

Scottish Customs and Traditions. There are so many Scottish customs and traditions that we can only touch the surface here. But people from all four corners of the globe know that we are nation rich in history and culture, and many of our traditions have been adopted throughout the world.

Most families have a Christmas Tree or maybe even two! The decorating of the tree is usually a family occasion, with everyone helping. Prince Albert was German, and thought that it would be good to use one of his ways of celebrating Christmas in England. Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe are also sometimes used to decorate homes or other buildings. Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas. Often a famous person switches them on. Every year they get bigger and better. The Church that I go to always has a Carols by Candlelight Service where the church is only lit up by candles. It is a very special service and always makes me feel very Christmassy! Lots of other British churches also have Carols by Candlelight and Christingle services. Children believe that Father Christmas or Santa Claus leaves presents in stockings or pillow-cases. Children sometimes leave out mince pies and brandy for Father Christmas to eat and drink when he visits them. Now, some people say that a non-alcoholic drink should be left for Santa as he has to drive! There are some customs that only take place, or were started, in the UK. Boxing Day is a very old custom that started in the UK and is now taken as a holiday in many countries around the world. Traditionally, and before turkey was available, roast beef or goose was the main Christmas meal. One vegetable that is often at Christmas in the UK are brussel sprouts. Dessert is often Christmas Pudding. Mince pies and lots of chocolates are often eaten as well! Trifle is also a popular dessert at Christmas. The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas Cracker for each person and sometimes flowers and candles. Statistics show that in the UK, they get an official White Christmas about every 4 or 5 years and have real snow at Christmas about 1 in 10 years but often this is only normally in Scotland! Below is an animated map, made by www. The Snowman also featured the song "Walking in the Air". This time, it was sung by a choirboy called Aled Jones. Aled Jones is now an adult and is a TV and Radio presenter! All across the UK, in cities and towns, there are fireworks to celebrate the New Year. Two of the most famous fireworks displays are in London, along the River Thames, and in Edinburgh at the Hogmanay celebrations. Also in Scotland, the first person to set foot in a house in a New Year is thought to have a big effect on the fortunes of the people that live there! Generally strangers are thought to bring good luck. Depending on the area, it may be better to have a dark-haired or fair-haired stranger set foot in the house. In England it is sometimes said that a stranger coming through the door carrying a lump of coal will bring good luck.

Chapter 2 : Dining etiquette, Scottish culture and customs

Tippling in Scotland. Tippling in Scotland is quite a concern for many visitors, especially those from across the Atlantic. The first point to bear in mind is that, overall, there is less of a tippling culture in Scotland than in, say, the USA.

A funeral will vary according to the culture, family preference and dictates of the church to which the deceased belonged. A Scottish funeral, for example, is similar to that of the Irish because of their proximity in Western Europe and their similar Gaelic cultural background. The funeral processions are comparable and both serve refreshments to the attendees. Background In the 19th Century, Scottish burial customs included opening the windows so the soul could depart easily. Mirrors were covered and clocks stopped, supposedly to mislead the ghosts. People placed salt in wooden bowls inside the coffins to combat rigor mortis. Some of these ideas could be used today if one chooses to follow old traditions. Procedural Ideas A family member of the deceased should contact a funeral home to make the necessary preparation arrangements. The ceremony can be held at the funeral parlor or grave site. Other ideas are to have the ceremony at home or in an outdoor park setting. The eldest son traditionally sends personal invitations to family and friends inviting them to the funeral ceremony. You can also list funeral details in the local newspaper. Bagpiper Ideas A bagpiper customarily leads the mourners from the church to the graveside while playing slow marches. As the coffin is lowered, the piper plays a song of mourning. In a crematorium service, the piper usually plays "The Flowers O the Forest" as the mourners arrive. If a bagpiper is not available, an alternative idea is to use taped music such as "Highland Cathedral. Tartan or plaid strips of ribbons may be tied to the hearse. The Wake One idea is to send any kind of flowers or condolence cards to the funeral home to be shown at the wake. Another idea is to display a poster of pictures from the life of the deceased. You can also place a large envelope near the coffin for visitors to put notes for the family. Ideas for the Ceremony Ask members of the family if they want to participate in the service. A suggestion would be for someone to read a poem by the Scottish poet, Robert Louis Stevenson. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Another suggestion is for men to wear suits and ties and women black dresses or black pants. Food Ideas At the conclusion of the ceremony, mourners are invited back to the home for refreshments. The food for the reception can include favorite dishes of the deceased. You can serve oatmeal biscuits with soda or bread and cheeses. Whiskey and drinks should be available.

