



Scotland Lodging Tips

An Outlandish Extra PDF

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey Scotland Lodging Tips

A multitude of marvelous lodgings are available throughout Scotland. When searching for accommodations within major cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Inverness, however, it can be a challenge to find lodgings that are safe and sanitary at an affordable price.

Obviously, you can Google the type of accommodation you're looking for, such as: "Edinburgh, Scotland Hotels" ... "Glasgow, Scotland B&Bs" ... "Inverness, Scotland Hostels," and the like.

Unfortunately, this search method is a crapshoot. The Internet-posted description of any major city's accommodations may be decidedly different from the property's real-world appearance and quality. In fact, the super cheap Hotel, B&B, or Hostel listings within large cities may be little better than skanky flophouses, a fact not reflected in the photos and descriptions provided online.

Even **Trip Advisor**—a helpful Internet resource for finding high-quality, low-cost lodgings in and near any Scottish village or small city—isn't great for finding a safe and sanitary place to stay in Edinburgh or Glasgow. These cities are huge, and have so many accommodation listings that you could spend *days* investigating their reviews, yet still not know for sure that what you've read is accurate.

Wherever You Travel, Your Very Best Bet is to Lodge at a Place Recommended by a Friend

If someone you know has enjoyed staying in an Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Inverness Hotel, B&B, or Hostel, *that* is the place you should book.

If none of your personal friends have ever lodged in these cities, do not worry. You have some brand new Outlandish friends who *have*—**US!**

Within most of *Outlandish Scotland Journey's* **Great Site** Chapters, we offer links to lodgings we are personally familiar with.

If we're not personally familiar with any of the lodgings in or near a Great Site location, we provide links to accommodations we've already spent time investigating—places that we believe to be reputable, safe, and sanitary.

In the event that the lodgings we suggest don't appeal to you, follow the tips below.



Visit Scotland's Accommodation Directory

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/>

VisitScotland.com is the official website for Scotland's National Tourist Board, and a respected resource for everything Scottish. As such, it also is the best resource to use when searching for lodgings within major cities.

"Working closely with private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, we strive to ensure that our visitors experience the very best of Scotland and that the country makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets and realizes its potential."

All accommodation properties listed by Visit Scotland have been vetted by them, and are required to maintain standards that will reflect well on Scotland's travel industry in order to continue being included in their directories. If you book an accommodation listed on VisitScotland.com and have an unsatisfactory experience, please let them know about it. (Please don't forget to let them know if you have a particularly pleasant experience, as well.)

Other UK/Scotland Accommodation Websites

There are plenty of Internet accommodation directories that sell space to lodging businesses wishing to market their properties. These websites do not, however, inspect or investigate the properties listed. "That's up to the Scotland Tourist Board ... VisitScotland." Because of this, we prefer using VisitScotland's accommodation directories, especially when searching for lodgings in major cities.

Types of Accommodations and How to Find Them

🛏 Check in Cheap: Scottish Hostels

No matter where you travel, hostels offer the cheapest beds available and are a wonderful way to save money. After all, each night's lodging is simply a place where you *sleep* between days spent exploring Outlandishly exciting sites in Scotland. The less you spend on lodgings, the more money you'll have for tours and souvenirs, meals and libations.

Then, again, not every Outlanderite wants to stay exclusively in hostels while visiting Scotland.

CD Miller strongly prefers lodging in B&Bs, but books a hostel stay at least once during every trip she takes to the UK.

"Although I've never had a *bad* experience while lodging in a UK or Scottish hostel, I don't often stay in one. I appreciate privacy when sleeping; enjoy in-room amenities such as an electric kettle

and tea bags, coffee or cocoa packets; and would rather have more sleeping space than that offered by even the most comfortable of bunk beds.

“The reason I make a special point to lodge at least one night at a hostel, *midway* through every UK trip, is so that I can DO MY LAUNDRY!

“Yes, no matter where you stay, a sink is fine for occasionally washing undergarments and socks. But being able to launder *everything* you’ve packed—jeans, shirts, whatever—in the middle of a UK trip makes it much easier to pack light. The more space-limited and expensive it becomes to check luggage when traveling across the pond, the more you need to schedule at least one ‘laundry lodging’ during your holiday.

“Practically every hostel in Scotland has at least a couple of washers and dryers on site. This is—by far—the most convenient way of being able to wash all of your clothes midway through a trip. It’s also much safer than trekking to a city laundromat.

“One caveat about hostel laundries: not all of them have detergent available for purchase. Be sure to check on this when booking. If needed, pack a small zip-lock bag of detergent (*powdered*, if you’ll not be checking a bag) and a few dryer sheets.

“If you forget, not to worry. Go to the hostel’s common room and ask if anyone has a cup of detergent you can buy. (Don’t be surprised if someone simply gives it to you! People who stay in hostels can be extraordinarily friendly and helpful.)”

*Important Point!

The only sure way to avoid skanky flophouses when booking a hostel within a major Scottish city is to book one that is affiliated with a reputable organization, such as those listed below.



The Scottish Youth Hostel Association
(SYHA)

<https://www.syha.org.uk/>

“Established in 1931, SYHA Hostelling Scotland is a self-funding charity operating a network of over 60 exceptional youth and affiliate hostels for the benefit of all those wishing to learn and experience what Scotland has to offer. Our unique sites provide affordable, comfortable, safe and quality-assured accommodation with a warm friendly welcome, local knowledge, activities and services for guests traveling around Scotland.”

