

1: Highlands & Islands - BBC News

At per km² in , the population density in the Highlands and Islands is less than one seventh of Scotland's as a whole, comparable with that of Bolivia, Chad and Russia. The Highland Council is the administrative body for much of the Highlands, with its administrative centre at Inverness.

Tonight, enjoy a reception and dinner on board, with a special after-dinner performance in the lounge by a local troupe of junior Scottish dancers. The battle was brief but bloody and decisive, with as many as 2,000 Jacobites killed or wounded. It had drastic consequences for the Highlands of Scotland and was followed by the infamous Highland Clearances that saw the mass expulsion of Catholic clansmen from their homes and in many cases from their country. The impressive structures of this sacred site were developed for over a thousand years. We set sail this afternoon on the Caledonian Canal, built between and to connect the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean along the slip-fault of the Great Glen. This afternoon we sail across Loch Ness, the largest body of fresh water in Britain, deeper than any part of the North Sea. Midway across the loch, we cruise past the romantic ruins of Urquhart Castle, a Norman castle on an Iron Age site, where we learn about the legendary Loch Ness Monster, which is said to inhabit the loch in this vicinity. Moor this evening at Fort Augustus, with a chance to kayak in Loch Ness itself in the late afternoon or take an exploratory hike through the surrounding countryside. An on-board whiskey tasting rounds off the day. The ship is always an object of curiosity among local residents and other visitors as we make our transit. Then glide along the tree-lined canal known as Laggan Avenue. There are fine walking options here, with dramatic views of the Glenfinnan Railway Viaduct on the West Highland Railway line, made famous more recently in the Harry Potter movies – a late Victorian construction with 21 arches. In the afternoon, have time to explore the town on foot and to visit its famous whiskey distillery, built in and still occupying its original premises. Drive across Mull, then cross to Iona by ferry to explore this picturesque island, which is of vital historical importance. Columba arrived here in with twelve followers. They built a church and began the process of converting the peoples of the area to Christianity. Iona became famous as a place of learning and as a pilgrimage site. On the way back to Craignure, visit photogenic Duart Castle, the ancestral home of Clan Maclean – an impressive fortress with a dungeon! It was built in the 13th century and is still lived in by the Maclean family. Continue aboard Lord of the Glens to the picturesque town of Tobermory, with the whole evening free to explore this colorful village. Tobermory was established in and is famous for the brightly painted houses that line its waterfront, located at the bottom of a cliff face. Tobermory is also home to the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, and one of their representatives come aboard to give a presentation on their remarkable work in these waters. Then we sail north to the "Small Isles" to land on Eigg, Rum, or even outermost Canna, depending on weather conditions. The islands have small populations of fewer than one hundred souls but teem with wildlife. Look for marine animals and birdlife, including Atlantic seals, minke and humpback whales, dolphins, basking sharks and harbor porpoises and one of the largest colonies of Manx shearwaters in northern Europe. If you visit Eigg, have chances to walk around the island, which is dominated by the imposing crag of An Sgurr, and talk with the local residents. The castle is now managed by Scottish National Heritage. If conditions permit, it may be possible to visit distant Canna, the outermost of the Small Isles, which is owned by the National Trust for Scotland. We then sail to the tiny village of Inverie, where you can have a drink at the Old Forge, the most remote pub in the British Isles there is no road to Inverie, which can only be reached by sea or after a mile hike. At the Museum of the Isles, trace the legacy of the 1,000-year-old Clan Donald, the Lords of the Isles, who once ruled the west coast of Scotland. See the ruins of Armadale Castle, an ancestral home of the MacDonalds, and take a walk through the beautiful woodlands and gardens. Then sail for Kyle of Lochalsh, passing through the dramatic narrow sound between Skye and the mainland, with its tidal races and currents. The Cuillin Hills are much loved by Scots as having some of the most beautiful landscapes anywhere, and some of the finest hiking. Alternatively, if you prefer not to hike you can explore Eilean Donan Castle and the charming village of Plockton on the mainland. The small 13th-century castle of Eilean Donan sits on a tidal island at the confluence of three lochs and is connected by a short bridge to the mainland. A Jacobite

stronghold, it was destroyed by government forces in but restored in the early in the twentieth century in Arts and Crafts style. The charming planned fishing village of Plockton has an attractive waterfront with exuberant gardens that speak eloquently of the temperate influence of the warm North Atlantic drift in these high latitudes. Celebrate your Scottish voyage at a farewell dinner on board, with traditional Scottish musicians to entertain us after dinner in the lounge.

