If you’re ready to explore Linlithgow, you’ve picked up the right guide! Whether you’re a die-hard Outlander fan, love history and walking trails, or just fancy some shopping and a bite to eat, everything you need is right here.

We think you’ll agree that Linlithgow makes for a wonderful day (or night) out. It’s also the perfect base for a complete central Scottish holiday. There’s plenty of adventure to be had in Linlithgow, and we’re perfectly located to explore iconic Scottish attractions nearby – all served by a railway station in the heart of the town.

**THIS VERSION OF THE GUIDE IS INTERACTIVE! JUST CLICK ON ANY RELEVANT HEADING, ATTRACTION OR BUSINESS FOR MORE INFORMATION ONLINE. CLICKING A ![SYMBOL](image) TAKES YOU BACK TO THE FIRST PAGE.**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** At time of publication, national regulations still restrict operation of some attractions, events and businesses, due to the ongoing Covid-19/coronavirus pandemic. This **may affect opening times** shown in this guide. Please check directly with the business/operator before visiting.
Linlithgow is most famous for its profound association with Scottish royalty. There’s far more to the town than Mary, Queen of Scots, but her birthplace is a great place to start...

Linlithgow Palace

The jewel in Linlithgow’s crown, the Palace is not only the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots, but James V, too. Visitors flock to this site of enormous importance to Scottish history and there’s nowhere more beautiful to relax on a sunny day than its grounds; the Peel. It’s open to visitors every day during business hours (09:30am – 5:30pm in summer, 10am – 4pm in winter).

PLEASE NOTE: AT TIME OF PUBLICATION, LINLITHGOW PALACE IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR STRUCTURAL INSPECTION UNTIL 11TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT THE EARLIEST.
You can still enjoy it from the Peel!

Linlithgow Loch and The Peel

Unwind in nature with a gentle walk around the Loch. Few town centres are blessed with idyllic nature at such close quarters. Meet the swans and ducks, have a seat at the Peel, take some photographs, and you’ll forget whatever ailed you!
St. Michael’s Parish Church

One of Scotland’s finest medieval churches and home of Linlithgow’s iconic spire. Consecrated in 1242, much of the current building dates from the 15th century. Open daily at 10:30am, it closes to visitors at 4pm in summer and 1pm in winter. TEL: 01506 842188

The Cross / Cross Well

The Cross, with its iconic well, is the town’s hub: the location of markets, public ceremonies and festivals. Enjoy a coffee from one of the cafés, or just find a place on a bench, and contemplate the world going by.

Linlithgow Museum

A font of civic knowledge for residents and visitors alike, this museum really demonstrates Linlithgow’s history; not only through kings, queens and battles, but industry, innovation and folk history, too. It’s not just about the past, either. Did you know that Star Trek’s “Scotty” will be born in Linlithgow in 2222? Across the High Street from the Cross Well, the museum is based in the Linlithgow Partnership Centre (also home to the library, police station and council offices) and open every day except Tuesday, 10am – 4pm (1pm – 4pm on Sundays). TEL: 01506 670677
Linlithgow Canal Centre

A short walk uphill, south of the High Street, brings you to the Canal Basin, where the Linlithgow Union Canal Society operates the Canal Centre from buildings built for the opening of the Canal in 1822. Here you will find a range of boat trips — some to the Falkirk Wheel — a self-drive canal boat, electric dinghies, crewed charters (for a special occasion, or just a relaxing cruise with your own group), as well as Scotland’s only Canal Museum & Tea Room. Open Sat/Sun afternoons from Easter until September and weekdays throughout July and most of August. TEL: 01506 671215

Linlithgow’s Golf Courses

Linlithgow’s golf courses host a wide variety of events, many of which are open to the public. From Kingsfield Leisure’s fabulous nine-hole course and Family Putting Green to Linlithgow Golf Club’s 5,851yd course, and West Lothian Golf Club, Linlithgow’s golf courses have something for everybody. All offer great value packages and a warm welcome.

Beecraigs Country Park and Cockleroy

Nestled in the Bathgate Hills, Beecraigs caters for many leisure activities within its vast grounds. There’s visitor information, guides and gifts, and it’s home to the award-winning (and carbon-neutral) Hideaway Café. TEL: 01506 284516

Adjacent to Beecraigs Country Park is a prominent hill named Cockleroy. On a clear day, you can see the Perthshire mountains, the Isle of Arran, North Berwick Law, and the Ochils from its 278m summit. Well worth the short, steep walk from the Beecraigs Country Park car park on a nice day.
We’d love you to spend your whole trip with us in Linlithgow, but there are some spectacular attractions in the wider area... for more information about West Lothian, just click/tap the heading on this page.

**The Forth Bridges**

The Forth Bridge, a World Heritage Site, which carries the railway north of Edinburgh, is a must-visit. The vista from the historic town of South Queensferry takes in the three major bridges spanning the Forth Estuary: the Forth Bridge (1890), the Forth Road Bridge (1964), and the Queensferry Crossing (2017).

**The Kelpies and Helix Park**

In Falkirk, a few miles to the west of Linlithgow, where the Forth & Clyde Canal enters the River Carron, is Helix Park and the Kelpies: the world’s largest equine sculptures. A café, children’s adventure zone, and guided tours make it a great family visit.
Hopetoun House

One of the most splendid examples of Georgian architecture in Britain. Five miles from Linlithgow, Hopetoun House is set in 150 acres of rolling parkland. The house and grounds are open daily from Easter to the end of September.

Blackness Castle

This castle fortress by the sea was built by one of Scotland’s most powerful families, the Crichtons. Blackness was the seaport for Linlithgow in the days of the Stewart Kings. Open all year round (10am – 4pm in winter, 9:30am – 5:30pm in summer).

