

2026

#CELTICTOURS

# SCOTLAND

A SELF-DRIVE GUIDE

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# AIRPORTS

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Flying between Scotland's main and regional airports is often the quickest way to get around, particularly when traveling to the islands.

Scotland has a number of main airport hubs based in the cities and smaller airports on the islands.

This is a list of all of the main passenger airports, but there are other smaller airports across the country as well:

- Edinburgh Airport
- Glasgow Airport
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport
- Dundee Airport
- Aberdeen Airport
- Inverness Airport
- Wick John O'Groats Airport
- Kirkwall Airport
- Sumburgh Airport
- Campbeltown Airport
- Oban Airport
- Islay Airport
- Tiree Airport
- Stornoway Airport
- Barra Airport
- Benbecula Airport

## GETTING AROUND

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When it comes to exploring Scotland, it's as much about the journey as the destination. You'll find that traveling to the main tourist spots is a piece of cake and, with a little careful planning, more remote areas are readily accessible too.

So, now to consider how you'll get around! Luckily, the country is well connected by an extensive road and rail transport network, with a variety of options available for getting from A to B. Public transport provides trains and bus services to Scottish towns and cities as well as many villages and ferry ports. Access to very remote areas and islands is straightforward by car, ferry and aeroplane.



# ACCOMMODATIONS

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So, is it a luxury retreat, a city center crash pad, or perhaps a traditional family-run establishment which tickles your fancy? Whatever you're after, there's a wide choice of accommodations in Scotland to suit both your budget and your itinerary.

**Hotels:** A good night's sleep on crisp clean sheets is just what you need before a day of exploring Scotland. Stay close to the action in Scotland's cities and book a centrally-located hotel, be it boutique, classic or budget. Need an escape to the country to recharge your batteries? There are plenty of grand country houses and hotels built purely for leisure where you can relax and enjoy elegant accommodation.

**B&B:** What could be better than waking up in a comfy bed inside a city townhouse, country farm cottage, luxury lodge, or even a castle, before tucking into a full Scottish breakfast? It's all part of the experience at a bed and breakfast (B&B) or guest house in Scotland. Whether you are exploring cities, towns or the countryside, you can almost always find a quality B&B or guest house for an unforgettable stay.



# WEATHER

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We've all heard plenty of jokes about the Scottish weather - but most of them aren't true! Scotland's climate is actually quite moderate and very changeable, although on occasion we get really hot or really cold weather. As the old Scottish saying goes, 'there's no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes! Despite being a relatively small country, one of the most surprising things about the Scottish climate is just how much it varies from one region to another. It's often the case that you can drive for 20 minutes and find that the conditions are completely different. The unpredictable nature of the climate means it's not uncommon to experience all four seasons in one day!

# CURRENCY

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There are thousands of cash machines (ATMS) in Scottish cities and towns. Check with your bank to see if you can use your card in these. If you are visiting the islands or remote areas, you may not be able to find a cash machine, so think about taking some money with you (the currency used in Scotland is the Pound Sterling). You can cash travelers checks at banks and bureaux de change. There is usually no charge for cashing sterling travelers checks.

