

Scotland.  
Welcome to our life.



[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)







Glen Affric, Highlands

The warmest of welcomes awaits you in Scotland at historic castles such as Stirling, among the grand Highland scenery of Glen Coe and Torridon, and right out on the white sandy beaches of the Outer Hebrides.

In winter, when snow dusts the mountains, the year begins with the warming cheer of a traditional Hogmanay. Celebrations continue in January in honour of Robert Burns at The Big Burns Supper in Dumfries, the world's largest Burns Night event with music, literature and dance. It's the perfect setting to sample Scotland's national dish, haggis – delicious, rich and spicy.

Scotland's landscapes come alive with wildlife during spring when it's possible to admire soaring puffins in the skies and bottlenose dolphins swimming close to shore. Inland, explore our stunning National Parks and be amazed by the glittering lochs, dramatic peaks and dense forests.

Why not head to a traditional Highland games, held across Scotland between May and September each year, to catch Highland dancing, caber tossing and pipe bands in action?

The Cairngorms National Park is wild, mountainous and made for adventure, or discover Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, a place of natural beauty which has inspired many songs and stories.

Summer's long daylight hours lend themselves to outdoor events such as our unique Highland games. It's also a great time to discover vibrant cultures and the creativity of Scotland's islands. Visit the Outer Hebrides to see Harris Tweed, a luxury hand-woven cloth, be made in the traditional way and hear the ancient language of Gaelic be spoken or sung.

The beautiful autumn scenery provides the perfect backdrop to events such as the traditional music at Perthshire Amber - the Dougie MacLean Festival, and whisky tasting at the Autumn Speyside Whisky Festival. Prepare to party as winter returns and the famous festivities, including Winter Festivals, get underway again.

### Don't miss

1. Explore Scotland's coastline and islands on a boat trip in spring and try to spot some fascinating wildlife
2. Find your favourite dram at the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival in May
3. Soak up the unique atmosphere of Edinburgh's vibrant summer arts festivals
4. Marvel at the colours of the season on a walk through Perthshire's 'Big Tree Country' in autumn
5. Join in a traditional Scottish 'ceilidh' (Scottish country dance) in celebration of St Andrew's Day in November
6. Get swept away on a romantic winter break to a dramatic Highland castle
7. Bring in the New Year in style at one of Scotland's world-class Hogmanay celebrations



Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe, Argyll



Loch Tummel, Perthshire



Live music, Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival



Puffins, Papay, Orkney



Highland dancers, Cowal Highland Gathering, Dunoon, Argyll



# Scotland's Cultural spirit



The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

What makes Scotland so distinctive? There are some things that are uniquely Scottish but, in truth, there's no single element that defines the country. Rather, it's a subtle blend of our many different ingredients that have been added to the mix down through the centuries.

Scotland's culture certainly involves reaching out. That's why, for instance, Glasgow's Celtic Connections (held in January) showcases both native talent and performers from across the Celtic areas of Europe, while the city becomes the centre of the world of piping during the Piping Live! International Piping Festival.

While high profile events such as the Edinburgh International Festival, along with the Fringe, Book and Film Festivals and the stirring Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, inevitably command attention, other parts of Scotland also stage prestigious cultural events. For example, the Perth Festival of the Arts every May brings a huge choice of

**With a year-round programme of festivals and events, the nation celebrates its culture with spirit and style, in drama, song, poetry, dance and more.**

music and other art forms to this handsome Scottish town on the River Tay. The annual Braemar Highland Gathering in September is Scotland's premier Highland games because of the attendance of Britain's royalty – but is only one event in a games programme right across Scotland.

It's easy to dip into Scotland's traditional music in informal settings. Musical get-togethers called 'ceilidhs' are often advertised locally in advance, especially in smaller places. Ask your accommodation provider or check with your local VisitScotland Information Centre. Folk music sessions in local pubs can even happen spontaneously, while at city venues such as Hootananny in Inverness or Ghillie Dhu in Edinburgh regularly-changing programmes make it easy to sample the vitality of Scotland's musical culture.

## Insider Tip

### Gaelic Music

**Kathleen MacInnes**  
Gaelic Singer

"Gaelic is still very much part of everyday life in places like South Uist where I grew up. For a taste of Gaelic culture, head to the HebCelt Festival in the Outer Hebrides where you're guaranteed a warm welcome and a good time!"



Ceilidh in the St. Bride's Centre, Edinburgh

### Ceilidh Dancing

Get a taste of traditional Scottish dance at a ceilidh - try dancing the Dashing White Sergeant or the Flying Scotsman to the sound of a traditional ceilidh band.



Celtic Connections, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

### Celtic Connections

Enjoy a huge variety of sounds from home-grown talent and international performers at this popular annual music festival held in Glasgow during January.



Ballater Highland Games, Aberdeenshire

### Highland Games

If you're in Scotland during the summer, don't miss the chance to see traditional sports like tug-o-war and caber tossing at a Highland games.



Pipers celebrate at the World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow

### Piping Live! and the World Pipe Band Championships

Scotland has a rich piping heritage, and you can watch some of the best bagpipers in the country perform at events such as Piping Live! and the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.



Highland Festival, Inverness

### Folk Music

From the evocative sound of the bagpipes to the lively music of the fiddle, immerse yourself in traditional Scottish folk music at live music nights.



# Scotland's great cities - Edinburgh



Edinburgh is pure theatre, with its spires and battlements, crags and classical columns. From Edinburgh Castle, look over an exciting, cosmopolitan European capital city, whose dramatic medieval and elegant Georgian architectures have made it a World Heritage Site.

Edinburgh Castle is at the heart of the nation's story, symbolised by the 'Honours of Scotland' – Scotland's Crown Jewels – as well as the famous Stone of Destiny, the ancient crowning seat of Scottish monarchs. Edinburgh's Old Town is centred on the upper part of the Royal Mile, a historic thoroughfare linking the Castle with the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Though Castle and Palace head a long list of heritage sites, museums and art galleries, Edinburgh is a compact city. It's easy to explore on foot or via an excellent bus network.

## Taste the best of Scottish produce and dine at one of the city's five Michelin-starred restaurants.

Explore the revitalised port of Leith with its historic waterfront and great choice of top restaurants. Or take a walk through Holyrood Park to discover another world, the village of Duddingston tucked behind Arthur's Seat. (One of Scotland's oldest pubs is here too!) Back in the city, August sees Edinburgh's cultural life at its most vibrant. The Edinburgh International

Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe are at the core of this high-profile annual arts gathering.

