

DISCOVER SOMETHING ABOUT MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS



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Acknowledgments

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Discover Something about Mary, Queen of Scots

To describe the short life of Mary, Queen of Scots as 'dramatic' is an understatement.

By the age of 16 she was Queen of Scotland and France (and, many believed, rightfully of England and Ireland, too); as an infant she had been carried to castles around Scotland for her safety; by the time she turned 18 she had been married and widowed; as a young woman she was striking, tall and vivacious; she spoke five languages; she could embroider and ride with equal adroitness; she upheld her Catholic faith against the Protestant reformer, John Knox; she led her troops to put down two rebellions; she knew the joy of birth and the misery of a loveless marriage; she witnessed the violent murder of her close confidant Rizzio, and was implicated in the assassination of her husband Darnley; she was 'abducted' by her third husband Bothwell; and, at just 25, she was imprisoned, forced to abdicate, driven into exile... and ultimately became mired in a conspiracy which led to her execution.

The end is just the beginning...

The greatest ever tale of royal tragedy lives on and you're invited to follow in Mary's footsteps at sites and attractions across Scotland.

See rare objects linked to Mary, Queen of Scots on display year-round at the **National Museum of Scotland** and the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, then visit the haunting castles, stately homes and abbeys where her gripping drama unfolded - many looked after by **Historic Scotland**.

Visitors to the National Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street, Edinburgh, can discover the spectacular Penicuik Jewels, iconic Queen Mary's Harp, and a cast of Mary's tomb, alongside furnishings, coins, textiles and silverware. At the Palace of Holyroodhouse you can view her private Chambers which are on the 2nd floor of James V's tower, including her beautiful Bedchamber intact with bed hangings from the late 17th Century. In her Outer Chamber you can view artwork, jewellery and even an embroidered panel which bears the cipher of Mary, Queen of Scots.

From Linlithgow Palace to Dundrennan Abbey; the story of this fascinating monarch can be traced from the start with many shocking and mysterious turns along the way. Gems such as Stirling Castle, where she spent her early childhood and the imposing Lochleven Castle, where imprisoned she was pressured to abdicate; give a thrilling insight into her life.

As Mary, Queen of Scots wrote, 'In my end is my beginning'

Visit [here](#) for more information on this iconic figure in Scottish history.

Mary, Queen of Scots (8 December 1542 - 8 February 1587)

Main cover images: *Blairs Memorial Portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots*. Image © Blairs Museum Trust. Stirling Castle © Historic Scotland. Cameo pendant © National Museums Scotland. Palace of Holyroodhouse © VisitScotland. Inside cover: Linlithgow Palace © VisitScotland

DISCOVER
SOMETHING ABOUT MARY
QUEEN OF SCOTS

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Born into Conflict

1542

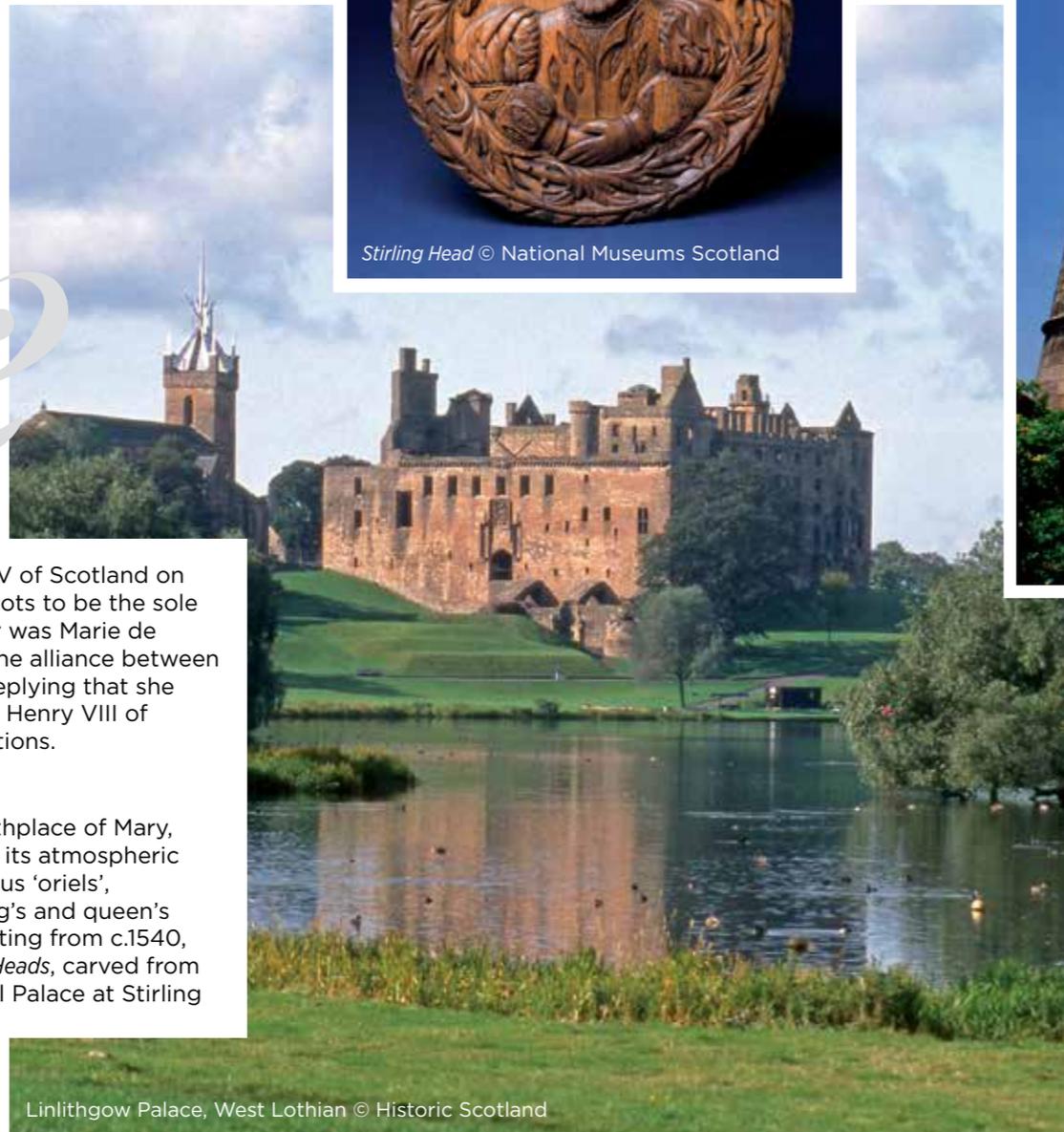
8 December 1542

The death of the two infant sons of King James V of Scotland on the same day in 1541 destined Mary, Queen of Scots to be the sole surviving heir to the Scottish throne. Her mother was Marie de Guise, whom King James V had wed to further the alliance between Scotland and France; earlier, Marie (reportedly replying that she had 'a very little neck') had declined the hand of Henry VIII of England, who had hoped to thwart James' ambitions.

DISCOVER

Linlithgow Palace; seat of Stewart kings and birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots; a spectacular lochside ruin with its atmospheric Great Hall, scene of royal banquets, and its famous 'oriels', elegant projecting windows that marked the king's and queen's bedchambers. **National Museum of Scotland;** dating from c.1540, representing King James V, is one of the *Stirling Heads*, carved from oak and originally part of the ceiling of the Royal Palace at Stirling Castle.

Mary's Birth (8 December 1542)



Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian © Historic Scotland



Stirling Head © National Museums Scotland



Falkland Palace, Fife © VisitScotland



St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow © VisitScotland

Infant Queen

14 December 1542

Aged 6 days

Two weeks before Mary's birth, King James V forces suffered a devastating defeat by Henry VIII's forces at the Battle of Solway Moss. Humiliated and ill with fever, he retired to Falkland Palace, where he died aged just 30. Thus six-day-old Mary began a reign that would span a quarter of a century, as a queen who would inspire some of the stormiest chapters of British history.

DISCOVER

St Michael's Parish Church; at the time a Roman Catholic church close to Linlithgow Palace, where Mary was baptised. The font, carved with symbols relating to the Stewart royal family, and still used for christenings today, is now in **Newbattle Abbey**, a Cistercian monastery until 1587. **Falkland Palace;** where the restored King's Room can be visited.

