

SCOTT KYLE:

Hello there and welcome to Wild for Scotland. My name is Scott Kyle, but you might know me as Ross the blacksmith from Lallybroch in Outlander. I don't want to do this kind of thing, but my lad has commanded me to introduce this podcast today. Wild for Scotland, helps you to connect with my world, the Scotland from Outlander. First, Kathi will tell you a story to whisk you away. Then I'll be back to chat about filming in the show and we'll give you tips to visit the film locations for yourself. So grab your gemstones and let's travel to Scotland.

KATHI

Welcome back to another episode of Wild For Scotland. This season is all about road trips. Every week we drive down a different scenic route somewhere in Scotland and today will be no different, although as you've already heard, this episode is a little bit different than the rest. First and as always, we'll start with a story, but then instead of my usual tips, we'll hear more from Scott Kyle. There is nothing quite like seeing the locations from your favourite movies and TV shows in real life in Scotland. You can write the Real life Hogwarts Express from Harry Potter or make a phone call from the phone booth that featured in Local Hero. But when it comes to visiting film locations, Scotland is really just one big playground for the fans of a particular TV show that whisks views back into the past. I'm talking of course about Outlander across five seasons.

Outlander story has so far taken us from Scotland and England to France, Boston, the Caribbean, and North Carolina, and yet despite spanning destinations on both sides of the Atlantic, most of the show's iconic moments were actually filmed in Scotland. And so it comes as no surprise that Scotland fans have been pouring in for years to see not only the many film locations all over the country, but also learn about the Scottish history that inspired the show and the books it's based on. In today's road trip story, we will visit some of those locations and hear about their stories. A quick heads up before we start. This episode contains no massive spoilers, but we do discuss specific scenes and plot points of Outlander season one. Consider this before you listen. Now let's get on with the story. This is the key

[\(03:22\)](#):

Today the wheel at the mill is turning. The water is rushing on beneath the wooden wheel and pushes against its little shells driving it on in a circular movement. It's a slow but continuous movement and it looks like nothing could stop it, although of course many things can go wrong with the wheel of a watermill. One little stone trapped in the wheel and the whole thing grinds to a halt. And if that happens, someone has to be the hero. Jump in the freezing cold water and free the wheel from its misery. In Outlander, that hero is Jamie Fraser and the wheel he has to fix is the one at Lalli Brook Mill. This iconic scene from the first season of Outlander is a favourite among fans. It helps that Jamie loses all his clothes in the process of his heroism, but maybe it's also to do with the stunning location where the scene was filmed.

[\(04:28\)](#):

Preston Mill, Preston Mill lies in the picturesque village of East Linton. Just a stones throw away from the city of Edinburgh and it's the first stop on our Outlander Road trip. We, that is me and my equally Outlander loving friend Dominica. We arrive just in time for a tour of the mill, which is owned today by a national trust for Scotland. And even though it does not mill oats anymore, it is still operational and that's not something to take for granted with the continuous sounds of the mill faintly turning in the background, our guide freezer starts by telling us the history of the mill and yes, that really is his name.

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The buildings we see in front of us date back to the 18th century, but there has been a mill here at least since the 16th century, if not much longer before that. Next to the actual mill building is a tower like structure with a tall conical roof.

[\(05:31\)](#):

It's covered in red clay pan tiles in shades of orange from warm terracotta to pale peachy tones. They were brought over from Holland, excessive one might think, but the exchange was actually a practical one. Back in those days, Scotland exported coal to Europe and since the boats had to be weighed down for a safe return journey, Dutch clay tiles were the perfect solution. The rooftops ec collectively assembled stone walls with bright mortar laying thick between individual rocks. A set of stairs framed by wooden planters leads halfway up the tower to a door into the structure and next to it, another door opens onto a wooden crossing that connects the tower with the mill. The tower is in fact the oat kiln where very much like a whiskey distillery would dry out its barley. The mill would dry the oats before grinding them. Of course, doing this comes with a high risk of fire and that's why it's hard to tell how long there has been a mill in this spot and also why this is the only remaining mill with an oat kiln in Scotland.