However a year-round programme of events means that there is always a great festival atmosphere in the city. Inspiration and creativity have always thrived in Edinburgh, UNESCO's first City of Literature. Its literary heritage stretches back to before the days of Sir Walter Scott and encompasses contemporary writers such as JK Rowling of *Harry Potter* fame.



Tantallon Castle, East Lothian

## Day trips from Edinburgh

There is plenty to see within easy reach of the city: for example, panoramic views from the Pentland Hills that overlook the city, the neo-classical elegance of stately homes such as Hopetoun House, and the wild beauty of the East Lothian coastline.



Shopping on Victoria Street, Edinburgh



St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh



Street Performers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

## Why not...

1. Step into the past at the historic Edinburgh Castle or the underground streets of The Real Mary King's Close
2. Explore the grand Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's royal residence in Scotland
3. Unravel the mysteries of the beautiful Rosslyn Chapel just outside Edinburgh
4. Indulge in some retail therapy at the designer stores on Multrees Walk or shop for fine cashmere on the Royal Mile
5. Delve into Scotland's history at the National Museum of Scotland
6. Climb aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* for a majestic experience
7. Admire contemporary and historic artworks at one of the many free art galleries





# Scotland's great cities - Glasgow

Scotland's biggest city, Glasgow is a recognised centre for style, design and architecture. It is upfront, stylish, full of life and vitality – a shopper's paradise as well as one of the friendliest places you are ever likely to visit.

Often called Britain's finest Victorian city, Glasgow's architecture reflects its distinctive personality. The impressive City Chambers is at its very heart, while Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum houses important art collections that have made a major contribution to Glasgow's cultural life for over a century. An unmistakable element of the city's style is the work of Glasgow-born Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a designer at the forefront of Art Nouveau in Scotland.

The 21st century architecture of the Riverside Museum displays a historic transport collection: a reminder of how Glasgow forged links across the world with its ships and railway locomotives.

'Glasgow' means 'dear green place' and boasts over 90 parks and green spaces, including the beautiful Botanic Gardens in the city's west end. With Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park just under an hour away, you can find the perfect balance between city and nature when you visit Glasgow. As a retail centre, Glasgow is matched by few other British cities. Shop till you drop at chic Princes Square, as well as Sauchiehall Street, Buchanan Street and the Merchant City district which together make up Glasgow's 'Style Mile'.

In a typical week, more than 120 separate musical events take place here – more than justifying its recognition as a UNESCO City

of Music. This non-stop, all-year, high-energy music scene takes place in venues that include traditional Scottish pubs, clubs, world class auditoriums and dedicated performance spaces cleverly converted from distinguished city buildings. Òran Mór, with its exciting music programme, is a good example.

Glasgow has a wonderful dining scene, with many fine establishments to try. Head to Ubiquitous Chip in the West End and discover a much-loved Glasgow institution, or take in the beautiful Mackintosh-designed décor of the Willow Tea Rooms while you tuck into an afternoon tea, a light meal which usually consists of small sandwiches, cakes, scones and tea – it's a delicious British tradition!

## Why not...

1. Spend a day at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, home to thousands of fascinating exhibits
2. Take a trip down the River Clyde aboard the PS Waverley, the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world
3. Wander the streets of the Merchant City for great shopping and sophisticated restaurants and bars
5. Don't miss the Riverside Museum and the Tall Ship on the banks of the Clyde
6. Watch talented musicians perform at Celtic Connections in January
7. Experience a breath of fresh air in Pollok Country Park and get up close to the Highland cows!
8. Take a Mackintosh City Walking Tour run by the Glasgow School of Art



Willow Tea Rooms, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow



Merchant Square, Glasgow



The Riverside Museum, Glasgow



Bartender at Òran Mór, Glasgow



The Kibble Palace, Glasgow Botanic Gardens





# Scotland - a touring adventure at your own pace

Steam train crossing Glenfinnan Viaduct, Highlands

## The sheer variety of landscape and townscape which Scotland offers makes touring especially rewarding.

Lowland to Highland, east to west – without travelling great distances it is easy to experience breathtaking mountain scenery, romantic lochs and glens and just enjoy the fact that there are so many attractions on the way – whatever takes your interest: castles, standing stones, distilleries, gardens and lots more.

It's easy to travel around Scotland. In addition to motorways and good main roads, there is an excellent network of lightly trafficked rural roads – notably in the Borders and Galloway, Fife, Angus, Aberdeenshire and Moray. If city based, or without your own transport, then several operators offer guided tours, day trips or longer, to some of Scotland's finest

landscapes. It's a good way of viewing areas such as beautiful Loch Lomond or the rugged grandeur of Glen Coe.

Public transport, with its integrated train, ferry and bus timetables, offers plenty of options. For example, the unforgettable rail journey from Fort William to Mallaig offers stunning island views. Then take the ferry to Armadale on Skye, bus to a choice of island places, admiring the awesome Cuillin Hills en route, before returning to Glasgow or Edinburgh via the Skye Bridge and Inverness. Altogether, a straightforward itinerary – but so rewarding.

### Take a trip through the beautiful Borders countryside on the brand new Borders Railway, which will link Edinburgh and Tweedbank from September 2015.

Independent travellers with their own transport have an excellent choice of signposted national tourist routes and themed itineraries. The Galloway National Tourist Route takes in the places associated with Robert Burns, Scotland's famous poet, as well as historic properties such as Threave Castle. While touring, check special discounts available through schemes such as Historic Scotland's Explorer Pass if visiting several historic sites.



### Tourist Trail

Wherever you tour, look out for the brown 'Thistle Signs' by the road that point the way to all kinds of walks, trails, attractions and adventures.



The banks of Loch Lomond, Argyll & Bute



Elgol, with a view of the Cuillin Hills, Isle of Skye



Thirlestane Castle, Scottish Borders



The Ring of Brodgar, Orkney

### Insider Tip

#### The Isle of Harris

**Donald John Mackay**  
Harris Tweed weaver

"There are many beautiful beaches on the Isle of Harris where I am from, and I live near one of the most magnificent beaches in the world - Luskentyre! It is situated on the west coast of the island and has beautiful white sands and turquoise waters."



