SCOTLAND'S 'WITCH TRAIL MAP



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In Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, discover dark legends, truly magical places and observe ways to live like a modern-day witch by experiencing the healing powers of nature in Scotland.

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1. CALANAIS STANDING STONES

ISLE OF LEWIS

Standing for over 5,000 years, the Calanais Standing Stones have a rich culture of magical folklore. One legend tells how a fairy cow came to give milk to the starving people of Calanais. All was well until a rumoured witch seeking more than her share brought the giving to an end by milking the cow dry before vanishing. It's no wonder the stones served as inspiration for Outlander's magical Craigh na Dun.

Stand tall at the stones



2. STRATHSPEY STORYWALKS

THE HIGHLANDS

Wander through woods and along trails, discovering the incredible culture, history and ecology of this special part of the Cairngorms National Park, tasting wild teas, and sharing local stories of kings, witches, fairy folk and highwaymen. Your guide Sarah will help you honour the memory of so-called witches by tuning in to the quiet voices within the landscape.

Start my story walk adventure





3. BLAIR CASTLE

PERTHSHIRE

Blair Castle is nestled in the landscape of Highland Perthshire and has a fascinating history of visitors, including Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, and of course, an alleged witch! Legend has it that the mountains overlooking the castle have acted as a hiding spot for a powerful witch who could shape shift into wildlife. Visitors should certainly keep an eye out for their favourite creatures on a stroll around the grounds...

Discover Blair Castle's legends



4. LOCH AWE & KILCHURN CASTLE* ARGYLL

This beauty spot is said to be haunted by the witch of Ben Cruachan, named after the tallest mountain in the region. Legend has it that the witch was tired from a long day of herding deer and fell asleep on her duty to cover the spring with a slab of stone at sundown and lift away the rock at dawn, thus flooding the valley by accident and forming Loch Awe.

*Kilchurn Castle is currently closed for conservation works.

Learn more about the legend

5. THE ROOT OF MAGIC **GLASGOW**

Every aspiring witch and wizard needs to fuel their powers and there's no better place than The Root of Magic to enjoy a bite or a tipple in style. Tuck into the "Monster Toastie of Monsters" in the Potions café, sip on "Worms Wart Soup" in the bar or brew up some magical concoctions yourself in a Potions Cocktail Class.

Got an appetite for magic?





6. GLASGOW WOMEN'S LIBRARY **GLASGOW**

Glasgow Women's Library is no ordinary library! Visitors will find a wonderful treasure trove full of historical and contemporary artifacts and archive materials celebrating the lives, histories and achievements of women. The team's vision is of a world in which every woman is able to fulfill her potential and where women's contributions to society are fully recognised and valued. Seal of approval from all aspiring witches guaranteed!

I want to go there

7. GALLOWAY WILD FOODS

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Crouching down to pick a plump mushroom or standing on the very tips of your toes to reach the juiciest berry is a wonderful and rewarding way to connect with nature. Galloway Wild Foods teaches all areas of foraging, from wild foods and tipples to the uses of traditional and modern medicinal plants. It's amazing what delicious concoctions can be created from foraged delights!

Forage through nature



8. KIRKWALL WITCHY WALK

ORKNEY

For tales of historical witchcraft, torture, spells and charms, look no further than Orkney, once a hotbed of allegations and accusations. Peer into Marwick's Hole where those accused of witchcraft were imprisoned at St Magnus Cathedral and walk in the footsteps of the condemned to Gallow'Ha on a guided tour with Spiritual Orkney.

Discover an ominous trail in Orkney





9. MACBETH'S HILLOCK

MORAY SPEYSIDE

Tales around the campfire can get pretty spooky at Macbeth's Hillock, said to be the site where Shakespeare's Macbeth met the three witches that told of his rise to King and future demise. At this mythical meeting place, find five luxury glamping pods that prove history comes in many shapes and sizes.

Stay where Macbeth met the three witches



10. GLEN DYE SCHOOL OF WILD WELLNESS AND BUSHCRAFT

ABERDEENSHIRE

Visit the Glen Dye School of Wild Wellness and Bushcraft to be immersed in all that the magical Aberdeenshire countryside has to offer. Glen Dye is a private estate surrounded by wilderness and moorland with 30,000 acres of stunning land acting as the perfect playground for all modern-day witches to connect with the therapeutic benefits of mother nature.

Experience the wilderness in Glen Dye

11. EAST NEUK SEAWEED

FIFF

Did you know that seaweed has a key place in the healing legacy of Scotland and was possibly used by the wise women and healers of times gone by?
East Neuk Seaweed offer various handson workshops in the coastal locations throughout Fife that highlight the healing properties and nutritional value of this sea vegetable. Dip your toes into the clear waters of Scotland and learn how to forage for and cook with wild seaweed.



Forage for seaweed



12. WITCHCRAFT AND WIZARDRY ESCAPE ROOM

STIRLING

Welcome to the school of witchcraft and wizardry where there have been some funny goings on. In a classroom full of tricks, puzzles, challenges and spells, aspiring witches and wizards must solve all mysteries to escape the grasps of the evil professor and graduate with a distinction. Reward yourself afterwards with a stroll through this magic wee city with a big history.

I need a magical adventure



14. INVISIBLE CITIES TOURS

EDINBURGH

Discover the stories of the fascinating women that reportedly walked the cobbled streets of Edinburgh once upon a time. From mothers and doctors to murderers and body snatchers, and those accused of witchcraft, visitors will learn about the imprint female residents have left on the capital city from a unique and local perspective.

Explore Edinburgh's past



13. THE WITCHERY BY THE CASTLE

EDINBURGH

Located in an impressive 16th century building at the gates of Edinburgh Castle, The Witchery by the Castle is a unique and atmospheric hotel and restaurant that takes its name from the hundreds of women and men burned at the stake as accused witches on Castlehill. Today, visitors can dine in the rich glamorous surroundings of the original oak-panelled dining room and unwind in one of the lavishly decorated suites.

Visit an enchanting eatery



15. ABBOTSFORD

SCOTTISH BORDERS

Abbotsford, the home of 19th century novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott, is one of the most famous houses in the world. But did you know it also boasts one of the rarest and most important collections of books on witchcraft? Visitors to Scott's stunning library can see his treasured "Witch Corner" and find out how its books inspired some of the writer's most iconic novels.

Discover a magical library

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Head to our blog about Scotland's Witch Trail to find out more. www.visitscotland.com/blog/attractions/witch-trail/

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