



- [A. Transportation Information](#)
- [B. Language Tips](#)
- [C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers](#)
- [D. Eating and Drinking, and the Weather](#)
- [E. Hotel Recommendations](#)
- [F. Reading and Movie List](#)

Travel Information for Scotland

A. Transportation Information

Edinburgh: Name and airport code: Edinburgh Airport (EDI) is located approximately 6 miles west of the city center. Website: www.edinburghairport.com.

To and From the Edinburgh Airport

By Bus Shuttle: The Edinburgh Airlink Bus Service provides a direct service between Edinburgh Airport and the City Centre including Haymarket and Waverley Train Stations. Services run every 10 minutes (except early morning and late evening).

By Taxi: Licensed taxis depart from the front of the terminal building. Prices to/from the city center are £15-£20 (status 2015).

Glasgow: Name and airport code: Glasgow International Airport (GLA) is located approximately 8 miles southwest of the city center. Website: www.glasgowairport.com.

To and From the Glasgow Airport

By Bus Shuttle: Glasgow Flyer Service 500 provides a direct service with frequent departures between Glasgow Airport and the City Centre including Glasgow Queen Street and Glasgow Central Train Stations www.glasgowflyer.com.

Exit at the Queen St Station to catch a train to Edinburgh Waverley Train Station (every 30 minutes): www.scotrail.co.uk. Exit at the Buchanan Bus Station (final stop) to catch a bus to the Edinburgh bus station: www.citylink.co.uk.

By Taxi: Licensed taxis depart from the front of the terminal building. Prices to/from the city center are £20-£22 (status 2015).

Train Transportation Information

The following website describes Scottish train travel in detail: www.scotrail.co.uk.

Schedules and Booking: Full details of train schedules and online booking is available on the Scotrail website.

Traveling with your own bike: There is limited availability for bike carriage on trains throughout Scotland. Reservations must be made in advance either by telephone (+44 1752 675670) or in person at the station (unfortunately not available for online booking at this time)

Other Types of Transportation

Taxis: Taxis are readily available throughout Scotland. In urban centers, taxis wait outside airports and medium to large size train stations. In rural places, it is common practice to call in advance (hotels, restaurant, bars can help with this) when travelling on longer journeys. It is good practice to agree on an approximate fare when booking. Keep in mind that the cost may vary depending on traffic when travelling in the cities/towns.

Rental Car: You usually save money arranging your rental from the U.S. Be sure to get the exact address of the rental car agency, (preferably at your arrival airport). Many rental agencies in Scotland are closed on Sundays so please check when booking. We suggest EuropCar for good prices: www.europcar.com.

Bus: Citylink offers services between Scotland's major cities and towns while local bus companies serve other routes.

For full public transport information including buses and trains, we recommend www.travelinescotland.com.

B. Language Tips

While English is, of course, spoken throughout Scotland, you will often find many road signs and place names in Gaelic. This is a complicated language with difficult pronunciation. Your local guides will be happy to share their knowledge (although they are not native Gaelic speakers).

C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for the United Kingdom it's 00
The Country Code (CC) for the United Kingdom is 44 and for the US and Canada it's 1
Area Codes in the United Kingdom can be various digits in length

To call Scotland from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number of the National Museum of Scotland is (0)0300- 123-6789. The number could also be listed as +44-(0) 0300-123-6789. In both cases, you would dial 011-44-0300-123-6789. Cell phones and VoIP allow you to simply enter the plus sign and wireless networks automatically know it is an international call. Notice the Trunk code (0) is dropped.

To call the US or Canada from Scotland, dial IAC + CC + LN.

Example: The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Scotland from within Scotland, dial LN

Example: The local telephone number of the National Museum of Scotland is (0)0300-123-6789. You would dial (0) 0300-123-6789. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate between local and long distance by dialing a 1. Notice that the Trunk Code (0) is dialed.

D. Eating and Drinking, and the Weather

Scotland has undergone something of a food revolution in the past decade. As well as being home to some of the world's leading chefs and restaurants, there is a wide range of excellent places to eat throughout the country. Local produce here is second to none with world-class seafood, fish, game, lamb and beef. Local vegetables, fruit, cheeses, jams and other delights all add to the mix. We will eat at some lovely restaurants and inns across the Highlands where you can enjoy such dishes as hand-dived scallops, roast rack of Highland lamb and bramble and almond tart with heather honey cream. Of course, if you would like some Haggis we can arrange that too!

