



Glasgow.

Facts and Statistics

Ethnic groups in Scotland

White: 98%

Other (mostly Pakistani, Indian or Chinese): 2%

- Nearly 13% of the Scottish population were born outside Scotland.
- 8% of the Scottish population were born in England.

(Census 2001)

Modern Scots

Many Scottish people are very proud to come from Scotland. They are proud of their beautiful landscapes, their education traditions, their history of struggle against the English and the achievements of their football teams. They often feel that it is important to be one of five million people in a united nation that can decide its own future.

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However, it is not as simple as that. For a start, the way Scots feel about their country depends on where they live. For example, people in Edinburgh often take it for granted that their city is Scotland's cultural and political centre. They forget that life in other parts of Scotland is quite different. In Glasgow, some people will say that Edinburgh people are snobbish and that Glasgow is a more truly Scottish city. In the Highlands and Islands, people feel that there is a great distance to the big cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow in the south and that they have different ways of life.

Secondly, not all Scots are descended from the people who first came to the country 8,000 years ago. Especially since World War 2, people have come to Scotland from other parts of the world. They also form part of the picture of what Scotland is. There are large groups of English and Irish people, for example. The main groups of people with a different ethnic origin are from Pakistan, China and India – many of these already lived in the north of England and migrated within Britain. Most of them live in Scotland's largest cities – about half live in Glasgow.

Many people who visit Scotland as tourists see only a few aspects of the country. They often remember the spectacular landscapes of the Highlands, the beautiful old buildings in Edinburgh, Glasgow and other cities and their experiences of Scottish cultural traditions. However, there are also sides of Scotland that most visitors do not see. Here are some examples:

- Most ordinary Scottish people do not live in the city centres. They live in suburbs or housing estates some distance from the areas that tourists see and go to local shops, supermarkets

freaky facts:

The Shetland Islands in the north of Scotland are just as close to Norway as they are to Edinburgh. No wonder they don't always feel part of a united Scotland.

Street cafe in Glasgow.





Three boys in Glasgow.

and shopping centres. 28% of the Scottish population live in towns or villages of less than 10,000 people.

- Decoration and furniture styles are often quite different to Scandinavian styles.
- There is a bigger difference in Scotland between rich and poor people than there is in Scandinavia, and the difference is getting bigger. About 25% of adults and 38% of children in Scotland live in poverty. 25% of children in Scotland do not get a hot meal in the evening, and 40% of households cannot afford to heat their homes to a reasonable standard. Like many big cities in western Europe, cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh have many homeless people, drug addicts and alcoholics and areas with bad housing and social problems. However, there are also many wealthy people, and some of them have very luxurious lifestyles.

freaky facts:

About 50 languages other than English are spoken in Scotland. Apart from the languages of the main immigrant groups, who come mostly from the countries of the former British Empire, there are also the languages of asylum seekers and refugees from, for example, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Iran, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sudan, Somalia, Russia, Estonia and Chile. And don't forget Gaelic, which was spoken in Scotland even before the arrival of the English.