



POCKET GUIDE TO

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★ CAMPING ★

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SUMMER IN SCOTLAND



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## GET READY FOR CAMPING

Experience the freedom of a touring trip, where you can wake up in a different part of the country every day. Or enjoy a bit of luxury at a holiday park and spend a restful week in the comfy surrounds of a state-of-the-art static caravan, or pack in some fun activities with the kids. There's a camping and caravanning holiday in Scotland to suit every preference and budget.

Start planning a break today and find your perfect **camping or caravanning** destination.

### - Stunning views -

Summer is the time to be spontaneous – pack the tent into the car, head out onto the open road, and pitch up in some beautiful locations. You'll find campsites set below breathtaking mountain ranges, overlooking pristine beaches, or in the middle of lush, open countryside. Best of all, the views come free of charge!

Be inspired and check out some of the best **views you could enjoy from a tent in Scotland**.



### - Stargazing -

Sleeping under the stars is the perfect opportunity to get familiar with the wonders of the sky at night. Plan a camping trip to the Glentrool Camping and Caravan Site in the Galloway Forest Park, the UK's first Dark Sky Park, or sail to Scotland's first Dark Sky island. There's minimum light pollution on the Isle of Coll, where the nearest lamppost is 20 miles away!

Experience more **stargazing opportunities** and discover Scotland's inky black skies on our website.

### - Campsites near castles -

Why not combine your camping or caravanning trip with a bit of history and book a pitch in the grounds of a castle? You'll find such camping grounds in many parts of the country, from the impressive 18th century Culzean Castle which dominates the Ayrshire clifftops to the fairytale vision of Blair Castle, set amidst the wonderfully verdant mountain landscape of Highland Perthshire.

Check out some **campsites near castles in Scotland**.



*Stargazing at Clatteringshaws Loch, Galloway Forest Park - the UK's first Dark Sky Park, Dumfries & Galloway*







## ADD TO YOUR EXPERIENCE

### - Cycling -

With a choice of dedicated cycle routes, a cycling holiday is a great way to see Scotland. Bring your family or friends for a gentle ride and zip through Scotland's incredible landscapes or challenge yourself on the advanced tracks. The choice is yours. If you want to explore the country at your own pace, a cycling holiday is definitely for you!

Check our blog and find a great ***cycling route*** that suits you.

### - Glamping -

Try the wild in comfort, and glamp it up on a holiday to Scotland. Sleep beneath a canvas roof or the stars, stay in a tipi or a wooden pod, or have a snooze in a hammock – it's something everyone should try at least once. You can enjoy the smells and sounds of nature, and be as active or relaxed as you like.

Discover ***unique accommodation*** located in outstanding natural settings across the country.



## ENJOY FAMILY PICNICS

A picnic is one of the quintessential summer time activities, and with countless scenic spots and a mouth-watering natural larder, Scotland is the place for the ultimate picnic. Did you know that Rothiemurchus in the Highlands was voted as being home to the best picnic spot in the UK?

Without a doubt, food tastes better when eaten outdoors, and Scottish produce is no exception – browse farmers' markets for the seasonal and quality cheese and meats and other tasty treats for your picnic basket. ***Get planning your picnic today!***

### - Recipes -

Whether it's a half an hour lunch break or relaxing for a whole afternoon, there's something unbridled about eating al fresco, and it adds a lively and enjoyable dimension to dining. With loads of great fruits and veg in season, it's easy to eat light, local and seasonal over summer.

Not sure what to pack into your picnic hamper? Browse our ***recipes*** for scrumptious, make-ahead masterpieces that are perfect for lazy summer days and ideal to create a moveable feast.

### - Farms -

With fantastic farm shops, 'pick-your-own' fruit experiences and the chance to see how your food and drink is made, Scotland's farms are the ideal places to stock up on tempting treats for a decadent summer picnic.

Read our ***blog on Farms*** to discover where you can fill a basket with mouth-watering local produce, pick juicy soft fruits straight from the plant or see cheese and ice cream being crafted before your very eyes.





