

My blog about Scotland



by Semiro Hässel 7a
16th August

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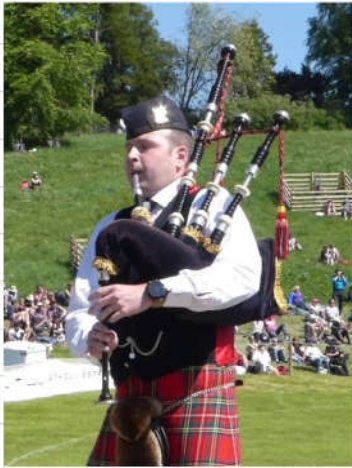
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Behind the camera through Scotland

My cousin Kay has just got a job in Scotland. He is a young man, so cool and fantastic and his friend is the camera. I've visited him for two weeks and he has told me much about Scotland and has showed me beautiful sights and places. I was allowed to accompany him behind his camera. But you don't believe how interesting that was ... ? But first I want to tell you some general things about Scotland. So I give you an introduction what you should know about Scotland.

I. General Information

Scotland is located in the northwestern part of Europe. It's a part of Great Britain, an island country of the United Kingdom. Scotland is one of four countries that make up the United Kingdom. The other three are England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland covers the northern part of the island of Great Britain which it shares with England and Wales. Scotland is the second largest country in the UK which is bordered by England in the north, the North Sea in the east and the Irish Sea in the southwest. More than 800 islands belong to Scotland, too.

The country is famous for its castles, beautiful lakes, mountains and historical monuments. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh and the largest city is Glasgow. Other big cities are Aberdeen and Dundee.

The highest mountain is Ben Nevis which is 1344 metres in height.



This is the Scottish flag.

The Scottish flag is one of the oldest flags of the world. The flag of Scotland is of a white X-shaped cross which represents the cross of the patron saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew on a blue sky. The flag is called the „Saltire“

or the „Saint Andrew's“ Cross. Some other symbols used for Scotland are a thistle and a rampant lion.



The Scottish government is a constitutional monarchy.

As Scotland is part of the UK, the head of state in Scotland is the monarch of the UK which is Queen Elizabeth II.



Did you now that English isn't the only language in Scotland ?

The primary languages spoken in Scotland are English, Scots and Scottish Gaelic.

The dialect of English spoken by Scotland is referred to as Scottish English.

Some important words are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Falte = Welcome | • Tha mi gu math. = I'm fine. |
| • Madainn Mhath = Good Morning | • Mar sine leat. = Good bye. |
| • Ciamar a tha thu? = How are you? | • Tapadh leat. = Thank you. |

Oh, something else you should know. Scotland has also an interesting history!

II. History of Scotland

The first written records of Scottish history date back to the Roman Empire in the first century AD.

In the 5th century, the north-west of Scotland was populated by Gaels.



From the beginning of the 12th century a single king started to rule Scotland.

The 13th century was the time of wars of independence between Scotland and England. Unrest continued to the 14th century when Robert Bruce took the throne and was the crowned king.

It formally ended in 1707 when the parliaments of both nations agreed to the act of Union.

In the 18th century, the Industrial Revolution took place and the Scottish Age of Enlightenment.

In 1930, Scotland was also affected by the economic crisis.

In 2012 the „Edinburgh Agreement“ was signed by Scotland's first Minister Alex Salmond and UK Prime Minister David Cameron.

In 2014, the Scottish people voted in a referendum on independence.

On 29 January, the Scottish parliament decided to continue to fly the European flag after Great Britain left the EU.

III. Famous cities

So, now we go out and discover Scottish cities. At first we will visit Edinburgh and tomorrow we'll go to Glasgow and Dundee.

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland but the most popular city is Glasgow with about 600'000 inhabitants. Now we are in Edinburgh.

The city's most prominent sights are Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood palace, the Scottish National Gallery and the Royal Mile.

Edinburgh Castle is considered one of the most important sights in Scotland. The hilltop castle is in the centre of Edinburgh on Castle Rock.



Here you can see the Holyrood palace. It's the official residence of the British Queen in Scotland. It is located at the eastern end of the Royal Mile.

The Royal Mile leads from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace.

It is actually about one Scottish mile long. It's also regularly used for parades and processions.

The Scottish National Gallery is an art gallery and museum in Edinburgh. There you can admire many pictures of Scotland and other countries.

Yes, today we are lucky and can visit the Edinburgh Festival. The Edinburgh Festival is a collection of different festivals held each year in August and September. Within the three weeks of the festival there are around two million visitors.

