



# Welcome to Scotland





# Scotland



Scotland is a country that occupies the northern third of the island of Great Britain. It is a part of the United Kingdom and shares a land border to the south with England.

Scotland is washed by the North Sea in the east, the Atlantic Ocean in the north and the Irish Sea in the southwest.

Scotland consists of 790 islands including the Northern Isles and Hebrides.

Scotland is a northern land consisting of the Highlands - a northern area with a harsh climate, and the Lowlands - an industrial region with about three quarters of population.

The English language is spoken all over Scotland with a variety of accents.



# The symbol of Scotland

The thistle has an important meaning for the people of Scotland. It is the Scottish national emblem.

The people of this country chose the thistle as their national emblem because it saved their land from foreign invaders many years ago.

People say that during a night attack by the invaders the Scottish soldiers were awakened by the shouts of the invaders as their feet touched the thorns of the thistles in the field they were crossing.



# Scottish History

Scotland was inhabited mainly by the Picts (the Scots from Ireland or “Scotia”). During the ninth century, the various parts of Scotland united in their struggle against the Vikings.

The monarchy which now existed in England threatened Scottish independence throughout the Middle Ages.

England and Scotland remained separate during the seventeenth century, except for a period under Oliver Cromwell (1650-1658). The Parliamentarian armies of Oliver Cromwell briefly integrated Scotland into the Commonwealth.



**Oliver Cromwell**

In 1707 both countries agreed on a single parliament for Great Britain. Scotland retained its own system of law and the church.



**Cromwell at Dunbar**



# Edinburgh

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and the second largest city. It is also one of Europe's largest financial cities.

Edinburgh is a city of attractive squares, tree-lined streets and elegant houses.



The city's rich cultural heritage is highlighted by its International Festival in August.

That's why from middle August to early September Edinburgh is noisy, overpriced and crowded by foreign students.

# Glasgow



Glasgow is the heart of the arts in Scotland. The city also has some of the finest museums and galleries in Europe.

Glasgow is also the chief centre of commerce and industry. Its most important industries are shipbuilding, heavy and light engineering and coal-mining.



# Government and politics

Scotland has limited self-government within the United Kingdom.

Scotland is represented in the British House of Commons by 59 members of Parliament.

The Scottish Office represents the UK government in Scotland and represents Scottish interests within the UK government.



**The Cabinet of the Scottish Government**

The Scottish Office is led by the Secretary of State for Scotland who sits in the Cabinet of the United Kingdom.



**The debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament Building**

# Places of interest



**Glasgow City Chambers**



**Marischal College**



**Forth Bridge**



**The Wallace Monument**  
commemorates William Wallace,  
the 13<sup>th</sup> century Scottish hero



**Iona Abbey, the birthplace of  
Scottish Christianity**



# Nature

Scotland is very famous for its beautiful scenery. There are mountains, valleys, lakes and hundreds of islands



Scotland is a land of scenic splendour. The dramatic Highland with their snow-capped mountains, wooded glens give way to the salmon rivers, rich farmland and picturesque fishing villages of the Lowlands.

# Traditions

This is the land of tartans, of romantic castles and the melodies of bagpipes. Scotland has also a rich heritage. The lively Highland games take place up and down the country between May and September.

You can see events like tossing the caber, throwing the hammer and sword dancing, accompanied by the pipes and the beat of drums.



# Test yourself

1. The capital of Scotland is ... .
2. ... is the national symbol of Scotland.
3. Scotland consists of ... islands.
4. England and Scotland agreed on a single parliament in ... .
5. The chief centre of commerce and industry is ... .
6. Scotland is represented in ... by 59 members of Parliament.
7. Scotland is famous for its beautiful scenery. There many ... there.
8. The International Festival is usually held in Scotland in ... .
9. There are many places of interest in Scotland such as ... .
10. The national musical instrument of Scotland is ... .