Chapter 3 : Scottish Funeral Ideas | Synonym

A funeral in Scotland in the 21 st century really differs very little than a funeral in most of the UK, or the US. New laws, regulations, convenience; better health measures and standards (and their own particular resultant regulations) have altered things in a mighty way.

How formally you must behave when dining depends on where you are and who you are with, or how well or long you know the people you are dining with. It also depends on the occasion, and whether it is social or business related. For a good choice of Perthshire hotels, visit [Hotels in Perth](#) for more information and reservations. The longer you know someone, the more open and informal your relationship gets, the more informal your dining etiquette. Basically, as you become part of the family, dining etiquette becomes more relaxed. In the UK we rarely eat with our hands, except when we are eating sandwiches like burgers and hot dogs. Forks and knives are used at all times, even when eating pizza, fruit, and hard to cut items like chicken. Hold the fork in your weak hand and cut with your strong hand the hand you write with. Never slurp, burp or wipe your nose at the table. Never use your napkin for any of these things, including sneezing. You should be carrying a hanky for that. Always keep your napkin on your lap, never on the table. Never spit into a napkin. When someone asks you to pass them something salt, oil and vinegar, etc. Set it down next to them on the table. If they are not next to you, pass it to the person next to you – the item will be passed down from person to person until arriving at its intended destination. This is not just dining etiquette – some people are superstitious and believe if you hand someone something directly into their hand, it will bring bad luck. Never reach across the table or stand up to pass something. When dining, you should keep both hands visible at all times, usually eating with one hand and cutting food with the other. When your hands are empty, keep them on the table, not on your lap or hidden from view, which is construed as a sign of deception. Never put your elbows on the table. It is a sign of disrespect. This is one of the most important aspects of dining etiquette as it can directly affect the relationship you will have with your hosts and whether they trust you and welcome you. Never grimace or make any other faces indicating dislike. Scots enjoy inviting people over for dinner usually when they have a special occasions or just for getting together. In the warmer months most cases they will set up a Barbecue, or some grilling outdoors, and everyone will help themselves buffet style. Usually you should arrive with something to give your host or hostess upon arrival. Greet them first, then hand them your gift. Flowers, wine and chocolates are common. If the household has children, you could bring something small for them instead of your host. Most of the time food is not placed in the middle of the table and each person does not help themselves. Except in very informal family situations, or unless it is a buffet, most of the time each plate is served in the kitchen and brought out to each individual. Everyone is expected to eat everything on their plate. Leaving food on your plate is considered rude and the fact that the plate is usually served to you, instead of you serving yourself, makes this difficult at times. Meals usually include several courses. You may be offered finger foods before dinner, then soup, salad, a main course, and dessert. Be careful about complimenting the food – a complement is usually a signal that you want more. It is ok to pour your own drink when eating with other people, but it is more polite to offer pouring drinks to the people sitting on either side of you. Always wait for your host to make a toast if there is a guest of honour. All present,, look at the person being toasted. Frequently a toast will be announced by rapping a spoon against the glass. When you are dining with others, it is impolite to check your watch, answer your phone, or read a newspaper or magazine. You are there to enjoy their company so enjoy it. When you invite someone to your home, immediately after you finish greeting them, you should offer them something to drink. Serve the drink by carrying the glass on a tray and always accompany with a napkin or coaster. Allow them to take the glass from the tray or set it down on a table for the, but do not place it directly into their hands. Never touch the rim of the glass with your hands. It is not considered polite to ask someone for something to eat or drink at their home, nor can you make yourself at home by helping yourself to something or raiding their refrigerator. Dress according to the occasion and, if necessary, ask what you are expected to wear to an event or dinner. Dining Etiquette Among Friends These tips involve dining etiquette amongst people you know or will be involved with socially. When

