



1. The Mormaerdom or Kingdom of Moray (H)

Macbeth ruled as Mormaer, meaning 'Great Steward', of this Gaelic-speaking province around 1,000 years ago. It spanned the lower Spey Valley, the area in and around Inverness, the northern portion of the Great Glen, and possibly Buchan.

2. Dingwall (H) (S)

According to tradition, Macbeth was born here around 1005. His father was Findláech mac Ruaidrí, Mormaer of Moray and his mother is thought to have been Donada, second daughter of Malcolm II, King of Alba from 1005 to 1034.

3. Inverness (H) (P)

Shakespeare makes Inverness the home of Macbeth's castle and stages the murder of the elderly King Duncan here. The father of the real-life Macbeth had a residence here, but it was not the Inverness Castle that stands today. The original castle, most likely a hill fort, was probably located at Auldcastle, now Auldcastle Road. Legend has it that Malcolm Canmore, son of Duncan, destroyed the fortification after defeating Macbeth, building a new structure on the site of the current Inverness Castle. *Only the grounds are open to the public.



4. Cromarty (H) (S)

Across the Cromarty Firth lies the Tarbat Peninsula, gateway to the Viking territories ruled by Macbeth's cousin, Thorfinn the Mighty, Earl of Orkney. Here Macbeth may have caught a boat to the safety of the Viking north in the wake of his father Findláech's murder.

5. Forres (P)

One of Scotland's oldest towns, Forres is where Shakespeare located Duncan's castle. Macbeth also has his fateful encounter with the three witches on a heath near the town in the third scene of the play. Follow the path to the top of Cluny Hill, the site of a former hill fort which may have been a stronghold of Macbeth. Imagine yourself as Macbeth, surveying his domain as he might have done, and take in the surrounding landscape of Moray.

6. Brodie Castle & Macbeth's Hillock (S)

According to local folklore, this unassuming grassy mound is said to be the 'blasted heath' where Macbeth and Banquo meet the 'Weird Sisters' and hear their prophecy that Macbeth is destined to become king. Located a short distance from Brodie Castle, explore inside this 16th century tower house with its rare artefacts and precious antiques, before following the signposted path to the hillock.