2: Scotland's Highlands Islands and Cities | Trafalgar

Scotland's Highlands and Islands, which includes the Outer Hebrides, Moray Speyside and Aberdeenshire, have been named a top 10 region in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel. The prestigious global accolade encapsulates the areas' fantastic natural scenery, attractions and experiences. Discover scenic road trips, island hopping, city life and more.

Posted by True Highlands in Kit and Caboodle 4 comments There is something truly special about going for a wild swim. Part of the attraction is not just the act of swimming, it is the places that this can take you and the things you can see. Here is our selection of rivers, waterfalls, lochs, pools and bays that can demonstrate why the highlands is the most exciting swimming destination in the world. Sculptures, castles, wildlife, and mythology, all you have to do is get wet. The intention was to attract visitors to the town to cash in on the post war seaside holiday boom and, although not as popular today, the pool is still scrubbed and whitewashed every year by enthusiastic locals. A great spot for a family picnic on a sunny day. Moray Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie This huge natural arch sits in a little cove accessible by a short swim. It draws visitors from all over Scotland to see it but by far the best way to take in this geological wonder is to get up close and swim through it. If you are really lucky you may also spot Moray dolphins which swim close by. You can see down the length of Loch Maree on a clear day and a mountainous ridgeline towering over you. Due to its location it is rarely visited, with no organised boat trips which makes it a special, unique reward for those making the journey. Traditionally a favourite spot for hikers to dive into after coming down from the Cuillin Ridge they are also a worthwhile destination in themselves. The water is crystal clear, there are a number of pools deep enough to dive into safely and an underwater arch you can swim through. Nudism has fallen out of fashion somewhat, but for those that want to indulge, there is still one official naturist beach left in Scotland. The campsite owner at Crackaig Beach near Brora is an enthusiast so has designated a part of the beach here. It is secluded and well signposted so you need not worry about offending passing dog walkers. As part of the Seaboard Sculpture Trail a life sized statue of a mermaid has been sited on a rock just below the tide line. At low tide you can walk out to it but when the tide comes in you have to swim. If this beach were in an accessible part of Europe then you could guarantee overcrowding and development as far as the eye could see. Instead, you can sunbathe and swim here with little chance of seeing another soul. The stunning series of three falls above this pool featured in the film Rob Roy and make for great diving and a spot for a picnic afterwards. Loch Ness Plodda falls Do you remember as a kid getting ice cream headaches when you ate too much too quickly, but still carried on as it was so good? The infamous whirlpool is only actually a danger on the lee tide so, providing you are experienced enough to time your swim correctly, then you can enjoy this spectacular crossing. Minke whales, porpoises and seals have been spotted by adventurous swimmers here but be warned, this is not for the faint hearted and boat support is highly recommended. Achmelvich Beach North West Sutherland Achmelvich Beach White sands and sheltered seas make this one of the best beach swimming areas in the country. Situated next to the sea, but above it, you can splash about in the clear blue water while looking down on the sea below. All photos taken from either Creative Commons or used with the permission of the photographer. If you feel your copyright has been infringed, please email us.

3: European Cruises - Highlands & Islands of Scotland Luxury Cruise

Scotland Highlands Tour - West Highland Railway - Glenfinnan Viaduct - Beasdale - Loch an Nostarie - Mallaig - Silver Sands at Morar - Isle of Eigg - Isle of Skye - Talisker Whisky Distillery - Old Man of Storr - Quiraing - Raasay - Loch Linnhe and Port Appin - Island of Lismore in Loch Linnhe.