We can assure you that Scottish weather is not nearly as bad as you think. It is quite possible to experience a week here during the summer months with no rain at all. Rain, when it comes during the summer, usually

falls in showers rather than constantly due to the quick moving Atlantic weather systems. There are big differences between the east and west of the country. In the east the climate is reasonably dry, especially during the summer (for example, Edinburgh receives less rainfall than Paris in June). More rain does fall in the west but there are many local variations largely influenced by the region's geography. Temperatures during the summer are very pleasant for riding and typically range from 60-75F.

E. Hotel Recommendations

Aberdeen

[Atholl Hotel](http://www.atholl-aberdeen.co.uk) (www.atholl-aberdeen.co.uk)
54 King's Gate, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, AB15 4YN

[Maryculter House Hotel](http://www.maryculterhousehotel.com) (www.maryculterhousehotel.com)
South Deeside Road, Maryculter, Aberdeen, AB12 5GB
(Located 6 miles outside of town on the banks of the banks of the River Dee; a historical site of the Knights Templar)

Edinburgh

Located in the City Center or central area:

[Parliament House Hotel](http://www.parliament-house-hotel.co.uk) (www.parliament-house-hotel.co.uk)
15 Calton Hill, Edinburgh, EH1 3BJ
(A nice hotel located around the corner from our tour start meeting spot, near the Royal Mile, and 2.5 blocks from the Waverly train station or the airport bus shuttle stop on Bridges St) If not arriving by taxi, exit Waverly train station or the airport bus stop on Bridges St and walk to Princes St. Continue east on Princes St, cross onto Waterloo Pl. past Howies restaurant on your left. Turn left on Carlton Hill Rd and the hotel is located on your left as the road curves.)

[The Bonham Hotel](http://www.thebonham.com) (www.thebonham.com)
(A boutique hotel located in a Victorian town house, a 5 minute walk to the city center. A 30 minute walk to our tour start meeting spot, or a short taxi ride.)

[Best Western Plus Bruntsfield Hotel](http://www.thebruntsfield.co.uk) (www.thebruntsfield.co.uk)
69 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh EH10 4HH
(A stylish townhouse hotel overlooking the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links; a 10 minute taxi or 30 minute walk to the city center)

[Apex Waterloo Place](http://www.apexhotels.co.uk/en/hotels/edinburgh/) (http://www.apexhotels.co.uk/en/hotels/edinburgh/)
(A large luxury boutique hotel located at the east end of Princes St, near Waverly station, very near the Royal Mile)

[Apex European Hotel](http://www.apexhotels.co.uk/en/hotels/edinburgh/) (http://www.apexhotels.co.uk/en/hotels/edinburgh/)
(Located in the Haymarket area to the west of city center)

[SYHA Edinburgh Central Hostel](http://www.syha.org.uk/hostels/central/edinburgh_central.aspx) (www.syha.org.uk/hostels/central/edinburgh_central.aspx)
9 Haddington Place, Edinburgh EH7 4AL
(5-star hostel located in the heart of the city)

Located Outside of City Center

[Hotel Ceilidh-Donia](http://www.hotelceilidh-donia.co.uk/index.html) (www.hotelceilidh-donia.co.uk/index.html)
14-16 Marchall Crescent, Edinburgh
(A small family run hotel in a quiet neighborhood near a bus stop for a 10 min. ride to city center. No elevator.)

[Six Mary's Place](http://www.sixmarysplace.co.uk) (www.sixmarysplace.co.uk)
Raeburn Place, Stockbridge Edinburgh EH4 1JH
(A small guesthouse located in Stockbridge in Edinburgh's New Town area; 15 walk to City Center)

[Ardenlee Guest House](http://www.ardenlee.co.uk) (www.ardenlee.co.uk)

(Located in the historic New Town area; a 15 minute walk to city center)

[Ashdene House Guest House](http://www.ashdenehouse.com) (www.ashdenehouse.com)

(Located in a conservation area south of Edinburgh; a 30 minute walk to the city center)

[Biold B&B](http://www.bioldbedandbreakfast.com/) (www.bioldbedandbreakfast.com/)

(A small B&B near bus stop or a 15 min walk to city center)

[Blue Rainbow Apartments – Edinburgh Royal Garden](http://www.bluerainbowapartments.com/) (www.bluerainbowapartments.com/)

[Southside Guest House](http://www.southsideguesthouse.co.uk/) (www.southsideguesthouse.co.uk/)

Southside, 8 Newington Road, Edinburgh EH9 1QS

(Located near the University center and a 20 min. walk to city center)

