

General information

For information we also refer to the following web sites:

<http://www.seeglasgow.com>

<http://www.visitscotland.com>

The weather

Scotland's position on the edge of the European continent with sea on three sides means that the weather is very varied. Records show that May and June are usually drier than July and August (when the average monthly rainfall, for example, in Edinburgh is at its highest.) Even so, Edinburgh's annual rainfall is only slightly greater than London's and many of the east coast towns have less annual rainfall than Rome. Generally speaking, the east coast tends to be cool and dry, the west coast milder and wetter. More importantly, if it rains, with Scotland's ever-changing weather patterns, it will probably not last for long. Besides, with Scotland's longer summer daylight hours - the midsummer sun sets in Shetland at 2234 hrs - you have plenty of time to fit in your excursions. Average temperature in the summer is 15-22 degrees centigrade.

What should I wear? As the weather changes so quickly, be flexible. Between May and September it is often warm, but take a sweater and a light waterproof coat.

Banking

The majority of banks are open Mon-Fri 0900-1700 with some city centre offices open Saturday morning. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are widely available throughout the area and most are linked to Cirrus, Maestro or Plus international money systems. Visitors are advised to check with their local bank prior to travelling.

Bureau de Change

Outwith normal banking hours Bureau de Change offices can be found at the airport, train stations, most city centre banks, Tourist Information Centres and travel outlets.

Credit Cards

Most hotels, restaurants and shops in Scotland accept major credit cards such as American Express, VISA, Mastercard, Access and Diners Club and JCB.

Currency

British currency is pound sterling (£) and is made up of 100 pence (p). Several Scottish banks issue their own notes in denominations of £5, £10, £20, £50 & £100, which are legal tender in England and Northern Ireland. Bank of England and Northern Ireland banknotes are legal tender in Scotland. Coins come in denominations of 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and more recently £2.

Driving In The UK

The UK drives on the left hand side of the road. To drive in the UK, you require having a current driving licence. A foreign licence is valid in the UK for up to 12 months. It is compulsory to wear seat belts in the front seat and if your car has seat belts in the back, they must also be worn. If travelling with your own car you must be properly insured and it is advisable to check your policy prior to your journey.

Electricity

The standard voltage in Scotland is 240V AC, 50Hz. North American appliances need a transformer and an adapter; Australasian appliances need only an adaptor. Plugs have 3 square pins and adapters are widely available.

Emergency Services

For Police, Fire Brigade, and Ambulance and in some areas, Mountain Rescue or Coastguard, dial **999**.

Health Care

EU citizens are entitled to free or reduced cost medical treatment at National Health Service hospitals. With the exception of accident and emergency treatment, all non-EU members will be charged for medical treatment and must have adequate health insurance when travelling.