Bo’ness and Kinneil Steam Railway

Experience the power of steam, riding in a historic carriage, hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive. You can also visit the Museum of Scottish Railways, with over 200 locomotives, carriages and wagons, or enjoy a meal or a snack in the station coffee shop. Open on scheduled running days from April to October. TEL: 01506 822298

House of the Binns

The House of the Binns is the family home of the Dalyls, who have lived there since 1612. It is a National Trust for Scotland property and well worth a visit. The grounds are open all year round (gates shut at 7:30pm) and the house is open from 2pm – 5pm from June – September. TEL: 01506 834255

John Muir Way

Linlithgow is a great place to access the John Muir Way; a long-distance walking and cycling route across Scotland’s heartland, from Helensburgh to Dunbar, which was Muir’s birthplace. John Muir is recognised as the father of national parks in the United States. Born in Scotland, his family emigrated to the USA in 1849, when he was 11 years old.

The Falkirk Wheel

The Falkirk Wheel, the world’s only rotating boat lift and an iconic example of modern British engineering, links the Union Canal to the Forth and Clyde Canal. Boat rides, visitor centre, café and shops. TEL: 08700 500208
From **Outlander** to **Outlaw King**, Linlithgow has something for fans of the big and small screen alike. Filmed extensively in and around the area, including scenes set in America, Linlithgow is the perfect hub to explore **Outlander locations**. For a comprehensive list, you can pick up a paper copy at most sites, or head straight over to **VisitScotland’s interactive guide to filming locations across Scotland**.

Within 30 minutes from Linlithgow, you can reach:

**Linlithgow Palace**: the entrance and corridors were used as Wentworth Prison, where Claire comes to plead with the Governor to release Jamie.

Linlithgow was also used extensively in filming of **The Outlaw King**, the Netflix film about Robert the Bruce. The **Palace** was used as Perth Castle and outside, overlooking the Loch, for the crowning of King Robert. **St. Michael's Church** was used in the wedding scene and for the funeral of Robert’s father.

**Blackness Castle** was used in key Outlander scenes as the headquarters of “Black Jack” Randall. It’s here that Jamie is flogged and that he rescues Claire by jumping from the battlements. It’s also featured in **Outlaw King** and as Holyrood Palace in Netflix’s **Mary, Queen of Scots**.
A short 15-minute drive from Linlithgow lies the most iconic of all Outlander locations: **Midhope Castle**, Outlander’s “Lallybroch”: the Fraser family home, featuring in all seasons. **Hopetoun House** has hosted several Outlander scenes. In the first series, it’s the **Duke of Sandringham’s home**, the setting for various French scenes, then later (in the third series) the **stables at Helwater** and the front vista is the **Earl of Ellesmere’s home**. More recently, it has been used for several period pieces, including 2020 TV drama “**Belgravia**” and feature film “**Mr. Jones**”.

**Bo’ness and Kinneil Railway** is a favourite choice for many period films. In **Outlander**, it’s the railway station where Claire and Frank bid each other farewell in the 1940s.

**Beecraigs Country Park**, as well as playing host to an infamous scene in **T2: Trainspotting**, is often used in outdoor **Outlander** scenes, including when the characters settle in America. **Muiravonside Country Park** was used for battle scenes in both **Outlander** (Battle of Prestonpans) and **Outlaw King**. Falkirk’s **Callendar House** played host to one of **Outlander**’s grislier scenes: the Duke of Sandringham losing his head! More peacefully, the charm and heritage of the **Union Canal** regularly feature in current-affairs TV documentaries and travelogues.

“**FilmOnForth.co.uk**” is a great resource for exploring film locations in the area, while Linlithgow’s own **Mary’s Meanders** (07818 687066) offer a wide variety of historical and Outlander tours. **Lilypond Crafts & Gifts** is Linlithgow’s official Outlander merchandise outlet.
There’s never a dull moment in Linlithgow! Even if these events aren’t happening while you’re here, you can always check what’s on at mylinlithgow.com. There’s live music, sports, activities and much more, all year round.

Please note that some events may be cancelled or rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. If you’re planning your trip around any of these events, please check with the organiser before booking travel/accommodation.

**Party at the Palace**

**CANCELLED 2021 (DUE TO COVID) / August 2022**

The acts don’t come much bigger than at Party at the Palace: previous years have seen acts like Chic, The Charlatans and KT Tunstall grace the stage. Purchase tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. It’s family-friendly and, if you’re coming from further afield, why not make a long weekend of visiting the town? Details of where to stay are in this guide! partyatthepalace.co.uk

**Classic Car Day**

*Sunday 29 August 2021 (TBC), The Vennel and The Cross*

From Austin Healeys to Aston Martins, Minis to Maxis; Linlithgow Classic Car Day has something for all petrol-heads! The Classic Car society meets on the last Sunday of every month at the Cross, but if you really want to see the full range of classic cars, the annual Classic Car Day is the one not to miss!
**Folk Festival**

*Wednesday 8 - Sunday 12 September 2021 (TBC)*

Linlithgow enjoys classical and contemporary live performances all year round, from intimate gigs in small venues to large-scale concerts in the larger venues and sports clubs. Folk music, though, requires an intimate setting to get the blood flowing, so these fantastic gigs take place in the town’s pubs throughout the week. A must for residents and visitors alike. [linlithgowfolk.com](http://linlithgowfolk.com)

**Doors Open Days**

*Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 September 2021*

Doors Open Days is Scotland’s largest free cultural festival and, celebrating the built environment and giving free access to around 1,000 venues across the country throughout September, every year. Coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust with support from Historic Environment Scotland. Linlithgow Civic Trust coordinates Doors Open Days in West Lothian. Each year a varied programme of venues and other events is pulled together in and around Linlithgow.

**Fireworks Night**

*Early November 2021 (TBC), Linlithgow Rugby Club*

Wonderful community fireworks display, with all proceeds reinvested in youth and community sports. The clubhouse and bar are open, with food and drink available. Display usually begins at 7:30pm.