[\(06:47\)](#):

Justice Frazier finishes his story and we get ready to start walking to the back of the mill. A big fluffy golden retriever walks up and sits down right in front of him. This is Orla. He explains. She comes past here every day on her walk and asks him for a treat, making her officially the most frequent visitor, a Preston Mill. I wonder if she has any idea about the show that brings so many more visitors here than ever before. This renewed attention does not only bring fans to the mill, it also supports the preservation of this unique historic site. Just a few years ago, the water reel was badly damaged and so the Outlander community rallied behind and helped finance the repairs.

[\(07:39\)](#):

We walk around the mill to see the wheel for ourselves. It's powered by the currents of the river and turns the millstone inside in a perpetual motion. But more importantly, this is where Fraser can separate the wheat from the chaff as he recounts the Outlander scene that was shot here at the mill. Our group divides into those who remember watching it all too well and those who have to ask which episode that was once Fraser tells us he had to get in the river himself to cut the grass on the banks and sure enough, a group of Outlander fans came running thinking it was Jamie himself. They were a little disappointed, but Fraser gets it. He's seen the show. Fraser continues to see the inside of the mill. Back in the 18th century, the time of Outlander, it would've been much smaller, probably single story and only about half the size.

[\(08:42\)](#):

The machinery, which is now a mix of wood and metal would've been all wooden, but it is hard to see exactly what was replaced when because the machines were often altered part by part. Over the years, there wouldn't have been any electric lights. In fact, the mill was illuminated by oil lamps until the 1950s when the National Trust for Scotland took it on. Fraser explains the entire process of the mill. We look into the roof of the kiln, see the chutes and hoists that transported the oats from one place to another. The heavy millstones that weigh a tonne each and the cog wheels that keep the whole thing going. But what's even more impressive than the system itself is the soundscape the mill creates in the process.

[\(09:40\)](#):

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The mill is clunking, rattling and tapping along rhythmic but not entirely monotonous, changing pace. Ever so often, the Miller would've constantly listened to those sounds, the pace, the rhythm, and any squeak that didn't belong. That was the key to keep the mill running smoothly. We enter a room in a side building of the mill that was also used as an Outlander set. Remember the chamber where Claire and Gales weighed up their options before their witch trial commenced? That was shot right here, a pressed in mill two. At the end of the tour, we flipped through a book filled with photos of the crew on site filming those scenes. We can recognise the buildings we just saw and explored, but also the changes that were made to make them look like an Outlander set. As is often the case with TV shows and films, things and places aren't always what they seem.

[\(10:49\)](#):

For example, the story of Outlander begins in Inverness, but the scenes at Mrs. Baird's bed and breakfast were actually filmed in Falkland, a village over a hundred miles away. Dune castle near Sterling was supposed to be the Mackenzie's castle and Glasgow's Pollock Park stood in for highland scenery. It's all about bringing the Outlander flair to each location and that's something we also hear about at our next stop. We continue our journey and drive around the south of Edinburgh here. The road first climbs up along the flanks of the Pentland Hills and then leads us down a narrow track framed by hedges and trees until we arrive at Glencore's house with its stunning main house, sprawling grounds, and a lush garden, it made for a perfect film location even though it only appeared once in season one. It continues to be a among Outlander fans, especially those that are looking for a wedding venue. You see Glen course old Kirk, a small stone church. On the grounds of the house is where Jamie and Claire tied the knot.

[\(12:14\)](#):

We park up and meet Sarah whose family owns Glencore's house. She was there when the filming happened and loves taking fans of the show to see the Kirk. The crew included about 200 people. They used the house for hair and makeup, set up a large tent for catering and spent about three weeks roughing up the church to make it look like it was described in the books. Ironically, the church was only restored 20 years ago. Back then, Sarah's family put a new roof on the ruin and brought it back to its old glory. But you may remember the priest only agreed to marry Jamie and Claire in exchange for new windows for the chapel, and so the Kirk was filled with dead leaves and debris. Doors were removed, windows boarded up or replaced with smashed glass. Rain pipes were covered with foliage and gravestones added to the cemetery.