a plate of items is set in the middle of the table for all to help themselves from, it is rude to take the last item on the plate – it means you are greedy. The host should offer you to take it, you decline, they insist, you then thank them and take it. They will motion you to your seat. When you are invited somewhere, it is polite to arrive between 15 and 30 minutes late, but not more. If you arrive on time, your hosts may still be getting ready and it is considered impolite in Scotland to leave someone sitting around in the living room while you finish getting ready. Your host, even if not ready, will feel obligated to remain with you as soon as you arrive. So give them time to get ready for your arrival and be politely late. If you invite someone to your home for a dinner or party, indicate the arrival time, but never state at what time you expect the event to end. In general, your invitation should indicate an arrival time that is about half hour prior to the time you really want your guests to arrive for example: It is impolite to deride your guests if they arrive late. Greet them happily and forget about it. Accept it graciously, take a nibble, and leave it on your plate which is still considered rude, but you can always say you just got too full to finish. By the way, never say you are full. You should say you are satisfied and cannot eat another bite because the meal was soooo delicious! For food you ordered yourself at a restaurant, you can leave anything you want. Everyone is expected to remain at the table until the very last person has finished eating and until the host is ready to leave the table. Scottish meals are usually quite long, frequently lasting from hours. Prepare your kids and share these tips on dining etiquette with them in advance – if they are served at the same table as the adults, they will be expected to remain at the table the entire time as well and observe all the same dining etiquette as the adults. It is rude to eat and leave right away. It is also rude to sit down to eat immediately upon arrival. Guests are always served first; however if you are the guest you should wait for your host to begin eating or drinking before you begin to eat or drink. Kids should be aware that at the table they are expected to behave perfectly. Kids do not interrupt adults, do not participate in adult conversations unless spoken to first, are expected to use a knife and fork as of age , and must sit quietly and politely just as anyone else. Kids should never be allowed to play around or beneath the table. If your child cannot cut their own meal, cut it for them. If your child is bored and beginning to behave badly, ask your host if it would be alright to give them an activity to do in another room. No one plays with toys in the dining room. My best advice about kids: When they begin to get bored or misbehave, the babysitter can take them into another room to play and you can continue to enjoy your meal uninterrupted with your hosts. And your guests will be extremely uncomfortable if your housekeeper dines with them at your house as well. This has nothing to do with dining etiquette and everything to do with social standing. Restaurant Dining Etiquette At restaurants your host might order for you without asking you first. This happens infrequently nowadays, but if this happens, accept it graciously. It simply means they are proudly trying to show off some of particular cuisine. Never call a waiter to your table by clapping your hand or snapping your fingers. In a restaurant your host will usually insist upon paying for your meal. It is considered impolite to calculate and divide up the tab at a restaurant. If they offer to pay, decline once half-heartedly. When they insist, accept graciously. You can offer to pay the tip. And the next time you eat out with them, you should pay. This is again, not so much an issue of dining etiquette, but more of a social standing issue. Leave the tip under your glass, cup or plate with just a little piece of the note or coin sticking out, just enough for the waiter to see it, but not enough for others to swipe it off the table quickly. Business Dining Etiquette Business is commonly conducted around a meal, usually at a restaurant; however, dining is a social occasion and you should not bring up business matters until your host does. Be prepared to chitchat about your family, the weather, etc. People want you to get to know them on a more personal level. If they consider you a friend, and trust you, you are more likely to get their business. Business meals at restaurants, although considered a social occasion, are not usually open to wives, husbands, children, or any other friends who are not directly related to the business that will eventually be discussed. If you are invited to a home for a business lunch or dinner, you can ask if you are expected to bring your partner or kids.

Chapter 4 : Tipping in Scotland - Scotland Forum - TripAdvisor

Two further publications which illustrate how customs and excise records can be used for family history are Frances Wilkins, 'Family histories in Scottish customs records' (Kidderminster,) and Frances Wilkins, 'Scottish customs and excise records with particular reference to Strathclyde' (Kidderminster,).