## SCENIC SCOTLAND

### - Coast -

When the sun breaks through, there's only one place you should want to be, and that's beside the sea. Round up your friends and family and together explore miles upon miles of unspoilt coastlines and uncrowded, pristine beaches. You can sleep under the stars, swim with dolphins or soak up dramatic views on horseback – the possibilities are endless.

Check out our blog on *inspiring ideas on how to enjoy a few days by the coast*.

### - Sea -

Scotland's waters might not be tropical, but that doesn't stop the beautiful sparkling sea being home to some delicious treats. All around the coast, you'll find tasty seafood from mussels and oysters to salmon, trout and herring,

Argyll is just one of the regions in Scotland that is blessed by the sea. It even has its own **Seafood Trail** for you to follow around restaurants, bars and hotels.

Find out more about **Argyll and its seafood** in our video.

### - By the sea -

Are you a landlubber or a salty sea dog? Either way, the summer is a great time to enjoy our beautiful, vast oceans. Plan a boat trip to spot some remarkable species, such as sea eagles, dolphins or basking sharks, or try some scuba diving and see what lies under the water. Alternatively, enjoy the sea from the coastline, be it a clifftop walk to a historic lighthouse, or simply watching bobbing fishing boats from a harbour side café.

Check out our illustration to discover what you can expect to see *by the sea*.

### - Sun -

It has been said in the past, that the sun doesn't shine in Scotland and it always rains. Well, we're here to tell you that's not true – the sun does shine, and actually we have some pretty sunny places with many cities vying for the title of Scotland's sunniest city...

Anyway, you don't need to just believe us – see for yourself with our collection of **fab fan photos of the sun shining in Scotland!** Why not share your photos with us too?







## - Islands -

Whether you're drawn to Islay for the peaty flavours of its **whiskies**, to Skye for its breathtaking geological wonders, or to the white, deserted sands of Harris for peace and solitude, you'll find a million reasons to fall in love with Scotland's islands. Each has its own distinct character, shaped by its dramatic coastline, fascinating heritage, spectacular wildlife and unique culture.

Plan an **island hopping trip** and experience the magic of the Scottish islands for yourself.

*Sty Wick, Sanday, Orkney © Iain Sarjeant/VisitScotland*





## VISIT NATIONAL PARKS

Scotland is home to two spectacular National Parks, each offering hundreds of square miles of woodland, countryside, rivers and lochs. In the summer months, try watersports on the lochs and rivers of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, or climb Ben Arthur for incredible panoramic views. Have an adventure in the Cairngorms National Park and ride along conifer-lined mountain bike trails, or spot rare wildlife, such as the elusive wild cats.

Feeling inspired? ***Discover more about Scotland's National Parks*** on our website.

### - National Parks in numbers -

Before you head out to discover the wonders of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park or the Cairngorms National Park, get the lowdown on ***all the key facts and figures with our infographic***. Dine at the Ptarmigan Restaurant on the Cairngorm Mountain which, at 3,599 ft above sea level, is the UK's highest restaurant. Paddle out to one of Loch Lomond's 22 named islands, or hike to the peak of one of its 21 Munros.

*The funicular railway at the CairnGorm Mountain in the Cairngorms National Park © Natural Retreats/ CairnGorm Mountain*



## AMAZING WILDLIFE

An exquisite array of birds call Scotland home. In the warmer months of the year, you can witness a huge variety of resident and migrant species, from thousands of seabirds on the coast to magnificent birds of prey soaring overhead. Remember to bring your binoculars!

### - Moray Firth wildlife -

Thanks to a mixture of unspoilt habitats, Scotland guarantees wildlife enthusiasts some amazing opportunities to spot an interesting variety of species.

From bottlenose dolphins to osprey chicks and red squirrels, you're bound to spot something spectacular on your travels, so don't forget your camera or smartphone! Why not start your adventure by discovering the ***wonderful wildlife of the Moray Firth***? Check out the blog for more.