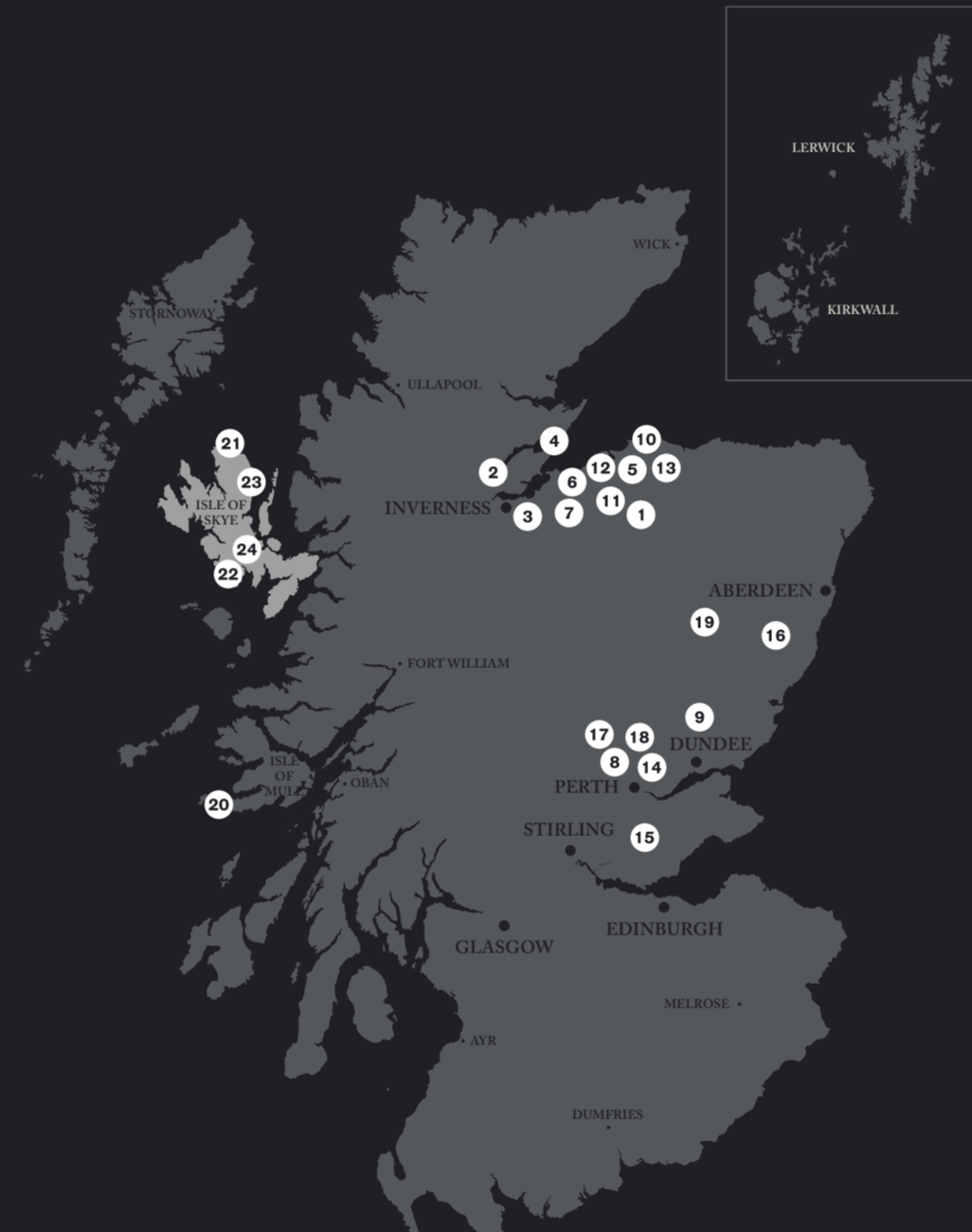
MACBETH

THE MAN, MYTH & LEGEND

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, revered throughout the world as 'The Scottish Play', is one of the most enduring tales of all time.

Over four centuries later, the timeless tragedy of the great but flawed Macbeth, his ambitious lady, and their ruthless pursuit of power, continues to captivate audiences on stage and screen.

This trail brings together the stunning film locations of *Macbeth* (2015), the real-life places immortalised in the play, and many other historic sites and dramatic landscapes connected to the story of the real Macbeth.



KEY
 (H) Historical
 (S) Speculative
 (P) Play
 (F) Film



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7. Cawdor Castle (P)

'This castle bath a pleasant seat; the air Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself. Unto our gentle senses.'

The Bard's words still ring true – Cawdor Castle delights visitors. But here the Macbeth connection ends. Although Duncan makes Macbeth Thane of Cawdor in the play, none of the dramatic action – including Duncan's murder – occurs here. Cawdor wasn't built until the late 14th century, making it impossible for the real Macbeth to have laid claim to the castle.

8. Dunkeld Cathedral (H)

Dunkeld Cathedral wasn't around in Macbeth's lifetime but he would have known its location. The powerbase of the Church of Alba, St Columba's relics from Iona were housed here, and Duncan's father, Abbot Crinan, was the lay Abbot of the Monastery and Diocese of Dunkeld.



9. Glamis Castle (P)

'All hail Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis!'

Glamis Castle has been home to many colourful characters throughout the centuries, but Macbeth, imagined or otherwise, never resided here. King James VI of Scotland was a friend of the 9th Lord of Glamis, often visiting the castle, and it may be that this is how Shakespeare became acquainted with the name. One of the oldest and spookiest rooms at Glamis is Duncan's Hall, named in honour of the grisly but entirely fictive murder.

