Scotland

Scotland is in the north of Great Britain. It is part of the United Kingdom, but it’s a separate country. It’s got its own parliament, bank notes and legal system. The Scottish flag is blue with a white cross. The population of Scotland is about five million. The country is divided into two parts: the Highlands in the north and the Lowlands in the south.

The Highlands

The Highlands are a magnificent region of mountains, lakes and forests. There are beautiful national parks and the area is famous for its birds and animals.

The Highlands are also famous for their very old castles. Campbell’s Dunstaffnage Castle, for example, is over 700 years old and it’s got a ghost – the Lady in Green!
The Highland Games are a popular attraction in summer. The Games are competitions in Scottish dancing, bagpipe music and traditional Highland sports.

Loch Ness is an important tourist attraction in the Highlands. Loch is the Scottish word for lake. Loch Ness is famous for the legendary Loch Ness Monster – Nessie. The first photo of the monster is from 1933, but is Nessie real or a fantasy?
The Lowlands

The Lowlands are a big plain. The majority of Scottish people live here. There are two important cities in the Lowlands and they are Glasgow and Edinburgh. Glasgow is in the west on the River Clyde and Edinburgh is on the east coast.

Glasgow is a very big city with a population of over 1.7 million. It’s important for commerce, tourism and culture. It’s got great shops, excellent parks and interesting museums.

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland. Its population is nearly half a million. It’s got a lot of famous historic places and it’s very popular with tourists.

Edinburgh Castle is in the city centre and it’s over 900 years old. The castle’s got lots of interesting things to see, for example, the Scottish crown jewels. The views of the city from the castle are fantastic!
A mile from Edinburgh Castle is the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The road between the castle and the palace is the Royal Mile. The Royal Mile has got a lot of shops, restaurants and tourist attractions. The Palace of Holyroodhouse is the Queen’s residence in Edinburgh. When the Queen is at home there’s a flag above the palace. The palace is in a big park with hills and lakes. There is also an extinct volcano, Arthur’s Seat, in the park.

Edinburgh is also famous for its festival in August. The Edinburgh Festival is a festival of music, dance, theatre and comedy. There are over one million tourists in the city during the festival. That’s a lot of tourists for a city of half a million inhabitants!