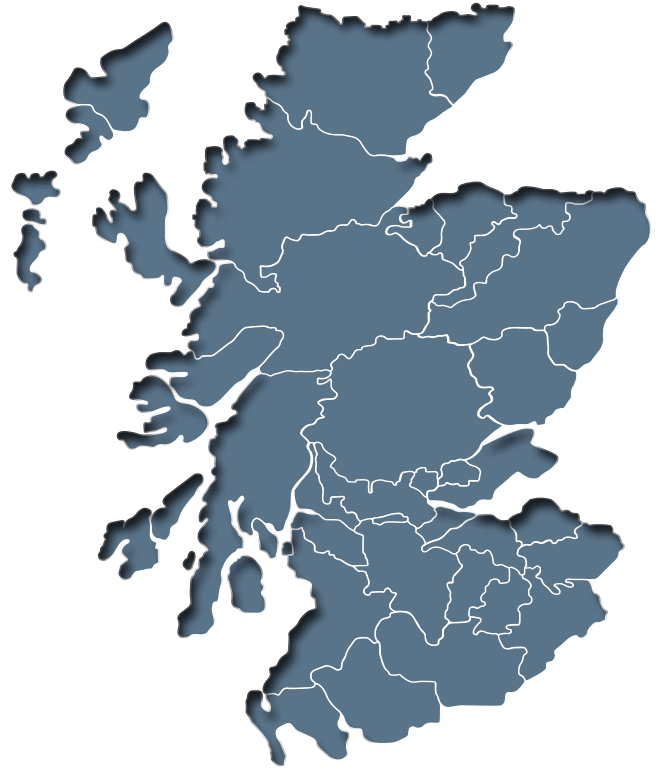
# SIGHTSEEING

Celtic Tours is pleased to offer a variety of Scotland day tours from Edinburgh, Inverness, & Glasgow

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## Day Tours from Edinburgh:

- **Loch Ness, Glencoe & the Highlands:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 7:45 am, Returns 7:00 pm.* Loch Ness, Glencoe & the Highlands. This Scotland in a day tour covers the magnificent beauty of Rannoch Moor, Glencoe, the Great Glen, Loch Ness and Pitlochry. Includes 50 min cruise on the Loch.
- **Loch Lomond, Stirling Castle & The Kelpies:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 9:15 am, Returns 6:30 pm.* This tour is for those who love tales of Rob Roy and Braveheart, historic castles and a healthy walk in beautiful natural scenery with breathtaking views.
- **West Highland Lochs & Castles:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 8:15 am, Returns 6:30 pm.* West Highland Lochs & Castles: A fantastic day out in the heart of the scenic Western Highlands taking in the superb ruins of Kilchurn Castle, entrance to Doune Castle, and the historic 18th century town of Inveraray, home to the Duke of Argyll.
- **St Andrews & the Fishing Villages of Fife:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 9:45 am, Returns 6:15 pm.* Scotland's rich heritage is on full display on this inspiring journey. Contrast elegant architecture with sweeping coastal views. Compare the ruins of a wind-swept castle with the curves of an ancient golf course. And visit Scottish villages and towns that offer far more than their small size should allow.
- **Rosslyn Chapel & the Scottish Borders:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 10:00 am, Returns 5:00 pm.* Uncover the myths and legends around the Da Vinci code, the Knights Templar and the burial place of Robert the Bruce's heart at Melrose Abbey, in the heart of the Scottish Borders. Half Day Tour visiting Rosslyn Chapel, Temple & Melrose Abbey. Free entry to Rosslyn Chapel for children escorted by an adult in 2026.
- **Hadrian's Wall and Scottish Borders:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 8:15 am, Returns 7:00 pm.* This tour takes you to the most fascinating parts of this grand boundary, exploring Rome's influence on Britain, the serene border hills, ancient abbeys, and the incredible Roman site of Vindolanda. Entry to Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum and Jedburgh Abbey.
- **Discover Malt Whisky:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 9:30 am, Returns 6:15 pm.* Come and experience Scotland's "Water of Life" - single malt Scotch whiskey - with visits to two fascinating distilleries situated right on the edge of the highlands. No children. Includes admission to Glengoyne Distillery and Deanston Distillery.
- **Outlander Adventure Tour:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 9:30 am, Returns 5:45 pm.* Step back in time on your very own Outlander Adventure. Visiting these sites lets you step back in time and explore ancient villages and towering 600-year-old castles. On this tour, your guide reveals the history behind the show. Includes admission to Blackness, Midhope, and Doune Castles and Linlithgow Palace.
- **Scottish Highlands Sail, Bike or Trail Experience:**  
*Daily departures - Departs 9:00 am, Returns 6:30 pm.* Loch Katrine has stirred the hearts of heroes, writers, and even TV stars. Today, you choose how to enjoy it. Want to stretch your legs? Walk the loch-side paths. Prefer to take it easy? Hop on a scenic boat cruise. Feeling active? Rent a bike and ride along the water's edge. Then it's time to slow down and warm up with a dram of Scotch Whisky.