The Death of King James V (14 December 1542)

Betrothal to England

1543



King Edward VI.
Royal Collection Trust
/ © Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II 2014



Stirling Castle © Historic Scotland



King Henry VIII.
Royal Collection Trust
/ © Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II 2014

1 July 1543

Aged 6 months

King Henry VIII of England, Mary's great uncle, was determined to bring Scotland into union with his kingdom. He took advantage of his victory at Solway Moss and the period of regency to propose that Mary would marry his son, Edward, Prince of Wales, then aged five (the future Edward VI). The agreement was enshrined in the Treaty of Greenwich, and signed between representatives of England and Scotland.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; portraits of King Henry VIII of England and King Edward VI hang in Mary, Queen of Scots' Outer Chamber at the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, Edinburgh.

Treaty of Greenwich

Betrothal to Edward, Prince of Wales (1 July 1543)

Coronation

9 September 1543

Aged 9 months

The infant Mary was crowned Queen of Scotland in the Chapel Royal, Stirling Castle, and it is said she 'howled' non-stop throughout the ceremony. She spent most of her first five years in the safety of the castle, under the care of her widowed mother, Marie de Guise.

DISCOVER

Stirling Castle; the Royal Palace, the work of Mary's father James V, is one of the finest and best-preserved Renaissance buildings in the whole of Britain. It boasts unique carved stonework, and the king's and queen's apartments, where the young queen's tiny feet must once have pattered.

Coronation (9 September 1543)



Holyrood Abbey at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

The Rough Wooing

1543

December 1543 – March 1550

On 11 December 1543 the Scottish Parliament rejected the Treaty of Greenwich. Henry VIII resolved to force the marriage between Mary and Prince Edward, and in May 1544 his troops raided Edinburgh. This so-called 'Rough Wooing' culminated in a catastrophic Scots defeat at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, near Musselburgh, in September 1547. Mary's guardians moved her, then aged four years and nine months, to Inchmahome Priory, 15 miles west of Stirling Castle.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse and its adjacent **Abbey**; both looted in 1544, when Edinburgh was systematically sacked and burned by Henry VIII's forces. **Inchmahome Priory**; a peaceful sanctuary in the Lake of Menteith, where Mary's name is still attached to the little box bower that grows in the centre of the island.

The Battle of Pinkie Cleugh (September 1547)



Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire © VisitScotland

Auld Alliance Renewed

1548

Early 1548
Aged 5

In return for military aid against the English, King Henry II of France proposed to unite Scotland and France through the marriage of Mary and his three-year-old son, the Dauphin François. On 7 July 1548, the Scottish Parliament approved the marriage treaty, and Mary was moved again for her safety, on this occasion to the heavily fortified Dumbarton Castle.

DISCOVER

Dumbarton Castle; guarded by sheer volcanic cliffs, and overlooking the Firth of Clyde, this formidable medieval castle sheltered Mary, Queen of Scots, and provided a safe 'gateway' for her eventual flight to France.

Betrothed to Dauphin Francois (7 July 1548)



Looking across the Firth of Clyde to Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire © VisitScotland

Smuggled to France 1548

7 August 1548

Aged 5 years and 9 months

The fleet sent by King Henry II of France sailed from Dumbarton, and arrived in Brittany around a week later. Mary was accompanied by her own court, including two half-brothers (King James V fathered nine known illegitimate children), the 'four Marys' - girls of her own age, all named Mary, daughters of noble Scottish families - and Janet, Lady Fleming, her appointed governess, half-sister of Mary's father.

August 1548 - August 1561

Aged 5 to 18 (lived in France)

Mary's childhood in France was a happy one, growing up amidst a circle of some 40 royal children. She learned to play lute and virginals (a small version of the harpsichord); she loved dancing, and became competent in prose, poetry, horsemanship, falconry and needlework. She was taught French, Italian, Latin, Spanish and Greek, in addition to speaking her native Scots. She grew to 5'11" - and, according to contemporary accounts, was a striking auburn-haired beauty.

Precocious Beauty

1548 - 1561

Lived in France (August 1548 - August 1561)



Mary Queen of Scots. Royal Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Smuggled to France (7 August 1548)



16th century map of Edinburgh © National Museums Scotland

Teenage Marriage

Marriage to François (24 April 1558)



Ducat of Mary, Queen of Scots and François, Dauphin of France © National Museums Scotland

24 April 1558
Aged 15

Fifteen-year-old Mary and 14-year-old François were married in a spectacular ceremony in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. By virtue of their union, François became King Consort of Scotland. The marriage contract had been signed by Mary three weeks earlier, and secretly bequeathed Scotland and her claim to the English throne to France should she die without issue.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; a ducat – a commemorative gold coin – of Mary, Queen of Scots and François, Dauphin of France, was minted in Edinburgh in 1558 to celebrate the royal wedding.

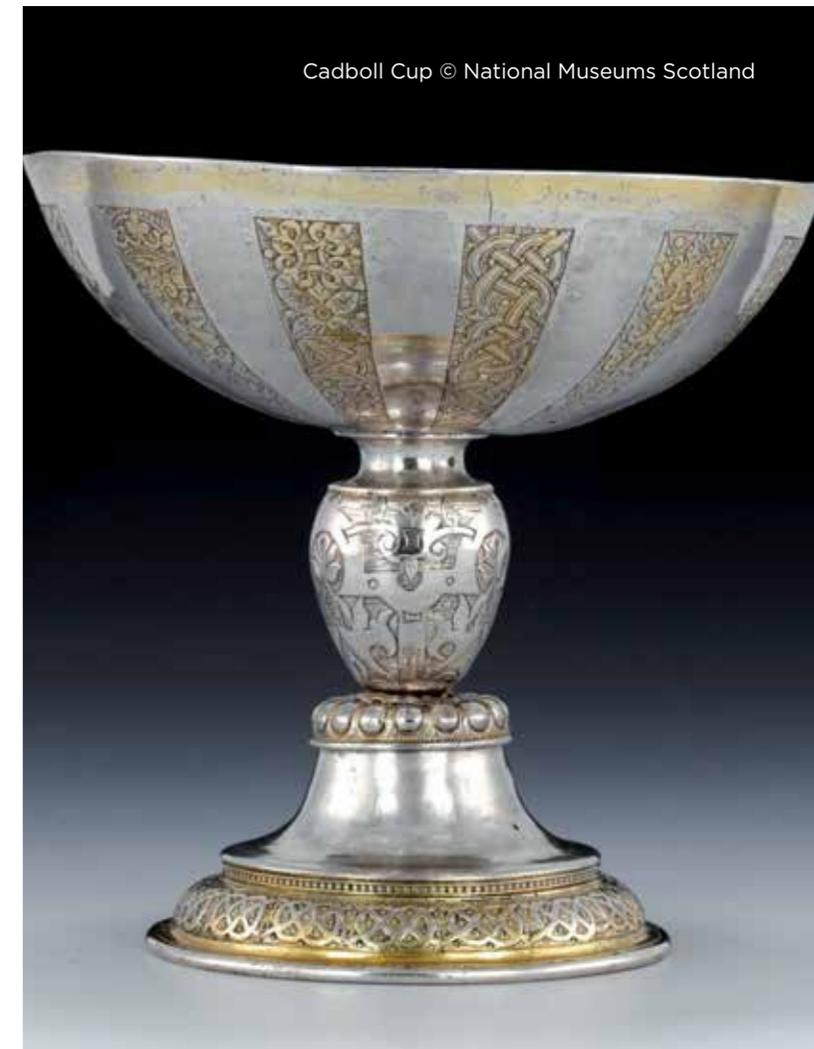
Queen over the Water?

17 November 1558
Aged 16

Upon the death of Queen Mary I of England, Mary, Queen of Scots was the most senior descendant of Margaret Tudor, her Grandmother and Henry VIII's elder sister. Catholics considered Queen Elizabeth I as illegitimate, and Mary, Queen of Scots the rightful heir to the English (and Irish) throne. Indeed, King Henry II of France proclaimed his eldest son and daughter-in-law king and queen of England, and in France the royal arms of England were quartered with those of François and Mary.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; the 16th century silver Cadboll Cup represents a fusion of Scottish West Highland decoration with French Renaissance strap work, reflecting the strong cultural ties between the two countries.