[\(13:17\)](#):

Go back and look at the scene. You'll notice that the new wooden roof is kept skillfully out of the shots and like with a real wedding, every detail was meticulously planned and rehearsed. Sarah shows us pictures and tells us about the rehearsals, how long it took to put on Claire's wedding dress and how she managed to get up the hill from the house to the co. They still get requests for Outlander style weddings here at the Kirk and are happy to oblige from Gaelic vows to skillfully embroidered dresses. Couples from around the world have recreated their own version of the Outlander wedding here and now I can see why as we move on to our next stop on our Outlander vote trip, we see once again that the crew didn't take their geography too seriously. Blackness castle lies on a pointy headland on the southern shore of the farth of fourth just west of Edinburgh.

[\(14:22\)](#):

But in the show, the castle was used as Fort William, the headquarters of Captain Blackjack Randall, and the backdrop of arguably some of the most gut-wrenching scenes of Outlander built in the 15th century For the Christian family, it lies near the sheltered harbour of black Nepi, which served as the port for KO

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and its royal residents from the water. It looks a bit like a ship that is stranded on the rocky shore and that's where it got its nickname, the ship that never sailed. Blackness castle looks back at a tumultuous history, changing hands in bloody family feuds seized besieged as sailed from land and sea, but the castle prevailed a stronghold for Scotland in a key location, an impregnable fortress on a rocky ledge. So much so that in the 16th century it was turned into a state prison where high ranking enemies of the state were kept out of sight.

[\(15:30\)](#):

Around that time, the castle was radically expanded, the central tower was heightened and the outer walls quadrupled in thickness. It remained an important military base until the 1870s and as such, lent itself to be the fictional home of Black Jack Randall's Red Coat Army. It was here at blackness near the tip of the courtyard that Randall flogged Jamie Fraser and other prisoners and also where he held clear against her will. It's a place that is equally unpleasant and fascinating, a place that will give you the chills and play with your senses. Dominica and I explored a castle, walk up the rocky steps to the stern tower, wander up and down the spiral stairs and get a glimpse of the great hulls and private side chambers from the top of the stem tower right by the sea. We see the breathtaking views, the blue far the fourth at our feet and the fourth bridge and the queen ferry crossing away in the distance.

[\(16:43\)](#):

Seagulls are flying across the sky, screeching or holding a beak full of fish. I have to admit that the first time I watched Outlander, the brutal scenes of this place nearly put me off the show, but as I stand here today, it's hard to believe they were shot here at all. So much beauty and peace. We tear ourselves away from the beautiful scene and continue our drive to our final stop for the day. You could say we saved the best for last, a place that is undoubtedly on any Outlander fans bucket list. I'm talking of course about Larock in the show. Larock is Jamie Fraser's ancestral home where he takes Claire after they escape from Fort William and he steps into his role as layered. The real larock is called Mid Hope castle and lies just 15 minutes from blackness. We drive down a lush green woodland, pull up at the car and pay a small entry fee to access the site.

[\(17:53\)](#):

As we start walking up the driveway, the castle comes into view and we're overcome by excitement. It looks just like in the show, while the interior of the building is relatively derelict and therefore not accessible to the public, you can wander around the exterior to your heart's content and that's exactly what we do. The trees left and right of the road form a leafy tunnel framing the castle in the distance, I can see the reddish stone of the tall tower house with its crow stepped gables and the characteristic archway that leads into a small courtyard. Ignore the Tarc road and the speed limit sign near the ground. Walking up this road, you could think you've travelled back in time near the archway, I spot a wooden chair that is decorated with flowers. There are two boxes on it. One is an honesty box, the other contains an assortment of keys. Each has a label tied to it with a piece of white string that says Lalli bra. I pull out my purse and put a pound coin in the honesty box. It's the best pound I've ever spent because now I can say I own the key to Lalli bra.

