by Spanish medieval art, he sent his architect to study the Cathedral of Zaragoza, whose influence is reflected in the chapel’s design. The Marquess was also Honorary Rector of the University of St Andrews, which was founded in 1413 by papal bull issued by Pope Benedict XIII.

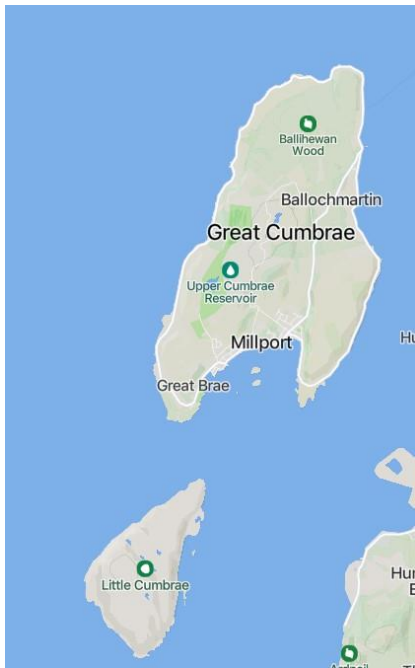
Highlands, near the Isle of Skye



Eilean Donan Castle

In April 1719, 307 Galician soldiers from the Galicia Regiment landed at Eilean Donan Castle, on Scotland’s west coast, to support the Jacobite uprising. The plan failed, and on 10 May, three British frigates bombarded the castle and captured the Spanish troops. According to legend, the ghost of one of those soldiers still haunts the site. The nearby *Pass of the Spaniards* commemorates this episode with memorial plaques.

Firth of Clyde



Isle of Cumbrae and the “Spanish Blanks” Plot

The peaceful Isle of Cumbrae was the setting for a key episode in Spanish-Scottish history: the “Spanish Blanks” plot (1592–1593). It was here that George Kerr was captured while carrying documents signed by Scottish nobles seeking support from Philip II to restore Catholicism. Although no buildings linked to the event remain, the island still echoes with the memory of this international conspiracy. Easily reached by ferry from Largs, Cumbrae is considered one of Scotland’s most accessible islands.

Tobermory, Isle of Mull, West and Highlands



In 1588, following the defeat at Gravelines, the Spanish Armada was scattered by storms in the North Sea. The *San Juan de Sicilia*, an armed merchant ship carrying 275 soldiers, sought refuge in Tobermory Bay. Its commander, Don Diego Téllez Enríquez, struck a deal with the Scottish chieftain Lachlan Mór Maclean to exchange military support. However, the ship mysteriously exploded in the harbour, fuelling legends of a lost treasure.

Portnahaven (Islay), West and Highlands. South-west of the Isle of Islay



In the 1970s, divers discovered the possible remains of another Spanish Armada ship near Portnahaven, on the island of Islay.

The recovered artefacts were donated to the Museum of Islay Life. Although the ship’s identity has not been confirmed, the find is part of the same maritime drama that marked the Armada’s retreat along the Scottish coast.

Museum of Islay Life

Northern Isles (Shetland)

Fair Isle – Between the main islands of Orkney and Shetland



The Gran Grifón, another ship of the Spanish Armada, ran aground on Fair Isle under the command of Juan Gómez de Medina. The islanders sheltered the shipwrecked crew for 50 days. The deaths of 55 sailors are recorded, and they were buried in the place now known as the Spanish Grave.