**Christmas Shopping Day**

*Thursday 25 November 2021 / Thursday 24 November 2022*

Building a strong reputation for festive cheer and taking the stress out of Christmas shopping, Christmas Shopping Day evolved from a “late-opening” evening to a full day of merriment, mulled wine, mince pies and music. Shops are open until 8pm, with many staying open beyond to cope with demand.

**Advent Fayre**

*Saturday 27 November 2021 / Saturday 26 November 2022*

The jewel in the crown of Linlithgow’s festive calendar. A full day of parades, processions and music signals the truly magical torchlight procession along the High Street and the switch-on of the Christmas lights. The lights are expanded every year, so each switch-on is more spectacular than the last! There’s no escaping that festive feeling on Advent Fayre day!
Perambulation of Linlithgow’s Marches

Wednesday 8 June 2022

On the Wednesday evening before Marches Day, Linlithgow’s townsfolk come out in force to celebrate the Perambulation of the Marches: a four-mile circuit round Linlithgow’s 1832 Parliamentary boundary. It’s headed by the Provost of Deacons’ Court, flagbearers, halberdiers and the town piper, who plays at each of the march stones on the way. Starting outside St. Ninian’s Church at West Port, there are many points of interest along the way. A free leaflet is available from venues throughout the town, but the walk can be enjoyed at any time.

Marches Day

Tuesday 14 June 2022

For over 400 years, Marches Day has been the most important date in the Linlithgow calendar. Residents delight in being awoken by flutes and drums at 5am, signalling a day of merriment for all! After a morning’s fraternisation and refreshment, the hubbub around the Palace and Cross begins to brew. At 11am sharp, the Burgh Halls bell initiates the spectacular parade (recreated more raucously at 5pm). By this time, the whole town and its visitors are out in force. For the rest of the day, they’ll revel in the town’s cafés, restaurants and pubs, in a union of a proud community not often seen in the modern day!
Since 1930, Children’s Gala Day has been held on the Saturday after Marches Day. The enormous procession weaves from Linlithgow Bridge down to the Peel, in the historic grounds of Linlithgow Palace. Every local school and community group gets involved, parading on their magnificent floats, before the Gala Queen is crowned at the Peel, where a wide variety of children’s entertainment and stalls create a party atmosphere for all ages.

Civic Festival

Week of Marches Day 2022, Linlithgow Rugby Club

Hosts a variety of exciting events from Marches day right through to the following weekend, concerts, readings, community group events, dinners and dances. Events are always being added right up to the event, so check the “Linlithgow Civic Festival” Facebook page for details.

Spectacular Jousting

June 2022 (TBC, see website), The Peel

The extreme sport of medieval days; who will triumph in this brutal battle of fearless knights and their trusty steeds? If thundering hooves and the thrill of impalement are your cup of tea, you can pick up tickets on the day (or, if you’re a member of Historic Environment Scotland, no ticket required). Perhaps surprisingly, this event is suitable for the whole family!
**Canal Fun Day**

*Sunday 14 August 2022, Linlithgow Canal Centre*

Another favourite date in the Linlithgow calendar, which might just raise more smiles than any other. From ducks to cardboard boats, it all gets raced, and you can guarantee somebody’s going to get wet! Stalls, shows, face-painting, music, you name it... if it’s fun, it’s there! [lucs.org.uk/funday](lucs.org.uk/funday)

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**Scotch Hop**

*Wednesdays 13 July - 10 August 2022, Linlithgow Palace*

You can’t get much closer to our cultural history than dancing to traditional Scottish music right in the very spot where Mary, Queen of Scots was born. You don’t need to know the dances, just bring your sense of fun! Tickets available on the door (starts at 7:30pm).
Well-served by both affordable and luxury accommodation, Linlithgow is a perfect base for exploring the wider area. First things first: you’ll need a bite to eat and a bed!

\( S/C = \text{Self-catering}, \ CP = \text{Caravan park} \)

### Where to Stay in Linlithgow

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carribber Cottages (S/C)</td>
<td>1 Carribber Reservoir</td>
<td>01506 847269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court Residence (Aparthotel)</td>
<td>1 Court Square (High Street)</td>
<td>01506 538687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Cottage (S/C)</td>
<td>293a High Street</td>
<td>01506 844417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palace View B&amp;B</td>
<td>257 High Street</td>
<td>01506 844010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Star &amp; Garter Hotel</td>
<td>1 High Street</td>
<td>01506 845647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strawberry Bank B&amp;B</td>
<td>13 Avon Place</td>
<td>01506 848372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Port Hotel</td>
<td>18-20 West Port</td>
<td>01506 847456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams Craig Holiday Cottages</td>
<td>Williamscraigs</td>
<td>07795 040608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aran House B&amp;B</td>
<td>Lanark Road</td>
<td>01506 842088</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arden Country House B&amp;B</td>
<td>Belsyde</td>
<td>01506 670172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beecraigs Country Park (CP)</td>
<td>via Preston Road</td>
<td>01506 284516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellevue Holiday Lets (S/C)</td>
<td>Edinburgh Road</td>
<td>07793 227374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge Inn</td>
<td>Linlithgow Bridge</td>
<td>01506 842777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Champany Inn</td>
<td>Near M9 junction</td>
<td>01506 834532</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loch House Farm (CP)</td>
<td>St. Ninian’s Road</td>
<td>01506 848283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumsdaire House B&amp;B</td>
<td>Lanark Road</td>
<td>01506 845001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parkley Cottages (S/C)</td>
<td>Off Manse Road</td>
<td>01506 842027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen’s View B&amp;B</td>
<td>3b Parkhead Holdings</td>
<td>01506 844420</td>
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Where to Eat and Drink in Linlithgow

Whether you’re after a quick bite on the go, an evening of fine dining, or a few of the finest beers and whiskies Scotland has to offer, you’re never far from an award-winning restaurant, café, pub or bar in Linlithgow.