### Hidden gems

1. Explore the lanes and wynds of quaint fishing villages such as Crail in the East Neuk of Fife
2. See thousands of seabirds on a boat trip around Shetland's dramatic Noss cliffs
3. Experience a sense of tranquillity on the peaceful Isle of Iona off the west coast
4. Sail at a gentle pace across Loch Katrine on the steamship SS Sir Walter Scott
5. Bring your camera and capture the stunning views of Loch Shiel at the Glenfinnan Monument
6. Plan a walk through the beautiful Glen Clova in Angus
8. Stroll along the untouched white sands of Traigh Iar Beach in the Outer Hebrides
9. Make the journey to Cape Wrath Lighthouse through the rugged and breathtaking scenery of Assynt



# your trip to Scotland

Scotland offers so many options: scenic splendour, castles, islands and lots more, yet due to its compact size, you can see a lot during your trip. Capture the essence of Scotland in this unforgettable two week itinerary.

Your journey starts in Edinburgh, with the Old Town at its historic heart. Travel north to St Andrews in Fife, via the picturesque East Neuk fishing villages, and then head for Aberdeenshire, home to Scotland's official Castle Trail which highlights 18 fine castles, ruins and stately homes.

Make your way up the coast to Inverness and onwards to Scrabster to catch the ferry to Orkney, and explore the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes Skara Brae and the standing stones of the Ring of Brodgar. Take another ferry to Shetland and you'll see more prehistoric monuments and spectacular seabird colonies.

Continue your journey westwards by taking a ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides to see the mysterious Calanais Standing Stones and walk along dazzling sandy beaches. Hop on another ferry to Skye, and see the iconic Dunvegan Castle and scenic Elgol, before crossing the Skye Bridge to travel past Eilean Donan Castle and through the Great Glen to Fort William.

Continue through Glen Coe and travel onwards through Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to Stirling, with its hilltop castle and Old Town Jail. End your journey in Glasgow and enjoy the city's great nightlife, culture and shopping.

## ORKNEY

Discover traditional crafts in Orkney, an archipelago of around 70 islands. Follow signs for the Orkney Craft Trail to see local artists at work.



Fyvie Castle, on Aberdeenshire's Castle Trail

## FIFE AND ST ANDREWS

Visit the charming medieval town of St Andrews in Fife and spend an afternoon exploring the castle and the cathedral ruins.

## EDINBURGH

With its museums, galleries and arts festivals, Edinburgh has an unrivalled cultural choice. Learn about Scotland's history at the National Museum of Scotland.

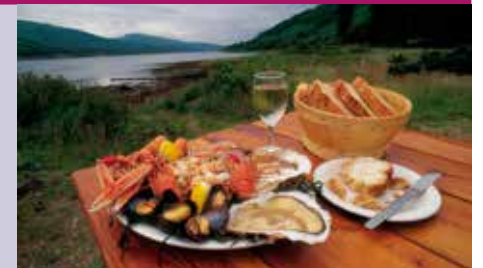
## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

You'll find a network of VisitScotland Information Centres across the country. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff will help you make the most of your visit.



## MORE ITINERARIES

Whatever you're interested in – from wildlife to whisky – visit [www.visitscotland.com/see-do/itineraries](http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/itineraries) for our full range of itineraries to help you plan your trip, whether you're here for two days or two weeks.





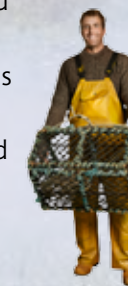
# A flavour of Scotland

## Insider Tip

### King Scallops on Mull

**Guy Grieve**  
Ethical Shellfisher

"You may think I'm biased, but in my opinion a seared dived King Scallop, one of my favourite Scottish foods, is hard to beat. The scallop is best when it is prepared simply: with salt and pepper, garlic, butter and sunflower oil."



Preparing traditional Arbroath Smokies, Angus

## Scotland is truly a feast for the senses, so why not indulge your taste buds in the Year of Food & Drink 2015 and sample our world-class produce?

Grass-fed beef from Aberdeenshire, venison from the Highland hills, shellfish from the west coast – these are just some of the many delights you'll find in Scotland's natural larder. Celebrate the best of Scottish produce and enjoy our many eateries in the Year of Food & Drink 2015.

Haggis is the best known of Scotland's traditional dishes and sometimes appears as a starter or as part of a main dish. To sample Scotland's tradition of soup making, try Cullen Skink, a fish soup made from smoked haddock and potatoes. Oatmeal, a traditional Scottish staple, means porridge, oatcakes and desserts including cranachan (toasted oats, honey, whisky, cream and berries).

Other examples of authentic tastes include Scottish cheeses, such as Lanark Blue and Ross-shire Caboc; smoked fish, most notably the Arbroath Smokie or delectable smoked salmon; cloutie dumpling (made with dried fruit and spices); and a range of bakery goods, including the buttery, close relative of the French croissant!

### Uncover foodie paradise on the Isle of Arran, an island known for its beers, whisky, cheese and ice cream.

Scotland's farmers' markets are also thriving. From small beginnings, these gatherings, where local producers sell direct to consumers, have gained momentum right across the country. From Kelso in the

Scottish Borders to Lerwick on Shetland, regular monthly markets can be found, where you can meet and buy direct from the people that produce Scotland's wonderful food and drink.

Whet your appetite and follow one of the many tasty food and drink trails. You can discover the treasures of the sea as you follow the Seafood Trail through Scotland's west coast, or satisfy your sweet tooth on Scotland's Chocolate Trail.

There's no better time to get a taste of Scotland than in 2015, the Year of Food & Drink. Be part of the great food events, such as the Crail Food Festival in Fife or the Tarbert Seafood Festival in Argyll. Or, book a table in one of the many fine restaurants and enjoy delicious Scottish produce served up to you on a plate, skilfully prepared by our talented chefs.



Look out for the Taste Our Best logo

### Taste Our Best

Make sure you enjoy Scottish food and drink of exceptional quality by looking for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our quality assurance scheme.



Whisky bottles at the Strathearn Distillery, Perthshire

### Whisky

You can't visit Scotland without trying whisky – why not head to a distillery to see how this amber-coloured spirit is made, and sample fine malts at the source?



Blairgowrie Farmers' Market, Perthshire

### Farmers' Markets

You'll find these throughout Scotland, as farmers and producers sell their fresh local produce, such as fruit, game and cheese.



