

# King's Keep

The **King's Keep** is the royal palace and primary seat of power for the **Ranald Dynasty** in the capital city of **Dalreoch**. Situated on a hill and surrounded by the city proper, it serves as the residence for the Grand Duke of Reoch and King of Dael Riata.

## Architecture and Exterior

The current structure is a **four-turreted keep** constructed from light grey stone. Its design is notable for several ornate features:

- **Golden Domes:** Each of the four turrets is topped with a golden dome that stands out against the sky.
- **Royal Standards:** Green flags, representing the Grand Duchy, fly atop the domes.
- **Historical Reconstruction:** While it contains much of the original ancient keep, it was significantly rebuilt and converted into a palace by **King Alasdair II** following his "grand tour," during which he adopted several foreign architectural ideas.
- **Inner Bailey:** The road to the keep opens into a stone-flagged square dominated by a building featuring many pillars and statues, topped with a **green verdigris dome**. For formal arrivals, an open-sided pavilion with a cloth-of-gold roof is often erected, housing gilded chairs on a carpeted dais.

## Internal Layout

The Keep is divided into several functional levels and specific chambers used by the royal household:

### Living Quarters

The royal apartments are located in the upper sections of the tower and are designed around a central **light well**. These include:

- **The King's Chambers:** Includes a bedchamber, a dressing room, and an ante-chamber where visitors wait for an audience.
- **The Queen's Chambers:** Mirroring the King's layout, these include dedicated galleries and a specific **Queen's Garden** area.
- **Galleries:** Internal walkways and galleries overlook the central light well and provide access to the various rooms.

### Public and Functional Spaces

- **The Grand Hall:** Located on the lower floors for formal events, meetings of the nobility, and state dinners.
- **The Roof:** The top of the keep features lanterns and allows for observation over the city and the River Reoch.
- **Cellars and Services:** The base of the tower and adjacent wings house the necessary support

services for the palace.

## Security and Garrison

The Keep is the headquarters of the **King's Life Guard**, led by their Knight Commander.

- **The Life Guard:** These veterans wear polished **green-and-gold enamelled armour** with matching helmets featuring horsehair plumes.
- **Sentries:** Green-armoured guards in full plate provide 24-hour security, challenging all who approach the private royal areas.
- **Access:** The inner bailey is protected by a gatehouse where twelve trumpeters traditionally signal the arrival of high-ranking dignitaries.

## Recent History

In 769, the King's Keep was the site where **King Alasdair V** asserted his adulthood and personal rule, supported by the Life Guard who prevented the regents from interfering in his proclamation. In 774, it was prepared for the royal wedding to **Lady Elizabeth Wallis**, a festive occasion that saw the city and the bailey extensively cleaned and decorated with the banners of the great houses.

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