

ONE OF THE FINEST 14TH CENTURY TOWERS IN SCOTLAND



# BALGONIE CASTLE



A TRULY BREATHTAKING VENUE FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY



# BALGONIE CASTLE

THE LAIRD OF BALGONIE  
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WELCOME TO...

## BALGONIE CASTLE



*If you would like to be transported to a magical place  
where time stands still and dreams come true, look  
no further than Balgonie Castle.*



Balgonie Castle is situated in the heart of the Kingdom of Fife and perched above the winding river Leven and has been the home of successive Lairds of Balgonie since before 1246. The great tower of Balgonie is the oldest complete tower standing in Fife and one of the oldest in Scotland.

Candlelit Balgonie, originally known for its illustrious visitors including King James IV, Mary, Queen of Scots, Rob Roy MacGregor and Dr Benjamin Rush (one of the founding fathers of the United States of America) is now extremely popular for weddings and functioned events.



*The Castle is also licensed for Civil Weddings*



## IDEALLY LOCATED...

Balgonie Castle, situated in the heart of the Kingdom of Fife and perched above the winding River Leven is home of the Laird, Lady and Younger of Balgonie and Eddergoll.

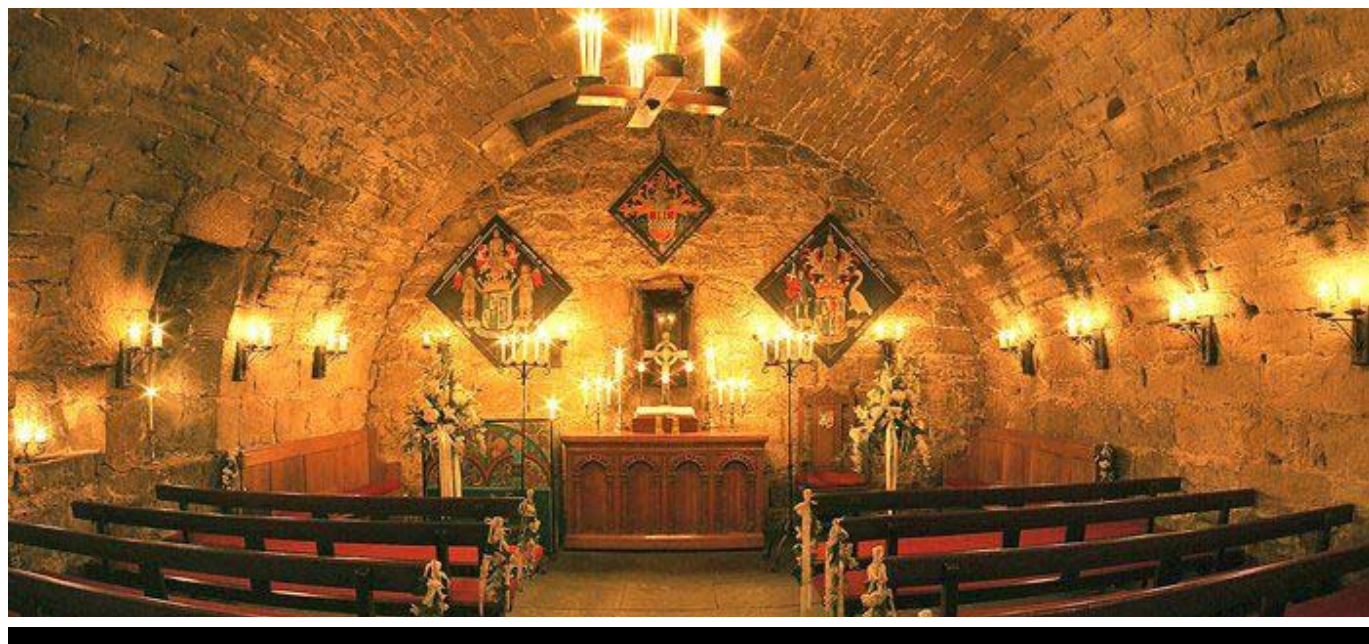
One of the finest 14th century towers in Scotland, candlelit Balgonie originally known for its illustrious visitors including King James, Mary Queen of Scots and Roy MacGregor is now extremely popular for weddings and functioned events.