Chef Mark Greenaway, Bistro Moderne, Edinburgh

### Dining

Try one of Scotland's award-winning restaurants for an exclusive culinary experience. With 16 Michelin-starred restaurants across the country, you'll be spoiled for choice.

## Don't miss

1. Make sure you sample haggis, Scotland's national dish – it's spicy, moist and moreish!
2. Learn about the wonders of the whisky-making process at one of the many working distilleries
3. Grab some succulent seafood from the Lobster Shack in North Berwick or try fresh oysters straight from the shell at Loch Fyne Restaurant & Oyster Bar
4. For the ultimate indulgence, book a table at Restaurant Andrew Fairlie at Gleneagles, Scotland's only two Michelin-starred restaurant
5. Tuck into a traditional fish 'supper' of battered fish and chips, a meal that's best enjoyed by the sea
6. Sample mouth-watering cheeses from independent producers on the Scottish Cheese Trail
7. Enjoy a delicious and decadent afternoon tea, complete with sandwiches, scones and cakes, in an elegant country house hotel



# Scotland - The Home of Golf



The Old Course, St. Andrews, Fife

Scotland is The Home of Golf and boasts an unparalleled golfing history which dates back over 600 years. With high profile events including The Open Championship, attractive courses available for all abilities, and a range of discount passes, Scotland offers the ultimate golfing experience, whether you come to play or watch the sport.

With over 550 courses including championship links courses like St Andrews, Turnberry, and Muirfield, as well as local 9-hole greens, classic parklands and challenging heathland, Scotland offers diverse play for all standards of golfer.

Enjoy stunning views at coastal links such as Machrihanish and watch out for natural obstacles including the grazing sheep that act as green keepers! The Carrick, on the banks of Loch Lomond, has excellent waterside views whilst on the Banchory course watch out for the River Dee which comes into play as a water hazard.

There are golfing gems to be discovered in all corners of the country. Play a round on the lush links course of Machrie on the Isle

of Islay before enjoying a dram at a nearby distillery, or put your game to the test on the esteemed Championship Course at Royal Dornoch, set amidst breathtaking Highland scenery.

Scotland's long daylight hours in summer mean that late tee-times are possible. Courses are well maintained, often playable for most of the year, with average fees as little as £40.

Follow in the footsteps of today's golfing champions and tee off on the course which hosted The 2014 Ryder Cup. Visit the stunning Gleneagles for a round on the PGA Centenary Course, and plan time to relax at the 5-star resort and enjoy the beautiful Perthshire countryside.

In 2015, witness The Open Championship, one of the most exciting events on the golfing calendar. Held on St Andrews' prestigious Old Course, this event will take place on golf's most iconic greens and fairways at the place famed for being the spiritual home of the sport.

Turnberry in Ayrshire will host the 2015 RICOH Women's British Open, where competitors at the top of their game will compete for the trophy against the stunning backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean and the solitary island Ailsa Craig. Looking forward to 2016, you can watch the best golfers in the world fight for the Claret Jug at Royal Troon.

## Don't miss...

Discover why Scotland is The Home of Golf and visit the British Golf Museum in St Andrews. Due to open in 2015 after an extensive renovation, here you can uncover the sport's origins and see fascinating memorabilia.

For more information on over 550 courses across Scotland, special golf passes and great deals, check out [www.visitscotland.com/golf](http://www.visitscotland.com/golf).



Machrihanish Golf Club, Argyll



Trump Turnberry Resort, South Ayrshire



Gleneagles, Perthshire



Moffat Golf Club, Dumfries & Galloway



Asta Golf Club, Shetland







*Come walk in the footsteps  
of your ancestors*

Tug of War, Blair Atholl Highland Games, Perthshire

A lifetime's ancestral research is no substitute for actually visiting Scotland. To “walk in your ancestors’ footsteps” is no cliché but an unforgettable experience easily realised, thanks to Scotland’s extensive genealogical resources.

Track down your clan tartan, touch the walls of your family castle, or see if your ancestors were listed in the Poor Law records – a reminder that not all Scots were living the high life! Take that first step to explore your past and your Scottish homecoming will be a personal, fascinating journey.

Begin your search at one of the archives which are located across the country,

such as the ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh, or browse through trade directories, newspapers and registers which date back to the 18th century at Glasgow’s Mitchell Library. Many ancient records and old censuses have now been digitised, so getting started couldn’t be easier. There are also excellent archives at local registrars’ offices and libraries throughout Scotland. In addition, you can enlist the services of a professional genealogist who can help you

research your roots. Some specialise in a particular area of Scotland, and might even take you to your ancestral homeland.

If you’ve got a Scottish surname, why not see if there’s a clan society that you can join? Many of Scotland’s clans meet each year for a clan gathering to celebrate their ancestral heritage. Often there’ll be a spread of cultural events, from banquets and ceilidhs to historian-led walks.



Bannockburn Visitor Centre, Stirling



Members of the Clan Macpherson at Newtonmore Highland Games, Highlands



Family trip (related to Clan Urquhart) visiting Urquhart Castle, beside Loch Ness



### Tartan

With its colourful threads in traditional patterns, tartan is Scotland’s most famous textile. Take a trip to the Clan Tartan Centre in Leith, Edinburgh, where you can search their database of 50,000 names and take away a certificate showing your clan name.



ScotlandsPeople Centre, Edinburgh

### Start your ancestral journey

To help you plan your own personal journey to Scotland visit our website to find out more about your clan, tartan and ancestral home. We offer a number of different downloadable itinerary suggestions to help you plan your trip to Scotland and follow the story of your clan by visiting castles, museums and battle sites across the country. We also have a range of businesses including accommodation providers listed on our site who are part of our Ancestral Welcome Scheme, giving you the assurance that they can guide you in terms of local sites related to your clan, events taking place, and even who may be able to help further your genealogical search during your stay.

Visit [www.visitscotland.com/ancestry](http://www.visitscotland.com/ancestry) to find out more.



# A sense of space



The Sands of Breckon on the island of Yell, Shetland

Scotland's beautiful countryside offers wide and varied landscapes to explore, whether by foot, bike, or boat. In Scotland, everyone is entitled to their right to roam, meaning that you are free to explore the land, as long as you consider other countryside users by following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



Cycling past Hermitage Castle in the Scottish Borders



Walking in Glen Rosa, Isle of Arran



Sea kayaking at Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie, Moray



Walkers in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park



Red Deer Stag, Highlands

The country has an excellent range of signposted paths and nature trails through a variety of landscapes. You can use Scotland's Countryside Ranger Service, nature reserve wardens, walking holiday operators and walking festivals to join organised walking and wildlife activities for a whole range of levels. If you are a good walker, you could even take on one of the 282 Scottish mountains classified as Munros which are all over 914m in height.

