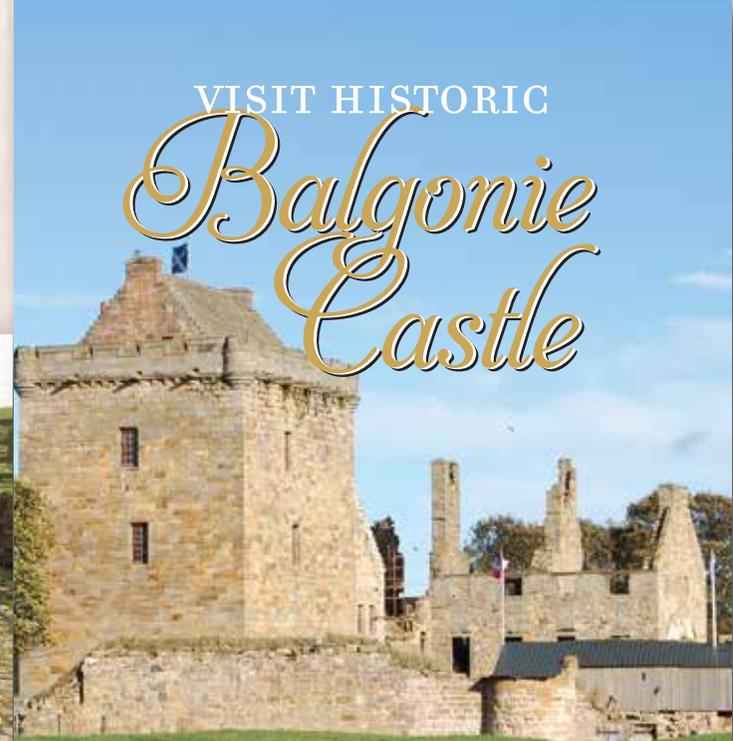




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VISIT HISTORIC
*Balgonie
Castle*

Balgonie Castle is the proud sponsor of the Clan Leslie tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



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Balgonie Castle,
by Markinch, Fife,
KY7 6HQ, Scotland

Visit us online: BalgonieCastle.co.uk

Balgonie was the seat of the Leslie Earls of Leven

(later Leven and Melville), beginning with the 1st Earl, the great Sir Alexander Leslie. Alexander was one of the greatest generals of the 17th century, starting off in the Dutch Army then spending 30 years in the Swedish Army and ending his service as the first foreign Field Marshal that Sweden had ever had. He had such a powerful reputation that he was called "Leslie the Great." Returning home to Scotland he was given command of the Scottish Army of the Covenant, with the rank of Lord General, and served throughout the English Civil Wars. After such a long and active life, he died at Balgonie in his own bed of old age. Eight Earls and two Countesses of Leven (in their own right) lived at Balgonie.



Balgonie Castle is situated above the river Leven in central Fife, some four miles (down river) from Rothes House, seat of the Chiefs of Clan Leslie. The Duke of Rothes was guardian to the infant Countess of Leven, after her father's sudden early death. Until she came of age.

One well recorded visitor to the castle was a young medical Student from Philadelphia, who was studying at Edinburgh University. That young man was Benjamin Rush who went on to become one of the Founding Fathers of America and founder of the first purpose built hospital and collage in America.

The castle was probably an early Pictish settlement of some importance belonging to the Celtic Earls of Fife, before the current castle was built. The tower is the oldest complete tower in Fife and one of the oldest in Scotland.

The castle is undergoing a long term restoration programme. The Chapel was established in 1250 and is regarded as one of the most romantic places to get married in Scotland. This year is the 25th anniversary since the restoration of the Chapel and we have hosted weddings, blessings and christenings from all over the world. Receptions and other functions take place in the historic Great Hall in the tower and the Lundie Hall in the Hall House range. The whole castle and courtyard are a photographers dream for wedding photos.



Balgonie is situated in the center of Fife, less than an hour from Edinburgh, Stirling and Dundee, and an hour and a quarter from Glasgow. Balgonie is only a little over half an hour's drive from St Andrews, the home of Golf. The main UK East Coast rail line is only a mile from the castle (Markinch).