[\(19:28\)](#):

Oh, and just in case you were wondering, the scene where Naked Jamie Fixes the mill is season one, episode 12. You're welcome. I hope you enjoyed this journey, ran some of the Outlander film locations near Edinburgh. You could easily visit some or all of them in a day trip from Edinburgh or Glasgow or mix and match with some of the many other film locations in the area. From Kuras in five to Hopeton House not far from Lally Brook. If you'd like to see pictures from our road trip, especially my proud key to Lally

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Brook, head to our website wild for scotland.com. I always post photos from the road trips I tell you about there. Now before Scott Kyle is joining me for a wee leather, I'd like to tell you a quick story about our sponsors. Now, if you are a regular listener to the show, you know that usually after the story is when I share some practical tips to help you follow the same itinerary as me. But today we're doing things a little differently. I'm very happy to be joined by Scott Kyle himself to chat a bit more about his experiences on the set of Outlander and more. Hello Scott. Thank you so much for joining us.

SCOTT ([20:59](#)):

Hello Kathy. Thank you for having me. It's delighted to be here.

KATHI ([21:02](#)):

Why didn't you kick us off and tell us how the hell did you manage to get yourself a part on Outlander?

SCOTT ([21:09](#)):

I'll tell you the short version of it. Went to college, graduated slugged for years, running my own company and doing any bit involved by job that will come along and then one day the dream comes in where you get an addition for one of these big shows and I did my preparation and managed to land myself an amazing role as Ross from Lalli Brook in this giant TV series is very exciting.

KATHI ([21:30](#)):

And what was it like to be on the set of a historic drama?

SCOTT ([21:35](#)):

It was genuinely like going back in time. The amazing thing about working on such a holic Outlander is any actor maybe listen, listening will know of all worked on low budget stuff where there's not a great budget, but Outlander has this huge budget, so literally there was hundreds of horses, hundreds of red coats and everything looked like from the time, so you didn't have to use your imagination too much when you walked into the field, there was red coats and horses and it just looked so real. So it was just incredible.

KATHI ([22:02](#)):

Was that something you knew from safe school history class and personal interest or was it really new to you the way history really came to life in that show?

SCOTT ([22:14](#)):

I think we've all got pictures of what the time would've looked like and we've all watched things like Braveheart and stuff like that in movies all the time. I think the differences going on to it as an actor is seeing all the minor details, everything is so realistic, everything is as it was and I was playing a blacksmith so you were having to hammer away at swords and stuff like that. Just stuff that was just incredible to go and do. I think that it was a level of detail. You absolutely got immersed in this world and it was like time travel and it was incredible.

KATHI ([22:47](#)):

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Cool. Did you actually make a sword or did you just hammer around on a prop?

SCOTT ([22:52](#)):

It was more hammering around unfortunately making a sword, but it was hammering around, but obviously the flames were true, the heat was real and working up a sweat hammering their way to it because it takes hours to film these scenes. So you're banging away on the end of the piece of metal for a long part of the day and there's real dangers in it and there's security stuff and basically fire marshals and stuff to make sure you don't burn the set down

KATHI ([23:19](#)):

Probably for the best.

SCOTT ([23:21](#)):

Absolutely. And it's always nice to know that you're not responsible of somebody's job that day to get stuff off you when the camera shouts cut.

KATHI ([23:28](#)):

Absolutely. I guess that way you can be immersed in the role a bit more as well.

SCOTT ([23:33](#)):

Yeah, I said you're trying to get lost in it and it's normally the time between set when the shout action and stuff and you're in it. Those are the amazing times. I suppose the difficult thing is it's all someone coming up and handing you rolling and a cup of tea and every now those stuff do break the illusion for you, so it's making sure you can get into it and not having to worry as to say about maybe scolding somebody with something, a hot iron or something. Then it's nice to not be worrying about that because somebody takes it off you as soon as a shout cut.

KATHI ([24:00](#)):

I bet those are some fun behind the scenes shot as well that you probably wouldn't expect to see when you're a fan of the show. Yeah,

SCOTT ([24:08](#)):

One of the scenes I always chat about was getting my shirt off with Sam Hoon, but my first day on set was a scene where I get 20 lashes for not keeping guard properly and I get my lashes and it was a big nervous scene. Take all your top off in front of hundred extras and strangers and crew. And then later on that night we were filming a scene from one of our scenes and it was Sam's turn to take his cut off and all the girls gave him a big when he took his top off because he's built, we all know he is in very good shape and I said to the director, I said something wrong there. There wasn't continuity, they didn't do that when I took my shirt off as much as my ego might've been carried away. Being on a big show, sometimes you get put back in your box pretty quickly.