Scotland also has a variety of official long distance footpaths which can be sampled in short sections over one day. Most popular is the West Highland Way between the outskirts of Glasgow and Fort William. Walk the John Muir Way, a newly extended

134 mile trail running from Dunbar on the east coast to Helensburgh in the west.

You can travel across the country by bike using the National Cycle Routes, and will find plenty of paths and dedicated mountain biking areas. Tentsmuir Forest on Fife's east coast is an ideal place for a gentle afternoon ride, with picnic spots and viewpoints along the way. The Nevis Range by Fort William has a great reputation for mountain biking, and hosts the annual UCI Mountain Bike World Cup.

An important part of enjoying the outdoors is encountering Scotland's wildlife. On even short walks at places like Glen Muick on Royal Deeside you can expect to see

red deer, widespread in the Highlands. Many rare animal species have been re-introduced to their natural habitats, such as the sea eagles which can be spotted from the island of Mull. Another re-introduction success is to be found on the Red Kite Trail round Loch Ken in Dumfries & Galloway where these birds are thriving.

To admire Scotland's beautiful coastline and spot puffins, seals and seabirds you should take a boat trip. From Oban you can enjoy an excursion to the famous Corryvreckan Whirlpool at the north end of Jura. Look out for whales and dolphins on the way.

## Insider Tip

### Dolphin Spotting

Caroline Warburton  
Wildlife Expert

"Did you know that Chanonry Point in Moray in the Highlands is one of the best places in Europe to observe bottlenose dolphins? You can stand on the beach and watch them jumping out of the water, right in front of you!"



## Sea Kayaking

Over 10,000 km of scenic and secluded coastline makes Scotland an ideal location for sea kayaking. Grab a paddle and try this unique way to explore crystal-clear waters, deserted beaches and sea caves and discover seabirds, seals and other marine life along the way. Follow the Scottish Sea Kayaking Trail along the breathtaking west coast between Loch Linnhe and the sound of Arisaig, or kayak around the spectacular coastline of Orkney, with its sea cliffs, stacks and arches, to catch sight of dolphins, orcas and whales.

Find out more about sea kayaking and other outdoor activities in Scotland on our website at [www.visitscotland.com/active](http://www.visitscotland.com/active)





# Scotland on Screen

Eilean Donan Castle, Highlands features in *The World Is Not Enough* and *Highlander*

Scotland’s spectacular landscapes, quality of light, its people and its stories have long been immortalised on the silver screen. For many, it’s been the next best thing to being here but the only way to really appreciate the magic and beauty is to see it for yourself.



Scenes from *Skyfall* were filmed in Glen Coe, Highlands



*The Da Vinci Code* features Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin



The Forth Rail Bridge starred in Hitchcock’s *The 39 Steps*

The dramatic hills of Glen Nevis and Glen Coe were the setting for *Braveheart*, the portrayal of one of the country’s most iconic figures, featuring Mel Gibson as William Wallace and detailing the struggle against English occupation in the 13th century. *Highlander*, starring Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery, featured these same landscapes alongside romantic Eilean Donan Castle, also recognisable for its appearance in the James Bond movie *The World Is Not Enough*. More recently Glen Coe provided the backdrop to dramatic scenes for *Skyfall*.

The breathtaking train chase scene from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* features the Hogwarts Express and a

flying Ford Anglia car crossing the historic Glenfinnan Viaduct in the west Highlands. Experience the same magical journey with a trip on The Jacobite steam train between Fort William and Mallaig.

In *The Eagle*, Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell uncover the truth behind the disappearance of the Ninth Legion in 120 AD on the ascending ridges of Bidean nam Bian in Lochaber, one of the highest and most scenic mountains in the country, and in the magnificent area of Applecross in Wester Ross.

Hitchcock’s *The 39 Steps* showcases dramatic action on the Forth Rail Bridge outside of Edinburgh, whilst Wigtownshire in the south west is the backdrop for the cult film *The Wicker Man*.

Scotland’s sparkling coastline has also been featured in well-loved films such as *Chariots of Fire*, filmed on the West Sands beach at St Andrews, and *Local Hero*, filmed on Camusdarach beach in Morar. More recently, Oscar-winning biopic *The Queen* was filmed at the Balmoral Estate in Royal Deeside while *The Da Vinci Code*

showcased Rosslyn Chapel, just outside of Edinburgh.

Scotland’s beautiful but compact capital city has proved the perfect location for a number of projects, including animated feature *The Illusionist*, which brings 1950s Edinburgh to life, and the adaptation of David Nicholls’ best-selling novel *One Day*. Starring Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess and detailing their lives as friends and lovers over 20 years, the film features iconic locations such as Calton Hill and the Georgian architecture of the city’s New Town.

Scotland’s myths and legends have inspired film makers for generations, and in 2012 Scotland was the land that inspired *Disney•Pixar’s Brave*. The story follows the flame-haired heroine Merida battling to change her fate and though *Brave* is set in a fictional medieval Scotland, Pixar’s animators were deeply influenced by the real country’s sheer rugged variety. Highland games, standing stones and clan culture are just a few of the firmly Scottish sights in this stunning lighthearted adventure.

## Outlander

The new TV series *Outlander*, based on Diana Gabaldon’s best-selling novels was filmed at a number of locations across the Highlands. Historic Culloden Battlefield, the site of the last major battle fought on British soil, is where the show’s protagonists, Claire and Jamie, share an emotional farewell.

Discover more at [visitscotland.com/outlander](https://visitscotland.com/outlander)



Claire (Caitriona Balfe) © Sony Pictures Television



Guy Grieve, Director The Ethical Shellfish Company,  
Isle of Mull, Inner Hebrides



Scotland.  
Where fresh is measured in minutes, not days.

The Year of Food and Drink 2015 is a celebration of Scotland's outstanding natural larder and produce, as well as the landscapes, people and culture that make our food heritage so unique. From succulent berries to award-winning cheeses, world-renowned whiskies to freshly caught seafood, there is an abundance of delicious local flavours to discover and enjoy.