**Aran Café** 1 The Cross 01506 844477
**Ashmaan Restaurant** 25a Mill Road 01506 845097
**Bamboo Inn** 137 High Street 01506 848888
**Bar Leo Restaurant** 50 High Street 01506 846667
**Black Bitch Tavern** 14 West Port 01506 842147
**Bridge Inn** Linlithgow Bridge 01506 842777
**Cabrelli's Takeaway** 245 High Street 01506 842462
**Cafébar 1807** 108-110 High Street 01506 847586

*Cafébar 1807*

- Champany Inn: Near M9 junction 01506 834532
- Coffee Neuk: 11 The Cross 01506 846097
- Costa Coffee: 68 High Street 01506 840115
- Cosy Tea Room: 163 High Street 07392 395690
- Crannog Café: 54 High Street 01506 843982
- Crown Arms: 177 High Street 01506 844434
- Delhi’s Winter Restaurant: Unit 12 Regent Centre 01506 671611
- Domino’s Pizza: 53 Falkirk Road 01506 670700
- Du Vin Bouchers Bar: 62 High Street 01506 848048

*Cheese and wine tasting at Du Vin Bouchers*

- Fenwick's of Linlithgow: 145 High Street 01506 238580
- Footballers & Cricketers Arms: 111 High Street 01506 843590
- Four Marys Bar: 65-67 High Street 01506 842171
- Golden Chip Takeaway: 147-149 High Street 01506 844523
- Granary Café: 102 High Street 01506 253408
- Gregg’s the Baker: Unit 22 Regent Centre 01506 671579
Lochside Café
Mannerston’s Café & Shop
Mason Belle’s Kitchen
Nero Pizzeria
Old Post Office Bar
Oliphant’s Bakers
Park Bistro
Platform 3 Pub
Rosey Posey Pub
So Strawberry Caffe
Star & Garter Hotel
Subway
Swan Tavern
Sweet Little Cheesecake Café
Taste Café Deli
Tee Caddy Café
Well Bread Bakery
West Lothian Golf Club
West Port Express Takeaway
West Port Hotel
White Dove Coffee Roasters
Zio G’s Takeaway

Hideaway Café
Kingsfield Golf & Leisure
Linlithgow Golf Club
Beecraigs Country Park
Kingsfield Farm House
Golf Course Road
01506 847111
01506 671607
01506 842585

Kingsfield Leisure and Linlithgow Golf Club golf courses

The Star & Garter Hotel
**Activities**

Fishing, golf, swimming, soft-play, pottery, canal boat rides... or just a walk in the country park on a sunny day.

*MR = Mill Road Industrial Estate (Linlithgow Bridge)*

- **Beecraigs Country Park** via Preston Road 01506 284516
- **Bowden Springs Fishery** 1 Carriber Reservoir 01506 847269
- **Kingsfield Golf & Leisure** Kingsfield Farm House 01506 671607
- **Linlithgow Canal Centre** 1b Manse Road 01506 671215
- **Linlithgow Golf Club** Golf Course Road 01506 842585
- **Linlithgow Palace** 1 Kirkgate 01506 842896
- **Linlithgow Pottery** APPOINTMENT ONLY 07557 784020
- **Parkley Fishery** Off Manse Road 01506 842027
- **PlayBugs Soft Play** **MR**: Unit 24 E-Net Park 01506 238488
- **West Lothian Golf Club** Airngarth Hill 01506 825060
- **Xcite Linlithgow** McGinley Way 01506 237960

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**Linlithgow Pottery’s wheel**

**Fun at PlayBugs**

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**Vehicle Hire**

- **Bike & Go (Cycle Hire)**
  - Bruce’s Taxis 01506 828888
  - Express Taxis 01506 824244
  - Five Star Taxis 01506 847777
  - Gordon’s Taxi 01506 264242
  - Linlithgow Taxis 01506 260123
  - Mike’s Taxis 01506 848486

- **Railway Station**
  - 01506 828888
Linlithgow is lucky to have a wide variety of community groups, all helping to promote the town, organise events, welcome visitors and much more.

If you’re planning a visit to Linlithgow, you can speak to a real person, who will do their best to assist you in making sure your trip goes smoothly. At first instance, you can visit onelinlithgow.com and use the contact form to ask a question or request information. Alternatively, you can email hello@mylinlithgow.com. Both teams would be very glad to help!

From 2022, Linlithgow’s Community Council will be operating a physical Visitor Information Centre from the Burgh Halls, right in the centre of town, next to Linlithgow Palace. Until then, staff at the Court Residence aparthotel are more than happy to help, and to supply leaflets relevant to you.

Linlithgow’s official website is mylinlithgow.com. It’s updated regularly with events, as well as community and business information, facilities, travel information, useful links, and even webcams, so even after your visit is over, you can keep tabs on what’s going on in town.
If the map on this page is too small to see properly on your device, just click or tap here for a full-size image (7.7MB), which you can save and view/zoom however you prefer.

If you’re following a walking trail, it’s an easy way to follow the landmarks, without having to have the full guide open and on the correct page! Alternatively, you can pick up a hard copy of this guide from lots of places all over town, including:

**Burgh Halls (The Cross)**  
**Court Residence (Court Square, High Street)**  
**Linlithgow Palace (see “Attractions”)**  
**Linlithgow Town Centre Hub (28 The Vennel)**  
**Linlithgow Partnership Centre (93 High Street)**  
**Lilypond Crafts & Gifts (25 High Street)**

*Visitor information at the Burgh Halls, The Cross*
There are several excellent walking trails in Linlithgow, which will introduce you to the town and many of its interesting places. None of them are particularly long or strenuous, and you can now even learn about Linlithgow on-the-go with Visit West Lothian’s fantastic audio trails.