Excise Offices were located both around the coast and inland in former centuries, every market town in England had a designated Excise Office, albeit not permanently manned; often a room in a local inn would be adapted for the purpose when required. The establishment of the Irish Free State in gave the United Kingdom a land border, which also required customs checkpoints ; later, customs officers were needed at airports as well. As well as administering Customs declarations , HM Customs and Excise staff had responsibility for guarding the borders of the United Kingdom from smugglers. To try to achieve this, HMCE and its predecessors had a history of operating both on land and at sea. Later, however, the Commissioners along with most of the headquarters staff were forced to move out after the building was damaged in a bombing raid in December

Corporate structure[edit] The amalgamation of the previously separate Customs and Excise services required a new corporate structure, which substantially remained in place until The new Board of Customs and Excise had oversight of three inter-linked branches, each with its own management structure: Initially there were ninety-two Collections formed by merging the previously separate Customs Collections and Excise Collections but these were later reduced: The Collections were subdivided into Districts each overseen by a Surveyor within which were several Stations, each staffed by one or more Officers of Customs and Excise. At the same time the Waterguard ceased to operate as a separate body, although uniformed customs officers continued to be involved in preventive work. The majority of the Headquarters staff belonged to the Civil Service grades generally clerical, executive, and secretariat. The main grades in the outfield were: All grades were amalgamated and incorporated into the general Civil Service grades in Officers of the Waterguard had their own rank structure, namely: Higher grades were the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent, neither of whom wore a uniform. Uniform[edit] Peaked cap as worn by Preventive officers when in uniform. All uniformed grades wore a Navy curl ; CPOs were further distinguished by having a row of gold oak leaves on the peak of the cap. After the same uniform was adopted by uniformed officers of the Preventive Service.

Corporate history[edit] The Board of Customs, responsible for collecting duties levied on imported goods, and the Board of Excise, responsible for raising revenue from inland taxes, were both established in the 17th century. The raising of excise duties also dates from this time, but the levying of customs duties has a far longer history, the first written reference being found in an eighth-century charter of King Aethelbald. Originally, the term customs meant any customary payments or dues of any kind for example, to the king, or a bishop, or the church , but later became restricted to duties payable to the king on the import or export of goods. A centralised English customs system can be traced to the Winchester Assize of Customs of , in the reign of King John , [6] from which time customs were to be collected and paid to the State Treasury. HM Customs was established on a more permanent basis with the passing of legislation in the reign of King Edward I: Alongside the nova custuma which was levied on exported wool and leather duty was levied on imported goods; from the 14th century this became known as tonnage and poundage. Under this act the regulation of the collection of customs was entrusted to a parliamentary committee; however in Parliament reverted to the farming system, until a permanent Board was finally established in HM Revenue of Excise[edit]

Main article: Excise duties were first levied in England in , during the Commonwealth initially on beer, cider, spirits and soap ; later, duties were levied on such diverse commodities as salt , paper and bricks. For a time, the Excise Board was also responsible for collecting the duty levied on imports of beverages such as rum, brandy and other spirits, as well as tea, coffee, chocolate and cocoa beans. The Board of Excise[edit] A Board of Excise was likewise established by the Long Parliament under the "Excise Ordinance" of Ordinance for the speedy raising and levying of moneys by way of charge or impost upon several commodities. After Excise revenue was farmed for the most part, until the Board was established on a permanent footing in In the late 17th century, a concerted effort was made to combat this growing problem; land-based Riding Officers

were employed to patrol the coast on horseback, while Revenue cutters were provided to enable officers to intercept vessels involved in smuggling at sea. Waterguard In an organisation called the Preventive Water Guard was formed, independent of HM Customs, as a specialist service to combat smuggling. In it was brought together with the Riding Officers and Cutter service to form a new body under the authority of HM Customs named the Coast Guard. In , however, authority over the Coast Guard was transferred from the Customs to the Admiralty. In a specialist Waterguard service was re-established within HM Customs, dedicated to rummaging vessels and combatting smuggling. For the first part of the twentieth century, HMCE made do with a single revenue cruiser, the Vigilant which served more as a flagship for the Commissioners than as a practical deterrent. After the Second World War, however, the need for active vessels was again recognised and suitable craft were purchased from the Admiralty. By HMCE had four fast launches in service, crewed by officers of the Waterguard many of whom had seen active service in the Royal Navy ; by eight further vessels had been acquired. After the merger[edit] In , the border enforcement functions of HMCE were transferred along with the organisation responsible for them to HMRC; but in they were again transferred at least in part to the new UK Border Agency of the Home Office, [11] which due to various failings was itself disbanded in , whereupon a new UK Border Force was established with border enforcement responsibilities and powers. Famous Customs and Excise officers[edit].

