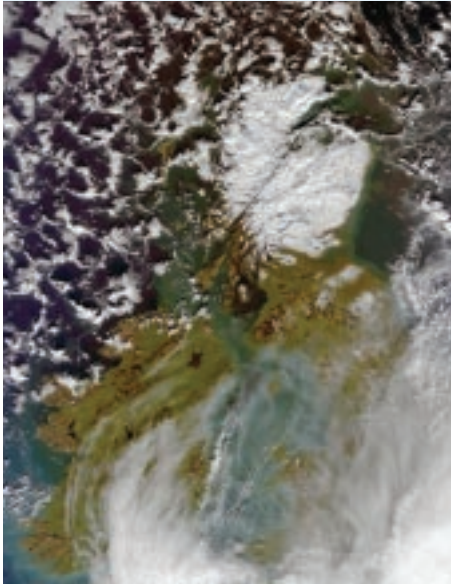


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Image of Scotland courtesy of NERC
satellite receiving station, University
of Dundee.

Introduction

“Scotland is a small nation that has had a huge impact on the wider world. Five million people live within present day Scotland’s borders, but that number can be multiplied at least five times when the great Scottish Diaspora is taken into account.

“We live in a beautiful country, with great natural resources, warm and talented people.

“The democratic values of much of today’s world owe a great deal to the philosophy forged during the Scottish Enlightenment of the late 18th century.

“Now, at the start of the 21st century, that same intellectual and pioneering spirit remains the hallmark of modern Scotland. Looking back on a proud history is the best way to anticipate a bright future.”



Jack McConnell
First Minister of Scotland



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‘...bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean and on the east by the North Sea...’



Geography

Scotland, the northern part of the island of Great Britain, covers 78,722 square kilometres (30,414 square miles) of land, including 1,577 square kilometres (609 square miles) of freshwater lochs.

The greatest distance north to south is 443 kilometres (275 miles) while the maximum width is 248 kilometres (154 miles).

However, although few parts of the country are more than 64 kilometres (40 miles) from the sea the aggregate length of the rugged coastline is estimated at 3,680 kilometres (2,300 miles).

The country is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the east by the North Sea. The land border with England runs for about 97 kilometres (60 miles) roughly along the line of the Cheviot Hills and the River Tweed.

Scotland has some 790 islands, only about 10 per cent of which are inhabited. The largest groups are Shetland and Orkney to the north, and the Hebrides to the west which include Lewis, Harris, Barra, Skye and Mull.

The mainland can be split into three geographic regions: Highlands, Central Lowlands, and Southern Uplands. The Highlands, and Islands, account for more than half of the total area of Scotland.

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'65 people for every square kilometre of land.'



Scotland's Census 2001

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/censushm>

Demography

The population of Scotland has been around 5 million for the last 50 years but estimates predict it will fall below that mark in the next decade.

The resident population of Scotland on April 29, 2001 (Census Day) was 5,062,011, of which 52 per cent were female and 48 per cent were male.

Children aged 15 and under accounted for 19 per cent of the population.

People of working age accounted for 62 per cent.

People of retirement age accounted for the remaining 19 per cent.

There are approximately 65 people for every square kilometre of land.

The majority of the population are concentrated in the central area around Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Highlands and Islands have the most area but the fewest people.

Scotland has six cities.

1. **Glasgow** 578,710
2. **Edinburgh** 449,020
3. **Aberdeen** 211,910
4. **Dundee** 145,460
5. **Inverness** 50,920 (created a city as part of Millennium celebrations in 2000)
6. **Stirling** 86,200 (created a city as part of Queen's Jubilee celebration in 2002)

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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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**‘The west is wetter,
the east drier and
cooler.’**



Climate

Scotland tends to be colder than the rest of the UK, particularly in the north. The west is on average wetter and warmer than the drier, cooler east. Snow is common in the mountains. Fog and mist occur at all times of year.

Sunshine

Brightest – 1,400 hours per year in Fife, Angus, Lothians, Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway

Dullest – 1,100 hours per year in the Highland mountains

Rain

Wettest – 3,000mm per year in western Highlands

Driest – 800mm per year on east coast

Wind

Strongest recorded gust – 173 mph at Cairngorm, March 1986

Snow

Ranges between average of 10 days per year in Western Isles and 100 days per year in Cairngorm mountains

Temperature

Average at low level ranges between 7 degrees C in Shetland to 9 degrees C in Ayrshire

Coldest day

January 10, 1982/February 11, 1985 –27.2 degrees C at Braemar, Aberdeenshire

Hottest day

July 2, 1908 32.8 degrees C at Dumfries

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Landmarks

Edinburgh Castle – dominating the centre of the capital city, the ancient fortress is the country's most popular tourist attraction

Finnieston Crane – stands beside the River Clyde in the centre of Glasgow as a symbolic reminder of the city's shipbuilding heritage

Aberdeen – a city built from granite that has been the European offshore oil capital since oil was discovered in the North Sea in the 1970s

Ben Nevis – the highest peak in the UK at 1,356 metres (4,406 ft) it towers over the West Highland town of Fort William and Loch Linnhe

Muckle Flugga – the most northerly point of Scotland, a dramatic lighthouse rock off the island of Unst in Shetland

Falkirk Wheel – the world's largest rotating boat lift was built to link the Forth and Clyde and Union canals and opened in the summer of 2002

River Tay – the country's longest river winds its way for 193 kilometres (120 miles) south from the Grampian Mountains to the North Sea

Forth Bridge – spanning the mile-wide Firth of Forth it was the engineering marvel of the late 19th century and remains in daily use more than 100 years later

Loch Ness – filling 56 square kilometres (22 square miles) of the natural geological fault known as the Great Glen to the south west of Inverness

Loch Lomond – the largest freshwater loch in Scotland at 71 square kilometres (28 square miles), just north of Glasgow

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Born in Scotland, Citizens of the World

A few Scots who are instantly recognisable to any international audience.

David Hume 1711-1776

The philosopher who laid the foundations for modern patterns of intellectual thought by progressing the concept of secular morality

Adam Smith 1723-1790

Author of *The Wealth of Nations*, an examination of cause and effect that underpins the modern science of economics

Robert Burns 1759-1796

Scotland's National Bard whose poetic repertoire strikes a chord in many languages and many countries

Sir Walter Scott 1771-1832

Romantic novelist and poet who occupies a position of pre-eminence in English literature

David Livingstone 1813-1873

Medical missionary and African explorer who campaigned against the slave trade and named Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River

Sir Alexander Fleming 1881-1955

Nobel Prize winner who discovered penicillin

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Want to know more . . .

Arts and Culture

Scottish Arts Council www.sac.org.uk

Business

Scottish Enterprise www.scottish-enterprise.com

Environment

Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk

Government

Scottish Executive www.scotland.gov.uk

Heritage

Historic Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Tourism

VisitScotland www.visitscotland.com