This is not at all strange given the stunning unspoilt nature with rugged mountains, deep blue lochs and empty glens where majestic Red Deer rule the hills and Eagles rule the skies. Due to the ever and fast changing weather the Highlands have a mystical touch. One moment you see the hills, the next they are gone. Sunny spells and dark shadows move over the hills and the white snow capped mountains in winter give the Highlands a sparkling touch. The Highlands, and its castles in particular, are often chosen as wedding venue due to their romantic nature. In the middle of the night the soldiers turned against their hosts killing 37 men and more than 40 women and children and destroyed their homes. Massacre of Glen Coe Highland Clearances Not long after the clan battles were over and the wars with the English were fought the Highlands became silent, and empty. Landowners found out they could make more money with sheep grazing on the hills and the population, mostly poor crofters with small patches of farmland, had to make way. These Highland Clearances as they were called, were sometimes performed with great force and resulted in mass evictions as well as mass emigrations. The people were sometimes literally driven towards the sea where they built small settlements and lived from fishing, the kelp industry and farming. Later big infrastructural works such as the Caledonian Canal provided some relief. These were hard times and many Highlanders tried their luck elsewhere and migrated to the US, Canada and Australia. Nowadays there are more descendants from the Highlanders living outside Scotland than there are inside. The results of the clearances are still visible today if you drive through the empty Glens in the Highlands and most people still live in villages and towns near the coast. The Highlands remain very scarcely populated. Typical Highland Cottage The Caledonian Forest This type of woodland, which consisted mostly of Scots pine, rowan, birch oak and Juniper, once covered huge areas in Scotland. Climatic changes caused the forest to retreat but fortunately there are quite a few remaining parts of the Caledonian Forest which are not only unique but also home to amazing wildlife such as the Capercaillie. It took hundreds of years to transform the shires to counties and in the local government counties were abolished and were replaced by regions and districts and islands council areas. The regions and districts were themselves abolished in , in favour of unitary Scottish council areas and one of these councils is Highland council, the largest in Scotland, and covers most of the land area in the Scottish Highlands. The total population of the Highland council is approx.

4: Self Catering Holiday Cottages in Skye, Lochalsh & Inverness

Map of Scottish Highlands and travel information about Scottish Highlands brought to you by Lonely Planet.

