

near the Welsh border, is the most beautiful place Dawn's ever been. An arts, pubs, and shopping extravaganza, the town consists of rows of perfectly kept half-timbered medieval buildings along the river Dee on the site of a former Roman fortress. The **tourist office** has current information on events and books beds. Try Hoole Rd. for B&B. The **IYHF hostel** 1 mi. out of town on Hough Green (tel. (0244) 68 00 56) has the balmiest showers in Britain.

## Scotland

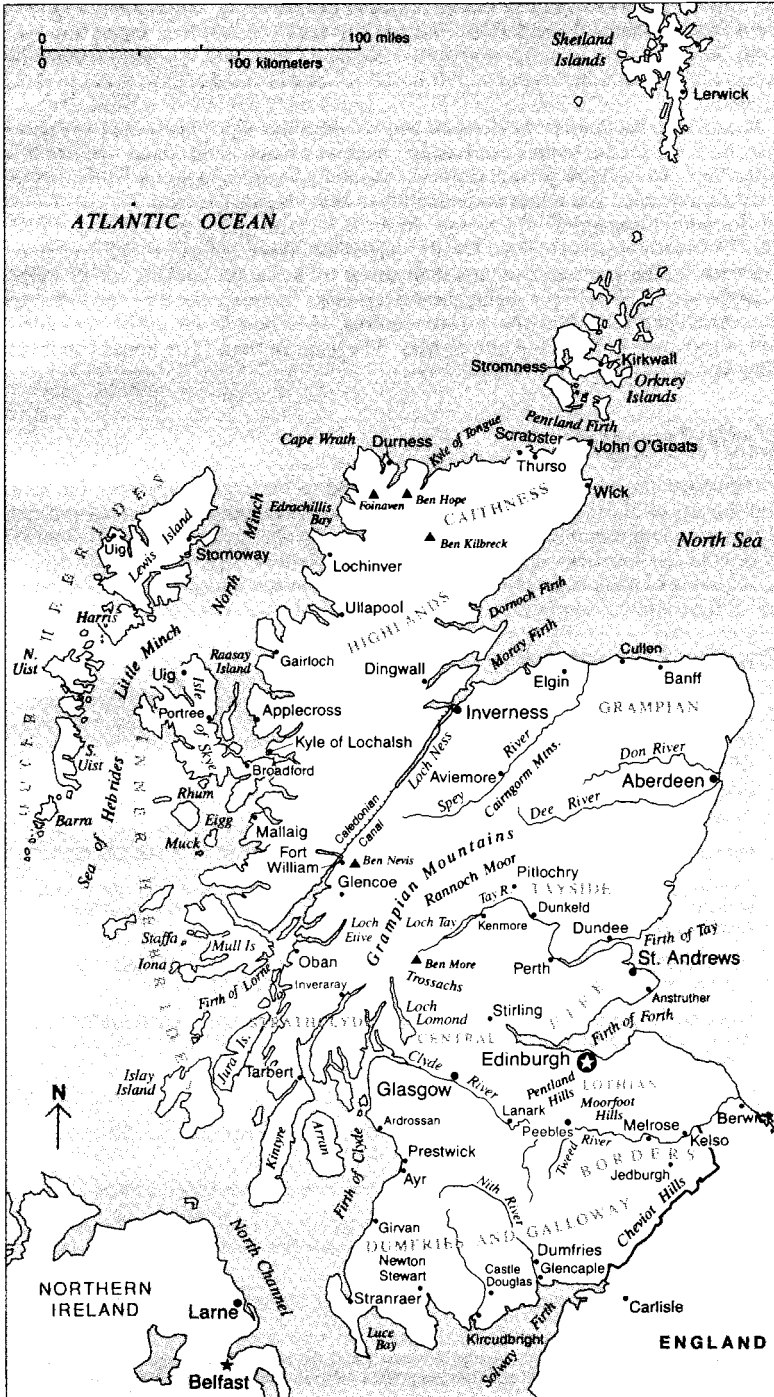
Although united with England in 1707, Scotland maintains a distinct identity. Its schools, church, and judicial systems are largely based in the ancient capital of Edinburgh. Even its currency—pegged to the British pound and difficult to exchange overseas—shows Scottish cameos and landscapes in place of English ones. Equally distinct is Scotland's famous heritage of kilt, clan, and bagpipe, although this owes less to fact than to the romanticism of Sir Walter Scott. After having ruthlessly suppressed the Highland culture in the 18th century, Romantic Britain "discovered" the noble, Gaelic-speaking Highlander as an attractive alternative to its often ignoble industrial present. This discovery did not, however, extend to returning the Highlands to the clans; the hills and glens remain the deserted wilds that you see today.