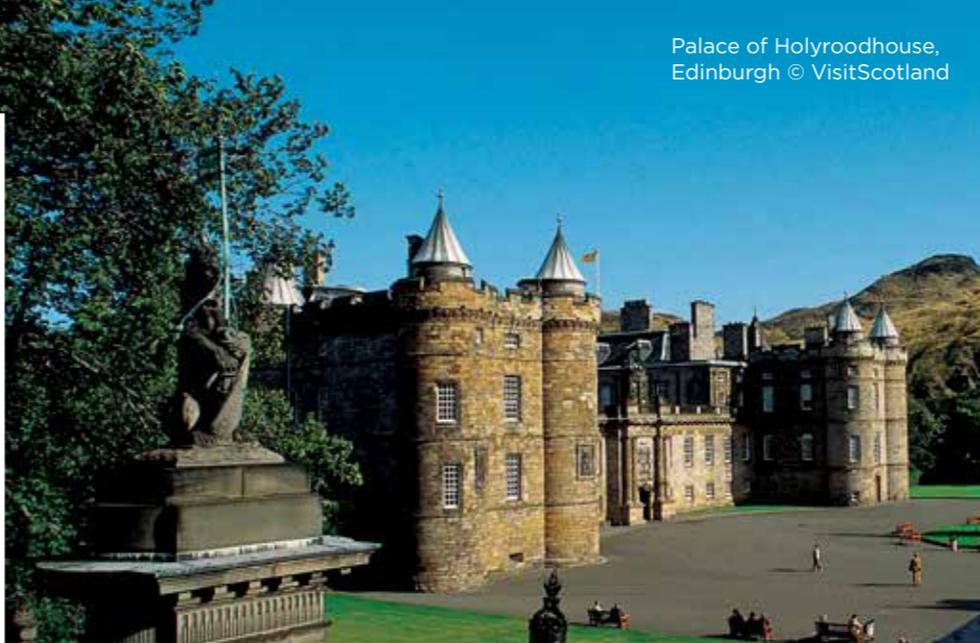


Cadboll Cup © National Museums Scotland

The Death of Queen Mary 1 (17 November 1558)



Jousting re-enactment, Linlithgow Palace © Historic Scotland



Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh © VisitScotland



2) Jewelled pendant with skull cameos from Mary's period of mourning - Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Queen Consort of France

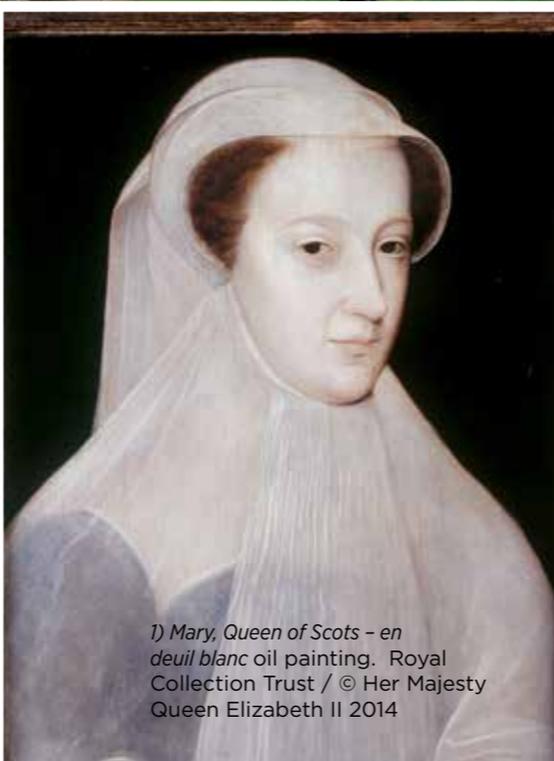
10 July 1559
Aged 16

King Henry II was an avid participant in tournaments, and in 1559 was mortally wounded, ironically by the lance of the captain of his own Garde Écossaise, an elite Scottish military unit who were the personal bodyguards of the French monarchy. His 15-year-old son became King François II, and Mary acquired the title of Queen Consort of France. Some would say she was now queen of France, England, Ireland and Scotland.

DISCOVER

Linlithgow Palace; witness the annual event 'Spectacular Jousting', where you can watch fearless Knights competing to be champion all in the stunning grounds of Linlithgow Palace.

The Death of King Henry II (10 July 1559)



1) Mary, Queen of Scots - en duil blanc oil painting. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014



5 December 1560
Mary aged almost 18

During 1560 France suffered military setbacks, and on 6 July signed the Treaty of Edinburgh, which ended French occupation of Scotland. François and Mary were obliged to withdraw their troops, and desist from displaying English arms. During the autumn François became increasingly ill, and died from the complications of an ear condition, in Orléans, Loiret. Since the marriage had borne no children, the French throne passed to his 10-year-old brother, Charles IX. Mary was said to be grief-stricken, but her role in France had come to an end.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; 1) a portrait by Franciod Clouet, showing Mary wearing white - en duil blanc - the traditional mourning colour of the French royal family; on show in Mary, Queen of Scots' Outer Chamber. 2) a jewelled pendant with skull cameos, which dates from Mary's period of mourning, is also on display at the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**.

The Death of François (5 December 1560)

Death of François II

Homecoming 1561

9 August 1561

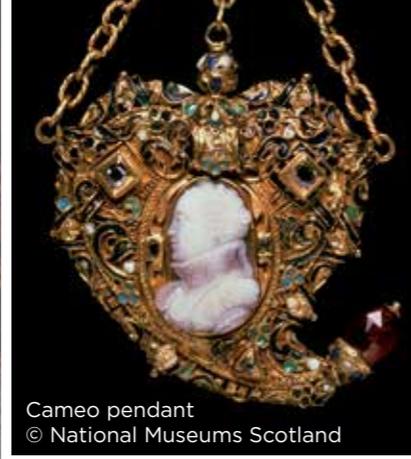
Aged 18

Nine months after the death of François II, and still only the age that a girl might enter university today, Mary returned to Scotland to take up her throne. She landed in Leith, greeted by cannon fire and the cold haar. She was obliged to borrow horses for the journey to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, which was to become her main residence for the next five years. She had little knowledge of the complex and dangerous political situation in Scotland and, as a devout Catholic, was regarded with suspicion by many of her subjects, as well as by her cousin Elizabeth I of England.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; a late 16th century cameo pendant in gold, with enamels, chalcedony, diamonds and native cut ruby; Mary brought numerous cameos from France as gifts for friends and supporters. **Palace of Holyroodhouse;** a steep spiral staircase of 25 steps leads to Mary's Apartments and Bedchamber, the latter being a very private room which has since been referred to as 'the most famous room in Scotland'.

Mary Returns to Scotland (9 August 1561)



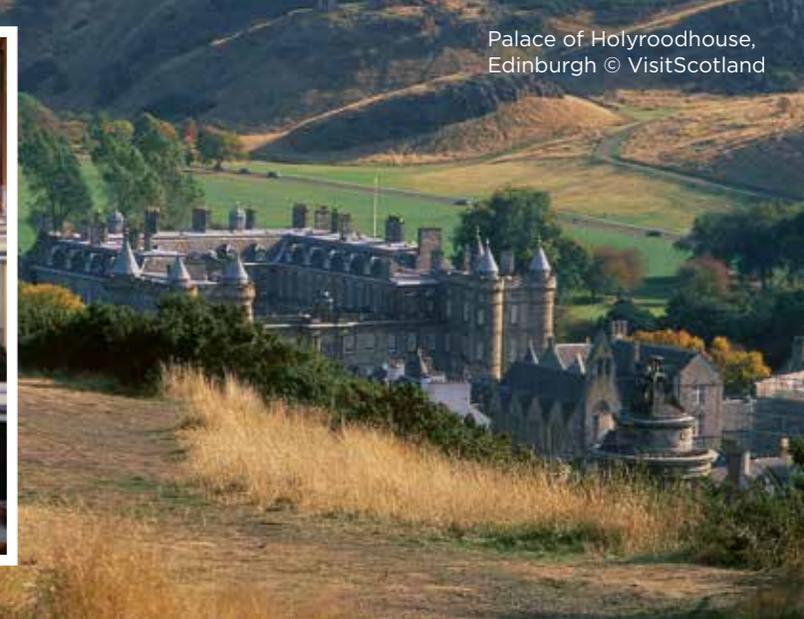
Cameo pendant
© National Museums Scotland



Mary's Apartment and Bedchamber.
Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014



Mary's Outer Chamber. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014



Palace of Holyroodhouse,
Edinburgh © VisitScotland

Old Head on Young Shoulders

16 September 1561

Aged 18

Scotland's young queen soon demonstrated her political acumen. Within five weeks she had shrewdly appointed a mainly Protestant privy council, and retained her illegitimate half-brother the Earl of Moray as her chief advisor. But when the Protestant reformer John Knox preached against her, for hearing mass, dancing and dressing too elaborately, she summoned him to her presence to remonstrate with him. Knox refused to bend to her will, and so began a personal discord that blighted Mary's remaining years upon the throne.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; in her Outer Chamber Mary, Queen of Scots received visitors, and it was here on successive occasions that she confronted the antipathy of Protestant clergyman John Knox.