10. Spynie Palace (H) (S)

Spynie Palace was the residence of the bishops of Moray for 500 years. In 1040 the distance between palace and the shoreline was much shorter, and Duncan may have landed here with his troops before continuing onto Pitgavenny where he was defeated in battle by Macbeth.

11. Birnie Kirk (S)

Macbeth might have wed Gruoch, the historical Lady Macbeth here. Established in the early sixth century, the existing property is from around 1140 but the Celtic bell housed inside is believed to date from its founding. Maybe it rang out to announce the Macbeth's nuptials?



12. Sueno's Stone (S)

Towering at over 20 ft, this Pictish cenotaph would have dominated the landscape of this north eastern corner of Scotland during the 11th century, and it may well have served as a rallying point for Macbeth and his troops before their march east to thwart Duncan's invasion. Engraved with a Celtic cross and elaborate, interlaced motifs on one side, and what appears to depict the aftermath of a great battle on the other, the true meaning of this remarkable monument is as mysterious as the ancient tribe which erected it.

MACBETH

2015 FILM

Acclaimed director Justin Kurzel's mesmerising adaption of Shakespeare's classic tale stars Academy-Award® Nominee Michael Fassbender as the titular anti-hero and Academy-Award® Winner Marion Cotillard as Lady Macbeth. The breathtaking Isle of Skye also plays a role as the backdrop for some of the film's most memorable scenes.



13. Elgin Cathedral (H) (S)

The magnificent ruin of Elgin Cathedral is one of Scotland's most awe-inspiring medieval buildings. Although it did not exist in Macbeth's time, it is said that a mortally wounded Duncan was carried to Elgin, then an 11th century hamlet, after his battle with Macbeth in 1040.

14. Scone Moot Hill (H) (P)

No less than 42 kings were 'acclaimed' king of Scotland at Scone Palace starting with the first King of Scots, Kenneth MacAlpin, and ending with Charles II. Like them, Macbeth would have been inaugurated King of Alba sitting upon the Stone of Destiny at Moot Hill.



21. The Quiraing (F)

The sight of this monumental rock formation with its steep land-slipped cliffs and jutting pinnacles is a remarkable one. Catch it on a moody day shrouded in swirling mist and it appears positively ethereal. It is in this dramatic setting that Macbeth's army is seen returning home post-battle and where he is awarded the title, Thane of Cawdor. Lady Macbeth also journeys through this unmistakable landscape on her way to her home village. Explore it for yourself on the narrow footpath and climb up and down its rugged slopes.



15. Loch Leven (P)

Loch Leven boasts a little-known historical connection to Macbeth on its island of St Serf's. This was once home to an ascetic Christian community known as the Culdees to whom Queen Macbeth, Gruoch, along with her husband, bestowed grants of land in Fife.



16. Cairn O' Mounth (H) (S)

In 1054, Malcolm, son of Duncan, led an invasion of Alba. From this high mountain pass, take in the landscape where Macbeth's raiding parties swept into Angus in retaliation. To the north lies Lumphanan, where Macbeth is said to have met his demise in 1057.