These wilds are staggeringly beautiful. Humans destroyed the forests hundreds of years ago, leaving every chiselmark of nature visible. While the highest of the peaks, Ben Nevis, barely tops 1500m, treeless slopes and precipitous rock faces from loch to summit will make you catch your breath. Early August through mid-September is heather time in Scotland, and the hills erupt in purple. May and June are, however, the best months to visit. Even in early summer, the weather is often cold and soggy. You will need warm woolen clothing, a slicker (preferably light and stowable), and a hat. In more remote areas, waterproof overpants and boots will be a blessing.

During July and August, parts of the western coast and inner islands feel like an international zoo. Avoid big tourist centers like Inverness and Fort William; the farther west and north you go, the more powerful Scotland's magic. Stop by a *ceilidh* (KAY-lee) dance or a weekend folk festival; look for a resonant bagpipe competition or a Highland Gathering in an out-of-the-way place. Many festivals take place in June: the **Burns Festival** in Ayr, Orkney's **St. Magnus Festival**, and **Common Ridings** throughout the Borders. July brings the **Glasgow Folk Festival**, and August, the incomparable **Edinburgh International Festival**.

Only a few railways snake their way north to the Highlands and Islands; only a few buses or boats touch some smaller towns and islands each week; and some remote areas are served only by post buses. Invest £3.50 in *Getting Around the Highlands and Islands*, an exhaustive, indispensable timetable. Bikes can be rented in almost every town and transported to your starting point by train free (reservations, £3, are useless). Hitching is successful except in heavily toured areas. The **Freedom of Scotland** ticket allows unlimited rail travel for £56 for one week, £92 for two weeks. The **Highlands and Islands Travelpass** allows unlimited travel on most rail, boat, and bus routes, and is available for 7 over 8 or 13 over 15 days (Oct.-May £35 and £50, respectively; June-Sept. £55 and £70). Neither gives you your money's worth unless you travel frantically.

Hiking in Scotland is ethereal, but the undomesticated countryside can be extremely dangerous. You can't rely on cairns or well-marked paths to guide your way, and you can *never* predict when the mist will come down. Blizzards may occur even in July. Never climb a mountain without sturdy, boots, an **Ordnance Survey Map**, a compass, adequate waterproof gear and clothing, and an emergency food supply. Mosquito repellent will also come in handy. Leave an itinerary and timetable at the hostel, croft, or nearest mountain rescue station. For more details on walk-



ing and mountaineering in Scotland, consult Poucher's *The Scottish Peaks* (£9) or the Scottish Tourist Board's *Hillwalking in Scotland* (£2.25). Hunting season runs from July through January, and deer-stalking is especially popular from mid-August to mid-October; consult your hostel warden or innkeeper to avoid hunting grounds.