Mary Encounters John Knox (16 September 1561)

Renaissance Europe

The Renaissance era (15th - 17th centuries) in Britain is associated with the Elizabethan period, but Mary's sophisticated French upbringing made her no stranger to the cultural movement that was sweeping across Europe from Italy. Indeed Mary arguably played her own significant role in this time of many advances, as one of a new breed of strong female rulers. She was multilingual and was the intellectual equal of her male contemporaries; a woman who could ride and sport as well as she could embroider and sing; and in possession of an educated taste when it came to the finer things of life.

DISCOVER

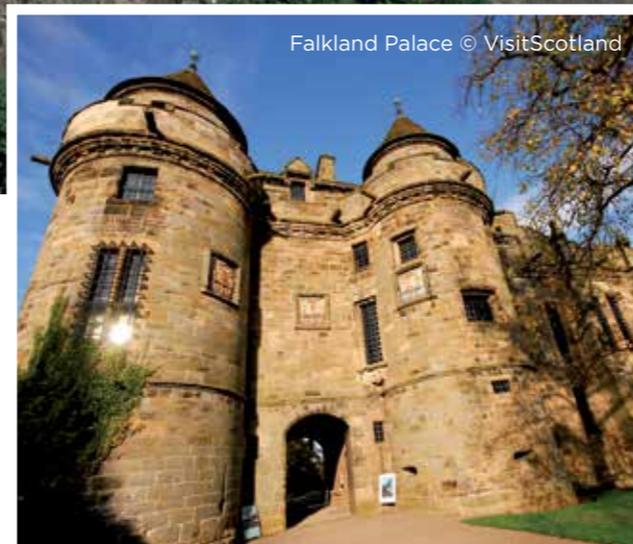
National Museum of Scotland; a rare 16th century Bartholomew Newsum brass clock represents the amalgamation of art and science fashionable during the Renaissance. **Stirling Castle;** one of the first buildings in Scotland to be completed in the Renaissance style, much of it is now restored to its former glittering glory.



Stirling Castle © VisitScotland



Brass clock © National Museums Scotland



Falkland Palace © VisitScotland



1) Gaming board © National Museums Scotland



2) Harp © National Museums Scotland

Courtly Life

1560s

Life for royalty in these times centred on the five royal residences: the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh Castle, Linlithgow Palace, **Falkland Palace** and Stirling Castle. Important state functions in each of these took place in the Great Hall, where lavish banquets were held to celebrate christenings and weddings. Mary had her own apartments in each residence, while important visitors and advisors were accommodated in their own suite of rooms. Remarkably, the royal party generally travelled with its own beds, linen, tapestries and the like, and great wooden kists containing clothes and state papers. Recreation varied from 'real' (royal) tennis - at which Mary is said to have shocked her courtiers by playing in breeches - to indoor pastimes like backgammon, song and dance. Golf was also popular, and Mary was thought to be the first woman to practice the art of golf in Scotland.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; 1) a silver gilt and gold gaming board with tablemen and dice is said to have been presented by Mary to her close friend Mary Seton, who was one of the 'four Marys' who accompanied her to France. 2) made of wood and brass and dating from c.1450 this harp or clarsach originally had fixed to it a gold coin with a portrait of Mary. Falkland Palace; the location of the oldest real (or royal) tennis court in Britain, built for Mary's father, James V of Scotland. **Stirling Castle;** the six main rooms of the Royal Lodgings are today presented as they may have looked in Mary's time.



Lord Darnley. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Second Marriage 1565

29 July 1565
Aged 22

In choosing to wed Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, Mary was accused of furthering her political ambitions. English-born Darnley was her cousin and, like her, the grandchild of Margaret Tudor. Indeed, Elizabeth was unhappy about the marriage: she recognised that any offspring would have a strong claim to the English throne. But Mary was reportedly 'bewitched' by Darnley, describing him as the 'lustiest and best proportioned lang man'; he was over six feet, one of few men taller than her. Mary was 22, and Darnley just 19.

Marriage ryal © National Museums Scotland

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; Mary, Queen of Scots married Lord Darnley by Roman Catholic rites in Mary's private chapel at the Palace, after which Darnley left Mary to hear the nuptial mass alone. **National Museum of Scotland;** a rare silver coin, minted in Edinburgh in 1565 and known as the 'marriage ryal', bears an inscription that begins with Henry's name rather than Mary's, who should have had first place as Queen Regnant. Given his dynastic ambitions there is some speculation that Darnley may have had a hand in this. These coins were quickly withdrawn from circulation. **Wemyss Castle;** where Mary and Darnley met for the first time as adults, in February 1565. **Huntingtower Castle;** a resting place for Mary during the Chaseabout Raid of August 1565, when her forces suppressed a rebellion over her marriage to Darnley.

Marriage to Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley (29 July 1565)



1) Supper Room, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014



2) Stain on the floor, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Murder in the Palace 1566

The Murder of David Rizzio (9 March 1566)

9 March 1566

Mary aged 23 (and pregnant)

Darnley grew arrogant and demanded of Mary the 'Crown Matrimonial' - it would have made him jointly monarch and sole heir to the throne had he outlived her. Mary refused, and the marriage became strained. Darnley became jealous of her friendship with her Italian secretary and confidant David Rizzio, who was rumoured to be the adulterous father of her unborn child. On the night of 9 March 1566, during a dinner party, Rizzio was violently murdered by a group of Protestant conspirators, accompanied by Darnley. Mary fought to protect Rizzio and had to be physically restrained. It is said her screams brought hundreds of men pouring out of Edinburgh taverns with makeshift weapons, but she was forced to go to the window at gunpoint and dismiss them.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; 1) the tiny Supper Room where Mary and Rizzio dined. It's located in a turret off Mary's Bedchamber. 2) Rizzio was stabbed 56 times in Mary's Outer Chamber at the Palace - where a stain on the floor visible to this day is said to be of his blood.

Motherhood 1566



19 June 1566
Aged 23

The only child of Mary, Queen of Scots and Lord Darnley would rise to become James VI of Scotland and I of England, and go down in history as the intended victim of Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot. James was born in June in a tiny room at Edinburgh Castle, but his baptism at Stirling Castle in December was a lavish affair to celebrate the male heir to the Scottish throne. Mary was obliged to borrow £12,000 from Edinburgh merchants to foot the bill for the feasting, costumes and fireworks (the first ever seen in Scotland). She also partly funded the celebrations from tax – the only time during her reign that she raised tax, for which she had to seek parliamentary approval. Mary refused to allow the Archbishop of St Andrews to spit into the baby's mouth, as was the custom, describing him as a 'pocky priest'.

DISCOVER

Edinburgh Castle; the birthplace of James VI of Scotland and I of England. **National Museum of Scotland;** from the *Penicuik Jewels* and made from gold, enamel and seed pearls, a pendant locket (Scottish, late 16th century) is set with miniature portraits that are believed to represent Mary and her son James.



