



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Scotland (United Kingdom) - Isle of Skye

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** London (UK) / Edinburgh (Scotland)
- ✓ **Language:** English / Gaelic
- ✓ **Population:** ± 10,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1656
- ✓ **Currency:** Pound sterling (£)
- ✓ **Country code:** +44 (1470)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some purposes, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency:** 999 (medical), 101 (non-urgent crime / police)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

6000BC: Stone Age hunters. 4500BC: Stone Age farmers. 400BC: Celts introduce iron. 80AD: Romans → Hadrian's Wall (122) & Antonine Wall (143). The Picts. 563: St. Columba, monastery at Iona. Scotti from Northern Ireland arrive, kingdom Dalriada (575 independence). 795: Beginning of Viking raids. 840: MacAlpin, Kenneth I King of Scots. Malcolm II unites Lothian & Strathclyde with Scotland. 1071-'91: Defeated by English Rufus. William The Lion: Import & export. 1266: Norway sells western isles to Scotland. Edward I grants throne to Balliol: rebels against Edward, massacre, William Wallace wins armed struggle against English → 1305: executed. 1320: Declaration of Arbroath: Scots determination to fight for freedom. '28: Treaty of Northampton: Recognizes independence. Warfare over borders continues. '49: Black Death kills 1/3 of population. 1587: Mary Queen of Scots beheaded by Queen Elizabeth I of England. 1642-46: Civil War, '48-49 and '49-51 two more. '89: Willem of Orange takes throne. '92: Massacre of Glencoe. '95: Bank of Scotland. 1707: Act of Union. '60: Adam Smith. 1780s: Beginning Industrial Revolution. '32: Cholera outbreaks. 1931 onward: Depression. '41: Germans bomb Glasgow. '80-'82: Recession. '80s: Growth electronics industry. 2014: Scots vote against independence. '15: Scottish National Party 50%.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 993m (highest point). Climate: Wet. Always.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Admire the scenery in **Elgol**. Boat tours available. Don't miss the Loch Coruisk.
- ☺ Visit the **Fairy Pools** & admire the coast of **Glenbrittle**, where several hikes take off.
- ☺ Climb the castle ruins in **Kyleakin** and stroll through the immaculate landscapes.
- ☺ **Hike:** The Old Man of Storr, Quiraing, Cuillin mountain range, Macleod's Maidens Trail.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Visit [Dunvegan Castle](#).
- 👍 Take a ferry to the neighboring islands, like Raasay. Dolphin & whale watching is a thing here, and so is kayaking and canoeing.
- ☺ **Roadtripping:** Armadale (castle), Staffin, Uig, Neist Point, Kilt Rock, Sligachan, Trotternish Ridge, Struan.
- ☺ **Beaches (really):** Claigan Coral Beach, Sound of Sleat Beach.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Co-op.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Deep-fried Mars bars (*for real*), Haggis (sheep's heart, liver & lungs), Shortbread (cookies), Porridge, Fish & Chips, Smoked Salmon, Scones, Neeps & Tatties (turnips & potatoes), Bangers & Mash (sausage with mashed potatoes), Black Pudding (blood-based), Leek & Tattie Soup, Scotch Pie (meat pie), Tablet (fudge), Scotch Egg... & Scotch Whiskey.
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe and also in Scotland. However, the UK is expensive and so is vegan food. Every bigger supermarket has an endless supply of vegan products and there are many vegan/vegetarian restaurants. Check them here: [Happy Cow – Skye](#).

Mama Said

- ☠ Europe in general, and also Skye is rather safe... but use your common sense like everywhere.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable.
- ☠ International banks don't always accept Scottish pounds for exchange, so always require British notes shortly before leaving the country.
- ☠ If you're really on a budget, and have no money to spend... maybe the UK is not the place for you, as together with Scandinavia it's more expensive than the rest of Europe.

Next?

- In Scotland: Mallaig, Glencoe, Oban, Easdale, Inverness, the islands of Lewis, Harris, Mull and Jura.
- International destinations close by: Ireland, England.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are very expensive in Scotland, but the cheapest option. Camping is a good option in the Highlands (mind the rain though). Find hostels [here](#). Check out [Air BnB](#).
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

- ⚙ [Highland Games](#): Sports – Aug.
- ⚙ [Skye Live](#): Music – Oct.
- ⚙ Skye Festival: Culture – Aug.

Find a cultural calendar [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Most bars can be found in the bigger cities, like Broadford and Portree. There's a whiskey distillery in Sleat: Praban na Linne.
- ◆ Other: [Skye Cinema](#), [Aros Community Theatre](#).

Free-Riding?

- Within the separate villages of Skye basically everything is at walking distance, but for to explore the main attractions and do some sightseeing alternative transport is necessary.
- It's certainly a nice environment to explore by bike, but there are no bicycle lanes and cars pass by closely on the main roads. Weather isn't always favourable either.
- There's an extensive train and bus network in Scotland. Trains are more than double the price and are run by [Scotrail](#). No train goes directly to Skye, so you have to get out in Mallaig and take the ferry and then the bus. Buses don't go very often and stop only in designated bus stations. To travel towards Skye use [Citylink](#).
- You can drive via the bridge of Kyle of Lochalsh or take the ferry (both for cars & pedestrians) in Armadale.
- Airport: Glasgow Airport (GLA).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe, although not very common... but possible. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) to get a cheap(er) ride.