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BLOG

BUDGETING CHEAT SHEET FOR SCOTLAND

HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD YOU BRING?

A REALISTIC GUIDE TO SPENDING IN SCOTLAND

Budgeting Cheat Sheet

So you're heading to Scotland, you've paid for flights and accommodation. Now you're wondering how much money to bring along with you?

Good question!

It, of course, depends on what you want to do. If you're heading on a hike you'll probably spend money less money than if you're heading on a whisky or castle tour of Scotland.

That said, I designed this little budgeting cheat sheet to help you understand the different costs awaiting you, what to keep in mind when you'll be in Scotland and a day by day budget planner - which you can copy depending how long you're spending in Scotland.

Keep in mind regarding your budget:

Three meals a day

Of course if your B&B includes breakfast, you only plan for two. They may even offer to make you a sandwich for lunch!

Don't forget to add in extra money if you plan to treat yourself to a special restaurant experience.

Transportation within the country

If you're renting a car, think about gas money.

If you're using public transport, plan your travels in advance so you can book train or bus tickets in advance. It saves a lot on the price. Also, don't forget about transportation to and from the airport.

Activities you may want to partake in

Thankfully more and more prices for activities are available online so you will know what to expect. Include activities such as whisky tastings, castle visits, tours, etc.

Any additional accommodation fees

Some B&Bs may take half/full payment at the end of your stay, so ensure to bring that amount or reserve it on your credit card budget.

Example budget breakdown

FOOD AND DRINKS 30-40%

£15-20 per person per day, if your breakfast is included in your accommodation and if you are being reasonable.

If you want to treat yourself to a nice dinner at the Witchery or even a Michelin starred restaurant, I would add an extra £40 - £100 per person.

ACTIVITIES 20-30%

Again this will depend on how long you stay and the purpose of your trip. As a guide, here are typical prices:

Museums are free, what! Cool, I know!

You can visit the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh for free as well. If you want a guided tour, be advised that you should book in advance.

Castles are far from free though. As an example in 2017: Edinburgh Castle is priced at £16.50. Stirling Castle is at £14.50. Urquhart Castle is at £8.50. Eilean Donan's iconic castle is at £7.50.

Classic distillery tours (usually including a sip of their whisky) average at £8 (though there are free tours, like at the Glenlivet distillery). Tour companies such as Rabbie's offer day-tours that include a visit at a distillery (usually starting around £40) or multiple-day whisky tours starting over £100.

You can take advantage of free walking tours in Edinburgh - they are great! - but be aware that it is customary to tip the guide at the end. I would advise £5-10 if you enjoyed it.

Other example of prices (all based on a single adult):

Edinburgh ghost bus tour is priced at £16

Real Mary King's Close is priced at £14.50

Military tattoo ticket prices vary between £25 and £70

Edinburgh zoo tickets are priced between £17-19 depending on when you book

Going up the fantastic Scott Monument is priced at £5

Edinburgh Botanic Gardens Glasshouse admission is at £5.50, though you can walk around for free.

Glasgow Science Centre is priced from £11

Cruises on Loch Lomond start at £10

Example budget breakdown

-continued-

TRANSPORTATION 10-15%

If you're driving around the country, £60-80 will probably be the max you spend on gas money for a road trip of around 3-4 days.

It costs £10 for a return bus from Glasgow airport to the city centre. It is £7.50 for Edinburgh (though you can also take the tram for £8.50 return).

Return bus tickets don't usually expire for 28 days, so it's the best choice if you're returning to the same airport.

City fares are at :

£1.60 for a single in Glasgow's subway or Edinburgh buses

£4 for a day pass around Glasgow's subway or Edinburgh buses

Be careful, many buses around Scotland only take exact fare, which means you won't get your change back.

GIFTS AND SOUVENIRS 10%

You may want to bring home a specific souvenir. Put some money aside for that. If you love tweed (think Harris Tweed) be aware that quality tweed clothing will cost upward from £100.

MISCELLANEOUS 10%

As a rule, it's good to have a 'emergency' budget. This may be having to take a taxi to/from the airport instead of the bus, treating yourself to an unexpected tour or restaurant, or if unfortunately something bad happens. Try to keep that money in a different place than the rest of your money so you know it's safe.

EXTRA ACCOMMODATION PAYMENT

I can't give you an estimate for this, but if you know your accommodation costs, it'll be easy to know how much there is still to pay. You can of course still decide to put it on the credit/debit card as not to carry too much money.

Fill-in travel budget planner

FULL TRIP

TRANSPORT TO/FROM THE AIRPORT	_____
ACCOMMODATION	_____
GIFTS & SOUVENIRS	_____
ADDED SUBTOTALS FROM ALL DAYS	_____
EMERGENCY BUDGET	_____
TOTAL	_____

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY	_____
FOOD & DRINKS	_____
ACTIVITY 1	_____
ACTIVITY 2	_____
TOTAL	_____

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY	_____
FOOD & DRINKS	_____
ACTIVITY 1	_____
ACTIVITY 2	_____
TOTAL	_____

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY	_____
FOOD & DRINKS	_____
ACTIVITY 1	_____
ACTIVITY 2	_____
TOTAL	_____

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY	_____
FOOD & DRINKS	_____
ACTIVITY 1	_____
ACTIVITY 2	_____
TOTAL	_____

Fill-in travel budget planner

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY

FOOD & DRINKS

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TOTAL

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY

FOOD & DRINKS

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TOTAL

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY

FOOD & DRINKS

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TOTAL

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY

FOOD & DRINKS

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TOTAL

DAY ____

TRANSPORT FOR THE DAY

FOOD & DRINKS

ACTIVITY 1

ACTIVITY 2

TOTAL



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Camila Contreras is a Canadian/Chilean writer and publishing professional.

She moved to Scotland in 2012 to study at the University of St Andrews. There, she met the love of her life and decided to stay.

With her Scottish partner, she has since lived in Edinburgh and Stirling, and visited much of the country.

The popularity of her travel/expat blog pushed her to develop useful bite-sized guides to help people plan and enjoy their trip to beautiful Scotland.

WANT MORE INFO?

Did you like this brochure and want more?

Camila offers specific guidebooks for the following Scottish destinations

- Edinburgh
- St Andrews
- ...and more to come!

You can purchase them for a small price at her online shop: WWW.ADVENTITIOUSVIOLET.COM/SHOP

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