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# Events

The Enchanted Forest, Perthshire

## JANUARY 2015

### The Ba', Orkney

Historical street football game with around 400 players.

[www.bagame.com](http://www.bagame.com)

1 Jan

### Celtic Connections, Glasgow

This Glasgow festival blends traditional and distinctive Scottish sounds with a huge variety of music from across the globe.

[www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

15 Jan – 1 Feb

### Big Burns Supper, Dumfries

9 days of music, theatre, comedy and more to celebrate Scotland's favourite poet.

[www.2014.bigburnssupper.com](http://www.2014.bigburnssupper.com)

23 Jan – 31 Jan

### Up Helly Aa, Lerwick, Shetland

Viking festival culminating in a torchlit procession and the burning of a galley.

[www.uphellyaa.org](http://www.uphellyaa.org)

27 Jan

## FEBRUARY 2015

### Scottish Snowdrop Festival, across Scotland

In February Scotland's gardens and woodlands will display hundreds of varieties of this delicate white flower.

[www.visitscotland.com/snowdrop](http://www.visitscotland.com/snowdrop)

Feb – Mar

### Glasgow Film Festival

Showcase of movies from around the world.

[www.glasgowfilm.org/festival](http://www.glasgowfilm.org/festival)

18 Feb – 1 March

### Inverness Music Festival

Instrumental, speech, dance and vocal competitions.

[www.invernessmusicfestival.org](http://www.invernessmusicfestival.org)

21 – 4 Mar

## MARCH 2015

### StAnza, St Andrews, Fife

Scotland's International Poetry Festival - a celebration of poetry.

[www.stanzapoetry.org](http://www.stanzapoetry.org)

4 – 8 Mar

### Glasgow International Comedy Festival

See international comedy favourites and home-grown talent take to the stage.

[www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com](http://www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com)

12– 29 Mar

## APRIL 2015

### 125<sup>th</sup> Melrose 7s, Scottish Borders

World's oldest Rugby Sevens tournament sees its' 125th birthday in the stunning backdrop of the Scottish Borders.

[www.melrose7s.com](http://www.melrose7s.com)

11 Apr

### Orkney Ceilidh Weekend

A weekend of traditional dance workshops and ceilidh

[www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/otda](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/otda)

10 – 12 Apr

### Shetland Folk Festival

Presenting the best folk music from around the globe.

[www.shetlandfolkfestival.com](http://www.shetlandfolkfestival.com)

30 April – 3 May



### Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival, Highlands, Moray & Speyside

Celebrate Scotland's national drink through an inventive programme of whisky-inspired events.

[www.spiritofspeyside.com](http://www.spiritofspeyside.com)

30 Apr – 4 May

### Beltane Fire Festival, Edinburgh

A celebration of the arrival of summer.

[www.beltane.org](http://www.beltane.org)

30 Apr

## MAY 2015

### Arran Mountain Festival, Ayrshire

Guided walks and scrambles throughout Arran's stunning hills and mountains.

[www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk)

15 –18 May

### Islay Festival of Music and Malt

A unique taste of Islay's heritage, culture and hospitality, as well as world-famous whisky.

[www.theislayfestival.co.uk](http://www.theislayfestival.co.uk)

22 – 30 May

### TweedLove Bike Festival, Scottish Borders

The UK's fastest-growing cycling festival, held every year in the beautiful Tweed Valley.

[www.tweedlove.com](http://www.tweedlove.com)

17 - 31 May

## JUNE 2015

### Return to the Ridings, Scottish Borders

The festivals surrounding these ride outs are steeped in tradition and celebrate Borders history.

[www.returntotheridings.co.uk](http://www.returntotheridings.co.uk)

1 June – 30 Aug

### Angus Glens Walking Festival

This award-winning festival has walks to suit all tastes and abilities.

[www.angusglenswalkingfestival.com](http://www.angusglenswalkingfestival.com)

4 – 7 June

### Mountain Bike World Cup

#### Fort William, Highlands

A magnificent showcase of the best mountain bike action in the world.

[www.fortwilliamworldcup.co.uk](http://www.fortwilliamworldcup.co.uk)

6 – 7 June



### Taste of Grampian, Inverurie

Sample the wide range of quality produce from the north east of Scotland.

[www.tasteofgrampian.co.uk](http://www.tasteofgrampian.co.uk)

6 June

### Ardrossan Highland Games, Ayrshire

See traditional Scottish Highland games at the Memorial Playing Fields in Ardrossan.

[www.ardrossanhighlandgames.org.uk](http://www.ardrossanhighlandgames.org.uk)

14 June

### Crail Food Festival, Fife

A fun event showcasing the wonderful food and drink from Fife and the surrounding areas.

[www.craifoodfest.co.uk](http://www.craifoodfest.co.uk)

13 – 14 June

### Edinburgh International Film Festival

One of the world's first international film festivals. See the stars on the red carpet.

[www.edfilmfest.org.uk](http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk)

17 – 28 June

### Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh

The highlight of the Scottish country calendar.

[www.royalhighlandshow.org](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org)

18 – 21 June

## JULY 2015

### Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, Aberdeenshire

Festival with a special emphasis on boat building, restoration and sailing, and traditional crafts, music and art.

[www.stbportsoy.com](http://www.stbportsoy.com)

3 – 5 July

### Tarbert Seafood Festival, Argyll & Bute

Sample delicious seafood from the clear waters of Loch Fyne.

[www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)

4 – 5 July

### Aberdeen Asset Management Open 2015

See the world's best golfers at Gullane Golf Club.

[www.aamscottishopen.com](http://www.aamscottishopen.com)

9 – 12 July

### Hebridean Celtic Festival, Isle of Lewis. Outer Hebrides

Premier Celtic music festival.

[www.hebceltfest.com](http://www.hebceltfest.com)

15 – 18 July

### Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival

Enjoy world-class jazz from a host of bands, singers and musicians.

[www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk](http://www.edinburghjazzfestival.co.uk)

17 – 26 July

### The 2015 Open Championship, St Andrews, Fife

Golf's most prestigious and venerable tournament with the finest golfers in the world battling out for the famous Claret Jug.

[www.theopen.com](http://www.theopen.com)

12 – 19 July

## AUGUST 2015

### Pittenweem Arts Festival, Fife

Artists, workshops and talks in an historic coastal village.

[www.pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk)

1 – 9 Aug

### Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The largest arts festival in the world.