Whether you’re looking for heritage, history, floral installations, or a few refreshments, there’s a trail for you:

- Heritage Trail 21-28
- Audio Trails 29
- Floral Trails 29
- Linlithgow (Ale) Trail 30
- Perambulation of Linlithgow’s Marches 31
- Battle of Linlithgow Bridge Trail 31-32

One of Linlithgow’s many floral displays
For those interested in the history and architecture of the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, we have devised the Heritage Trail, which will take you round the main features and buildings in the town centre. The route is shown on the centrefold town map.

It starts at The Cross in the very centre of the town and can be split into easy sections, if desired. Most locations are indicated by a circular plaque, shown below; an interpretation of Linlithgow’s “St. Michael” coat of arms by artist Tim Chalk. The trail should be followed in numerical order. There are information panels giving more details at various points along the route.

1: The Cross. One of the finest civic spaces in Scotland and the focal point for the Marches celebrations. The Cross Well is a replica of a 1535 well and was made in 1807 by a one-handed stonemason. It was refurbished in 2016.

2: Carved Pediment. Looking west up the slope, you will see an old stone, dated 1675, set into the end of the building on the left. This came from the Golden Cross Tavern which once stood nearby.

3: Cross House. The older white building at the north-west corner of The Cross dates from 1700. It contains a fine mid-18th-century plaster ceiling and now forms a suite of church meeting rooms.

4: Town House or Burgh Halls. To the right, the imposing structure with clock-tower and fore-stairs was once Linlithgow’s municipal building. Replacing an earlier Tolbooth demolished in 1650 by Oliver Cromwell, it was built in 1668-70 by John Smith, based on designs by John Mylne, Master Mason to Charles I and Charles II. Conversion into a high-quality community arts facility was completed in 2011.

Proceed up the narrow street, the Kirkgate, between Cross House and the Burgh Halls. On the right, go through the archway under the back of the Burgh Halls, and, ahead you will see...

5: The “Green Man”. A 1911 bronze statue of John Hope, Australia’s first Governor General. He became the first Marquess of Linlithgow in 1902.

Continue up the Kirkgate towards the Palace Gatehouse - note the plaques recording the royal line of succession.
6: **Palace Gatehouse.** Dating from circa 1535, the gateway features four carved and painted panels representing the orders of knighthood borne by James V – the Golden Fleece, St Michael, the Garter and the Thistle.

7: **St Michael’s Parish Church.** Just inside the gate on the right is one of Britain’s finest parish churches. After consecration in 1242, it suffered a fire in 1424 and was rebuilt shortly afterwards in much its present form. In 1821, the tower lost its 15th-century stone crown – replaced in 1964 by today’s striking aluminium spire. Notable interior features include the pulpit, stained glass and the burgh war memorial. See “attractions” section.

8: **Linlithgow Palace.** A royal manor house was first established here in the 12th century. The present square building was started in 1424 for King James I. James V was born here in 1512, and Mary, Queen of Scots in 1542. The Scottish Parliament met in the Great Hall, most recently in 1646. The Palace was fortified and occupied during 1650–59 by Oliver Cromwell, was gutted by fire in 1746 after occupation by the Duke of Cumberland’s soldiers, and has remained roofless ever since. See “main attractions”.

9: **The Peel.** The open parkland around the palace, known as The Peel, is one of only two Royal Parks in Scotland, the other being Holyrood Park in Edinburgh. The slope down to the loch on the left of the Palace was once occupied by orchards and beehives, while elsewhere archery was practised. A new statue of Mary, Queen of Scots by David Annand was unveiled in 2015, and stands near to the Palace.
Pass the left side of the Palace to view Linlithgow Loch.

10: Linlithgow Loch. Sitting in the pre-glacial valley of the River Avon, it has been used for curling and bleaching. Today it caters for fishing, sailing and birdwatching. Across the loch is Airngath Hill, featuring Grange (a 1909 mansion) and a monument to Adrian Hope, killed in the Indian Mutiny.

Return to The Cross. Turn left to see the buildings across the High Street.

11: Fire Mark/Plaque. Between the first and second storey windows of 79 High Street is an early-1800s “fire mark”, which indicated that the building was insured by the Sun Fire Office.

12: Four Marys and Waldie Tablet. Heading east, above the Four Marys pub across the High Street, is a plaque commemorating Dr. David Waldie, a pioneer with James Young Simpson in medical use of chloroform.

13: Cornwall Coat of Arms. Above the back of the pend between 59-61 High Street, is an inscribed stone from an earlier building, featuring the Cornwall coat of arms, with the date 1527.

14: Bank Building. Yet further along, the turreted building was constructed in 1859 for the Commercial Bank of Scotland. It features very fine ornamental railings in front and was a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland until it closed in 2018.

15: Hamilton’s Land. Further along on the left, these rubble-built 16th-century buildings, with their crow-stepped gables, are a picturesque survival of old Linlithgow that was restored by The National Trust in 1958.

16: Old Post Office. On the right, the town’s former Post Office of 1903, in Scots Renaissance style, was converted into a pub in 2009.

17: St Michael’s Well. Also across the High Street is the wellhead of St Michael’s Well, with an inscribed stone dated 1720, a winged St. Michael, and the town’s ‘Black Bitch’ coat-of-arms. Restored in 2010.
18: **St Michael's Hotel and The Mint.** The late 19th century tenement behind the well, once a hotel, replaced a superb medieval town house popularly known as “The Mint”.

19: **Star & Garter Hotel.** Prominent in black and white at the end of the High Street, it was built in 1760 as a residence. For many years, the hotel was the base for the Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Hunt. Gutted by fire in 2010, it has since been restored.

