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The Rough Guide To Scottish Highlands & Islands (Rough Guides)



Synopsis

This in-depth coverage of Scottish Highlands and Islands' local attractions, sights, and restaurants takes you to the most rewarding spots—•from Glen Coe to castles and lochs—•and stunning color photography brings the land to life on the pages. With a beautiful new cover, amazing tips and information, and key facts, The Rough Guide to Scottish Highlands & Islands is the perfect travel companion. The locally based Rough Guides author team introduces the best places to stop and explore, and provides reliable insider tips on topics such as driving the roads, taking walking tours, or visiting local cathedrals. You'll find special coverage of history, art, architecture, and literature, and detailed information on the best markets and shopping for each area in this fascinating area. The Rough Guide to Scottish Highlands & Islands also unearths the best restaurants, nightlife, and places to stay, from backpacker hostels to beachfront villas and boutique hotels, and color-coded maps feature every sight and listing. Make the most of your time with The Rough Guide to Scottish Highlands & Islands. Series Overview: For more than thirty years, adventurous travelers have turned to Rough Guides for up-to-date and intuitive information from expert authors. With opinionated and lively writing, honest reviews, and a strong cultural background, Rough Guides travel books bring more than 200 destinations to life. Visit RoughGuides.com to learn more.

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Customer Reviews

Even by Scottish standards, the legendary Highlands are off the beaten path. They require a little

extra effort to reach. However, they reward the persistent traveler with stunning natural scenery (weather permitting) and lots to see and do. This 2017 edition is the latest version of the Rough Guide to the Scottish Highlands & Islands. The content has been updated and the book is packed with interesting information. The Highlands are located north of Glasgow and Edinburgh, and west of Aberdeen, which with Inverness are the principal entry points into the region. The Islands are just a bit further, reached by bridge, ferry or short aircraft hop from mainland Scotland. Together, the Highlands and Islands encompass a large area with few major population centers and a thin transportation and hospitality infrastructure. The elbow room and the opportunity to wander are a magnet for many visitors, but planning ahead is recommended, especially to reach some of the remoter islands. This guide is divided by geographic area: the southeast coast of Argyll, the Central Highlands including the Cairngorms, the Great Glen including Loch Ness, sparsely populated Northern Scotland, Skye, the Western Isles, Orkney, and the Shetlands. Each section discusses items of interest such as castles, lochs, mountain walking, whisky distilleries, and museums. The sections include maps and graphics of the few towns, along with information on how to get there and where to eat and to stay. This edition also includes lots of websites and a healthy if limited selection of color photographs. There are practical hints on how to avoid school holidays and how to minimize the impact of the highly variable weather. This reviewer's favorite area is the vast Cairngorms National Park, set in the rugged Grampian Mountains. It can be easily explored by day trips from any of several pleasant small towns such as Braemar, which also hosts the annual Highland Gathering, a celebrated highland games often attended by members of the British royal family from nearby Balmoral Castle (which can also be toured, but go early in the day). Many towns in the Highlands have their own games. Pitlochry, for example, has theirs in September, a true municipal celebration of highland culture that includes competitive highland dancing and a huge bagpipe band competition along with the usual athletics, all in the town's riverside park. Edzell, a granite-built town on the southeastern corner of the Cairngorms, has its own castle, magnificent ruins that feature a rebuilt garden, and ready access to Glen Esk. With averagely good weather, the Scottish Highlands and Islands provide superb opportunities to explore, whether on foot or bike, or by automobile or train (or even ferry). The region and this guide are highly recommended.

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