KATHI ([24:52](#)):

So which episode was that again?

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SCOTT ([24:55](#)):

Yes, I'm trying to think. It was my first day on set, so it must be what, maybe 2009 I think it might be. And it's a scene where there's a public lashing, so myself and Kincaid, so I play Ross and Kincaid and we are keeping guard and Graham mct, who's character, who's the war chief enters into the village essentially and the safe space and obviously we know him, we know he's the war chief, so we let him in. But later on Sam's character Jamie's got to make an example of is that nobody should be getting in no matter who they're, unless it's been okayed. So me and Gregor Firth who played Kincaid got a public lashing, but mine had to be found his didn't.

KATHI ([25:33](#)):

Oh God. Right. Let's move on and talk a little bit what it was like for you to, or how the show really has impacted you as a Scott, but also as an actor. Would you say that the show has changed the way you think about Scotland or even Scottish history?

SCOTT ([25:53](#)):

Yeah, on both accounts, I mean in terms of how I've used Scotland, I've seen Border of Scotland since being on the show. That's out of curiosity. My wife and I like to go and see some of the locations. We like to go and visit new places in Scotland and in terms of the history, obviously when you go on a show that you start reading up a bit more, I like my history and I like to read up and get to know me a bit more now than I did before. So yeah, it's been a great positive impact in my life and it's expanded my world. Obviously Scotland I've got to know more of, but I've actually got to see more of the world since being on Outlander because I've been invited all over the world.

KATHI ([26:28](#)):

And is there any film locations that you enjoy particularly where maybe you shot the scene?

SCOTT ([26:34](#)):

There's so many and what I would say is when you're filming the scenes, say you get picked up, a car comes to your house, picks you up in the morning, takes you go on your trailer and stuff like that and wherever you are, sometimes you're not really aware of what the location is. You're that busy worried about your lines and getting yourself into what's happening for your character that day, the stuff that you're not really worried whether we're filming in Inverness or Perth or anything. But we were up in Perth and we found up there, I think we were there for about 10 days and we stayed at the Creef Hydro. It's a lovely hotel up that way and it was nice because that's when we was getting the bond with the cast members, so that was really nice. And I did do a we scene at Brook, the fans of the show note as La Brook and had a scene, it's actually used in the opening credits I think of scene of episode two 13 and it's myself and Kincaid arriving on a horse and car waggon with all the weapons and because it's an opening sequence, it's just not every clear, it's quite blurry.

([27:34](#)):

But I remember filming that day and that was pretty incredible. We went up to see the location obviously when they weren't shooting and I'd seen it obviously when they were shooting as well, so I'd seen it when they decorated it for the 17 hundreds. It was incredible. And then you went up in the modern time and none of that stuff was there, so it was amazing.

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KATHI ([27:52](#)):

Yeah, that's one of the things I found as well when I visited the locations for this episode and other Outlander film locations in the past is that you can recognise them, but they do look slightly different in the TV show because obviously they had to be made into the 18th century kind of vibe. So yeah, I totally hear what you're saying about seeing it, but it always looks a little bit different, which is quite cool.

SCOTT ([28:19](#)):

It's what I said about when you're on the horse and cart and you're dressing all the gear and travelling along in a horse and cart and that as bumpy as it is and you ride up to Lall Brook, which is the fictional home in the story and you're sitting and going, wow, it just looks just F and feel so real. It's just such a blessing. I always think of actors that maybe have to work way more green screen and think how tough a job it would be when none of that's there and you have to imagine it all, but actually it's a lot easier when you ride up with a horse and car and you can see the historical building and it just feels like you're on the 17 hundreds. It's incredible.

KATHI ([28:49](#)):

Absolutely. I always find there's something very emotional around visiting locations like that that from the screen. And that kind of leads me to my next question. Outlander is obviously a massive success and has a very big cult following all over the world. What does it mean to you as an actor and as a Scott that you are a part of that?