## Day Tours from Inverness:

- **The Complete Loch Ness Experience:**

*Daily departures - departs 9:30 am, Returns 5:15 pm.* No one can resist the mythical Loch Ness: its beauty evokes a sense of wonder, while its monstrous depths are legendary. Enjoy incredible views from a cruise, learn about the historic ruins of Urquhart Castle, and explore the less frequented south roads of the loch. Explore Loch Ness, Fort Augustus and Foyers Waterfall.

- **Skye & Eilean Donan Castle:**

*Daily departures - departs 8:00 am, Returns 8:00 pm.* Sharp geological formations, crumbling coastlines and wind-swept valleys. We take you on a journey through the stories, history, and sights of the island; while also giving you a taste of the most breathtaking scenery that Western Scotland has to offer. See Kyle of Lochalsh, Eilean Donan Castle and Portree, a cute, colourful coastal town that's as quaint as it is fascinating, as well as Trotternish Peninsula and Loch Ness.

- **Torrison, Applecross, & Eilean Donan Castle:**

*Monday, Thursday and Sunday departures - departs 8:30 am, Returns 7:30 pm.* Let Scotland's finest mountains take your breath away. Ramble over the highest road pass. And discover the history of the wildest part of the Highlands. See Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Maree, Torrison Hills, and the village of Shieldaig. Visit Applecross, a remote village that still preserves the charm of traditional Highland life, and see Loch Ness.

- **Glen Affric, Culloden & Clava Cairns:**

*Daily departures - departs 9:00 am, Returns 6:00 pm.* Your first venture to the ancient burial site of Clava Cairns. This Bronze Age "graveyard" has survived four millennia and is a great spot to take atmospheric photos. Visit Culloden Battlefield, then ramble along to Glen Affric. Enjoy views over Loch Affric and the mountains beyond. Your final journey takes you along the shores of Loch Ness and back to the center of Inverness for the early evening.

## Day Tours from Glasgow:

- **Loch Ness, Glencoe, & the Highlands:**

*Daily departures - departs 7:45 am, Returns 7:15 pm.* Journey deep into the Highlands of Scotland on our monster-sized day tour. Explore Rannoch Moor, Glencoe, Great Glen, Fort Augustus, Loch Ness, Grampian Mountains, and Highland Perthshire. Includes 50 min cruise on the Loch.

- **Stirling Castle, Loch Lomond, & Cruise:**

*Daily departures - departs 9:00 am, Returns 6:00 pm.* Explore Stirling Castle, Aberfoyle, Rob Roy Country, The Trossachs, Loch Lomond, and a Loch Lomond Cruise.

- **Oban, Glencoe, Highlands, Lochs & Castles:**

*Daily departures - departs 8:30 am, Returns 7:00 pm.* Delve into picture-perfect Scotland on this tour to the Highlands. Explore Inveraray, Glencoe, Loch Awe, Rest and Be Thankful Pass, Oban, Loch Lomond National Park.

