



Historic Architecture: The Lighthouses Throughout Scotland

Located on the rugged coastline of Ayrshire, Scotland, the iconic Turnberry Point lighthouse – originally intended as a beacon for sailors – today beckons to golfers playing at one of the sport’s most legendary resorts, Trump Turnberry, a Luxury Collection Resort and a member of the Luxury Scotland collection of luxury hotels.

The iconic Turnberry lighthouse has been the backdrop of countless photos taken by guests who come from all over the world to play here, but those golfers may not realize that this famed structure, which has stood here since 1873, has a significant history of its own. The lighthouse was designed by Thomas and David Stevenson, the father and uncle of Robert Louis Stevenson, author of such literary classics as *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island*, and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

The lighthouse was built on the ruins of Turnberry Castle, which is reputed to be the birthplace of Robert the Bruce in 1274. It’s now part of a resort-wide renovation that will be complete in June; the lighthouse itself has been transformed into a halfway house for golfers who want a break at the turn of the world-famous Ailsa course, and it will also feature a two-bedroom luxury suite. VisitScotland, the country’s official tourism bureau, has declared 2016 the “Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design,” making it a perfect time for visitors to check out the handiwork of the rest of the Stevensons – the ones who used their pencils to craft blueprints rather than novels.

Thomas Stevenson was both a meteorologist and lighthouse engineer whose designs are considered legendary in the field. The youngest son of engineer Robert Stevenson, he designed lighthouses first with his older brother David and later with David’s son David Alan Stevenson. Thomas was said to be very disappointed that his own son, Robert Louis, chose a different path and didn’t pursue an engineering career like most of the other men in the family. From the span of 1854 to 1886, Thomas designed more than 30 lighthouses throughout Scotland – and it happens that other members of the Luxury Scotland collection of luxury hotels are located near some of his architectural masterpieces, providing an interesting themed itinerary for a journey along the coasts of Scotland.

Turnberry Point (1873) has a sister lighthouse, Ailsa Craig (1886), also located near Trump Turnberry, a resort whose Ailsa course has hosted four Open Championships. Located within 800 acres along the Scottish coast, the resort is noted for its golf academy, spa and a variety of outdoor pursuits. Currently benefitting from a £200 million (about \$292 million U.S) investment, the hotel, lighthouse and Ailsa course are undergoing renovation and will reopen on June 1.

Davaar (1854) and Fladda (1860) lighthouses are located near Crinan Hotel, a family-owned property that was one of the founding members of Luxury Scotland. Each of its rooms has a spectacular view of the sea, and the hotel has become a haven for artists ... perhaps aided by the fact that owner Frances Macdonald Ryan and her son Ross Ryan are both accomplished artists.

Kyleakin (1857) and Ornsay (1857) are both located near Kinloch Lodge on the Isle of Skye. The lodge is owned by Lord Godfrey and Lady Claire Macdonald, who is Scotland's best known cookbook author. As would be expected, a visit to Kinloch Lodge always includes a memorable dining experience.

Corran Point (1860) is in the Scottish Highlands, near such legendary properties as Airds Hotel & Restaurant, Glencoe House and Inverloch Castle Hotel:

Airds is located near the waterfront village of Oban, meaning that its chef has access to some of the freshest seafood available in the country. There's an interesting Stevenson twist to the hotel ... this time tied to that "other" Stevenson, the novelist. Events in Robert Louis Stevenson book *Kidnapped* took place right near Airds.

Glencoe House, named for this spectacular region of Scotland, was built by Lord Strathcona in 1896 before he moved to Canada and founded the Canadian Pacific Railway. It's composed of a unique collection of suites that offer incredible privacy, including in-room dining service.

Inverloch boasts 17 palatial bedrooms, each with its own design. It attracted Queen Victoria herself back in 1873, when she spent a week sketching and painting here.

Fidra (1885) and Oxcar (1886) lighthouses are in the Firth of Forth in Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh, which is home to four Luxury Scotland member properties:

21212 Restaurant with Rooms is a Michelin-starred restaurant that offers four sleeping rooms upstairs – with Bedrooms 1 and 21 providing views of the Firth of Forth.

The G+V Royal Mile is named for "George & Victoria," a nod to the area's royal heritage and the hotel's prime location in the heart of Edinburgh, on the corner of the George IV Bridge, Victoria Street and the famed Royal Mile.

The Glasshouse is a boutique hotel located in the city center; highlights here include a two-acre rooftop garden and amazing views of Calton Hill, the neighboring World Heritage site.

The Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa provides views of Edinburgh Castle and has recently introduced a "book room service" program – including, of course, some selections by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Members of Connoisseurs Scotland, now celebrating its 25th year, include five of the world's finest golf venues, three castles, one of which was voted to be the best hotel in Europe; city-center properties; country house hotels; exclusive-use properties; a range of world-class spas; an all-suite hotel; the ultimate luxury train, Belmond Royal Scotsman; and the only cruise ship in the world with a Royal Warrant from HM The Queen, Hebridean Princess. Five members boast Michelin-starred restaurants, including Gleneagles, which has the only two Michelin-starred restaurant in Scotland. Information about Connoisseurs Scotland, its members, partners and special offers can be found at <http://www.luxuryscotland.co.uk>