[www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

7 – 31 Aug



### Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A unique and memorable celebration of music, dance and military pageantry.

[www.edintattoo.co.uk](http://www.edintattoo.co.uk)

7 – 29 Aug

### Edinburgh International Festival

The world's best artists and companies perform in Edinburgh during August.

[www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

7 – 31 Aug

### Edinburgh International Book Festival

The biggest public celebration of books in the world.

[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

15 – 31 Aug



### Piping Live! and the World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow

In August, Glasgow immerses itself in true Scottish culture with two fantastic piping events.

[www.pipinglive.co.uk](http://www.pipinglive.co.uk)

10 – 16 Aug



Piping Live!, Glasgow

### Cowal Highland Gathering, Argyll & Bute

Traditional Highland games.

[www.cowalhighlandgathering.com](http://www.cowalhighlandgathering.com)

27 – 29 Aug

### SEPTEMBER 2015

### Blas Festival, Highlands

A unique cultural celebration of the Gaelic language and music of the Scottish Highlands.

[www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com)

Sept

### Braemar Gathering

Traditional Highland games and gathering.

[www.braemargathering.org](http://www.braemargathering.org)

5 Sept

### FEI European Eventing Championships, Perthshire

Watch the best horses and riders in action at Blair Castle, Perthshire.

[www.blair2015.com](http://www.blair2015.com)

10 – 13 Sept

### The Belhaven Best Dunbar Traditional Music Festival, East Lothian

Concerts, ceilidhs, outdoor performances, workshops and more.

[www.dunbarmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.dunbarmusicfestival.co.uk)

25 – 27 Sept

### Wigtown Book Festival, Dumfries & Galloway

A 10-day celebration in Scotland's National Book Town.

[www.wigtownbookfestival.com](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)

25 Sept – 4 Oct

### OCTOBER 2015

### Royal National MOD, Oban

Scotland's premier Gaelic festival.

[www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk)

9 – 17 Oct

### MOBO Awards, Glasgow

The renowned music ceremony will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow.

[www.mobo.com](http://www.mobo.com)

7 Oct

### The Enchanted Forest, Perthshire

See the trees of Faskally Woods become illuminated with beautiful colours at night.

[www.enchantedforest.org.uk](http://www.enchantedforest.org.uk)

October



Braemar Gathering

### Perthshire Amber - the Dougie MacLean Festival

Experience concert performances in an inspiring range of venues.

[www.perthshireamber.com](http://www.perthshireamber.com)

30 Oct – 8 Nov

### NOVEMBER 2015

### Turner Prize, Glasgow

Arguably the world's most prestigious award for contemporary art comes to Scotland.

[www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibitionseries/turner-prize](http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibitionseries/turner-prize)

1 Nov - 30 Dec

### St Andrews Day, across Scotland

Celebrations of Scotland's patron saint.

30 Nov

### DECEMBER 2015

### The Flambeaux, Comrie, Perthshire

Ancient torchlight procession celebrating the New Year.

[www.comrie.org.uk](http://www.comrie.org.uk)

31 Dec

### Stonehaven Fireball Festival, Aberdeenshire

Fire festival to celebrate the New Year.

[www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk](http://www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk)

31 Dec

### Hogmanay, across Scotland

New Year celebrations take place in most towns and villages throughout Scotland.

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

31 Dec

### Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Celebrate the New Year at the home of Hogmanay.

[www.edinburghshogmanay.org](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.org)

30 - 31 Dec

For a full list of events,  
check out  
[www.visitscotland.com/events](http://www.visitscotland.com/events)

The information contained in this publication is as supplied to VisitScotland and to the best of VisitScotland's knowledge was correct at time of going to press. VisitScotland can accept no responsibility for any errors. Events can be subject to change, we recommend you check details before travelling.

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images of Scotland.



[www.facebook.com/visitscotland](http://www.facebook.com/visitscotland)



The Kelpies, Falkirk © Kenny Lam





# Places to stay

Prestonfield House Hotel, Edinburgh

## Insider Tip

**Sheila Condie**  
Owner of The Glenelg Inn

"After a busy day exploring, we love to make our guests feel right at home. A roaring fire, a hearty meal of delicious seafood delivered right to our back door by the local fisherman, good company and good music usually does the trick!"



Where you stay is often as important as what you see. You name it, we've got it. Everything from five star hotels and exclusive lodges to bed and breakfasts, backpacker hostels and camping grounds by mountain streams. What about a castle, a lighthouse, a farm, or even a wooden wigwam?

### Hotels, guest houses and bed & breakfasts

Whether you prefer the sleek and sophisticated style of a modern city centre hotel, or the grand setting of a fine country house, Scotland has it all. Meet friendly locals and discover world-famous Scottish hospitality at the many guest houses and bed & breakfasts, or even stay in a farmhouse.



### Inns and Restaurants with Rooms

Enjoy a traditional stay in a cosy inn, where you can relax with a drink in the bar and tuck into a home-cooked meal. Restaurants with rooms provide accommodation along with wonderful dining options.



### Self Catering

When it comes to self catering, there's a huge choice on offer. Scotland has charming traditional cottages, spacious modern chalets and trendy city apartments. The rental is arranged in advance and is normally on a weekly basis. Serviced apartments are essentially self-catering apartments where other services (such as cleaning) are available.



## You'll be surprised where our search for quality takes us.

VisitScotland, under the Scottish Tourist Board brand, runs the star grading schemes. We visit thousands of different properties every year and grade them on the things we know matter to you. Things like the standard of hospitality, service, and customer care to help you make a more informed choice. Look out for establishments carrying the VisitScotland quality award.



### Castles and stately homes

It is possible to stay in a castle or historic house in Scotland. Choose from a range of high quality serviced or self-catering properties.



### Camping and caravanning

Camping, caravanning and campervan enthusiasts will appreciate Scotland's wide range of well-equipped caravan and camping parks. Hire a holiday home or arrive with your own touring caravan, campervan or tent.



### Hostels

Scotland has an extensive network of hostels either belonging to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association (SYHA) or to independent or privately owned companies.

## Our Welcome Schemes

These tell you about establishments which pay particular attention to the specific needs of visitors. As well as our Walkers Welcome and Cyclists Welcome schemes, there are schemes for anglers, bikers, classic cars, golfers, children, field sports, groups and ancestral tourism.