*Balgonie Castle is a private home and cannot offer accommodation. A list of Hotels and Guesthouses is available on request.*



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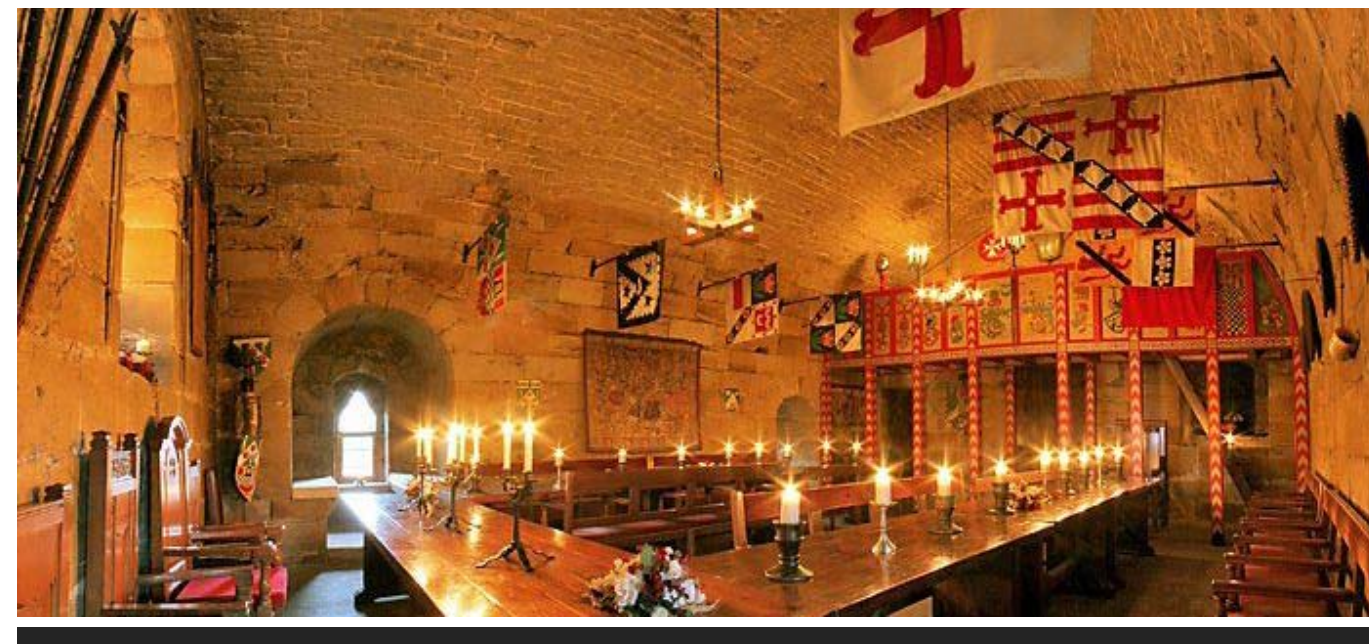
## CANDLELIT CHAPEL

Balgonie Castle's 14th century candlelit Chapel is now accepted as one of the most romantic wedding venues in Scotland.

Great care has been taken to preserve the unique atmosphere of the Chapel as a setting for the most memorable day of your life.

Together the Chapel and Castle make a perfect backdrop for wedding photographs.

The Chapel seats up to 70 people in addition to the standing bridal party; if necessary, up to an extra 30 people may be seated in the proceeding Chapter Hall, which gives a view down the aisle.



## CANDLELIT GREAT HALL

The atmospheric medieval barrel-vaulted Great Hall of Balgonie Castle is the oldest and finest preserved hall in Fife, if not Central Scotland.

It is one of the very few complete medieval Great Hall layouts in Scotland available for hire.

