



SCOTLAND

Scotland is the north of Great Britain. Scottish people have had their own language, Gaelic, for hundreds of years. In fact, this language is still proudly spoken today, especially in the north of this beautiful country. There are over 790 islands and many rivers and lochs (Scottish Lakes) in Scotland. Loch Ness is one of the most famous because there are many legends that say it has a monster living in it. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, Sean Connery, the famous 007 actor and John Logie Baird, the inventor of the television are just a few of many famous Scots.

A great number of tourists visit Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh, every year, especially for its rich cultural history. Edinburgh is very popular because because of its museums, art galleries, theatres and many modern and traditional shops. Many people call it the "Athens of the North". Edinburgh Castle, which has 1.000 years of history, still dominates the city skyline. Many events are held in the castle throughout the year, including concerts by rock bands , jazz groups and orchestras, as well as a wide variety of art exhibitions.

Edinburgh also has a large zoo. It is home to over 1.000 animals and boasts the biggest penguin pool in the world. It is open every day of the year except Christmas Day. There are safari rides, children's play areas, shops and restaurants. The zoo also runs a conversation programme for animals on the list of endangered species.

Scotland has wonderful natural landscapes. The Highlands of Scotland are very beautiful mountainous areas. They are less populated than the rest of Scotland and you can still hear a lot of Gaelic spoken there. Ben Nevis, Great Britain's highest peak, is popular with climbers from around the world. However, the weather on this mountain can change very suddenly, so inexperienced hikers are advised not to climb it.

The Shetland Islands, another beautiful region of Scotland, are in the most northerly part of the country. Visitors to this region find no difficulty getting here, either by plane or by boat. Magical natural scenery, castles, monuments and ancient villages are only some of the fascinating sights on these islands. For nature lovers and walkers, they are perfect because there is daylight for almost 24 hours a day during the summer. If you are lucky, you may even see the Northern Lights in the sky, an amazing geophysical phenomenon that has fascinated, and still fascinates, not only visitors, but local inhabitants, as well.

Self- evaluation

- ◆ According to the writer,
 - a) Gaelic is only spoken by famous people.
 - b) there is probably a monster in Loch Ness.
 - c) many well-known people were Scottish.
 - d) Scotland is not part of Great Britain.

- ◆ The city of Edinburgh
 - a) is popular because it is like Athens.
 - b) has a castle with a 1.000-year history.
 - c) is home to a lot of celebrities.
 - d) organises music concerts in its museums.

- ◆ The zoo in Edinburgh
 - a) is concerned with the conservation of animals.
 - b) has more than 1.000 penguins in its penguin pool.
 - c) is always open on Christmas Day.
 - d) has special children's day.

- ◆ The Highlands of Scotland,
 - a) everybody speaks Gaelic.
 - b) you will find Britain's highest mountain.
 - c) there are more people than in the rest of Scotland.
 - d) people are strongly advised not to go climbing.

- ◆ Regarding the Shetland Islands,
 - a) you can only get to them by plane.
 - b) it is always daylight there.
 - c) they do not have many historical sites.
 - d) an unusual natural phenomenon occurs there.

Answers

- c
- b
- a
- d
- d