20: **High and Low Ports.** Marked on the roadway across the roundabout are the outlines of Linlithgow’s eastern town gates.

21: **Regent Centre and Regent Works.** The modern buildings facing the roundabout replaced the Regent Works of 1902, an Italianate factory once operated by Nobel Explosives.

22: **Low Port Primary School.** Beyond the junction on the left is the former Linlithgow Academy building, now Low Port Primary School. Round towers above the entrances are prominent features of this 1902 building.

23: **St. Michael Sculpture.** In the centre of the gardens at the front of the school entrance, 2020 saw the installation of a statue of St. Michael by sculptor Alan Herriot. This portrays one of Linlithgow’s two town insignia, the other being the ‘Black Bitch’, a sculpture of which will be seen later in the Heritage Trail.

*An optional diversion is to continue further ahead to see...*

24: **St Michael’s RC Church.** Gothic revival buildings, dating from 1887 and designed by renowned church architects, Pugin and Pugin.

*Cross to the Star & Garter Hotel, proceed first left up to the station. Enter the station and continue through the subway to the south platform.*

25: **Linlithgow Railway Station.** Dating from 1842, this is one of the best-preserved original stations of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, which was electrified in 2017. The eastbound waiting room features a large mural of the town’s annual Marches procession by Mary-Louise Coulouris.

26: **St Magdalene’s Distillery.** From the far (east) end of the platform, you can see the distillery buildings where production of single malt whisky ran from 1753 until 1983, now converted into flats.

*Leave the platform and exit through the car park to Back Station Road. Turn right and continue up the hill to the canal bridge...*

27: **Union Canal.** Here is the Linlithgow basin of the Union Canal, opened in May 1822. Here you’ll find a range of Boat Trips — some to the Falkirk Wheel — a self-drive canal boat, electric dinghies, and crewed charters for special occasions, as well as Scotland’s only Canal Museum, a Tea Room. Open Sat/Sun afternoons Easter to end September, and weekdays July and most of August.
28: **Ross Doocot** and **Dudley**. On the opposite side of the canal basin are the Learmonth Gardens and 16th century Ross Doocot, containing 370 nest boxes. Next to the canal basin is “Dudley”, a bronze cat sculpture by David Annand mounted on a granite plinth – Linlithgow’s feline version of Greyfriars Bobby in Edinburgh, unveiled in 2018.

29: **Town Wall**. The high wall on the right-hand side of Strawberry Bank going down the hill is part of the 17th century town wall.

*From the Canal Basin, take the canal towpath westwards.*

30: **Rosemount Park and Friars’ Well**. Across the canal is Rosemount Park, one of Linlithgow’s hidden gems. It contains the fountainhead of the Cross Well, which had previously served the Carmelite Friary located further up the hill.

31: **Mrs Douglas’ Cottage School**. The stone cottage on the opposite bank, dating from 1826, once accommodated a girls-only school with fees of two pence per week.

*Just before the bridge over the canal, turn right downhill.*
32: Former Ebenezer Chapel. The gable-end plaque of the cottage on the right recalls its use as an Evangelical Union meeting house from 1852.

*Turn left on to Royal Terrace.*

33: Royal Terrace. An attractive composition of 19th-century stone houses. Note in particular No. 6 with its central ox-eye window.

*Cross the railway by the footbridge.*

34: Lion Well Wynd. There is an excellent view over the high wall down Lion Well Wynd, Linlithgow’s steepest, opened circa 1750.

35: St John’s Evangelical Church. The church on the right was completed in 1840 as a congregational chapel, costing around £750.

36: Prefabs. Facing the railway embankment further along are the prefabs of Hamilton Park, temporary houses built after World War II and later cunningly disguised as bungalows by the Town Council!

*Turn right at Preston Road and walk to the High Street. Look to the left before turning right again towards the starting point.*

37: West Port. The Royal Burgh’s western gateway was removed around 1800. Hostelries were established here for travellers shut out for the night. Note Katie Wearie’s Tree (the big willow), the bronze Katie Wearie sundial sculpture created by Tim Chalk in 2011 and the vernacular-inspired 1937 tenement on the corner of the High Street.

38: St Ninian’s Craigmailen Parish Church. In the background, westwards on Falkirk Road, is its elegant broach spire, dating from 1874.
39: **West Port House.** Ahead on the right, you will see West Port House above a retaining wall created when the road was lowered two centuries ago. A laird’s house dating from 1600, it was built by the Hamilton family.

40: **New Well.** Further along, at a street corner, the stone structure on the pavement is the New Well, an 18th-century example of the wellheads that once graced the High Street.

41: **Former Baird Hall.** A lower, set-back building on the left, dating from 1863, has variously served as a Catholic church, a Catholic school, and as the church hall for St Michael’s Parish Church.

42: **St Peter’s Episcopal Church.** Designed by Dick, Peddie and Todd in Byzantine style, this architectural gem of 1928 is set back behind the tenement facades on the right.

43: **“Black Bitch” Sculpture.** Opposite the church is the second ‘civic insignia’ sculpture on the Heritage Trail. This representation in bronze of Linlithgow’s traditional ‘Black Bitch’ was sculpted by David Annand and unveiled in January 2020.

44: **Annet House.** On the right is a three-storey 18th century merchant’s house, now being converted back into a private residence. Until 2017, it housed Linlithgow’s town museum (now item 49).

45: **The Vennel.** The controversial 1967 redevelopment on the left (designed by Rowand Anderson Kininmonth and Paul) was one of the worst losses of historic townscape in Scotland.

Return to The Cross along the south side of the High Street.
46: Shoemakers’ Land. Opposite the Vennel flats is Shoemakers’ Land, bearing an armorial plaque reflecting former ownership by the Shoemakers’ Guild and a vanished local industry. In Scotland, Linlithgow’s leather industry was once second only to that of Perth.