***Civil weddings can now take place at the Castle.***

Balgonie was the first venue in Fife to be granted a Civil Marriage Licence. Civil Weddings take place in the medieval Great Hall or the Courtyard.





# PLANNING YOUR BIG DAY

## From 12 Months

- Select your Chief Bridesmaid, Best Man, witness and other attendants.
- Apply for marriage licence with local Registrar if planning a civil ceremony.
- Order your dress, attendant's outfits and accessories.
- Order the wedding cake and favours; consider serving your cake as dessert.
- Book florist and choose arrangements for bouquets, church and reception sites.
- Book your desired form of transport to and from the ceremony.
- Book your honeymoon and apply for passports if necessary.
- Reserve marquees and rental equipments if necessary.

## From 6-9 Months

- Stationery for invitations, order of service, menus, table plan, place cards, thank you notes, photo albums.
- Select and book musicians, DJ & entertainment.
- Make sure you have seen your chosen musicians perform, preferably live but if not, on video tape.
- Also start thinking about pieces of music for your ceremony, first dance etc.
- Arrange hire of suits for groom, best man, fathers and ushers.
- Select and book decorations for the reception. It is possible to transform a room to suit the location.
- Book Firework Company if required (check regulations at your venue first)
- Order your wedding rings. This will allow time for custom designs and inscriptions.
- Book dental appointment to allow time for any work needed.

## From 2-4 Months

- Compile wedding present list and register.
- Send out invitations and keep track of RSVPs, gifts and thank you notes.
- Book for first night accommodation.
- Discuss details of menu with venue or caterer.
- Book organist, choir & bells with the church, discuss service with officiant and choose hymns.
- If you are writing your own vows, do so now.
- Schedule rehearsal time and dinner.
- Buy gifts for bridal party and each other.
- Buy any special lingerie your dress requires and take to your next fitting.
- Buy shoes and start breaking them in around the house. (Cover them with shoe bags to protect them)
- Go shopping for mums' outfits, your going-away outfit and honeymoon cloths.
- Make appointments with hair and beauty salons.
- Apply for post-dated name change on passport, if applicable.
- Select dry cleaning and gown and bouquet preservation companies.
- Start writing your speeches.

## From 4 Weeks

- Have a trial run with hair and make-up with headpiece.
- Have final fitting for yourself and your attendants.
- Hold hen/stag night.
- Finalise details for the wedding and prepare check lists for bridesmaids, best man and ushers.
- Prepare seating plan.

## 2 Weeks Before

- Send out thank you notes as gifts are received.
- Start course of tanning sessions or book self tan appointment as beauty salon.
- Confirm final arrangements in detail with all services.
- Pick up wedding rings.
- Confirm time of rehearsal with wedding party.
- Ask best man to take charge of returning the grooms' and usher's clothing, if hired.

## 1 Week Before

- Pick your wedding gown.
- Notify venue/caterer of final guest count.
- Have facial and other beauty treatments.
- Give best man envelopes for paying any remaining fees and tipping on the day.
- Start gathering wedding ensemble and packing for honeymoon.
- Make a detailed list of everything to be collected or delivered in the next few days.
- Plan some quality time with your family or friends.
- Get plenty of beauty sleep.

## 1 Day Before

- First of all, take everything in your stride and enjoy the run up to your wonderful wedding day.
- Layout wedding ensemble and pack overnight bag.
- Have your manicure and pedicure today – it saves you smudging them tomorrow!
- Soak in a relaxing aromatherapy bath at the end of the day, or book a massage, if you have time.

## On The Day

***Relax, Enjoy and Remember .....***





# MARRIAGE SCHEDULE

- > You will need to collect the Marriage Schedule personally from the Registrar and produce it here before the marriage service. After you have both signed it, and it has been signed by the Minister and two witnesses, you must return it to the issuing Registrar within 3 days of the marriage.
- > For weddings where there are only the Bride and Groom, the Laird and Lady of Balgonie will act as witnesses.
- > If one of you is a foreign national, you will need to produce documentation from your own country that you are free to be married.

