



ADVENTITIOUS
VIOLET
BLOG

PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLISTS

PREPARE YOUR TRIP TO SCOTLAND

INSIDE YOU'LL FIND USEFUL TIPS AND PRINTABLE
CHECKLISTS AND PLANNERS

Your Pre-travel checklists

I don't know about you, but I always find that planning a trip is the best part! Okay, not the best part because travelling is pretty good fun too, but the act of planning is a perfect way to anticipate and get excited about an upcoming trip!

Be prepared so you can fully enjoy your trip once you arrive in Scotland!

Travelling to Scotland isn't as stressful as travelling to many other countries may be. If you are reading this, you can probably speak English, therefore a lot of the communication should be pretty straightforward. You may only need time to get used to the accent!

In this brochure, you will find useful checklists to help you plan your trip step by step. It includes some insider tips to keep in mind when travelling specifically to the UK and Scotland. At the end, you'll even find a printable fill-in travel planner and packing list.

It's overly organised and may include some steps you want to skip, but that's okay, at least it'll remind you of everything you should think about before leaving!

Happy planning and packing!

- CAMILA CONTRERAS

3-6 months before your trip

○ Start planning your budget and length of your travels

It's increasingly cheap to fly within Europe or from North America to Europe, but you may want to make it clear to yourself and/or your travel partner what your realistic budget is. It will help you decide how long to stay in Scotland.

Check out my other brochure on budgeting a trip to Scotland to help make a realistic budget for your trip.

A weekend is perfect for a city break in either Edinburgh or Glasgow, if you're coming from within Europe. A week will afford you a chance to do a quick tour of the country. And with 2-6 weeks of travel you'll be able to discover so much of Scotland that you will never want to leave.

○ Make sure to confirm holidays with your employer

Important, and yet often overlooked, step.

○ Book your flights

Websites like Skyscanner are best to check if you're looking for a good deal. Booking a few months prior to your trip will also increase your chance to save money. And don't forget, Tuesdays afternoon are the best time to purchase flights online!

○ Book your accommodation

Your budget and the length of your travels, will help you plan this one. Airbnbs are perfect for city breaks. If heading into the Highlands, I highly recommend B&Bs to experience true Scottish hospitality. They usually also offer a hearty breakfast included in the price - which is great for the belly and the budget.

Pro tip: Some B&Bs may take half/full payment upon departure, so make sure to make a note of that so you don't get a surprise later on!

○ Do some research and get excited!

Whether that's on Pinterest, with guidebooks, going through blogs, or combing through Adventitious Violet blog, research will help you get organised. Making a list of what is important for you will also help you keep your priorities straight once you arrive in Scotland.

In the weeks leading up to the trip



Print all the accommodation information

Confirm your reservation(s), check-in times, print the information and directions. Even put it in a folder if you're super organised - it'll be ready for when you fly out.



Purchase your travel money

Scotland, like the rest of the UK, uses the GBP, British Pound. You can check the rates online at your local bank and pick the best day to go in and purchase your pocket money.



Notify your credit card company that you'll be abroad

You don't want your credit card to be blocked while you're abroad, so ensure your credit card company knows where you're at. At the same time, verify the charges that may incur when you use your card abroad.

You can put costs such as food, activities and accommodation on your credit card. Please be aware that some B&Bs may take half/full payment upon departure, so ensure you budget for that.



Rent a car

It's best to reserve a car hire in advance to make sure you get what you want. A few weeks prior to the trip should do the trick. It's also great if you want to pick it up right from the airport.



Book a tour

Book any day or multiple-day tours online as soon as you can. For walking tours or bus tours within the cities, you can usually walk up on the day.



Get your international driving permit, if you're going to drive

The UK accepts some permits that aren't in English, but to be safe, I would either call the car rental company and verify with them or get your international driving permit.



Purchase travel insurance

Don't be silly, purchase travel insurance! The peace of mind is worth it. Print all the details to bring along with you and to leave to a family/friend at home.



Finalise your research - restaurants, things to see, etc.