Pendant locket © National Museums Scotland

The Plot against Darnley

1566-7
Mary aged 23-24

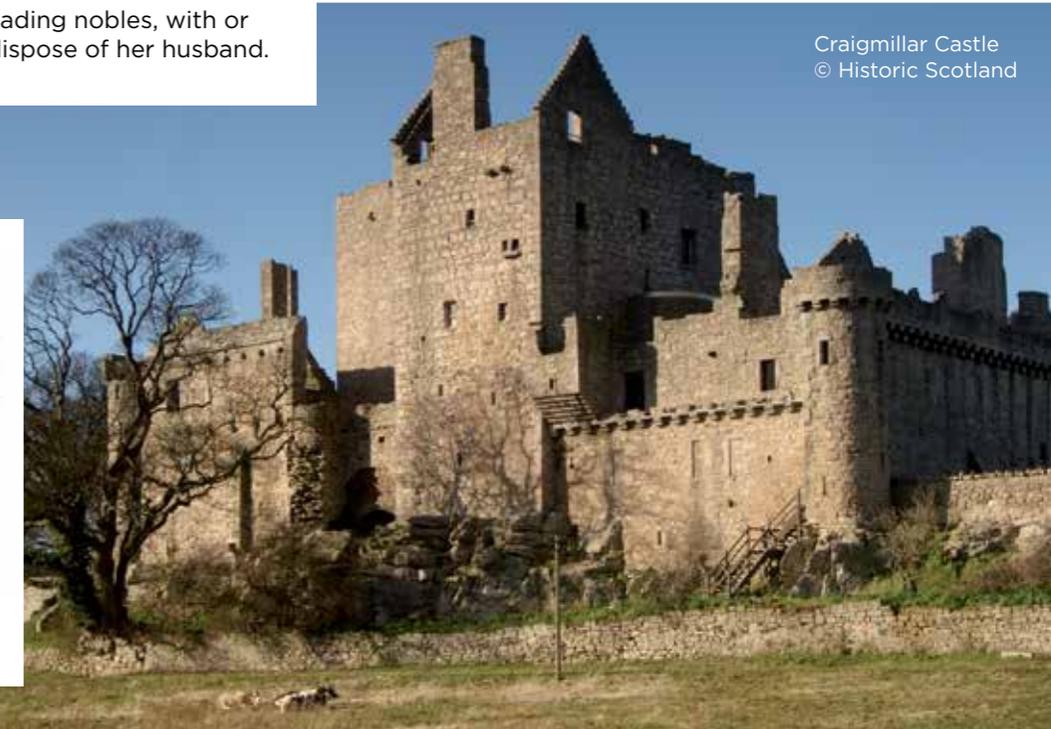
The murder of Rizzio made the breakdown of Mary's marriage to Darnley inevitable, despite Darnley ostensibly 'changing sides' and supporting Mary. Rumours spread that Darnley was in fact plotting to imprison Mary and rule on behalf of his son himself. However, others were plotting against him, including the Earl of Bothwell. While Mary was convalescing from a post-natal illness, at Craigmillar Castle on the outskirts of Edinburgh, a pact known as the 'Craigmillar Bond' is said to have been made between leading nobles, with or without her knowledge, to dispose of her husband.

DISCOVER

Craigmillar Castle; set in the area called 'Little France', because of Mary's many French retainers who settled there, the castle hosted Mary in September 1563, and from 20 November to 7 December 1566. **National Museum of Scotland;** the 15th or 16th century silver and ebony Craigmillar Crucifix was found in 'Queen Mary's Room' at Craigmillar Castle.



Craigmillar Crucifix
© National Museums Scotland



Craigmillar Castle
© Historic Scotland

The Birth of James VI of Scotland (19 June 1566)

Mary Resided at Craigmillar Castle (20 November - 7 December 1566)



The Memorial of Lord Darnley. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Assassination 1567

The Assassination of Lord Darnley (10 February 1567)

10 February 1567

Mary aged 24

In February 1567 Darnley was recovering in Glasgow from a bout of serious illness. It seems Mary encouraged him to return to Edinburgh, to stay in the lodgings of one of her connections at Kirk o'Field. While Mary was attending the wedding celebrations of a servant, in the early hours of 10 February 1567 an explosion devastated the house at Kirk o'Field. Darnley was found dead in the nearby orchard, apparently smothered, with no signs of injury on his body. Rumours spread that Mary and Lord Bothwell were complicit in the plot.

DISCOVER

The site of Kirk o'Fields (Church of St Mary in the Fields) was just yards from the location today of the **National Museum of Scotland** in Chambers Street, Edinburgh. **Palace of Holyroodhouse**; a propaganda painting *The Memorial of Lord Darnley* (by Livinus de Vogelaare, 1567) commissioned by Darnley's parents, the Earl and Countess of Lennox, is a damning condemnation of Mary's alleged role and her inappropriate relationship with the Earl of Bothwell - currently on show in Mary, Queen of Scots' Outer Chamber.

Abduction?

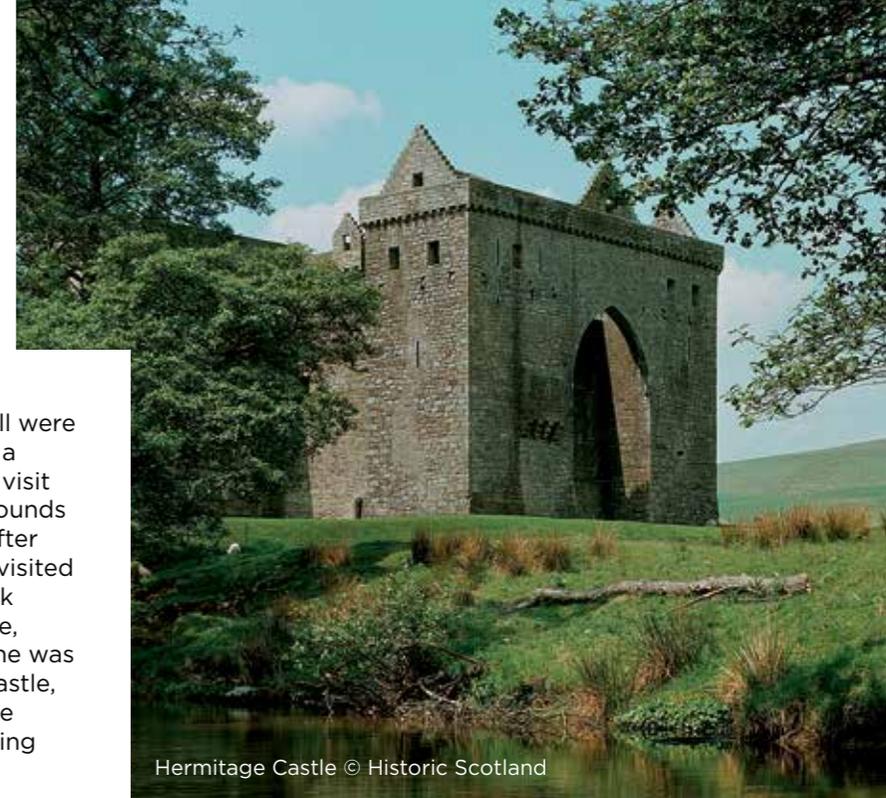
24 April 1567

Aged 24

There were rumours that Mary and Lord Bothwell were lovers as early as October 1566, when she made a journey of four hours each way on horseback to visit him at Hermitage Castle, where he lay ill from wounds inflicted during a skirmish with border reivers. After Darnley's death, between 21-23 April 1567, Mary visited her son James at Stirling Castle. On her way back to Edinburgh, on the road from Linlithgow Palace, Bothwell confronted her, with 800 of his men. She was abducted 'for her safety' and taken to Dunbar Castle, where Bothwell reputedly assaulted her to secure marriage. Other accounts suggest she was a willing accomplice.

DISCOVER

Hermitage Castle; Mary visited only once, but in dramatic circumstances, leading to rumours that she was having an adulterous affair with Bothwell.
Dunbar Castle; once one of the mightiest fortresses in Scotland, from where Mary and Bothwell emerged to be married in 1567.



