



Northern Highlands & Islands

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Best Places to Stay

- » The Torridon (p388)
- » Garenin Holiday Cottages (p408)
- » Toravaig House Hotel (p397)
- » The Ceilidh Place (p384)
- » Tongue SYHA (p379)

Best Places to Eat

- » The Albannach (p382)
- » Captain's Galley (p376)
- » Three Chimneys (p402)
- » Badachro Inn (p387)
- » Applecross Inn (p388)

Why Go?

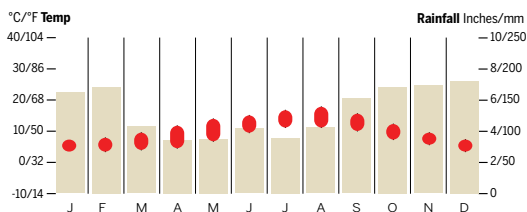
Scotland's vast and melancholy soul is here: an epic land with a stark beauty that leaves an indelible imprint on the hearts of those who journey through it. Mist and mountains, rock and heather, and long, sun-blessed summer evenings are the payoff for so many days of horizontal rain. It's simply magical.

Stone tells stories throughout. The chambered cairns of Caithness and the brochs of Sutherland are testament to the skills of prehistoric builders; cragtop castles and the broken walls of abandoned crofts tell of turbulent history.

Outdoors is the place to be, whatever the weather; there's nothing like comparing windburn or mud-ruined boots over a well-deserved dram by the crackling fire of a Highland pub. The landscape lends itself to activity, from woodland strolls to thrilling mountain-bike descents, from sea kayaking to Munro bagging, from beachcombing to birdwatching. Best are the locals, big-hearted and straight-talking; make it your business to get to know them.

When to Go?

Portree



Jun Long evenings bathe achingly sublime landscapes in a dreamy light.

Jul The Hebridean Celtic Festival is a top time to experience the culture of the Outer Hebrides.

Sep Less busy than summer, the midges have gone and (if you're lucky) temperatures are still OK.

Northern Highlands & Islands Highlights

- 1 Gorging on fresh, succulent seafood in the delightful town of **Ullapool** (p383), with its picture-perfect harbour
- 2 Dipping your toes in the water at some of the world's most beautiful beaches on **Harris** (p409) and **Barra** (p414)
- 3 Shouldering the challenge of the **Cuillin Hills** (p398), with their rugged silhouettes brooding over the skyscape of Skye
- 4 Picking your jaw up off the floor as you marvel at the epic Highland scenery of the **far northwest** between Durness and Ullapool (p381)
- 5 Taking the trip out to **Cape Wrath** (p381), Britain's northwestern shoulder and gloriously remote
- 6 Relaxing in postcard-pretty **Plockton** (p389), where the Highlands meet the Caribbean
- 7 Launching yourself in a sea kayak to explore the otter-rich waters around the **Isle of Skye** (p392)