Chapter 5 : Home - NHS Health Scotland

Dining etiquette in Perthshire, in Scotland and the UK in general closely follows European tradition. How formally you must behave when dining depends on where you are and who you are with, or how well or long you know the people you are dining with.

We look forward to welcoming you. Do I need a passport to visit Scotland? Your children may also need their own passports. Do I need a visa to visit Scotland? If you are an EU citizen: You can stay in Scotland for any length of time. If you are from outside the EU: You might need a visa. It depends on how long you are planning to stay and why you are visiting. You can find out more on visas from the UK Government. What goods can I bring in to Scotland? You can bring most everyday items with you when you visit. There are some goods that you are not allowed to bring, such as firearms. There are other goods that have a limit to the amount you can bring in, such as alcohol and tobacco. The rules are different depending on whether you are travelling from within or from outside the EU. Can I bring in medicine? Yes, you can bring in your own personal medicines. If you bring in medicines for yourself, you do not need to declare your medicines to UK Customs. However, in case there is an issue in the UK or abroad, it is a good idea to have a letter from your doctor confirming your need for the medication. Always carry medicines in a correctly labelled container as issued by the pharmacist. There may be restrictions on the amount of drugs that you can bring into the country. Before you travel, seek advice about the requirements from HM Customs and Exercise. How much currency can I bring into the UK? If you are travelling from within the EU: You may bring as much money as you like, in any form. If you are entering from outside the EU: How should I bring my money? Check with your bank to see if you can use your card in these. If you are visiting the islands or remote areas, you may not be able to find a cash machine, so think about taking some money with you. You can cash travellers cheques at banks and bureaux de change. There is usually no charge for cashing sterling travellers cheques. Save money with tax-free shopping Want to make your holiday money go further? There are a number of steps to take during and after your visit, in order to reclaim the sales tax. Why become a Registered Traveller? Other things you might like Previous.

Chapter 6 : Scottish Customs and Traditions

Are you planning a trip to Scotland? Wonderful! We look forward to welcoming you. If it's your first visit you might have some questions about passports, visas, money and customs. We'll answer those questions for you here. If you're from an EEA country or Switzerland, then you must have either a.