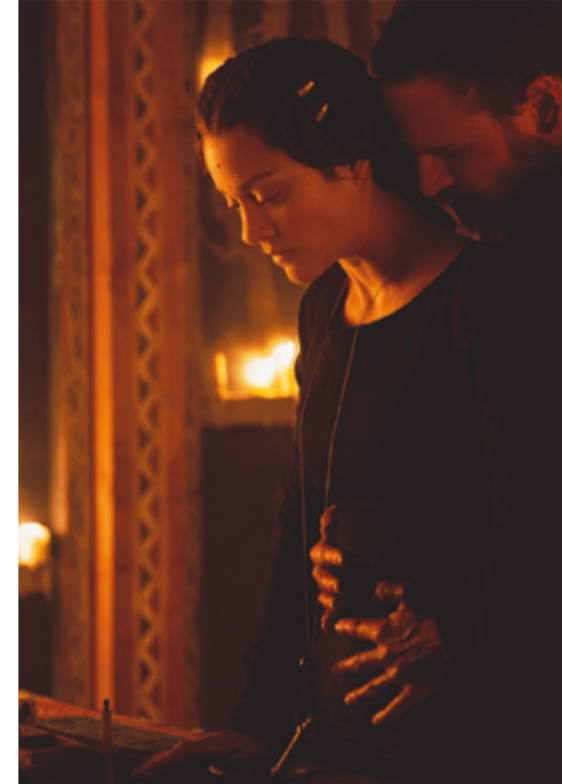
17. The Birnam Oak (P)

With its huge, moss-covered trunks and gnarled branches, the Birnam Oak and its neighbour, the Birnam Sycamore, certainly looks like a relic from a bygone age. No one knows how old the Birnam Oak actually is, but it is said to be the last survivor of the wood from which Malcolm's soldiers cut branches to camouflage their attack on Macbeth at Dunsinane Hill, 15 miles to the south east. Whether or not the oak has stood here since 1050, it may well be a descendant of the original wood.

18. Dunsinane Hill (P) (H)

'Macbeth shall never vanquished be, until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill shall come against him.'

Crowned with the remains of an ancient hill fort, this windswept peak is believed to be where the army of the historical Macbeth clashed with the forces of Malcolm Canmore and Earl Siward of Northumbria at the Battle of the Seven Sleepers in 1054. Soaking in the rugged, unspoilt terrain from its summit, it is hard not to imagine a medieval battle unfolding here. It's located by the village of Collace.



22. The Fairy Pools & Glen Brittle (F)

One of the most pivotal moments of the film, when Banquo is slain on Macbeth's orders, takes place in this expanse of mature woodland overlooking the majestic Cuillin ridge. Nearby, at the foot of the Black Cuillins, are the crystalline, almost preternaturally blue Fairy Pools.

23. The Old Man of Storr (F)

Piercing the heavens at a height of 50m, this jagged spire of grey basalt rock is impossible to miss on screen. Only successfully scaled a handful of times, admire its breathtaking size by hiking up the rocky hill of the Storr to its base. The landmark features in a scene of Macbeth riding towards the battlefield.



19. Macbeth's Stone, Lumphanan (H) (S)

The Peel of Lumphanan, the site of the remnants of a fortification built long after Macbeth's time, is where our King meets his demise at the hands of Malcolm Canmore in 1057. It is believed that retreating from a raid south of the Cairn O' Mounth to Moray, Macbeth and his soldiers were ambushed by a party led by Malcolm at Lumphanan. 200 yards to the south of the peel lies a solitary boulder known as Macbeth's Stone, said to mark the spot where Macbeth was executed.



20. Iona Abbey (H)

Like the Kings of Alba before him, Macbeth's story ends on Iona, the traditional resting place of Scottish kings and the cradle of Scottish Christianity. Macbeth's body would have been sailed to the shore of this small island off the south west coast of Mull in the Inner Hebrides and laid to rest. Unlike his dire portrayal by Shakespeare, Macbeth's kingship had actually been a markedly long and prosperous one for the time. In the chronicles of the time, he is described as a 'generous king'. All hail Macbeth indeed.

24. Sligachan Glen (F)

Conjuring the landscape of a fantasy epic, the enchanting Sligachan glen lies between the imposing peaks of the Red and Black Cuillins, its rugged moorland laced with rushing rivers and bubbling burns. It is this extraordinary setting where Lady Macduff and her children meet their untimely ends. Entrhralling on the big screen, it is impossible to capture the experience of visiting Sligachan Glen in words. Skye's changeable weather can render the place foreboding one moment, idyllic the next and positively other-worldly at times.