Hermitage Castle © Historic Scotland



Dunbar Castle © Doug Houghton @ Scottish Viewpoint

Mary's 'Abduction' by Lord Bothwell (24 April 1567)

Third Marriage

1567

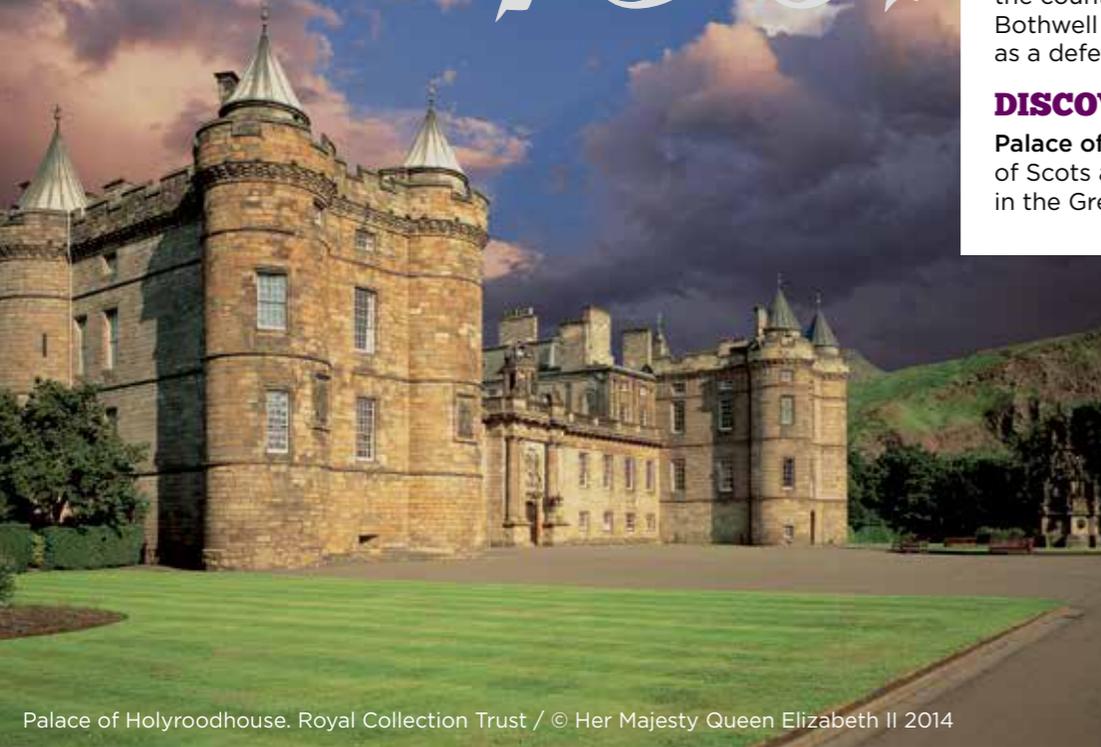
15 May 1567

Aged 24

It must have seemed extraordinary that barely more than three months after the death of Lord Darnley, Mary married the Earl of Bothwell, who had been accused (and indeed tried and acquitted) of Darnley's murder. What is more, Bothwell had divorced from his own wife only a fortnight before the wedding, on the grounds of his alleged adultery with her maid. The new royal couple married at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, according to Protestant rites. Mary defended her choice of husband, stating that she and the country were in danger and Lord Bothwell was proven both in battle and as a defender of Scotland.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; Mary, Queen of Scots and the Earl of Bothwell married in the Great Hall on 15 May 1567.



Palace of Holyroodhouse. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Marriage to the Earl of Bothwell (15 May 1567)



Rebellion

16 June 1567

Aged 24

Both the marriage and Bothwell quickly became very unpopular. The Scottish lords turned against Mary and raised a force against her, resulting in a military stand-off at Carberry Hill, near Musselburgh, on 16 June 1567. The queen, on horseback, was dressed after the fashion of the women of Edinburgh, in a red petticoat, sleeves tied with points, and a velvet hat and muffler. It is said she used 'great encouragements' to attempt to get her army to fight. Bothwell offered single combat to any of the lords, but only a 'mere' baron would fight him and he declined. Desertions on Mary's side eventually led to her surrender. Bothwell was given safe passage from the field and, after a final embrace, was never to see Mary again. The following day she was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle.

DISCOVER

Carberry Hill; a commemorative stone on Queen Mary's Mount marks the highpoint of an atmospheric woodland walk with panoramic views across East Lothian.



The Memorial of Lord Darnley. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

Mary's Imprisonment (17 June 1567)

Imprisonment and Miscarriage

1567



Lochleven Hanging
© National Museums Scotland



17 June 1567 – 2 May 1568

Aged 24

Mary was to spend almost a year confined to Lochleven Castle, situated on an island in the eponymous loch. Within a few days of her arrival she fell ill, and in late July miscarried twins fathered by Bothwell. Her loss must have been compounded by the disappearance of Bothwell, who was driven into exile in Denmark, where he was imprisoned, became insane and died in 1578.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; the Lochleven Hanging, of wool, velvet appliqué and silk embroidery, was long thought to have been worked by Mary during her captivity, but research has proved it is of early 17th century origin.

Mary's Fragile Loss (July 1567)