Send your itinerary to family or friends

what to pack

The main thing to tell yourself when packing for a trip to Scotland is that it's never too cold and never too warm, it's autumn-like all year long.

Depending on how long you plan on being in Scotland, a simple carry-on suitcase or backpack will suffice. Scotland isn't a fancy country and all you'll really need are a few layers and good shoes.

The following list of items is based on a one-week trip to Scotland.

Clothing

☐ A water/wind proof jacket

The most important item to bring with you in Scotland - and this is good all year long. It may end up being beautiful the whole time, but a water proof and wind proof jacket will shelter you from the changeable Scottish weather.

☐ Hiking gear / rain proof trousers, if you plan to hike.

☐ 2 pairs of jeans/ trousers

☐ 7 t-shirts or thin long sleeve shirts

☐ 2 warm jumpers

☐ Underwear and socks for every day

☐ Scarf, gloves and a hat (yes for any season, you never know!)

If you're going to be walking about all day long every day, you may want to keep these in your day bag to make sure you're always prepared.

☐ 1 pair of shorts + 1 sleeveless shirt, if you're coming in the summer.

Chances are you won't need summer clothes very much in Scotland, even at the height of summer. But this may be useful if you come on some of the days where the temperature is above 20 degrees celcius.

Miscellaneous items

- ☐ An adapter (plug and power)

If you're coming from outside the UK, then make sure to bring an adapter. The UK is on the 230v with three prongs (type G plug), which is different from Europe and North America.
- ☐ Cellphone and charger

If you're coming from Europe, get yourself some credit to text or call in case of emergency. If you're from abroad, this may be useful to be able to use WIFI, which is readily available in big cities or at your accommodation.
- ☐ A pocket first aid kit
- ☐ Medication you may need for the duration of the trip

Be aware that some medication, such as acetaminophen (paracetamol in the UK) or allergy pills, are readily available over the counter, but in small doses.
- ☐ Midge repellent, if coming in the summer
- ☐ Small bottle of sunscreen (you may be surprised!)
- ☐ Camera + lenses and tripod
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Notebook and pen, if you like to keep a travel journal
- ☐ Maps, guidebooks (from Adventitious Violet, perhaps!) and a dictionary if you need it.

Footwear

○ A pair of sneakers

Depending when you're coming to Scotland, a simple pair of sneakers, in which you're comfortable, will be all you need.

○ A pair of boots

If you want to hike, you should bring your hiking boots. If you're coming during the winter, you may want to bring rain boots to keep your feet dry. Don't forget to throw in warm socks to wear in them.

○ Other pair of shoes, as desired.

If you're coming for a nice city break, then swap the boots for a nice pair of flats or going out shoes.

LOCAL TIPS / REAL TALK

- Leave the flowy skirts and dresses home. The wind is not in your favour in Scotland.
- Leave the sandals at home. In Scotland, they are mostly pointless.
- Leave the Canada Goose at home. It rarely falls below zero in Scotland. Just be mindful and bring layers to warm yourself up.
- Do not bother bringing a pocket umbrella to Scotland. Chances are it will break with the strong wind. If anything, spare a few pounds to buy one if you see the weather turning. OR make sure you have a good water/wind proof jacket that has a sturdy hood.
- Do bring a waterproof backpack (or one that comes with a waterproof layer) to keep all your stuff dry.
- Wellies (rubber rain boots) are always nice in Scotland, but be mindful that they can be cumbersome to travel with.

Fill in travel planner

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS 1

CONTACT NAME &
PHONE NUMBER

DIRECTIONS

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS 2

CONTACT NAME &
PHONE NUMBER

DIRECTIONS

ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS 3

CONTACT NAME &
PHONE NUMBER

DIRECTIONS

Fill in travel planner

DAY ____

PLANS:

DAY ____

PLANS:

DAY ____

PLANS:

DAY ____

PLANS:

DAY ____

PLANS:



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

For more information, you can also contact her at:
CAMILA@ADVENTITIOUSVIOLET.COM