Battle of Alma , Sutherland Highlanders Between the 15th century and the 20th century, the area differed from most of the Lowlands in terms of language. The terms are sometimes used interchangeably but have different meanings in their respective languages. Scottish English in its Highland form is the predominant language of the area today, though Highland English has been influenced by Gaelic speech to a significant extent. While the Highland line broadly followed the geography of the Grampians in the south, it continued in the north, cutting off the north-eastern areas, that is Caithness , Orkney and Shetland , from the more Gaelic Highlands and Hebrides. Most of this legislation was repealed by the end of the 18th century as the Jacobite threat subsided. There was soon a rehabilitation of Highland culture. Tartan was adopted for Highland regiments in the British Army, which poor Highlanders joined in large numbers in the era of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars – Tartan had largely been abandoned by the ordinary people of the region, but in the s, tartan and the kilt were adopted by members of the social elite, not just in Scotland, but across Europe. Individual clan tartans were largely designated in this period and they became a major symbol of Scottish identity. The period of the Napoleonic wars brought prosperity, optimism, and economic growth to the Highlands. The economy grew thanks to wages paid in industries such as kelping in which kelp was burned for the useful chemicals obtained from the ashes , fisheries, and weaving, as well as large-scale infrastructure spending such as the Caledonian Canal project. Service in the Army was also attractive to young men from the Highlands, who sent pay home and retired there with their army pensions. Landowners were increasingly market-oriented in the century after , and this tended to dissolve the traditional social and economic structure of the North-West Highlands and the Hebrides, causing great disruption for the crofters. The Highland Clearances and the end of the township system followed changes in land ownership and tenancy and the replacement of cattle by sheep. The unequal concentration of land ownership remained an emotional and controversial subject, of enormous importance to the Highland economy, and eventually became a cornerstone of liberal radicalism. The poor crofters were politically powerless, and many of them turned to religion. They embraced the popularly oriented, fervently evangelical Presbyterian revival after This evangelical movement was led by lay preachers who themselves came from the lower strata, and whose preaching was implicitly critical of the established order. The religious change energised the crofters and separated them from the landlords; it helped prepare them for their successful and violent challenge to the landlords in the s through the Highland Land League. In three Independent Crofter candidates were elected to Parliament, which listened to their pleas. The results included explicit security for the Scottish smallholders; the legal right to bequeath tenancies to descendants; and the creation of a Crofting Commission. The Crofters as a political movement faded away by , and the Liberal Party gained their votes. Roman Catholicism remained strong in some areas, owing to remote locations and the efforts of Franciscan missionaries from Ireland, who regularly came to celebrate Mass. Although the presence of Roman Catholicism has faded, there remain significant Catholic strongholds within the Highlands and Islands such as Moidart and Morar on the mainland and South Uist and Barra in the southern Outer Hebrides. The remoteness of the region and the lack of a Gaelic-speaking clergy undermined the missionary efforts of the established church. The later 18th century saw somewhat greater success, owing to the efforts of the SSPCK missionaries and to the disruption of traditional society after the Battle of Culloden in In the 19th century, the evangelical Free Churches, which were more accepting of Gaelic language and culture, grew rapidly, appealing much more strongly than did the established church. The Outer Hebrides have been described as the last bastion of Calvinism in Britain [23] and the Sabbath remains widely observed. Inverness and the surrounding area has a majority Protestant population, with most locals belonging to either The Kirk or the Free Church of Scotland. The church maintains a noticeable presence within the area, with church attendance notably higher than in other Scottish cities. Religion continues to play an important role in Highland culture, with Sabbath observance still widely practised, particularly in the Hebrides. However the flat coastal lands that occupy parts of the counties of Nairnshire , Morayshire ,

Banffshire and Aberdeenshire are often excluded as they do not share the distinctive geographical and cultural features of the rest of the Highlands. The north-east of Caithness, as well as Orkney and Shetland, are also often excluded from the Highlands, although the Hebrides are usually included. The Highland area, as so defined, differed from the Lowlands in language and tradition, having preserved Gaelic speech and customs centuries after the anglicisation of the latter; this led to a growing perception of a divide, with the cultural distinction between Highlander and Lowlander first noted towards the end of the 14th century. In Aberdeenshire, the boundary between the Highlands and the Lowlands is not well defined. A much wider definition of the Highlands is that used by the Scotch Whisky industry. Highland Single Malts are produced at distilleries north of an imaginary line between Dundee and Greenock, [25] thus including all of Aberdeenshire and Angus. Inverness is traditionally regarded as the capital of the Highlands, [26] although less so in the Highland parts of Aberdeenshire, Angus, Perthshire and Stirlingshire which look more to Aberdeen, Perth, Dundee and Stirling as their commercial centres. Under some of the wider definitions in use, Aberdeen could be considered the largest city in the Highlands, although it does not share the recent Gaelic cultural history typical of the Highlands proper.