47: Dog Well Wynd. Named after the former Dog Well, which was supplied from the now-culverted Cross Burn. Up the wynd on the right, the scout hall was once McAlpine’s shoe factory and the “Spires” houses further up occupy the site of the Linlithgow West United Presbyterian Church.

48: Court Residence. Further along is the former Sheriff Courthouse of 1863, built in Tudor style and recently converted to visitor accommodation. On its front is a bronze relief commemorating the assassination of Regent Moray in the vicinity in 1570, the world’s first recorded assassination of a head of state by firearm.

49: Linlithgow Partnership Centre/Tam Dalyell House. This impressive neo-Georgian building, formerly the West Lothian County Buildings, was opened in 1939. See “main attractions: Linlithgow Museum”. Note the former Linlithgow provost’s lamp at the front.

This completes the Trail and returns you to the starting point at The Cross.
Linlithgow won the “town” category in the 2018 Britain In Bloom UK Finals.

The Floral Trails booklet, published separately by Burgh Beauitful Linlithgow, describes walking and driving routes to view the best of the town’s floral displays. One is a numbered walking route around the town centre. The other two are lettered routes suitable for driving or walking, which show the main floral features elsewhere in the town. The town’s public floral displays are entirely the work of Burgh Beautiful’s volunteers and partners, and are financed by the town’s residents, groups, organisations and businesses.

To help explore the sights and history of the town, a series of podcasts and interactive audio trails are now available on the Visit West Lothian website.

These three podcasts cover History & Heritage, Linlithgow’s Film & TV fame, as well as a look at the attractions and food and drink available in the town.

In addition to these, a “virtual tour guide” helps you navigate the town. To start, navigate to the dedicated section on the website, pick a trail you’re interested in and press Start. You’ll receive directions to each attraction, and once you’ve arrived simply press play where you’ll hear a range of information covering the history as well as some fun facts. A transcript of the content on the site is also available for each section too if you would prefer.

Linlithgow Itineraries

Not yet live at time of going to press, but will include audio trails explaining the history and heritage of Linlithgow. If you have GPS location enabled on your device, the site will show you the trail closest to you.

Things To Do in Linlithgow

Showcases many of the attractions in this guide, with links and further information.

Floral Trails

Linlithgow won the “town” category in the 2018 Britain In Bloom UK Finals. The Floral Trails booklet, published separately by Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow, describes walking and driving routes to view the best of the town’s floral displays. One is a numbered walking route around the town centre. The other two are lettered routes suitable for driving or walking, which show the main floral features elsewhere in the town. The town’s public floral displays are entirely the work of Burgh Beautiful’s volunteers and partners, and are financed by the town’s residents, groups, organisations and businesses.

Learmonth Gardens
Scotland is famous for its pubs (an abbreviation for “public houses”) and Linlithgow has many fine hostelries. Why not take the “Linlithgow Ale Trail” and explore some of Linlithgow’s pubs? A refreshing way to see the Royal Burgh!

The Trail is based on the local Pubwatch and consists of eight pubs. Their aim is “to promote a safe drinking experience, while you also enjoy everything the High Street has to offer”. Since the Trail started in December 2014 - until lockdown in March 2020 – almost 20,000 T-shirts have been earned (including almost 7,000 in the last operational year!). When you complete the Trail, the coveted T-shirt is yours!

The Trail starts/ends at West Port/Platform 3 and the cost of a card is £5.

Relax and enjoy the friendly atmosphere in Linlithgow’s pubs
The Perambulation takes you around what was Linlithgow’s 1832 Parliamentary boundary. The route is open to walk any time and is shown on the town map (pages 19-20). See “events” for details of the annual event.

The walk passes by seven of eight march stones (one original and seven replicas, which were installed in 2014) marking the boundary. Its route passes some 32 features of historical or architectural interest, mostly different from those on the Heritage Trail, and is shown on the map in the centre pages. Full details are given in a separate leaflet, available free from the Burgh Halls and Partnership Centre (both at The Cross).

The Perambulation starts in front of St Ninian’s Church on Falkirk Road and proceeds clockwise along the route. This direction of travel is strongly recommended for safety reasons; visibility at road crossings and steep steps. Keep an eye out for the march stones along the route, which are inscribed ‘LPB’ (Linlithgow Parliamentary Burgh).

This trail takes you round the site of the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge, which was a product of the power vacuum in Scotland created by the death of James IV at Flodden in 1513.

On 4 September 1526, land to the south of Linlithgow Bridge (on the town’s western fringes) was the site of a battle which took place when the Earl of Lennox and his army of 10,000 men, on their way to Edinburgh to free the young King James V from his Regent, the Earl of Angus, was confronted at the river crossing, initially by a force of 2,000 men loyal to Angus.

Despite the numerical superiority of his own forces, Lennox was forced to surrender once reinforcements supporting Angus arrived from Edinburgh. His subsequent murder is commemorated by the Lennox Cairn. For further information, please visit bolb.org.uk.
Walking the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge Trail: The trail starts at the information panel at the Linlithgow Bridge crossroads, one of three on the route. Paths can get muddy. From the starting point, walk south along Mill Road for 100 yards, then turn right into Burgh Mills Lane to join the River Avon Heritage Trail. Follow the trail until you reach a small wooden bridge. Just past the bridge, look across the river where you may see the ruins of the Manuel Priory amid the trees.

Return to the bridge and turn right, away from the river. When you reach open ground, bear left and uphill. On your left is a pond and you should find a path leading to a clearing where the path turns right and climbs steeply. Turn left at a broader path and you will reach open ground. The path on your right leads to a gate where you will see, across a roundabout, the Lennox Cairn, which marks the approximate site of the murder of the Earl of Lennox after the battle. Return to Linlithgow Bridge, northwards via Mill Road.
SHOPPING AND SERVICES

Linlithgow has one of the finest retail and service offerings of any town in Scotland. It’s certainly worth leaving a day of your visit free to explore!

