



In this Oct 1, 1961 file photo, President John F. Kennedy and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, accompanied by Charles Bartlett and his wife, leave St Mary's Church in Newport, RI, after Mass. — AP



In this Sept 12, 1953 file photo, Senator John F. Kennedy, D-Mass, leaves St Mary's Church with his bride, the former Jacqueline Bouvier, after their wedding in Newport, RI.

Church restoration a throwback to days of Kennedy wedding



Scaffolding used to help disassemble the organ stands in the sanctuary of St Mary's Church in Newport, RI.

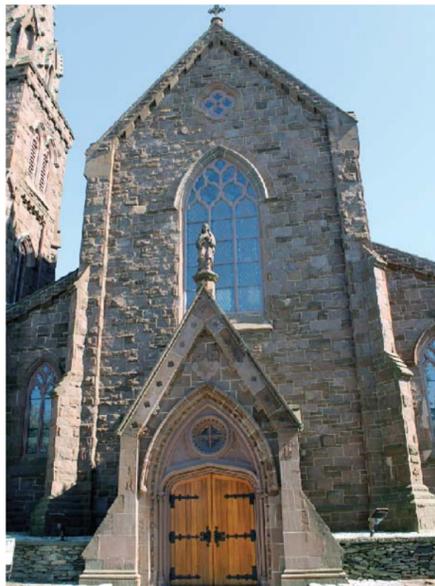


Photo shows the front of St Mary's Church in Newport, RI.



Photo shows the pew where John and Jacqueline Kennedy sat during worship is marked with a plaque in St Mary's Church.



Photo shows music director Cody Mead points to where organ pipes have been removed from in front of the stained glass windows in the choir loft of St Mary's Church.

The church where John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier got married is being restored to the appearance it had when they wed in 1953. St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, was the site of the wedding on Sept. 12, 1953, when Kennedy was a senator from Massachusetts. The couple often spent weekends and summers in Newport, where her family owned property. During those visits, including during his presidency, the couple worshipped at St. Mary's. They always sat in pew 10.

Five years after the wedding, in 1958, the Roman Catholic church installed a new organ, made by famed organ makers Casavant Freres of Quebec, Canada. The organ was so large its pipes and casework filled much of the choir loft, covering two stained glass windows and other architectural features. "In 1958, we did

not know that (Kennedy) was going to become president," the Rev. Kris von Maluski said on Wednesday.

That organ broke in 2014, and the church is now restoring it and replacing the casework and pipes with parts that fit into the space and match the Gothic style of the church. Church officials are using a blueprint they found from 1937 so that the result will match "what we think it may have looked like" when the Kennedys married, von Maluski said.

"They would have walked down the aisle seeing, hopefully, what we put up again," he said. St. Mary's was built between 1848 and 1852, and is a national historic shrine. When the US Naval Academy was temporarily moved to Newport from Annapolis, Maryland, during the Civil War, St. Mary's served as its chapel. Among the problems with the existing organ is



Photo shows the plaque marking where John and Jacqueline Kennedy sat during worship is affixed to a pew in St Mary's Church.

that it obstructs archways in the choir loft, so the 40 choir members have to duck and crowd together. The new design will solve that, said Cody Mead, the church's music director.

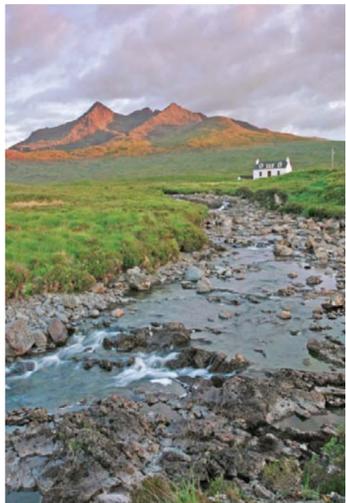
"We look at this as a musical project as well as an architectural project," he said. The church is launching a fundraising campaign to help pay for the work, which includes the \$600,000 cost of refurbishing the organ and \$200,000 to reconstruct the choir loft, as well as additional money to maintain the instrument and provide musical scholarships and programs. Von Maluski says the church attracts many tourists interested in the Kennedys. In the summers, it holds a special program called "Return to Camelot," which includes live organ music from the wedding and a video presentation about the Kennedys' time at St. Mary's and in Newport. — AP

Why visitors love Scotland's Misty Isle of Skye

Bonny Prince Charlie saw Scotland's Isle of Skye on the run. He was fleeing government troops after his Highland rebellion ended disastrously at the 18th century Battle of Culloden. My visit was hurried, too, although due to nothing more exciting than a tight schedule—no redcoats on my tail. Luckily, even a short stay is long enough to glimpse why the Misty Isle of Skye is one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions. Here are a few reasons.

