Stately Homes and Gardens
Discover Scotland’s captivating residences

Whether your interest is in art, architecture or arboretums, any visit to Scotland should include a visit to a grand country house or stately home.

Attention to detail was the watchword of many of Scotland’s foremost architects, and the Adam dynasty is no exception to this. This architectural family, headed by William Adam (1689 – 1748) and his sons Robert (the one who would become most famous), John and James, have left their mark on Scottish architecture like no others. Hopetoun House, Duff House, Chatelherault, House of Dun, Haddo House and part of the interior designs at Holyrood House are just some of the stately homes which were designed all or in part by William.

Of his 10 surviving children, Robert was by far the most famous. At least 12 stately homes, including Dumfries House and Gosford House were designed by Robert Adam and remain at the pinnacle of Scotland’s stately home legacy.

Touring the country in the comfort of your chauffeur driven car, you can truly experience the grandeur of these magnificent homes. Aberdeen and Inverness would make a great base from which to explore the Scottish Castle’s Trail – with no less than 19 properties forming part of this magnificent route.

Many of the properties are home to extensive art collections. Some focus on the ancestry of the owning families, as well as housing notable and priceless works by The Old Masters. Fyvie Castle in particular is renowned for having the greatest collection of paintings by Henry Raeburn – Scotland’s most famous portrait painter.

One Devonshire Gardens by Hotel du Vin in Glasgow would make the idea base from which to explore Dumfries House and Culzean Castle, both of which are also notable for their exquisite gardens.

Gardens were just as important to the aristocracy of Scotland as their grand palatial country homes. Ornate water fountains, manicured and formal lawns, mazes, and arboretums were all on the brief given to the designers and in many cases no expense was spared. Amongst the most notable are Dawyck Gardens in the Scottish Borders and Culzean Castle in the heart of Burns Country, both of which are within easy reach of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Through Perthshire and onto Aberdeenshire, Drummond Castle as well as Crathes Castle and Gordon Castle all have intricately laid out gardens. These are often best viewed from the air, and only serve to add another level of opulence to what are already grand legacies of Scotland’s rich and historic past.

Where to stay
Rocpool Reserve Hotel
One Devonshire Gardens by Hotel du Vin
Dumfries House Lodge
Rocpool Reserve Hotel
A discreet boutique hotel, bar and restaurant in the heart of Inverness with 11 luxurious rooms.

One Devonshire Gardens by Hotel du Vin
Enjoy the hotel’s signature bistro, relaxing bar, intriguing cigar shack and well-stocked and comfortable whisky room.

Our expert Tour Designers are available any time of day
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