MR = Mill Road (Industrial Estate at Linlithgow Bridge)
BBU = Braehead Business Units (off Braehead Road)
S’bridge Retail Park = Stockbridge Retail Park, off Falkirk Road

### Shops

- **2 Feet 1st**
  - 73 High Street
  - 01506 847576

- **A Wee Mindin’**
  - 48 High Street
  - 01506 848313

- **Aldi**
  - 53 Falkirk Road
  - 08000 420800

- **Argos**
  - 32 Falkirk Road
  - 03451 657893

- **B&M**
  - Unit 1 S’bridge Retail Park
  - 03308 389337

- **Barnardo’s**
  - 51 Falkirk Road
  - 01506 846442

- **Boots the Chemist**
  - 70-72 High Street
  - 01506 846371

- **Bright Star Toys**
  - 175 High Street
  - 01506 846326

- **British Red Cross**
  - 217 High Street
  - 01506 671658

- **Cancer Research UK**
  - 107-109 High Street
  - 01506 848552

- **Centre Stage Dancewear**
  - 86 High Street
  - 01506 209916

- **Chest, Heart and Stroke Shop**
  - 220 High Street
  - 01506 846020

- **Complete Health**
  - 159 High Street
  - 01506 847270
Flowers By Carolyn
171 High Street
01506 847724

Fone Unlocker
276b High Street
01506 847444

Il Fruttivendolo
211 High Street
01506 238618

J. Walker Carpets & Gifts
2 The Vennel
01506 670777

Jewellery By Design
121 High Street
01506 239292

Kapital Kilts
114 High Street
01506 843658

Kütchenhaus
33 High Street
01506 845400

Lilypond Crafts & Gifts
25 High Street
01506 840225

The Line Gallery
238 High Street
01506 670268

Linlithgow Distillery
MR: Unit 15 E-Net Park
01506 846873
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AJM Hairdressing
213 High Street
01506 371143

Andy’s Bike Clinic
226c High Street
07765 407663

Angel Nails & Spa
212 High Street
01506 340075

Autobits
185 High Street
01506 671200

Bank of Scotland
Units 24-26 Regent Centre
03457 801801

Barber
30 High Street
01506 840333

Beautique Beauty Salon
222 High Street
01506 844002

Bella Bridal Boutique
7 High Street
01506 237482

Bonnie Weddings and Events
34 High Street
07947 716537

Boxx Hairdressing
222a High Street
01506 847581

BP Petrol Station
30 Falkirk Road
01506 840390

Chakir Hairdressing
254 High Street
01506 671800

Cross Barbers
15 The Cross
07411 007531

Debbie Stevenson Hair Design
2 The Cross
01506 844800

Detail Hair
13 High Street
01506 670429

Devine Dental
24 High Street
01506 842011

Dogstar Grooming
BBU: Unit 4
01506 840671

Dollhouse
77 The Vennel
01506 847222

Elle Hair & Beauty
264 High Street
01506 842456

Eskimo Blonde
34a High Street
01506 847309

Eye Tec
Unit 18 Regent Centre
01506 847686

Fl Hair
157 High Street
01506 842334

First Adventures Nursery
43a High Street
01506 844344

BBU: Unit 1-2
07402 030321

Greensteam Valeting
MR: 1 The Gateway
07871 145852

GrizzFit
MR: Unit 4 E-Net Park
07809 569455

Halliday Homes
23 High Street
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Halo Beauty
74 High Street
07483 941070

Hendry Optometrists
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<td>07596 954189</td>
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<td>BBU: Unit 3</td>
<td>07913 817444</td>
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</table>
Linlithgow is always welcoming new shops, services, cafés, bars and much more. Keep up to date with the regularly-updated business directory on mylinlithgow.com. Linlithgow is a Fairtrade-accredited town, best exemplified by “Fair Tradewinds” on the High Street (see “shops”, above).
Linlithgow really couldn’t be an easier journey from other towns, cities and travel hubs. Of course, it’s best to use your preferred navigation app on your smartphone if you’re driving, and check online for the most recent timetables if you’re using public transport (click “Getting to Linlithgow” at the top of this page), but we’ve shown some simple travel planning options here.

Linlithgow is only 12 miles from Scotland’s main airport in Edinburgh and 40 miles from Glasgow Airport. From Edinburgh Airport, drive along the airport road towards Ratho Roundabout. Join the M9 motorway from its start (heading towards Stirling) then turn off at junction 3, signposted Linlithgow. From there, turn left at the junction and follow the road straight into the town. You can’t miss Linlithgow Palace on your right as you come into the town. A taxi from the airport to Linlithgow costs £40-£50. There’s lots of additional information about travel connections on edinburghairport.com.

If you’re visiting us from a cruise liner docked at Rosyth/Leith/Queensferry, it’s quick and easy to visit Linlithgow. It’s only 20 minutes away by taxi (we’ve listed taxi companies on page 17). By train, just head to central Edinburgh (Waverley or Haymarket). Around 80 trains depart for Linlithgow daily from here, so you won’t be waiting long. Once you’re in the train, it’s only 15 minutes to Linlithgow town centre!

The X38 bus runs every half-hour from various stops in Edinburgh (Regent Road, Drum Brae and Haymarket Station) and will take you to Linlithgow Bridge and Stockbridge Retail Park, as well as the town centre. During peak hours, buses are generally every half-hour, and if you prefer to take the train from Edinburgh, they leave from Haymarket and Waverley approximately every 20 minutes.

Useful Travel Links

mylinlithgow.com
thetrainline.com
travelinescotland.com
edinburghairport.com
glasgowairport.com
firstbus.co.uk
lothianbuses.com