- **Outlander Adventure:**

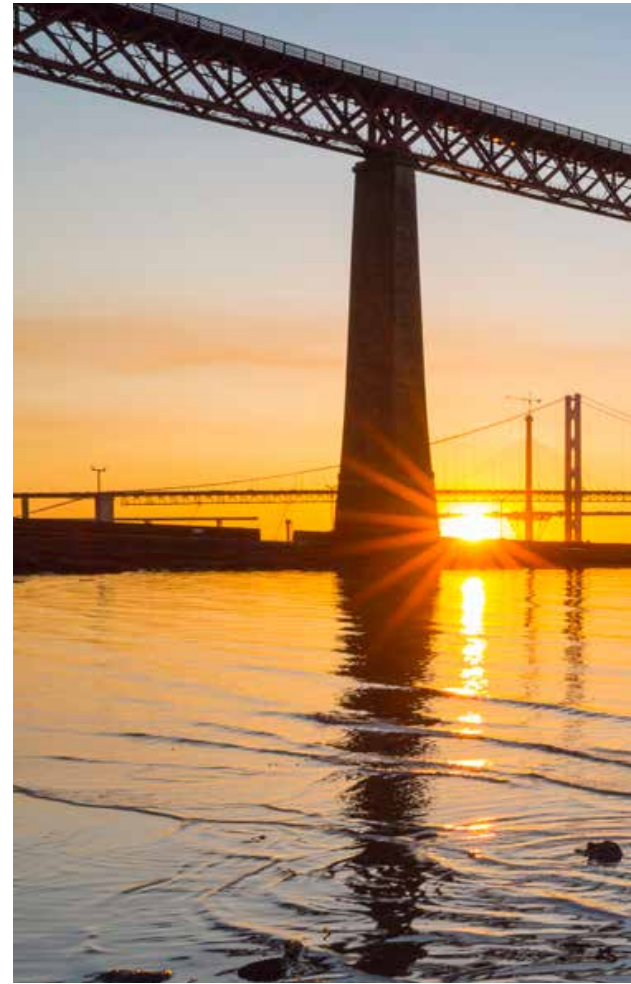
*Daily departures - departs 9:15 am, Returns 6:30 pm.* Step back in time and wander through ancient villages. Gaze in awe at the mighty walls of 600-year-old castles. Walk through a centuries-old garden while your guide regales you with the history that inspired the famous show.



# FREE ATTRACTIONS

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- **Aberdeen Maritime Museum:** Aberdeen's excellent collections of maritime paintings and objects are utilized to the full in the museum, with touch screen consoles, computer visual databases, an education room, and hands-on exhibits, all adding a new dimension for visitors and bringing the drama of the North Sea industries to life.
- **Rothiemurchus:** Relax and experience stunning scenery, exceptional wildlife, and a long and rich history with a choice of outdoor activities for everyone; from inspirational easy walks, fishing, Ranger led tours, wildlife photography and watching, pony and quad bike treks, clay shooting, tree top adventures, biking, archery, segways to fun and challenging water activities.
- **Strathclyde Country Park:** Strathclyde Country Park is an iconic North Lanarkshire Country park which lies in 400 hectares of countryside in the valley of the River Clyde. Set within beautiful surroundings the park is one of the most popular family attractions in the central belt of Scotland, with thousands of visitors coming each year to the park in order to enjoy the vast range of activities and events on offer.
- **Highland Folk Museum:** Delve into the past and discover the real, living Highland Folk Museum. Visitors to this living history museum can learn how our Scottish Highland ancestors lived, in a friendly and welcoming environment.



- **The Forth Bridges:** The Forth Bridge is one of Scotland's major landmarks, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This magnificent railway bridge was built between 1883 and 1890 by Sir John Fowler, Benjamin Baker and over 4,500 men. Considered to be an impressive feat in engineering, it was designed on the cantilever principle, and its three towers are over 100 metres high.
- **The Dick Institute:** Opened in 1901, the Dick Institute is a 4-star attraction and one of the most important cultural venues in the south-west of Scotland, featuring the largest museum and gallery spaces in Ayrshire. It is also East Ayrshire's central lending library.
- **National Museum of Scotland:** Fresh from a £47 million redevelopment, the museum houses a spectacular array of over 20,000 fascinating artifacts. Our magnificently diverse collections will take you on an inspirational journey through the history of Scotland, the wonders of nature, world cultures, and the excitement of science and discovery – all under one roof.
- **Gretna Green Famous Blacksmith's Shop:** The historic Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop draws you in to its romantic and often dramatic past. Here the Story of Gretna Green unfolds. Why was the romantic lure of Gretna Green so irresistible for young couples of yesteryear and so popular with brides and grooms today?
- **Dundee Contemporary Arts:** Located in the center of the city, Dundee Contemporary Arts is a vibrant building with five floors hosting unique exhibitions, world cinema, a café-bar, and a print studio.
- **Calanais Standing Stones:** Located in the west coast of Lewis, the 5,000 year old Callanish Stones are famous all over the world.
- **Shetland Museum & Archives:** The Shetland Museum and Archives chart the development of the archipelago from its earliest geological origins to the present day. Its galleries contain everything from delicate Shetland lace to Pictish art and even the first telephone introduced in the islands in 1883.
- **The Helix:** The Helix is home of The Kelpies, two 30-metre-high horse head sculptures which are a true feat of engineering, and the largest equine sculptures in the world.





