

# OSBORNE



*Osborne House from below the terrace, William Leighton Leitch*

*We agreed that we could never be thankful enough to have got this place, which is the source of such comfort, independence, enjoyment and occupation.*

Journal, 10 December 1847

Life at Osborne centred around the family. Spring and summer visits allowed Victoria and Albert to spend time with their children. Osborne gave the children a freedom and privacy to play and enjoy outdoor life and the fresh sea air.



*The children at Osborne, Queen Victoria*

*We breakfasted out of doors and were much amused in watching the children running about and climbing...*

Journal, 1 August 1847



*Princess Louise with  
Prince Arthur and  
Prince Leopold  
Franz Xaver Winterhalter*



*Prince Alfred, Princess Alice and  
Princess Helena  
Franz Xaver Winterhalter*



*Princess Beatrice  
Franz Xaver Winterhalter*

Inside, the nursery was filled with toys and books, including the stories of Beauty and the Beast and Robin Hood. Osborne was a place for learning practical life skills. The children had their own gardens and special tools to tend to their fruit and vegetables. They grew a variety of produce that their father encouraged them to use.



# OSBORNE



*Osborne: the Swiss Cottage, William Leighton Leitch*

*The most important thing that happened was our beginning our Swiss Cottage.*

Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, 1853

The Swiss Cottage was a full-sized house where the children learnt cooking and domestic skills. It was not unusual for Victoria and Albert to take tea at Swiss Cottage, eating pancakes and wafers cooked by the children.



*The Queen's Birthday Table at Osborne, 24 May 1861, James Roberts*

Perhaps the most important aspect of life at Osborne was the celebration of family birthdays. 'The Birthday', as the person was affectionately known, enjoyed a number of rituals throughout the day, including a present table and a tree planting in their honour. In the evening, music and dancing brought the whole family together to celebrate.

*It was such a cheery evening – all ages dancing together, and our dear children all so happy. What could have been pleasanter?*

Journal, 27 May 1853



# BALMORAL



*Queen Victoria landing at Loch Muick, Sir Edwin Landseer*

*The picture is intended to present me as meeting Albert, who has been stalking, whilst I have been fishing, and the whole is quite consonant with the truth ... for no other Queen has ever enjoyed, what I am fortunate enough to enjoy in our peaceful happy life here.*

Journal, 17 September 1850

Life at Balmoral allowed Victoria and Albert to immerse themselves in Highland life. For the Prince it was a reminder of his German homeland, a place where he could enjoy hunting, shooting and fishing. Albert wrote to his grandmother,

*The country is really very beautiful, although severe and grand, perfect for sport of all kinds, the air remarkably pure and light...*



*Morning in the Highlands, Carl Haag*



*Evening at Balmoral, Carl Haag*

For the Queen, Balmoral offered the freedom to pursue her hobbies, enjoy the country air and the peace and quiet.

*It was wonderful not seeing a human being, nor hearing a sound, excepting that of the wind, or the call of blackcock.*

Journal, 10 September 1848



# BALMORAL



*Queen Victoria at Loch Laggan, Sir Edwin Landseer*

Balmoral, like Osborne, gave the Queen an opportunity to engage her artistic skills. Victoria was a talented artist who enjoyed sketching and painting, and her work served as reminders of the family's life together.

Victoria and Albert immersed themselves in everything Scottish, from outdoor pursuits to interior decoration. They created a 'Balmoral' tartan to decorate the rooms of the new Castle, accessorising with thistle motifs. The children were dressed in tartan and taught to dance Scottish reels.



*Balmoral: the Drawing Room, James Roberts*



*The Gillies' Ball, Egron Sellif Lundgren*

Queen Victoria, in a letter to her cousin Feodora, turned to Lord Byron to express her love for Scotland:

*England! thy beauties are tame & domestic  
To one who has roved o'er the Mountains afar;  
Oh for the Crags that are wild & majestic!  
The steep frowning glories of dark Loch na Gar!*