SCOTT ([29:11](#)):

I think it's different things. I think in the immediate aftermath of filming on the show and being in the show and watching yourself in the big screen, there's just to be pinch me moments and grateful for being part of it. I think probably long-term when I'll appreciate it more maybe with the grandkids are watching you, I like to, I wind up some of the younger family members. We've got the kids and I tell them that I've been in the 17 hundreds as a soldier. The other one I was in Afghanistan in one of my movies. I says, I've been in Afghanistan as a soldier and stuff like that. And I says, when I'm in the old folks home and I'm telling people that I lost my leg in Afghanistan and that I was a 17 hundreds blacksmith, I go to think I'm crazy in my mind I've seen myself there. So I've actually lived those moments. I got a helicopter did pick me up out of in Afghanistan, but we were filming in Jordan, but on the screen when you watch it, it's Afghanistan and that was in the war movie Jackie, and obviously in Outlander as well, you've been in those places. So I think probably more long term it'll really hit you. I think short term is just a blessing to be part of it. Just absolute blessing to go on a production that is Hollywood. It's just been incredible.

KATHI ([30:19](#)):

Amazing. And now before I let you go, I'd love to know whether you're working on something either now or in the upcoming months. How can people find out what you're working on now?

SCOTT ([30:30](#)):

Well, I've got a website which is just scott kyle.co.uk and I update all my different projects there. Some of the acting projects, I've got a play that's going to be happening in 2022. We're going to be touring, it's called One Mississippi and it's about young male suicide and that's a true story. So I've met the person I'm playing and it's an incredible story. I'm looking forward to that. I am doing a movie which was

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supposed to be happening before lockdown and it got postponed three weeks before we were filming due to the lockdown and that is called 1000 Flames where I play the manager of an up and coming band and we're supposed to be filming that as soon as we're allowed any hospitals, there's some of the scenes in it, A lot of the scenes are set in a hospital and we need access to hospital. Obviously during the current pandemic, hospitals don't want film and camera crews running around the hospitals just yet. So as soon as that is able to do, I'm hoping maybe summer 2022 we'll be filming 1000 Flames.

KATHI ([31:25](#)):

Well, we'll definitely be keeping an eye out for those projects. Where is the best place that people can find you and keep up to date with you and hear about those upcoming, the theatre production and the film?

SCOTT ([31:36](#)):

Well, yeah, I'm on social media, so I'm on Facebook. I think I've maxed out my friends on Facebook. You're all allowed 5,000 friends. It's amazing that you've got a limit to how sociable you can be on social media. And I'm on Twitter and my handle is at Scott JKO number one. And yeah, and I post my daily activities. I'm not one for posting my lunch and my dinner and stuff, but I post upcoming film projects and stuff and my workshops. I do a lot of work with the children's theatre workshops that I do and I do them all around the world, so I always post when I'm teaching a class.

KATHI ([32:11](#)):

Brilliant. Thank you so much for your time, Scott. We'll put those links in the show notes so people can stay up to date with you and give you a wee follow on Twitter. Maybe we can get you an Outlander cookbook so you can start posting your lunches and your dinner there as well. Sounds like

SCOTT ([32:26](#)):

A plan.

KATHI ([32:28](#)):

That was Scott Kyle, everyone, thank you so much for coming on and sharing your experiences on the Outlander Cast with us. And with this I send off to Dream about your own Outlander inspired trip to Scotland. Next week we turn our attention to the northeast of Scotland and go on an indulgent road trip to food and whiskey heaven. It will no doubt be a delicious journey. Thank you so much for listening to Wild for Scotland. Remember photos from today's and previous stories are available on wild for scotland.com and I also post some of my favourites on Instagram at Wild for Scotland. Come and say hi there. Wild for Scotland is written and hosted by me. Kathy Kaner Frankowski is the producer and editor of the show podcast. Art is by Lizzie von Knight, the Tartan Trail Burner and all original music is composed by Bruce Wallace. Until next time when we travel down a different road in Scotland.