Highland Council area[edit] The Highland Council area, created as one of the local government regions of Scotland, has been a unitary council area since The council area excludes a large area of the southern and eastern Highlands, and the Western Isles, but includes Caithness. Highlands is sometimes used, however, as a name for the council area, as in Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service. Northern, as in Northern Constabulary, is also used to refer to the area covered by the fire and rescue service. This area consists of the Highland council area and the island council areas of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles. An electoral region called Highlands and Islands is used in elections to the Scottish Parliament: Highlands and Islands has, however, different meanings in different contexts. Northern, as in Northern Constabulary, refers to the same area as that covered by the fire and rescue service. Historical crossings[edit] There have been trackways from the Lowlands to the Highlands since prehistoric times. Many traverse the Mounth, a spur of mountainous land that extends from the higher inland range to the North Sea slightly north of Stonehaven. They thus charge additional fees for delivery to the Highlands, or exclude the area entirely. Whilst the physical remoteness from the largest population centres inevitably leads to higher transit cost, there is confusion and consternation over the scale of the fees charged and the effectiveness of their communication, [29] and the use of the word Mainland in their justification. Since the charges are often based on postcode areas, many far less remote areas, including some which are traditionally considered part of the lowlands, are also subject to these charges. This, however, applies only to mail items and not larger packages which are dealt with by its Parcelforce division.

Geology[edit] Liathach seen from Beinn Eighe. This part of Scotland is largely composed of ancient rocks from the Cambrian and Precambrian periods which were uplifted during the later Caledonian Orogeny. Smaller formations of Lewisian gneiss in the northwest are up to 3 billion years old. These foundations are interspersed with many igneous intrusions of a more recent age, the remnants of which have formed mountain massifs such as the Cairngorms and the Cuillin of Skye. A significant exception to the above are the fossil-bearing beds of Old Red Sandstone found principally along the Moray Firth coast and partially down the Highland Boundary Fault. The Jurassic beds found in isolated locations on Skye and Applecross reflect the complex underlying geology. They are the original source of much North Sea oil. The Great Glen is formed along a transform fault which divides the Grampian Mountains to the southeast from the Northwest Highlands. The complex geomorphology includes incised valleys and lochs carved by the action of mountain streams and ice, and a topography of irregularly distributed mountains whose summits have similar heights above sea-level, but whose bases depend upon the amount of denudation to which the plateau has been subjected in various places. Places of interest[edit].

5: Crime Fiction in the Scottish Highlands and Islands | CrimeReads

A few more gruesome tales from the otherwise idyllic Highlands and Islands Highlands-based Margaret Kirk is the latest addition to the Tartan Noir roster of success. Shadow Man (), Kirk's debut novel, has been garnering much praise in Scotland.

A chance to breathe fresh air under the big sky of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. A quick definition may be in order. For the purposes of this article and Scottish geographers please accept it is only to be able to include more books and not to redraw any boundaries north of the border! A place of big hearty breakfasts, long bracing walks with nobody around for miles, and a wee dram before a peaceful early night. Such a refreshing contrast from my usual beat of crack dens, meth labs, smoky bars and fetid police interrogation rooms. Surely, up here, in the majestic Highlands and Islands I can peacefully concentrate on nature, put aside that pile of yet-to-be read crime novels, and instead peruse Walter Scott or some Rabbie Burns? The Highland and Islands, it appears, has hidden, and distinctly criminal, depths. But perhaps we need a sub-set: Despite an excellent series of crime novels set in China see Crime and the City Beijing May keeps returning to the north of Scotland. May also has a number of stand-alone crime novels set in the Hebrides including Coffin Road , which takes place on Harris where a man is found washed up on a deserted beach, barely alive and borderline hypothermic. He has no idea who he is or how he got there. Article continues after advertisement Anne Cleeves is as well known to TV watchers these days as to her loyal readers thanks to the success of Vera, with Brenda Blethyn as the decidedly unglamorous and dogged Detective Chief Inspector Vera Stanhope of the Northumberland and City Police, as well as Shetland with Douglas Henshall. Both have been big hits. The Perez series started with Raven Black in and eight more Perez novels have been published since, most recently Wild Fire A few more gruesome tales from the otherwise idyllic Highlands and Islands€ Highlnds-based Margaret Kirk is the latest addition to the Tartan Noir roster of success. Two murders in Inverness on the same day: Can the murders be related? Detective Inspector Lukas Mahler is on the case. In Black and Blue , the ninth Rebus novel, but in many ways a very different book, he heads north, to Shetland and out to the oil rigs of the North Sea. A killer seems to be imitating the true life Bible John killings of young women at dancehalls that occurred in Glasgow in the s and were never solved. Did Bible John simply leave Scotland back then? Has he returned now, older, but still a killer? In World War Two a cargo vessel is wrecked off the remote, and fictional Great Todday and Little Todday in the Hebrides, with fifty thousand cases of whisky aboard. Naturally the government wants it back and the Islanders would rather keep it. A pompous official English, of course! In fact the novel was based on a real story. In a cargo ship did wreck off the coast of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides carrying 28, cases whisky and rather a lot of cash. Not much of either was ever seen again. Christopher Brookmyre is a prolific Glasgow author of comedy, social commentary, crime, and mixes of all the former. A couple of his books have been successfully made into video games. Louise Welsh is a Glasgow writer, though her work roams all over Scotland, frequently to Berlin too. Naming the Bones is one of her most chilling novels set largely in an archaeological dig on the island of Lismore in the Inner Hebrides. Could the body be a link to an unsolved murder in Glasgow twenty years ago? The book is quite remarkable for a number of reasons. Firstly, it was a massive success in the UK and published by a small independent Scottish press called Saraband. Macrae Burnet claims to have discovered all these documents while researching his own Highland ancestors. And that was the many and varied Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Back to the old routine next time of anonymous city streets, unclaimed victims, stressed out urban cops and corrupt municipalities. One last dram afore ye go?

