

## FACTS

- 
- Scotland is located in Europe, at the northern end of Great Britain.
- Scotland is a part on the United Kingdom, along with [England](#), Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Scotland shares a border with England.
- Scotland includes over 700 islands. These include groups called Orkney, Shetland and the Hebrides.
- The population of Scotland in 2011 was around 5.3 million.
- The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh while the largest city is Glasgow. Other major cities include Aberdeen and Dundee.
- Aberdeen has become an important centre for the oil industry after the finding of oil in the North Sea.
- The highest mountain in Scotland is Ben Nevis which stands at a height of 1344 metres (4409 feet).
- The Scottish Highlands are a mountainous region of Scotland with historical importance and a low population density.
- Most major cities are located in the Scottish Lowlands.
- A variety of wildlife can be found in Scotland, including seals, mountain hare, ptarmigan, stoats and the golden [eagle](#).
- Scotland has over 300 railway stations.
- Scottish drivers use the left-hand side of the road.
- Scotland has a unique culture with traditions such as bagpipes, kilts and highland dancing.
- In 1872, Scotland played England in the first international game of football (soccer). The result was a 0-0 draw.
- The thistle is a national symbol of Scotland.
  
- For more information, check out [maps of Scotland](#)

### **Interesting facts about Scotland.**

- Scotland is second biggest country in Great Britain.
- There are three officially recognised languages in Scotland: **English, Scots and Scottish Gaelic**.
- 
- In Gaelic, Scotland is called “**Alba**”.
  
- Scotland has many symbols. One of them is **thistle**.

- Animal known as Scotland's symbol is **unicorn**.
- When you're in Scotland, you can still see road signs in both English and Gaelic.
- Glasgow is largest city in Scotland, though **Edinburgh** is its capital.
- Scotland's motto is "**No one provokes me with impunity**".
- Some of **Scottish inventions**: tv, telephone, tyres, penicillin, finger printing, tarmacadam, waterproof raincoat.
- Scotland's **highest point is Ben Nevis** (1, 343 m, also highest peak in whole Great Britain), its **lowest point is Loch Morar** (310 m).
- Shortest river in Scotland is River Morar. It is only 500 meters long!
- Scotland is well known all over the world for whisky. It's important to **distinguish whisky from "whiskey"**, liquid made in US and Ireland.
- Scotland includes **787 islands**.
- As per the census conducted in 1909, the **Scots were the tallest race in Europe**.
- There are lots of dog breeds **originated from Scotland**, for example Scottish Terrier, Golden Retriever, Bearded Collie, Gordon Setter, Shetland Sheepdog and Skye Terrier.
- Most famous Scottish dish is haggis, which doesn't mean its foreigner's favourite. So do not give it as a '**Scottish gifts**' to yours foreign friends.
- **Edinburgh** was built on seven hills, just like Rome.
- Edinburgh was first city in the world, which had **fire-brigade**.
- Scotland is homeland of **Marillion**, legendary progressive rock band.
- Most famous **Scottish writers** are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Walter Scott and Lord Byron.
- Some popular **Scottish actors**: Sean Connery, Gerard Butler and Ewan McGregor
- **The Bank of Scotland** was founded in 1695 and it's oldest still surviving bank in UK. It was first bank in Europe to print its own banknotes.

Now we've covered most of the 'serious' Scotland facts, here are a few quirky, unusual and just downright odd Scottish trivia for you to enjoy....

- 11 percent of all Nobel prizes have been awarded to Scotsmen
- Scottish Freemasonry is now officially recognized as being the oldest in the world

- Scotsman William Paterson, founded the Bank of England.
- 61% of American Presidents are of Scots or Scots-Irish descent
- There are over 3000 [Scottish Castles](#) - that's about one for every 100 square miles
- Scotlands' Shetland Isles and Orkney Islands were once owned by Norway. Geographically, the Shetland Isles are closer to the capital city of Norway than the capital city of the United Kingdom.
- 11% of Scottish people have red hair - a higher percentage than in any other country.
- In Scotland it was legal for a girl to get married at age of 12, and a boy at 14, until 1929
- Between 1147 and 1482, the town of Berwick on Tweed (on the Scottish/English border), changed hands between Scotland and England 13 times (Scotland finally lost this unique tug-of-war!).
- Red Kites, a stunning bird of prey, were extinct in Scotland for over 100 years, but were reintroduced in the early 1990's. They are now thriving again.
- The Gaelic name for Scotland is 'Alba'