Contact Me Scottish Customs and Traditions There are so many Scottish customs and traditions that we can only touch the surface here. But people from all four corners of the globe know that we are nation rich in history and culture, and many of our traditions have been adopted throughout the world. If I asked 1, people from around the world what they associated with Scotland or Scottish customs and traditions, we would get a variety of answers. To some it would be the scenery, to others whisky or golf , or some of the folklore such as Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. Other folk would think of men in kilts and Highland dancing; while others might think of bagpipe music. Perhaps some scientists among us might think of all the inventions made by famous Scots such as the telephone and television or the discovery of penicillin , while others might remember that the great philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was a Scot. Others would be reminded of the Scottish Customs and Traditions such as Hogmanay and of course our strange tongue with the singing of Auld Lang Syne around the world every New Year - a song which was written by our most famous Poet, Rabbie Burns, but few people understand. Ex-pats might think nostalgically of Burns Suppers or even create their own wherever they are, or perhaps they might think not so much as eating haggis but having a good plate of Fish and Chips and Mushy Peas , or having a cup of tea with some fresh shortbread. But certainly to many, the food and drink is indeed very much part of our Scottish Customs and traditions. Our Special Occasions and Holidays Some Scottish Customs and Traditions are important to us and some are marked every year in our diaries. St Andrews Day - is celebrated on 30th November every year. Christmas Traditions - a Scottish Christmas is very similar to Christmas throughout the world. Hogmanay and New Year - Ah! Here we Scots have our very own unique Hogmanay Customs. It is interesting to note that the remains of St Valentine are believed to be in Glasgow. Easter - is celebrated here as it is in every Christian country, so it can hardly be described specifically as ourely Scottish Customs and Traditions. One tradition, however, is to have a special family meal on Easter Sunday , the main course almost always being roast lamb. There are so many famous Scottish dishes that are famous around the world, from the Haggis , to the lovely crumbly shortbread , or delicious scones and homemade raspberry jam ; from Cullen Skink , the famous fish soup and Scotch Broth , to the Forfar Bridie , the famous Scotch Pie and Lorne Sausage. Have a look at some of the Authentic Scottish Food Recipes - and check out the list of recipes at the bottom of the page. Part of culture is also the famous Highland Games which are held throughout the country during the summer months. Here, you will see people dressed the national costume and you can observe all the different competitions such as the Dancing Events , or at other parts of the area the Music Competitions will be taking place and of course the Athletic Events especially the tossing the Caber are great fun to watch. Our Language Although Gaelic is the language that some traditionally see as Scottish, in reality few Scots speak it, although it is still used in the Islands and some parts of the Highlands, and there has been a resurgence in recent years to increase the number of Gaelic speakers that it is taught in some schools. But our own version of English is the main language used. Yet there are still many words which are uniquely Scottish, so much so that Dictionaries have been written to help people understand the language. Of course, as in all parts of UK, each area has its own distinct accent. If you are interested in learning more about our language, traditions, myths and customs, then browse our Customs and Culture Bookstore for some good bargains. Our Flags and Symbols Something unique in our Scottish customs and traditions is that we have two flags. But of course, in Scotland we also have the Lion Rampart Flag. Other symbols recognised as uniquely Scottish are the Celtic Cross often made into beautiful jewellery today and of course our famous flowers of heather and the bluebell. From sightings of the Loch Ness Monster, or our famous Haggis, tales of ghosts and other bizarre stories, Scotland is full of folklore, myths and legends. Book after book has been written about our religious history, but I just want to briefly touch here on the modern face of religion in Scotland. There are still separate schools for Catholic and Protestant children, and it

even spilled over to our two famous and opposing Glasgow Football Teams ie Protestants support Rangers and Catholics support Celtic. There has also been a strong Jewish community for a very long time and in recent years with so many immigrants entering Scotland we have seen many other religions emerge such as Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism to name but a few. Hogmanay Customs - a wee look at how we celebrate bringing in the New Year. Scottish Food Recipes - Try out some of our famous dishes. Meaning of the Scottish Flags - Have a wee look at the different flags, their origin and meaning. Tartan and Plaid - Discover the difference between tartan and plaid. Kilts and Flashes - Learn a bit more about our National Dress. Highland Games - Look at some of the categories of Highland Games event. And do check out our Bookstores:

Chapter 7 : United Kingdom: Tipping & Etiquette - TripAdvisor

HM Customs and Excise (properly known as Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (or His as appropriate), often abbreviated to HMCE) was a department of the British Government formed in by the merger of HM Customs and HM Excise; its primary responsibility was the collection of customs duties, excise duties, and other indirect taxes.

Entry, Exit and Visa Requirements To enter the United Kingdom, your passport must be valid for the the entire duration of your planned stay.. Visas for specific categories of visitors must be obtained prior to travel. We cannot intervene on your behalf when you apply for a UK visa, nor can we advocate for your admission into the UK if you are denied entry. Students and prospective students should visit the UKVI website to determine if they need a visa. Unpaid and paid workers, interns, volunteers, charity workers, and temporary workers can find information about obtaining a visa on the UKVI website. Visitors traveling to the United Kingdom to get married, even if they do not plan to reside there, must obtain a visa in advance. See the UKVI website for visa information. Surcharges apply to certain categories of visas, generally those involving work, study, or residency for more than six months. Safety and Security Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible near-term attacks in Europe. All European countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. The UK Security Service, commonly known as MI5, publishes specific reasons for any changes in the threat level and recommended actions for the public via its UK threat levels website. There is the potential for isolated violence related to the political situation in Northern Ireland. The Police Service of Northern Ireland assesses there is a continued threat of violence from dissident republicans in Northern Ireland, focused primarily on police and military targets, and may involve the use of firearms and explosives. Tensions may be heightened during the summer marching season April to August , particularly on and around the July 12 public holiday. Avoid areas of demonstrations if possible, and be careful within the vicinity of demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate to violence. Stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings. You should also use these numbers to report security threats or suspicious packages. Also see information for calling police from abroad. Be cautious and aware of your surroundings. Do not leave bags unattended in restaurants, pubs, hotel lobbies, and parked cars. A legitimate Metropolitan Police Services officer will never demand an immediate cash payment. Use only licensed Black Cabs or pre-ordered car services minicabs. Unlicensed taxis or private cars posing as taxis may offer low fares, but in some instances, travelers have been robbed or sexually assaulted while using these cars. The Safer Travel at Night partnership among the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, and the Mayor of London maintains a website with additional information on cabs and car services. Avoid using ATMs that look temporary in structure or location or are located in isolated areas – they may not be legitimate. Use ATMs located inside a bank branch. Before sending any money to individuals you have never met in person, visit the Embassy London website for more information about internet financial scams and how to protect yourself. Financial crimes conducted over the internet have increased dramatically in the United Kingdom as scammers attempt to convince you to send them money. These fraudulent schemes commonly lure victims by claiming to offer:

Chapter 8 : Passports, Visas & Customs | VisitScotland

All points in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark, and the Isle of Man. Priority Mail International () Price Group 11 Refer to Notice , Price List, for the applicable retail, Commercial Base, or Commercial Plus price.

Scottish wedding traditions Add to basket Remove from basket Plus Minus Have you always wanted to have a traditional Scottish wedding? Learn about the quirky Scottish good luck rituals and romantic customs you can incorporate into your own ceremony, from those which have become common in weddings around the world to obscure time-honoured traditions that are still followed in small corners of Scotland. Lucky charms from around Scotland Right foot forward is the correct procedure a bride should follow when exiting her house on her way to the wedding. As the bride steps into the car, her father throws a handful of coins for the children to collect. The bride sits on a stool while an older, married woman washes and dries her feet. In Fife, however, only a few brave bridegrooms go through the traditional custom, which involves sitting in a tub of water while his legs are smeared with grease, ash and soot. Ceremony and reception Gretna Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop is where couples have been coming to tie the knot since Are you feeling rebellious? The Wedding Walk is the formal march taken by the wedding party to the church. Preceded by a piper or fiddler, the bridegroom leads the maid of honour while the bride walks behind with the best man. After the ceremony, the newlyweds leave the church followed by the best man escorted by the maid of honour. To secure good luck it was traditionally thought that the wedding procession should cross running water twice. A Penny Wedding is an ideal solution for those after a traditional yet budget-friendly wedding. Guests bring their own food and drinks to the reception allowing the couple to splurge on the wedding cake. Dances The Lang Reel is a traditional dance which happens in the fishing communities in the north east of Scotland. The dance sees villagers and the wedding party begin dancing from the harbour and continue through the village, with each couple leaving the reel when they pass their home. This continues until the only couple left are the bride and groom who have the last dance. The Traditional Grand March is often the first dance to take place at a wedding reception. It begins with the bride and groom marching to the sound of bagpipes or a live band. The maid of honour or chief bridesmaid and the best man join in, followed by both sets of in-laws, and finally the guests! The groom pays for the wedding dress in return. Clocks are traditionally given to the happy couple by the best man in the north east while the maid of honour gives them a tea set. A luckenbooth is a brooch given as a love token by a gentleman to his betrothed. They are usually made of silver and engraved with two hearts combined. Blackenings are a ritual performed very occasionally with great gusto on the night before the wedding. He is then noisily paraded through the village by his friends who endeavour to make the experience as embarrassing as possible. In some parts of Scotland, this can happen to the bride too! Other things you might like Previous.

Chapter 9 : Scottish funeral customs

Answer 1 of Hi: I've read quite a few articles about tipping in Scotland, but there seems to be a lot of different ideas on what the norm is. Could anyone tell me if the following is correct: 1.