Please Note: Although many of them are called “youth” hostels, hostel associations throughout the UK and Europe offer lodgings to individuals of *all* ages—children, teens, adults, and seniors. Several even offer family accommodations and private rooms.

If you’re unfamiliar with hostels, the SYHA has a particularly informative Frequently Asked Questions page: <https://www.syha.org.uk/faq.aspx>



Scottish Independent Hostels (SIH)

<http://www.hostel-scotland.co.uk/>

Over recent years, the association of Scottish Independent Hostels has earned a reputation for reliability and quality equal to that of the SYHA.

“SIH is a Membership Association of independently owned Hostels in Scotland. It is the largest Hostel network of its type in the world, with 130 Hostels located from Scotland’s Highlands and Islands to the vibrant cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness within its membership. Each one of our Hostels is unique, providing hospitality from independent owners that is excellent value. The description ‘Hostel’ includes Backpackers, Bothies, Bunkhouse, Group Accommodation and Activity Accommodation and, yes, Hostels! ...

“SIH is a not-for-profit Company to support Independent Hostel Members and to promote Independent Hostelling in Scotland. ...

“Hostels are welcome to join SIH as long as they are **quality assured by Visit Scotland** or sign up to the **SIH Guest Review System**.”



Hostelling International (HI)

<https://www.hihostels.com/search/hostels?q=Scotland>

HI is another highly respected UK and European hostel organization. Affiliated with the UK’s Youth Hostel Association (YHA) and the SYHA, HI lists only safe and sanitary hostels—with a particular focus on hostels housed within historic buildings.

“HI is an organization set up in 1932 to coordinate Youth Hostel Associations around the world. We are one of the world’s largest international membership organizations with more than 3.7 million members and offer many benefits in addition to staying in HI hostels.

“When you want to stay in a hostel, we try to make sure you get the best experience possible. For us it’s not just about having a place to stay, it’s about you experiencing all that hostelling has to offer—whether that’s learning about new cultures, meeting new people or discovering yourself.

“We try to achieve this by working with [local] Youth Hostel Associations to ensure that hostelling is open to everyone, is affordable, and that no matter which HI hostel you visit, you’ll get a great night’s sleep in a safe environment.

“HI hostels can be found in some of the most inspiring and unusual places in the world. Fancy a stay in a jumbo jet in Stockholm? A lighthouse in California? Or maybe a boat in Budapest?”

Be Sure to Also Check Out Visit Scotland's Hostel Directory

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/hostels/>

- From the basic to the boutique, Scotland has a vast range of hostels offering varying facilities.
- Ideal for families, groups, clubs, backpackers and individuals, both young and old.
- Everything from economy dormitories to chic and spacious private rooms with en-suite facilities.

Visit Scotland's "Unusual Scottish Hostels" Webpage is Especially Interesting

<https://www.visitscotland.com/blog/scotland/unusual-hostels-scotland/>

Scottish Bed & Breakfast / Guest House Establishments

From CD Miller:

"As previously stated, I much prefer lodging in B&Bs when visiting the UK and Scotland.

"In 2006, however, I enjoyed a trip to England and Scotland with my friend, Ruby. While planning our trip, Ruby made it quite clear that she preferred the luxury of staying in 3- and 4-star hotels.

"Throughout our 16-day UK trip, Ruby booked us into a major hotel each evening—even a couple of castle hotels! When arranging our 2-night stay in Edinburgh, however, she wasn't able to reserve a fancy-schmancy hotel room. Instead, she lowered her standards and booked us into a B&B that I had thoroughly enjoyed on a previous trip.

"The Gifford House B&B in Edinburgh ended up being Ruby's *favorite*—most comfortable and pleasant—lodging experience for the *entire* trip. While this was a surprise for her, it was *not* a surprise for me. I adore UK B&Bs."

UK B&Bs (also called "Guest Houses") are wonderful places to stay, in addition to being a means to save money.

- The vast majority of B&Bs are far cheaper than hotels—especially those within major cities.
- Not all hotels offer breakfast with an accommodation booking, whereas all Bed-&-Breakfast establishments do. Breakfast the next day is included in the tariff you pay for each evening's B&B or Guest House stay.
- Best of all, while staying at these establishments you get to meet local people (the B&B operators), as well as fellow travelers from all over the globe. When lodging in hotels, people tend to ignore those around them. The homey atmosphere of a good B&B, however, encourages lodgers to introduce themselves and strike up a conversation. The benefits of this kind of interaction cannot be overstated!

When searching for B&Bs in and around Scottish villages and small cities, use the suggestions we provide within **Great Site** chapters of *Outlandish Scotland Journey*, or peruse the reviews posted on **TripAdvisor's** website.

<https://www.tripadvisor.com>

If our suggestions for B&Bs in major Scottish cities don't appeal to you, use **VisitScotland's** B&B and Guesthouse directory for the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Inverness. You can sort your search by visitor rating or price.

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/bandbs-guesthouses/>



Livable to Luxurious Scottish Hotels

If you prefer staying in a hotel wherever you travel, use VisitScotland's hotel directory—particularly when searching for hotels in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Inverness.

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/hotels/>

Alternatively, many International hotel companies have properties in Scotland's metropolitan areas. If you have a relationship with a major hotel chain, go to that company's website and search for their hotels in Scotland. The following hotel chains, for example, have properties in Edinburgh:

- Best Western
- Hilton (Waldorf Astoria, Doubletree, & Carlton)
- Holiday Inn
- Marriott
- Travelodge

When searching for hotels in Scottish villages or small cities, use **TripAdvisor**.

And that concludes our Outlandish Scotland Journey Scotland Lodging Tips.