## Itinerary Suggestions

# 3-DAYS IN SCOTLAND

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- **Day 1:** Explore the Palace of Holyroodhouse at the foot of Arthur's Seat, originally founded as a monastery in 1128. The Great Gallery, the largest room in the palace, has a collection of 89 of the original 110 portraits of Scottish kings. Two restored historic buildings at the Palace of Holyroodhouse exhibit artwork from the Royal Collections.

- **Day 2:** Edinburgh Castle, at the heart of Royal Edinburgh, can be reached by following the Royal Mile, which incorporates four streets: Canongate, High Street, Lawnmarket and Castlehill. Within the Castle, St. Margaret's Chapel, built between 1124 and 1153, is the oldest building in Edinburgh. Be sure to see the Honours of Scotland, the oldest complete set of crown jewels in Europe.

- **Day 3:** Head to Edinburgh's historic port of Leith to tour the former Royal Yacht Britannia, which offers insights into royal life on the high seas.

Itinerary Suggestions

# 5-DAYS IN SCOTLAND

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- **Day 1:** From Glasgow, take the coast road by way of Culzean Castle south through Girvan, then continue south to explore some of the gardens around the "hammerhead" of the Rinns of Galloway, including Logan Botanic Garden. Go east to the Newton Stewart area.

- **Day 2:** Head to Kirkcudbright and explore MacLellan's Castle, a 16th-century former defensive fortress. Go northeast to see Castle Douglas and Threave Castle, as well as Threave Garden. Continue east toward Dalbeattie and visit Arbigland Garden.



- **Day 3:** Visit Caerlaverock Castle, a moated medieval fortress. Continue to Gretna and see Hermitage Castle before heading north for Hawick and Jedburgh, with Monteviot House Gardens nearby.

- **Day 4:** Head for Kelso to visit Floors Castle, then to Coldstream and The Hirsell Estate with its parkland gardens. Go north to Manderston, an Edwardian house near the town of Duns. Look out over the Borders countryside from the restored ramparts of Hume Castle, and visit Mellerstain, another large country house.

- **Day 5:** Start at Thirlestane Castle, which dates to the 13th-century, or at Melrose with nearby Abbotsford (Sir Walter Scott's mansion) and Priorwood Garden. Follow the River Tweed to Kailzie Gardens, and head southeast for Dawyck Botanic Garden.

Itinerary Suggestions

# 7-DAYS IN SCOTLAND

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- **Day 1:** Explore as many as 30 (or even more, if there's time!) of Edinburgh's attractions with the Edinburgh Pass.

- **Day 2:** Head east toward Musselburgh to Newhailes, the former home of the Dalrymples. Tour the interiors, and walk through the extensive grounds.

- **Day 3:** Cross into the Highlands at Dunkeld and see the last surviving original tree, "The Parent Larch," by Dunkeld Cathedral. Head to the Great Glen at Spean Bridge. Fort Augustus is to the north.

- **Day 4:** Fort Augustus is a good place to see the 19th-century engineering of the locks on the Caledonian Canal. Travel down the Great Glen to see more locks at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie near Fort William.

- **Day 5:** Take the West Highland Railway from Fort William to Mallaig. Look out for Borrodale Bridge, east of Arisaig, and for the views of the Small Isles beyond Arisaig. Return to Fort William and



depart for Glasgow, passing through Glencoe and on to Rannoch Moor.

- **Day 6:** Explore Glasgow's Charles Rennie Mackintosh connections (a special Mackintosh Trail Ticket is available to use on public transport) like The Glasgow School of Art, The Lighthouse, Scotland Street School and more.

- **Day 7:** Visit New Lanark in the valley of the Clyde, below the town of Lanark, with pathways along the wooded river banks.