So, now you know a lot about Edinburgh and tomorrow we go to Glasgow and Dundee!



Hello guys, now we are in Glasgow.

Glasgow is the largest city with over 625'000 inhabitants.



The city is located on the river Clyde. The Clyde is one of the biggest rivers in Scotland. In contrast to the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, Glasgow is considered as „working class city“. In Glasgow there are a cathedral from the 12th century and four universities.

The Glasgow University is a research university. In 2016/17, there were about 26'000 students from over 140 nations registered at the institution.



So, now we take the bus to Dundee.

Dundee is the fourth largest city in Scotland on the Firth of Tay. The Firth of Tay is a sea inlet on the east coast of Scotland.



Here you see the highest point of the city. It's the Dundee Law, a former volcanic cone.

The City Churches are three churches in one building.

The museum ship RRS Discovery is moored at Discovery Point in Dundee harbour. This is a wooden three-master with which Robert Falcon Scott undertook his expeditions to the Antarctic.

FC Dundee and Dundee United are the two largest and most famous soccer clubs in the city.



IV. Important traditions



I really like typical Scottish clothes.
We have seen a lot of men with kilts in the streets of cities.
There is a souvenir shop with kilts made of checked patterns.
I want to tell you something about these kilts. This is a traditional outfit. The highlanders wore it in the 18th century.

Here is a cool video,
check it out! →

Video „Schottenrock“

<https://youtu.be/xlyBtS5xYTo>

The kilt is called „kilt“ in Scotland.

The modern kilt is a knee-length garment with pleats on the back.

The kilt is worn by men and boys in Scotland. It's mostly made of wool fabric in a check pattern. This check pattern is called „tartan“.



A different tartan belongs to a different family clan.

Men also have a linen shirt and a black jacket, stockings and big shoes. Women wear a white blouse and skirts, made of the famous tartan, in clan colors.

The bagpipe is also part of the tradition. The tartan of the bagpipes and kilts are similar. The bagpipe is the national instrument of Scotland and is best represented in the music of the Scottish highlands. The bagpipe is a woodwind instrument. The sound of bagpipes is often heard in all Scottish towns. They entertain people in the cities. They also play in chapels at parades or at the world-famous Highland Games.



Oh, it's very difficult to play the bagpipe!
Also many sports in Scotland are difficult.



V. Popular sports

Scotland is a wonderful country for people who like doing sports outside! There are famous sports like tennis, soccer, golf, rugby, cycling. Two sports that aren't well-known are curling and shinty. Soccer is the number one sport in Scotland. Golf has been played in Scotland for more than six centuries. Indeed, golf was born in Scotland. The first courses, clubs and even rules of golf were established there.

Curling is an exciting game that requires absolute precision. Players use continuous movement from a long-handled brush to slide stones across the ice. The object is to get closest to the circular target.



Shinty is a fast and physical game where players have to score using a small ball made of leather and a caman which is a curved wooden stick.



Scotland is also a paradise for cyclists! There is so much to explore: historical towns, idyllic villages, beautiful countryside and breath-taking coastline and some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. And this rugged landscape is perfect for mountain biking, too.



Today we take the camera and look at the nature in the highlands.

VI. The landscapes and nature

Ben Nevis is the highest point in Britain and one of the best places to visit in the Highlands. This mountain is a favourite destination for Scottish skiers in winter and a walking paradise in summer.

The Nevis Range ski resort is very well equipped and has a beautiful view over the mountain range.

From there you can make many walks.



If you are in the Highlands you shouldn't miss Fort William.

This town is located at the foot of Ben Nevis and is one of the most important cities in the region.



Definitely you should see the Steall waterfall. It's 120 metres high.

These waterfalls are located in the beautiful mountains

of the Highlands. The view is incredible when it's sunny, but also very beautiful in fog.

You want to see what a beach in the Highlands looks like? Then you should go to Sandwood Bay, a beautiful natural bay in the north of the region.



And what do you say?

Now you already know a lot about Scotland, but now the best:
It's „The legend of Nessie!“

VII. lakes

Scotland is also famous for its freshwater lakes called „lochs“ such as Loch Lomond, Loch Tay or Loch Ness.

Here is a very interesting video, watch it. ↴

Video „Nessie“

<https://youtu.be/YLRuyDSxG5Q>

Loch Ness is a very deep lake in the north of Scotland.

Some people believe that they have seen a large dinosaur-like „monster“ in Loch Ness.

