

## SCOTLAND

wind pipes cross skirt mix shinty variety forests tossing sky  
population lakes Northern laws caber golf nearly United national  
folk flag skiing haggis cultural

What does Scotland look like? What languages do they speak? And what can you do in Scotland?

Read and find out!

Scotland is a country in Great Britain, to the north of England. Scotland has **n**\_\_\_\_\_ 800 islands, but people only live on some of them.

Scotland is a very beautiful country with many mountains, **f**\_\_\_\_\_, beaches, rivers and lochs or **l**\_\_\_\_\_. In the north of Scotland it is light until 11.30 p.m. in summer and in winter you can sometimes see the **N**\_\_\_\_\_ Lights or Aurora Borealis, which are spectacular lights in the **s**\_\_\_\_\_. Energy from the sun turns the Earth's sky green, red and other colours.

Scotland has its own parliament which makes **l**\_\_\_\_\_ for Scottish people. The Scottish parliament is in the capital city, Edinburgh. About five million people live in Scotland, which is 8.5% of the UK population. Most people live in the south of the country, in and around the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee.

### Language

There are three languages in Scotland. Most people speak English and Scots and a minority (around 1% of the Scottish **p**\_\_\_\_\_) speak Scottish Gaelic, an old Celtic language which is very different from English. For example, the Gaelic word for Scotland is 'Alba', 'What is your name?' is 'Dè an t-ainm a tha ort?' and 'Goodbye' is 'Slàn leat'. Scots is spoken by young and old people in cities and rural areas and sometimes people **m**\_\_\_\_\_ Scots and English. Some words in Scots are the same as in English and some are different. Look at these sentences. Can you see the difference? Scotland is one of the four countries that make the **U**\_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom. (English)

### Music

At public and **c**\_\_\_\_\_ events you can often hear traditional Scottish music and see traditional Scottish dancing. Pipers play music on bagpipes, a Celtic **w**\_\_\_\_\_ instrument with **p**\_\_\_\_\_ and a bag. Pipers and dancers usually wear kilts. A kilt is a traditional **s**\_\_\_\_\_ with a tartan design (horizontal and vertical lines in lots of colours) which is worn by men and women. Scots enjoy all types of music from **f**\_\_\_\_\_ to rock and pop, and festivals like 'The Edinburgh Festival' or concerts like 'T in the Park' are very popular. Famous Scottish singers and groups include Paolo Nutini, Franz Ferdinand and The Fratellis.

### Sport

The most popular sport in Scotland is football and famous teams include Celtic and Rangers, from Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city. Another popular game, **g**\_\_\_\_\_, was invented in Scotland in the Middle Ages. You can go **s**\_\_\_\_\_ or snowboarding in winter at Scotland's five mountain ski resorts and any time of the year at snowsports centres around the country. In rural, Gaelic-speaking regions people play **s**\_\_\_\_\_, a variation of hockey. Shinty is a traditional sport played in Scotland and Ireland. The famous Scottish Highland Games are a combination of culture and sport. Competitors do heavy sports like 'c\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_' where they throw big tree trunks and there is traditional Scottish music and dancing. Highland Games are celebrated all over the world. The first Highland Games in New York were in 1836, the most northern games are in Norway and the most southern games are in New Zealand.

### Food

When people think of Scottish food, they often think of **h**\_\_\_\_\_, a type of sausage made from parts of a sheep. However, Scotland is also known for its **v**\_\_\_\_\_ of seafood such as lobster and oysters, fish such as salmon and trout, and beef.

### Symbols

Blue is a colour which is often associated with Scotland. The Scottish **f**\_\_\_\_\_ is blue with a white X-shaped cross called the Saint Andrew's **c**\_\_\_\_\_. St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland and his day is celebrated on November 30th. Everywhere you go in Scotland, you will see tartan, kilts and bagpipes. Also, look out for the **n**\_\_\_\_\_ animal, the unicorn, and the thistle, the purple flower of Scotland.

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