F. Reading and Movie List

Literature on Scotland or by Scottish Authors

- *Scotland: The Autobiography 2000 years of Scottish History* by Those Who Saw It Happen by Rosemary Goring. A compilation of stories of firsthand accounts of the history of Scotland that present real life perspectives and not just factual historical time lines.
- *Scotland: The Story of a Nation* by Magnus Magnusson presents a condensed version of the history of Scotland.
- *Waverly*, by Sir Walter Scott. Scott's first novel tells is reported to be the start of the historical novel genre and vividly displays the Scottish Highlands during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745.
- *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson. You may have read this as a child and wish to revisit the story of David Balfour's adventures of kidnap and shipwreck in 18th century Scotland to claim his rightly inheritance that his deceitful uncle tries to keep from him.
- *Calum's Road* by Roger Hutchinson. A true story of Calum MacLoed of the Isle of Raasay, who singlehandedly set out o build a road connecting his hometown of Arnish to the town of Brochel. It combines historical and political events of this Hebridean community with one man's determination and hope to repopulate the northern portion of the island.
- Edinburgh, Scotland is the birth place of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the famed Sherlock Holmes detective stories.
- Robert Burns (1759 – 1796), Scotland's celebrated poet and lyricist. His noted works are *Auld Lang Syne*, *A Red, Red Rose*; *A Man's A Man for A' That*; *To a Louse*; *To a Mouse*; and *The Battle of Sherramui*.
- Try any of Neil M. Gunn's works. He is an acclaimed 20th century Scottish novelist known to evoke the landscape and lifestyle of the Highlands with his writing. *Off in a Boat*, *Butcher's Broom*, *Whisky and Scotland*, *Highland River*.
- *Blue Bells of Scotland: Blue Bell Trilogy Book One* by Laura Vosika combines modern and medieval Scotland with time travel when a main character is thought to be a medieval Highland warrior.
- *Queen Hereafter: A Novel of Margaret of Scotland* by Susan Fraser King is historical fiction of 11th century Scotland showing the lives of Queen Margaret, King Malcolm, and a Celtic bard named Eva. The author's concluding note explains why she chose Margaret for her story.
- *Golf in the Kingdom and its sequel Shivas Irons* by Michael Murphy combines myth, mysticism, philosophy and golf of Scotland.
- *Another Time, Another Place* by Jessie Kesson tells the story of three Italian prisoners of war in 1944 that are housed in northeast Scotland.
- *Following the Sun: A Bicycle Pilgrimage From Andalusia to the Hebrides* by John Hanson Mitchell. As a self- proclaimed sun worshipper the author shares his travel journey tales from Spain to Scotland on his old Peugeot. His story is filled with history, archeology, lore, and the study of ancient sun worshipping cultures and his conversations with locals along the way.

Movies About or Set in Scotland That We Have Enjoyed

- *Monarch of the Glen* (TV series 2000– 2005). A London restaurateur returns to his homeland of the Scottish Highlands to assume his role as Laird of a 40,000 acre estate that is on the brink of bankruptcy. It

has a touch of comedy, drama, and romance all set with a backdrop of the Highlands. It is a wonderful choice for viewing the beautiful countryside and architecture and people of Scotland.

- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969) – Dame Maggie Smith won an Academy Award for her starring role as an eccentric teacher at an Edinburgh's girls' school that sparks controversy with her unorthodox methods in this Scottish classic set in the 1930's.
- *Braveheart* (1995), winner of 5 Academy Awards, Mel Gibson's 3 hour long action packed bloody battle epic portrays Sir William Wallace (1270 – 1305), a Scottish freedom fighter warrior, leading his country in an uprising against English rule.
- *Rob Roy* (1995), a swashbuckling movie starring Liam Neeson that is best watched for its vivid picture of Scotland in the early 1700's. Many scenes were shot around Fort William, Crieff, and Edinburgh.
- *Made of Honor* (2008), a romantic comedy with poor reviews, yet it has scenes of Scotland and the Isle of Skye. Perhaps worth a view using the fast forward feature.
- *The Queen* (2006) – In her Oscar-winning role, Helen Mirren portrays Queen Elizabeth II as the royal family and Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) work together in the days following the death of Princess Diana. Includes scenes of Balmoral Castle.
- *Ring of Bright Water* (1969) – A story for all ages, but beware it includes some sadness. Graham Merill, a London professional, and his newly acquired otter move to a ramshackle cottage situated on the coast of Scotland. A romance develops between Graham and the town's doctor and the three of them explore their beautiful surroundings.
- *Local Hero* (1983) - The encounters of when representatives of an American oil company hoping to secure property rights for a refinery meet with locals of a village in northern Scotland. A funny and visually stunning movie.
- *I Know Where I'm Going!* (1945). A critically acclaimed romantic drama by Powell and Pressburger about a middle-class Englishwoman certain of her path in life to travel to The Hebrides to marry a very wealthy older gentleman until inclement weather, a young Laird, and a curse on his castle come into her life.