# DRIVING FAQS

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## **What side of the road do I drive on in Scotland?**

Always drive on the left hand side of the road.

## **What is the speed limit?**

Speed limits are often signposted - look out for a circular sign, with a red border and number (in miles per hour). If there's no signpost, national speed limits apply.

## **What type of license will I need to drive in Scotland?**

If you're coming from a European Union country - as long as you have a valid licence, you can drive any type of vehicle listed on your license in Scotland. If you're coming from outside the EU - as long as you have a valid licence from your own country, you can drive any small vehicle (eg car or motorcycle) in the UK for up to 12 months.

## **What is the drink drive limit?**

Driving under the influence of alcohol is taken very seriously in Scotland and the UK and there can be heavy penalties for those found to be above the legal blood/alcohol limit. As of 5 December 2014, the legal limit has been lowered to 50 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood (from 80 mg of alcohol).

# RESTAURANTS

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## Edinburgh

- **The Kitchin:** Commercial Street, Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, +44 0131 555 1755
- **Quick & Plenty Cafe:** 27 Leven Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LH, UK, +44 131 228 8999
- **21212:** Royal Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, +44 0131 0845 222 1212
- **The Bow Bar:** 80 West Bow Edinburgh EH1 2HH, UK, +44 131 226 7667
- **Whiski Rooms:** 13/4 N Bank St, Edinburgh EH1 2LP, UK, +44 131 225 7224
- **The Last Drop:** 74-78 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JR, Scotland, +44 131 225 4851
- **The Wee Restaurant:** 61 Frederick St, Edinburgh EH2 1LH, UK, +44 131 225 7983
- **The Milkman:** 7 Cockburn St, Edinburgh EH1 1BP, UK, +44 7772 077920

## Inverness

- **Dores Inn:** B862, Dores, Inverness IV2 6TR, UK, +44 1463 751203
- **The Mustard Seed:** 16 Fraser St, Inverness IV1 1DW, UK, +44 1463 220220
- **Scotch & Rye:** 21 Queensgate, Inverness IV1 1DF, UK, +44 1463 715374

## Glasgow

- **The Belle:** 617 Great Western Rd, Glasgow G12 8HX, UK, +44 141 339 2299
- **The Ubiquitous Chip:** 12 Ashton Ln, Glasgow G12 8SJ, UK, +44 141 334 5007
- **The Pot Still** 154 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2TH, Scotland +44 141 333 0980
- **The Sparkle Horse:** Dowanhill St, Glasgow G11 5QR, UK, +44 141 562 3175
- **The Flying Duck:** 142 Renfield St, Glasgow G2 3AU, UK, +44 141 564 1450



## Aberdeen

- **The Howff:** 365 Union Street, Aberdeen AB11 6BT, UK, +44 1224 211670
- **Moonfish Cafe:** 9 Correction Wynd, Aberdeen AB10 1HP, UK, +44 1224 644166
- **The Silver Darling:** Pocrá Quay, Aberdeen AB11 5DQ, UK, +44 1224 576229
- **Bistro Verde:** Unit 1-2 The Green, Aberdeen AB11 6NY, UK, +44 1224 586180
- **Maggie's Grill:** 242 Holburn St, Aberdeen AB10 6DB, UK, +44 1224 635330
- **The Ashvale:** 42-48 Great Western Rd, Aberdeen AB10 6PY, UK, +44 1224 575842



# FOOD

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You won't believe the fantastic selection of restaurants and places to eat in Scotland - but you'll be delighted when you try them! We're blessed to have a beautiful variety of produce farmed right here in Scotland, from succulent lamb and beef to wild game and fresh fish, right through to fruit, vegetables, dairy and much more.

With such a great list of ingredients to use, it's no wonder our restaurants and places to eat are so good, and there's so many to choose from. Visit Michelin-star restaurants for the highest quality of dining, relax in a fine contemporary bistro, or cozy up around a pub table for traditional hearty fare. Stop off at a café for fresh baking, or enjoy tasty fish and chips by the harbour.

# MAP



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