The monster of Loch Ness, also called „Nessie“, is said to be an animal that lives in Loch Ness.

Nessie is described as a plesiosaur, with a length of up to 20 metres.

For this reason, Loch Ness is one of Scotland's top tourist attractions.



Regionally the myth is an important source of income.

So, enough myth, now we look closely the Scottish everyday life.

VIII. Culture in Scotland

The Scottish everyday life is quite similar to everyday life in England because it is a British country.

Most Scots work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. They eat early in the evening and like going to pubs. Some pubs don't serve meals after 8 p.m. and it's difficult to find an open shop in the center of Glasgow after 6 p.m..



In Scotland we can find a lot of restaurants.

Scotland is well-known for several typical meals. One of them is „haggis“.

Haggis is a famous Scottish dish. It's a sheep's stomach filled with minced heart, lungs and liver of a lamb.

You eat it with neeps and tatties. Neeps is mashed up turnips and tatties are potatoes.



There is also the famous beef called „Aberdeen Angus“.
„Stovies“, they are a mixture of potatoes and meat.
„Cullen skink“, is a thick soup made of smoked finnan haddock, milk, onions and potatoes.
„Cranachan“ is often served for dessert. It's a lovely Scottish dessert with oats, raspberries and cream.
The national drink is, of course, whisky. Scotland is very well-known in the world for its whisky, popularly known as Scotch whisky.



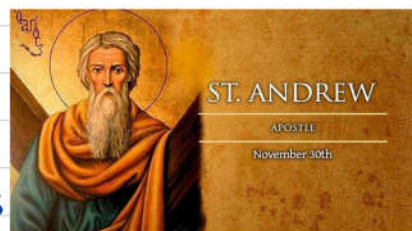
The Scots like drinking beer such as lager, Ale or Stout, which is a black beer, tea and coffee, too.
In Scotland you can find a lot of tea rooms or coffee shops.

On my last day I'd like to talk about famous people.

IX. Scotland's important people

We don't know exactly how it came about that St. Andrew became the national saint of Scotland, but:

We think that he was a fisherman and one of the first apostles of Jesus. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Romans in Greece. However, St. Andrew asked to be allowed to die on a diagonal cross, as he would not be worthy to die on a cross that had the same shape as the cross on which Jesus had died.



This diagonal St. Andrew's cross is now used on the Scottish flag, which we call „saltire“. Reports suggest that Scotland made St. Andrew its national saint in 1000 AD.

In 1390 St. Andrew first appeared as a national symbol on a coin of the Empire, a five schilling.

Many well-known personalities come from Scotland, especially in the fields of science and politics. In the political area, the most prominent is Margaret Thatcher, who was the UK's first female Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990.

Another dazzling personality of Scotland is the tragically deceased Lady Di (Diana Frances Spencer), who married the heir to the throne Prince Charles in 1981.



Other well-known Scottish personalities are the actor Sean Connery and the writer Joanne K. Rowling.

During a train journey from Manchester to London in 1990,

J.K. Rowling invented the novel character "Harry Potter".

She celebrated incredible success with the books about "Harry Potter".

There are a total of 7 volumes of "Harry Potter", all of which have been made into films in Scotland.

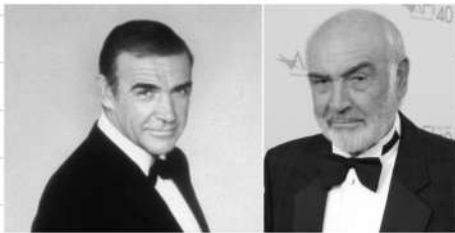


Here you can learn something about the actor Sean Connery.

Sir Sean Connery, who was born in Edinburgh in 1930, came from a poor

background. He became a famous film actor after his leading role in the James Bond movies.

Sir Thomas Sean Connery was a British actor, film producer and Oscar winner.



Director Steven Spielberg called him one of the five best actors in the world in 1992. Connery ended his film career in 2004.

He died on 31st October in 2020 at the age of 90 years in Nassau, Bahamas.

He was also a supporter of the Scottish independence.

On the 5th, July 2000 Connery was awarded the Knight Bachelor's degree by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to Scotland and from then on carried the title of "Sir".

The ceremony took place in Edinburgh. Connery wore a kilt.



This was my last day in Scotland.

I want to say goodbye to my cousin and to everyone who accompanied me on my adventure!

Bye 🖐️ camera



THANKS FOR
READING
MY BLOG !!!