## Access all areas

Our access scheme enables visitors with physical disabilities to assess if businesses are suitable for their requirements.

## Because we care

The Green Tourism Business Scheme operated by GBUK assesses the level of sustainable practice businesses are achieving, with Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Visit [www.green-tourism.com](http://www.green-tourism.com)



For information on VisitScotland Quality Assured properties throughout Scotland visit [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) or for information and advice to help you plan and book your next holiday e-mail [info@visitscotland.com](mailto:info@visitscotland.com)





The Castle of Mey, 5 star visitor attraction by Thurso, Caithness



## You'll be surprised where our search for quality takes us.

Quite simply, it takes us the length and breadth of Scotland to visit thousands of different properties every year and grade them on the things we know matter to you. Things like the overall quality on offer and warmth of welcome to help you make a more informed choice. VisitScotland Quality Assurance. **Quality you can trust.**

- ★ it is clean, tidy and an acceptable standard
- ★★ it is a good, all round standard
- ★★★ it is a very good standard, with attention to detail in every area
- ★★★★ it is excellent – furnished using high quality materials, superb food where provided and friendly, professional service
- ★★★★★ an exceptional standard where presentation, ambience, food where provided and service are hard to fault

★ Establishments awarded gold stars have consistently achieved the highest levels of excellence within their star grading.

**Access all areas** – The following symbols will help visitors with physical disabilities to decide whether accommodation is suitable:

♿ Unassisted wheelchair access   ♿ Assisted wheelchair access   🧑 Access for visitors with mobility difficulties

**We want you to feel welcome** – Find establishments that pay particular attention to your specific needs:

🚶 Walkers   🚴 Cyclists   🎣 Anglers   🏍 Bikers   🚗 Classic Cars  
🏌 Golfers   👶 Children   🏹 Field Sports   👥 Groups   🏠 Ancestral Tourism

**Because we care** – [www.green-tourism.com](http://www.green-tourism.com)

The Green Tourism Business Scheme operated by GBUK assesses the level of sustainable practice. Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze 🏆, Silver 🏆 or Gold 🏆



**Taste Our Best** – food and drink award

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy Scottish food and drink of exceptional quality is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme.

We assess the presentation, quality and service of food in every kind of eating establishment throughout Scotland. The Taste Our Best award also ensures that you will have a choice of quality ingredients of Scottish provenance and the freshest seasonal produce.



Uncover your Scotland by calling into a VisitScotland Information Centre. Get advice on everything there is to see and do, book accommodation or arrange tickets for events, activities and transport across Scotland. You can also pick up a quality, authentic Scottish souvenir.

**Whatever you are looking for, our friendly experts will help you uncover all that Scotland has to offer.**

**Scotland. A land of brilliant moments.**

**UNCOVER  
YOUR SCOTLAND**



**Information Centres**  
[visitscotland.com/wheretofindus](http://visitscotland.com/wheretofindus)

For more information on Quality Assurance please contact us on Tel: 01463 244111, Email [customerservices@visitscotland.com](mailto:customerservices@visitscotland.com) or visit [www.visitscotland.com/qa](http://www.visitscotland.com/qa). For any feedback or comments you may have on star awarded properties please email us on [qa@visitscotland.com](mailto:qa@visitscotland.com). VisitScotland, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3BJ.

Call into any VisitScotland Information Centre for further information [www.visitscotland.com/wheretofindus](http://www.visitscotland.com/wheretofindus)





# Your Travel Guide

Loch Lubnaig, Stirling

Getting to Scotland is simple and straightforward and once you get here, some of the world’s most breathtaking landscapes are within easy reach.

Choose from a selection of nonstop flights from the US or Canada, or a wide range of connections through European hub airports including London, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt and Dublin.

London is around an hour’s flight to Edinburgh or Glasgow, and Scotland’s other

main airports enjoy a regular service from London and other UK cities. Onward travel from Scotland’s airports to the nearby city centres is quick and well co-ordinated.

Travelling around the country is effortless too, thanks to an extensive road network, excellent rail links and a comprehensive

bus system. There’s also an efficient ferry service, taking passengers to and from Scotland’s islands.

For further travel information please visit [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)



Queen Street Station, Glasgow



Bus at Nether Lochaber, Highland

## NON STOP FROM THE US AND CANADA

**Air Canada Rouge**  
Toronto to Edinburgh  
[www.aircanada.com/rouge](http://www.aircanada.com/rouge)

**Air Transat / Canadian Affair**  
Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto to Glasgow  
Air Transat  
[www.airtransat.ca](http://www.airtransat.ca)  
Canadian Affair  
[www.canadianaffair.ca](http://www.canadianaffair.ca)

**United Airlines**  
Newark to Glasgow and Newark to Edinburgh  
Chicago to Edinburgh  
[www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

**US Airways**  
Philadelphia to Glasgow and Edinburgh  
[www.usairways.com](http://www.usairways.com)

**Virgin Atlantic**  
Orlando and Las Vegas to Glasgow  
[www.virgin-atlantic.com](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com)

**Aer Lingus**  
US cities to Aberdeen  
[www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)

**Westjet**  
Halifax to Glasgow  
[www.westjet.com](http://www.westjet.com)

## INDIRECT FLIGHT FROM THE US AND CANADA

**British Airways**  
US cities to London Heathrow with daily connections to Scotland  
[www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

**Icelandair**  
Flights from Boston, DC, Denver, Minneapolis, New York, Orlando, and Seattle to Glasgow via Reykjavik.  
[www.icelandair.us](http://www.icelandair.us)

**United Airlines**  
US cities to London Heathrow, with daily connections to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.  
[www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

**Virgin Atlantic**  
US cities to London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester.  
[www.virgin-atlantic.com](http://www.virgin-atlantic.com)

**Aer Lingus**  
US cities to Dublin Ireland with daily connections to Glasgow and Edinburgh.  
[www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)



Ferry on the Ardrossan-Brodick Route



Driving past Blair Castle, Perthshire



Cover main image: Singer Kathleen Macinnes, Loch Assynt, Highlands.

Cover left to right: Kevin Reid, Distillery Technician, Strathisla Distillery, Keith, Moray  
Jimmy Graham, proprietor of Ostler's Close Restaurant, Cupar, Fife  
Bill Spink at M&M Spink, Arbroath, Angus

Principal Photography © VisitScotland/Scottish Viewpoint, Kenny Lam

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Marketing Bureau, Robert Pogson

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