6: THE 15 BEST Things to Do in Scottish Highlands - (with Photos) - TripAdvisor

Orkney Islands Day Trip from Inverness. Leaving Inverness behind, this day trip of the Orkney Islands departs every summer morning. Settle back and enjoy the spectacular drive through Scotland's Far North Highlands, before arriving at famous John O'Groats - the end of the line, the northern most point of Scotland.

7: Wild Swimming in the Highlands & Islands of Scotland | True Highlands

The regions and districts were themselves abolished in 1975, in favour of unitary Scottish council areas and one of these councils is Highland council, the largest in Scotland, and covers most of the land area in the Scottish Highlands.

8: Highlands and Islands - Wikipedia

Book your tickets online for the top things to do in Scottish Highlands, Scotland on TripAdvisor: See , traveler reviews and photos of Scottish Highlands tourist attractions.

9: The Islands of Scotland and Top Scottish Island Destinations – Scotland Info Guide

Get the latest news from the BBC in the Highlands and Islands: Local website with breaking news, sport, weather and travel from the area plus in-depth features, analysis, audio and video coverage.

The Stuarts And The Order Of St. Benedict John Stuart Mill on liberty full text Hackett Williamson County The capture of Saddam : 13 December 2003 Inter-state accountability for violations of human rights Southern offensive : second Manassas and Sharpsburg, August-September 1862 Unpopular science Conscience and Other Virtues A summer burning. Food, the chemistry of its components Gale encyclopedia of childrens health The political danger of the day. A letter to the Press. By Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Shut out Kody Keplinger Virginia Woolf (British Library Writers Lives) Samvida shikshak varg 2 solved paper Book of Deuteronomy, an exposition. Little Lessons from Dad Prologue: The critic as sleuth. Active risk management financial models and statistical methods Reports of Cases Determined in the Appellate Courts of Illinois Java practice programs with solutions Mr. Wiggle Worm the Peoples Butterfly Selected Letters of Bret Harte (Literature of the American West) Under Dartmoor hills. Naturalism in music, by L.A. Petran. East Africa law reports Feedstocks for the future Reflective theology New Testament Psalms Proverbs, World English Bible The foreign policy of Europe 7th grade language arts syllabus Beyond language and reason The Orchestral Works of Antonin Dvorak. Frogs and Toads Thematic Unit Morale, cohesion, and competence from Second Bull Run to Missionary Ridge The Gates and Keys Treasures from Grandmas Attic (Grandmas Attic Ser.) The authentic Jesus. A Sourcebook of Nasca Ceramic Iconography Twice Shy (Inspector Sejer Mysteries)