After the unexpected death of the childless David II, Robert Stewart, the first of the Stewart later Stuart monarchs, came to the throne in 1329. Despite his relatively venerable age of 55, his son, John, Earl of Carrick, grew impatient and assumed the reins of government as Lord Lieutenant. This, along with Carrick having suffered a debilitating horse kick, led to a shift in power to his brother Robert Stewart, Earl of Fife, who now was appointed as Lieutenant in his place. However, the English captured him en route and he spent the next 18 years as a prisoner held for ransom. James had Murdoch and two of his sons tried and then executed with further enforcement of his authority by more arrests and forfeiture of lands. In he attempted to regain one of the major border fortresses still in English hands at Roxburgh, but the siege ended in a humiliating defeat. He was murdered by discontented council member Robert Graham and his co-conspirators near the Blackfriars church, Perth in 1390. After the execution of a number of suspected conspirators, leadership fell to Archibald Douglas, 5th Earl of Douglas, as lieutenant-general of the realm. A conspiracy to break the power of the Douglas family led to the "Black Dinner" at Edinburgh Castle in 1385, which saw the judicial murder of the young William Douglas, 6th Earl of Douglas and his brother by Livingstone and Crichton. This opened an intermittent civil war as James attempted to seize Douglas lands, punctuated by a series of humiliating reversals. He travelled the country dispensing justice and some of the unpopular policies of the following reign, such as the sale of pardons, may have originated in this period. His attempt to take Roxburgh from the English in 1388 succeeded, but at the cost of his life as he was killed by an exploding artillery piece. While Robert and Thomas were out of the country in the king asserted his control, executing members of the Boyd family. Mar died suspiciously in 1389 and his estates were forfeited and possibly given to a royal favourite, Robert Cochrane. Albany fled to France in 1389, accused of treason. By this point the alliance with England was failing and from there was intermittent war, followed by a full-scale invasion of Scotland two years later, led by the Duke of Gloucester, the future Richard III, and accompanied by Albany. James was imprisoned by his own subjects in Edinburgh Castle, and Albany was established as lieutenant-general. Despite conspiracies and more attempts at invasion, James was able to regain power. However, the king managed to alienate the barons, refusing to travel for the implementation of justice, preferring to be resident in Edinburgh, he debased the coinage, probably creating a financial crisis, he continued to pursue an English alliance and dismissed key supporters, including his Chancellor Colin Campbell, 1st Earl of Argyll, becoming estranged from his wife, Margaret of Denmark, and his son James. Matters came to a head in 1400 when he faced an army raised by the disaffected nobles, and many former councillors, acting in the name of the prince as James IV. He was defeated at the Battle of Sauchieburn and killed. James IV was 15 when he came to the throne, but soon proved a capable and independent minded ruler, whose reign is often considered to have seen a flowering of Scottish culture under the influence of the European Renaissance. When the Pope organised a Holy League, which included England, against the French in 1407, James was caught between incompatible diplomatic policies. He tried to suggest an unrealistic European Crusade to Constantinople, but after border skirmishing, when the French were attacked by the English he declared war on England and was excommunicated by the Pope. He sent his navy and gunners to support the French and in 1409 led a major army of perhaps 34,000, over the border. The defining factor in the geography of Scotland is the distinction between the Highlands and Islands in the north and west and the lowlands in the south and east. The highlands are further divided into the Northwest Highlands and the Grampian Mountains by the fault line of the Great Glen. The lowlands are divided into the fertile belt of the Central Lowlands and the higher terrain of the Southern Uplands, which included the Cheviot hills, over which the border with England came to run by the end of the period. This provided Scotland with a form of protection, as minor English incursions had to cross the difficult southern uplands [40] and the two major attempts at conquest by the English, under Edward I and then Edward III, were unable to penetrate the highlands, from which area potential resistance could reconquer the lowlands. The Isle of Man

fell under English control in the 14th century, despite several attempts to restore Scottish authority. Historical demography of Scotland Because medieval Scotland lacked the intrusive government and growing bureaucracy that can be found in contemporaneous England, there is very little evidence on which to base reliable estimates of population before the early 18th century. On the basis that it had roughly a sixth of the farmable land of England, it has been suggested that the population would have been of a similar proportion, probably a little less than a million at its height before the Black Death reached the country in Although there is no reliable documentation on the impact of the plague, there are many anecdotal references to abandoned land in the following decades. If the pattern followed that in England, then the population may have fallen to as low as half a million by the end of the 15th century. It has been suggested that they would have had a mean population of about 2,, but many would be much smaller than 1, and the largest, Edinburgh, probably had a population of over 10, by the end of the era.