**Please contact the Registrar for advice.**

## MINISTER.

If you do not have an appointed Minister to conduct the marriage service, the Laird can ask one of a number of retired ministers to perform the ceremony. There is a regular public service in the Chapel, which is accepted as a working Chapel by the Church of Scotland.

## PERSONAL TOUCH.

As Balgonie Castle is their home, the Laird, Lady and Younger of Balgonie are there to supervise every aspect of your wedding, ensuring that you have the most memorable and perfect day possible. The Laird presents each couple with a unique commemorative Wedding Certificate illuminated to look like a medieval document.

*For weddings coming from abroad, Balgonie offers another personal touch, if you wish, your national flag can be flown over Balgonie's Gatehouse.*



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# LIVE THE DREAM...

*Does the idea of getting married in a castle feel like an impossible dream ?*

Then dream no more because your dream can now come true at Balgonie Castle. Balgonie Castle is owned by a family of committed individuals who live in the castle and have made their castle available for your wedding at an affordable price.

You are welcome to come and visit us to get the real taste of a true medieval castle for your special wedding but please phone first.

Wherever in the world you live, you must personally contact any Registrar of Marriages in Fife, no earlier than 3 months prior to the wedding date.

Albany House, Albany Gate, Glenrothes KY7 5NP  
Telephone. + 44 (0) 1592 416 570.



*The Laird of Balgonie with his son & piper...*

# TESTIMONIALS

***Since the restoration of the castle 969 couples have chosen Balgonie as their wedding venue to exchange their vows.***

*"...the scene when I looked into the chapel before walking down the wee aisle was simply stunning with candles and the most amazing sense of calm, the atmosphere was everything I could have hoped for."*

***" If I could marry again I would book Balgonie with no second thoughts..."***

***"...if you are thinking of a castle wedding, this is as authentic as it gets..."***

*"Whether you are planning a wedding or just a visit, come and see Balgonie, you won't be disappointed."*

BY KERRIA WHITTON-DAVIES  
25/03/2007



*Thank you very much for helping us to have our perfect wedding in your lovely home.*

*Everyone said it was an amazing place and the atmosphere gave them goosebumps. It definitely lived up to expectations and we had a day to remember forever.*

**Sandra and Paul Hughes.**

.....

*Thank you again for welcoming us at your home and making our castle wedding dream a reality. We feel enchanted to forever have such memories of your character and castle.*

**Ritsuko and Dan**

.....

*Thank you for all your expert help and advice that made our wedding day such a success.*

*The Chapel was even more beautiful than I had imagined, on the day.*

*We wish you every success in your future restoration programme and have recommended your services to all our friends.*

**Michelle and Nicholas Tomkins.**

.....

*I feel I must write to say how much all the guests and ourselves enjoyed the wedding ceremony.*

*All arrangements went like clockwork, exactly as we had discussed, and everyone at the castle was so helpful.*

**W. Smith.**

*Many thanks for all your help on the big day. The memories that we have of Balgonie Castle will remain with us.*

*Thanks for making it such a special occasion for us. We will recommend you to our friends.*

**Kim and Eileen McCandless.**

.....

*Our Daughter Emma, had the privilege of being married in your beautiful Chapel on 5 August to Darren.*

*We would like to thank you so much for allowing us to hold the ceremony at such a wonderful venue. Everyone who attended was completely bowled over by its serene atmosphere which was so complemented by the candles. As you know, there was a large Welsh and Maltese contingent in attendance and they were completely overwhelmed when they saw their respective national flags fluttering proudly over the Castle.*

**Val and Drew Peden.**

.....

*Thank you very much for allowing us to use your Castle for our wedding on the 28th of October.*

*Our day was fantastic and most of that was down to the service at your wonderful Castle. We would recommend everyone to get married there, it's almost magical.*

**Alan and Claire Wilson.**







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## **Balgonie Castle**

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