Abdication

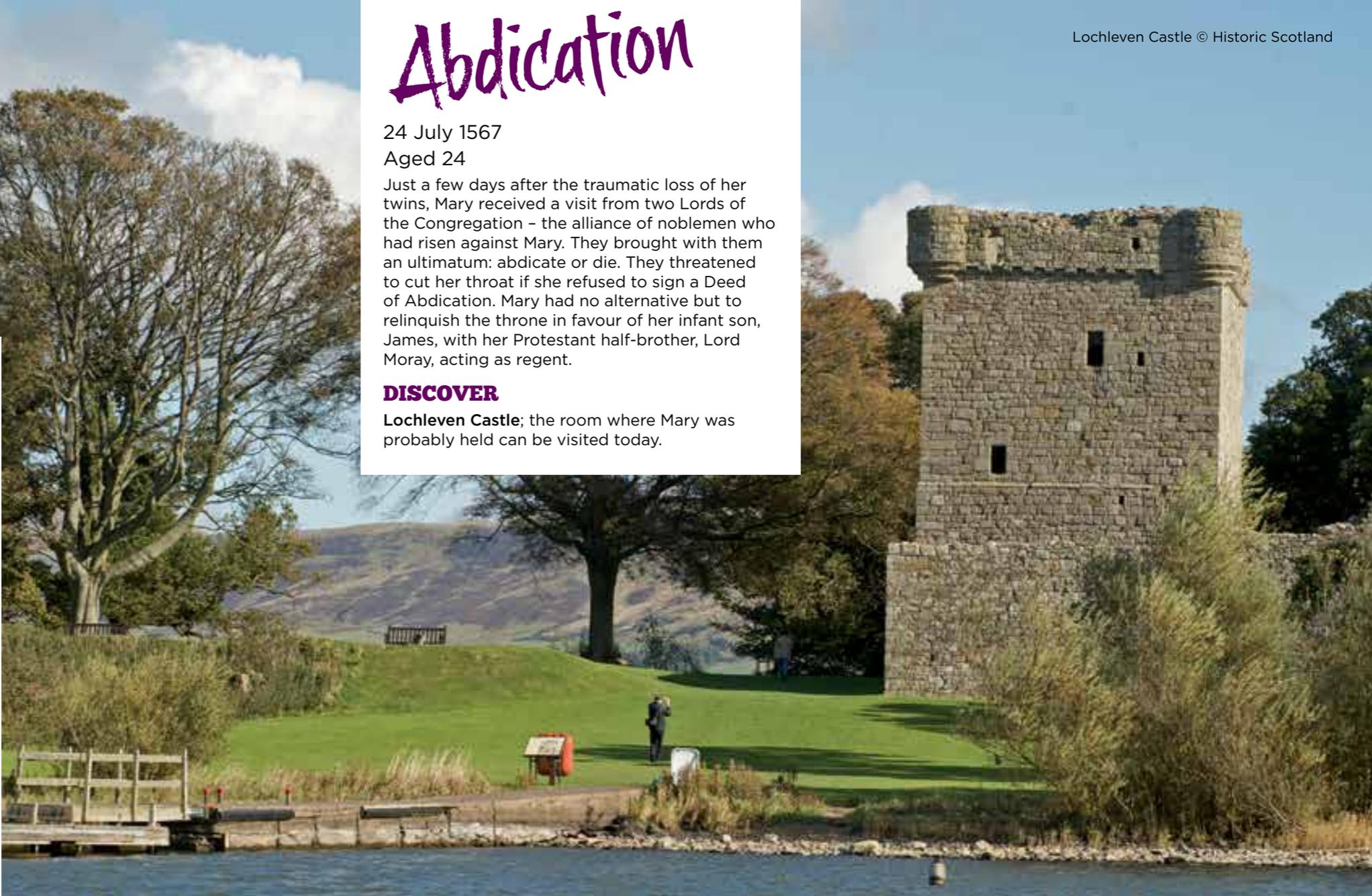
24 July 1567

Aged 24

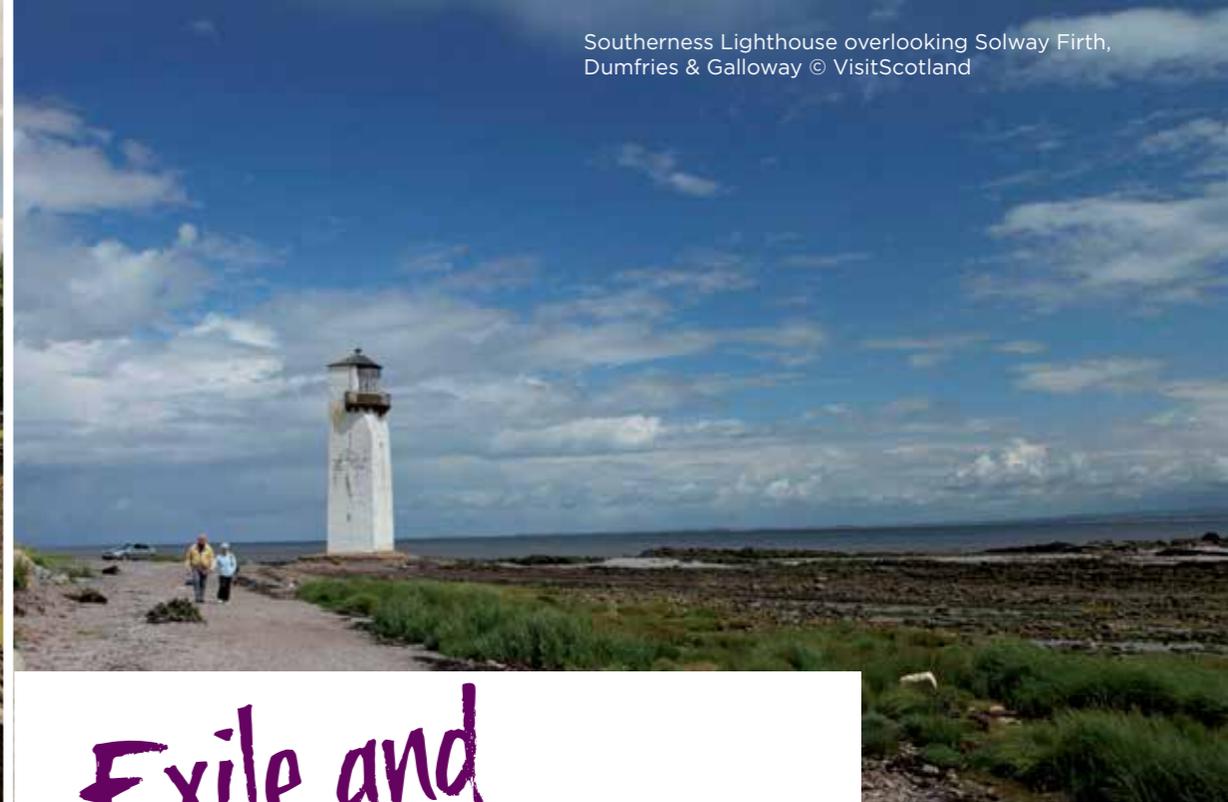
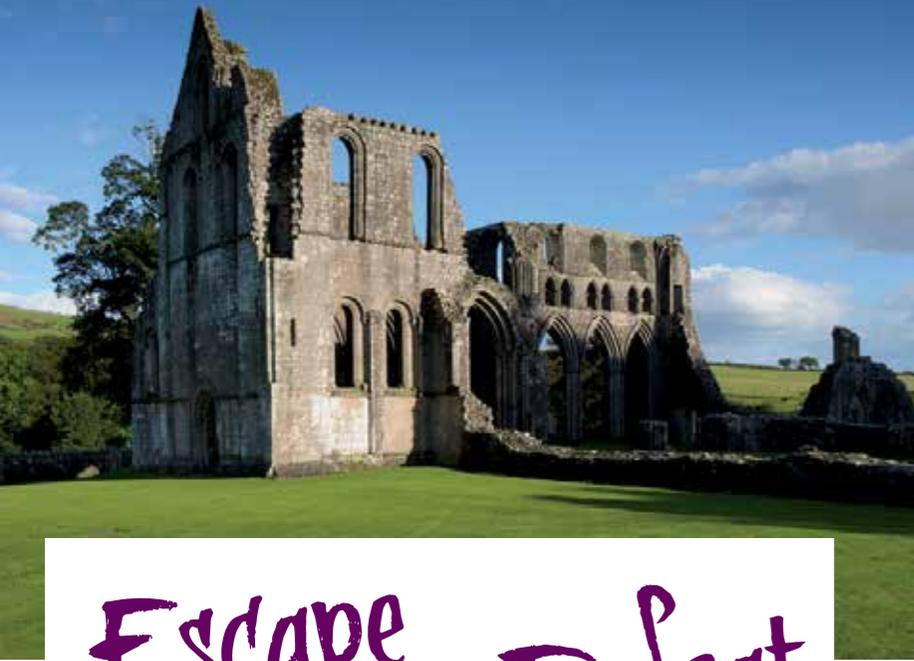
Just a few days after the traumatic loss of her twins, Mary received a visit from two Lords of the Congregation – the alliance of noblemen who had risen against Mary. They brought with them an ultimatum: abdicate or die. They threatened to cut her throat if she refused to sign a Deed of Abdication. Mary had no alternative but to relinquish the throne in favour of her infant son, James, with her Protestant half-brother, Lord Moray, acting as regent.

DISCOVER

Lochleven Castle; the room where Mary was probably held can be visited today.



Mary Abdicates the Throne (24 July 1567)



Escape to Defeat

1568

Exile and Confinement

2 May - 13 May 1568

Aged 25

With the aid of castle insiders, Mary managed to evade notice during the festivities of a May Day masque and was smuggled away by rowing boat. She was met on the far bank and taken first to Niddry Castle, and then to Cadzow Castle. She immediately revoked her abdication, and succeeded in raising a force of about 6,000 men. Intending to take an impregnable position in Dumbarton Castle, her army was intercepted by that of her half-brother Moray, who defeated her at the Battle of Langside south of Glasgow on 13 May 1568. Mary and her escort took flight; unable to reach Dumbarton Castle, and later writing 'I have had to sleep upon the ground and drink sour milk' she sought refuge in Dundrennan Abbey, where she would spend her last hours in Scotland.

DISCOVER

Niddry Castle; situated in West Lothian, this castle is one of many in Scotland said to be haunted by Mary's spirit. **Cadzow Castle;** Cadzow is today known as Hamilton, and the castle ruins sit above the Avon Gorge in Chatelherault Country Park. The castle was largely destroyed in the late 16th century as retaliation for support of Mary. **Dundrennan Abbey;** today a peaceful ruin set in wooded Kirkcudbrightshire. **Craignethan Castle;** Mary is believed to have rested here overnight before the Battle of Langside.

16 May 1568

Aged 25

Against the advice of her supporters, Mary decided to seek help from Queen Elizabeth I. On the morning of 16 May 1568, disguised as an ordinary woman, she escaped by fishing boat across the Solway. She was taken into protective custody, initially at Carlisle Castle. Some three weeks later a royal envoy arrived to inform her that Elizabeth would not receive her in London until she had been cleared of all accusations against her. So began Mary's period of house arrest in England. Almost seven years after her homecoming, she would never see her child, her husband, or her native country again.

The Battle of Langside (13 May 1568)

Mary Escapes to England (16 May 1568)



Plots and Treason

1568 - 1587

1568 - 1587
Aged 25 - 44

The English lords were unable to determine either Mary's guilt or her innocence. She was held for 18 years in a series of castles and stately homes in the Midlands and north of England. She lived, however, in some luxury, and never had fewer than 16 staff. Gradually she was implicated in various intrigues and purported plots, culminating in the 'Babington Plot' in 1585. With the support of an invasion from Spain, Elizabeth would be deposed and Mary put upon the throne of England. Referring to Elizabeth, Babington's letter to Mary stated, '...the dispatch of the usurper... my private friends... will undertake that tragical execution.' Against the advice of her secretary, Mary replied, approving his plans. All her correspondence was being intercepted, and she was tried for treason.

DISCOVER

Palace of Holyroodhouse; Mary was a skilled needlewoman and created many embroideries. It is said she concealed secret messages in her work. More humorously, the elaborate *Cat Embroidery* is thought to allude to herself as the mouse and Elizabeth I as the cat.