Dream scenes

Rain or shine, most likely both in the same day, Skye is a stunner, from the stark grandeur of the Black Cuillin, the jagged mountain



This undated photo provided by Visit Scotland/Scottish Viewpoint, shows Allt Dearg cottage, a unique old shepherd's cottage which is in an isolated position under the Black Cuillin ridge on the Isle of Skye off the west coast of Scotland.



A woman walks past a cairn commemorating the Highlanders who died at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 on Isle of Skye off the west coast of Scotland. — AP photos

range looming over the island, to the cheerfully pastel houses of Portree harbor. You can take in the views by driving Skye's winding roads, get out for a shoreline amble or, if you've got the skills, go mountaineering. Guides can be hired for more challenging itineraries.

Recommended spots include the Trotternish ridge, known for rock formations like the Old Man of Storr and the Quiraing pinnacles. Also a must-see, the Fairy Pools, a series of crystal clear and flowing pools on the River Brittle.

Highland history

Are you a fan of the Starz TV series "Outlander"? You should already be familiar with the beauty of the Highlands, the setting for that time-traveling drama. The series hasn't gotten into Prince Charles' flight yet; Season 2 ended just as the Battle of Culloden started. The show's been renewed for two more seasons, but we don't know a lot of details on

what's coming. In real life, the prince, Charles Edward Stuart, who was the grandson of the deposed James II and was trying to win back the British throne for the Stuarts, escaped government troops aided by several Highlanders including the brave Flora MacDonald who got him to Skye dressed as her maid.

If you are headed into the Highlands by way of Inverness, you're close to the Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Center, which does a good job of explaining the rise and fall of the doomed campaign. You can't go far in Scotland without finding a castle, and Skye's Dunvegan Castle is billed as the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland, home to the chiefs of Clan MacLeod for eight centuries. Open daily 10 am-5:30 pm. March 25-October 15, admission to castle and gardens about \$16. For more island history visit the Skye Museum of Island Life in Kilmuir, which features a recreation of a Highland village. Open daily Easter-late September. 9:30 am-5 pm Admission about \$3.25.



Photo shows the rocky southern coastline of the Isle of Skye off the west coast of Scotland where Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have found shelter in a cave during his flight from government troops in 1746.

Dining & drams

Think Scottish cuisine begins and ends with broth and haggis? You're in for a surprise (not that there's anything wrong with broth and haggis).

Skye boasts a variety of dining choices including the Michelin-starred Kinloch Lodge and The Three Chimneys, which lost its Michelin star after a change in chefs in 2015 but continues to put out excellent food. If you're there for lunch, look for the Crispy Croft Egg starter, a perfect mix of rich, dense egg and crisp crust.

On the drinks side, Skye has one drink distillery, Talisker in Carbost. And it's the home of another Scots libation, Drambuie, now made in Glasgow but first developed and served at Skye's Broadford Hotel in the 1870s. The liqueur, a blend of aged scotch, spices, heather honey and herbs, is said to be based on a recipe of the bonny prince himself, who gave islanders the secret to his private elixir in gratitude for their help.

If you go...

Getting there and getting around: A bridge connects Skye to the mainland, so the easiest way to get to, and around, Skye is by car, either your own or on booked tours. Some island roads are single-track with places where you can pull over to let others pass.

Lodging: B&B's, hotels and self-catering cottages. Rooms fill up quickly at high season (spring and summer) so book ahead.

Portree and boat trips: Skye's largest town, Portree, has a supermarket and other shops. It also has a visitor center (Bayfield House, Bayfield Road) with information on walks, attractions and boat trips. You can even arrange a boat tour to the coastline of Elgol, on the southern end of the island, home to a cave where the prince is said to have hidden. No telling whether you'll feel the presence of Highlanders gone. But keep an eye out for men in red coats. — AP