



STIRLING
CASTLE

PALACE PROJECT FAQs

What has the palace project involved?

The heart of the project has been to return the six royal apartments on the lower floor of the palace to how they might have looked in the mid-16th century.

What else has been done?

Lots. We have created a new gallery where people can see important antiquities from the palace, an audio visual show, a series of family-friendly interactive exhibits and a new exhibition on the history of the castle.

What about the shops and café?

The three shops and the Unicorn Café have all been hugely upgraded. The shops have also been changed, with extensive new ranges, to reflect the improvements to the visitor experience. We now have The Courtyard Gift Shop, The Clan and Craft Gift Shop and The Palace Gift Shop.

What's the difference between the castle and the palace?

Stirling Castle is a complex of buildings set inside strong defensive stone walls. The palace is just one of the buildings within the castle – others include the Chapel Royal and the Great Hall.

How much are the tickets?

From June 4, 2011, the standard ticket price for the castle, which includes the palace, will be £13 for adults, £10 for concessions and £6.50 for children. Members of Historic Scotland will have free entry – except for special ticketed events.

Are there guided tours?

Entry to the castle includes the option of a free guided tour or free audio tour of the castle – in any of six languages. Visitors can also have a free guided tour of the 17th century Argyll's Lodging, just outside the castle walls.

How much did the palace project cost?

We invested £12 million in the project – which included an enormous amount of work to put in new floors and ceilings, create properly plastered walls, and provide all the essential services. Then there was all the work on decorations, furnishings and fittings as well as materials for the displays and exhibitions.

Who used the palace?

As a royal residence it was home to Mary of Guise, the widow of James V. James had the palace built but died in late 1542, shortly before it was finished. Their

daughter, Mary Queen of Scots was raised there in her early years and used it a lot after she returned from France to rule the kingdom. It was also a place where James VI spent a great deal of time before moving south when the death of Elizabeth I led to him becoming king of England as well as Scotland.

What was the palace like before the project?

The palace had been used by the army for a very long time, but they left in the 1960s. In recent years visitors saw little more than empty rooms with bare stone walls. The upper floor was inaccessible.

Was the palace project part of a wider scheme?

Historic Scotland has been working for many years to make the castle a great place for visitors to enjoy. We have returned the Chapel Royal and Great Hall to their original glory. A special exhibition was created in the royal kitchens. Shops and a café were opened – these have just been modernised. The palace project was the final part in this process.

Are there activities at the castle?

We have a programme of events, plus temporary exhibitions, which add an extra dimension to a day out at the castle. To find out more about what we offer sign up to our free e-newsletter at www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk/home/newsevents/newsletter.

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