Cast of Mary's tomb, lent by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery



Execution

8 February 1587
Aged 44

Though Elizabeth signed Mary's death warrant, she subsequently denied she had sanctioned the execution. But her privy councillors moved without her knowledge, and a week later Mary was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle. She was told only the evening before, and had little time to prepare herself. She wore undergarments of scarlet - the sign of Catholic martyrdom. Afterwards, her small dog was found covering among her clothes. Her last words were 'Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit', although more famously she is known for the phrase she embroidered on her cloth of state while imprisoned, 'In my end is my beginning'.

DISCOVER

National Museum of Scotland; a cast of Mary's tomb in Westminster Abbey. Her final resting place is in Henry VII's chapel... along with her cousin Elizabeth I. **Lennoxlove;** Mary's death mask. **Palace of Holyroodhouse;** memorial portrait from 1603.



Lennoxlove House, East Lothian © VisitScotland

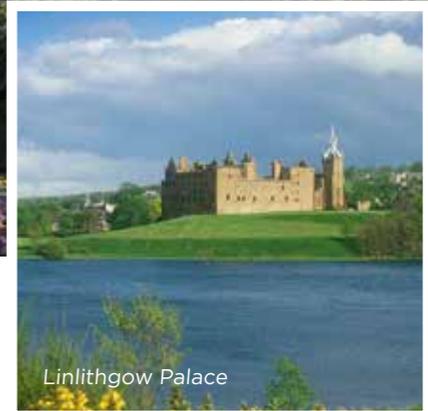


Memorial portrait. Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

The 'Babington Plot' (1585)

Mary's Execution (8 February 1587)

Aftermath 1603



24 March 1603

1603 is a date etched into the memory of every Scot, for on 24 March of that year, Queen Elizabeth I of England died and James VI of Scotland also became James I of England. Elizabeth had seen off Mary, but there was nothing the 'Virgin Queen' could do to prevent her cousin's son from inheriting her throne. The much sought-after Union of the Crowns had finally been realised, not by English Tudor ambition, but by Scottish Stewart endurance.

An Enduring Icon

1542 - present day

In death as in life, Mary, Queen of Scots has remained a controversial figure, dividing historians and the general public alike. Was she a scheming adulteress with blood on her hands, or a courageous heroine driven by the love of her country and her God? The answers to these questions remain cloaked in the past, but of something there is no doubt: Mary, the infant, the girl, the woman, immortalised in art, literature, film and music - was a giant of her time, whose like will surely never be seen again.



The Death of Queen Elizabeth I (24 March 1603)

Mary, Queen of Scots - 'In my end is my beginning'



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7



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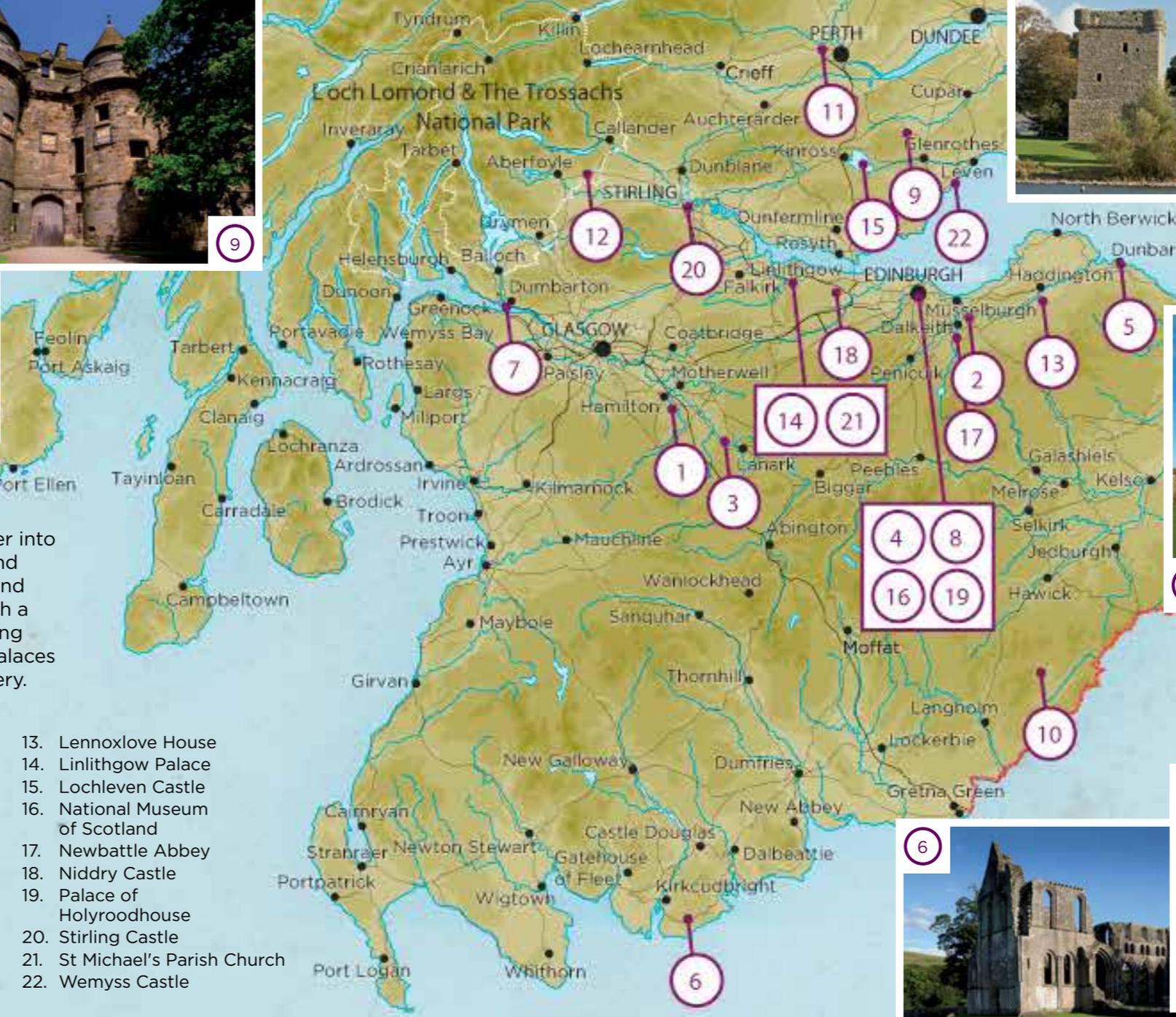
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Why not delve even further into Mary's fascinating story and retrace her footsteps around Scotland? Visit castles with a captivating past, enchanting abbeys and spectacular palaces on your journey of discovery.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Cadzow Castle | 13. Lennoxlove House |
| 2. Carberry Hill | 14. Linlithgow Palace |
| 3. Craignethan Castle | 15. Lochleven Castle |
| 4. Craigmillar Castle | 16. National Museum of Scotland |
| 5. Dunbar Castle | 17. Newbattle Abbey |
| 6. Dundrennan Abbey | 18. Niddry Castle |
| 7. Dumbarton Castle | 19. Palace of Holyroodhouse |
| 8. Edinburgh Castle | 20. Stirling Castle |
| 9. Falkland Palace | 21. St Michael's Parish Church |
| 10. Hermitage Castle | 22. Wemyss Castle |
| 11. Huntingtower Castle | |
| 12. Inchmahome Priory | |



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Notes

Use these pages to note down the places you have visited whilst uncovering the life and times of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Edinburgh. Where you can follow in the footsteps of Mary, Queen of Scots.

If you are looking to explore a vibrant city bursting full of history, arts and culture; look no further than Edinburgh. Boasting dual UNESCO World Heritage status, an old and 'new' town and a vast array of vibrant attractions, all within easy reach, indulging in the spectacular sights couldn't be easier. The city was once home to one of the most charismatic monarchs in Scotland's rich history – Mary, Queen of Scots.

Retrace her footsteps with a visit to Edinburgh Castle, where Mary, Queen of Scots gave birth to her son James VI and I in 1566. From there you can head down the historical Royal Mile towards the Palace of Holyroodhouse and enjoy a tour of Mary's apartment, and Bedchamber. Then why not head to the National Museum of Scotland where, with free entry you can view many artefacts related to Mary, Queen of Scots including the beautiful Penicuik Jewels.

Exploring the fascinating story surrounding one of the most romanticised figures in Scottish history is sure to ignite the imagination.

For more information visit: www.visitscotland.com/mary

View across Edinburgh from Calton Hill.