Camping in Scotland is the cheapest way to spend the night. There are trespassing laws here, but tactful tenters can lay their bags on a patch of farmland—asking first is the best policy. Most private sites cost about £3-5 per night and are oriented toward caravanners; you might prefer simply to camp beside the road. Pick up a copy of *Scotland Camping and Caravan Parks* (£3.25) at any tourist office. IYHF (SYHA) youth hostels are often ideally located for hikers, but call ahead in summer (between 7-10pm) or better yet, use their new inter-hostel fax booking service (50p). Charges are £2.90-5.70 per night; sheet sleep-sacks (rentable for 50p) and membership cards (purchasable as you go) are required. Most hostels are closed by October and reopen only in March, April, or May. The maps in the SYHA hostel handbook (75p at tourist offices) are helpful.

## Edinburgh

Capital of the medieval kingdom of Scotland, Edinburgh is arguably the most alluring city in Northern Europe. Still the center of Scotland's autonomous judicial, ecclesiastic, and administrative establishments, Edinburgh is neither too civilized to be cold nor too large to be unattractive. Cobblestone alleyways huddle around an imposing castle, magisterial 18th-century townhouses sweep around lush parks, and culture throbs through the city's consortium of pubs, museums, and galleries.

### Practical Information

**Tourist Office:** 3 Princes St. (tel. 557 17 00), in Waverley Market next to the Waverley train station. Busy but efficient accommodations service (£1). Open July-Aug. Mon.-Sat. 8:30am-9pm, Sun. 11am-9pm; May-June and Sept. Mon.-Sat. 8:30am-8pm, Sun. 11am-8pm; Oct.-April Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-1pm.

**Budget Travel:** **Edinburgh Travel Centre**, 196 Rose St. (tel. 226 20 19). Open Mon.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm, Sat. 10am-1pm.

**Consulates:** U.S., 3 Regent Terr. (tel. 556 83 15). **Australia**, 80 Hanover St. (tel. 226 62 71).

**Currency Exchange:** When banks are closed, go to the train station bureau (open March-Oct. Mon.-Sat. 7am-10pm, Sun. 8am-10pm; Nov.-Feb. Mon.-Sat. 7am-9pm, Sun. 8am-9pm) or American Express (below).

**American Express:** 139 Princes St. (tel. 225 78 81). Mail held, all banking services, and best exchange rates around. Open Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat.-Sun. 9am-noon.

**Post Office:** 2-4 Waterloo Pl. (tel. 550 82 29), at the corner of Princes St. and North Bridge. Poste Restante. Open Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5:30pm, Fri. 9:30am-5:30pm, Sat. 9am-12:30pm.

**Postal Code:** EH1 1AL.

**Telephone Code:** 031.

**Trains:** **Waverley Station**, tel. 556 24 51. Ticket office open whenever trains run. Information office open Mon.-Sat. 8am-1am, Sun. 9am-11pm.

**Baggage Storage:** at Waverley Station (60p-£1). Open Mon.-Sat. 6am-11pm, Sun. 7am-11pm.

**Buses:** **St. Andrew Square Bus Station**, St. Andrew Sq. (tel. 556 84 64 or 557 57 17). Scottish Citylink desk open Mon.-Sat. 9am-5:15pm, Sun. 9:30am-5pm. Tickets also available from drivers.

**Public Transportation:** **Lothian Regional Transport** (tel. 220 4111). Buy ticket (20-90p) on bus; exact change only.

**Hitchhiking:** For points south (except Newcastle and the northeast of England), take bus #4, 15, or 79 to Fairmilehead and then the A702 to Biggar. For Newcastle, York, and Dur-



ham, take bus #44 to Musselburgh and the A1. For the North, take bus #18 or 40 to Barn-ton.

**Laundromat: Bruntfield Laundrette**, 108 Bruntfield Pl. (229 26 69), near Bruntfield youth hostel. Wash £1.20, dry 20p. Open Mon.-Fri. 8:45am-7:30pm, Sat. 8:45am-6pm, Sun. 10am-4pm. **Bendix Launderette**, 13 S. Clerk St. (667 58 44). Wash £1, dry 20p. Open Mon.-Fri. 8am-8pm, Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm.

**Pharmacy: Boots**, 48 Shandwick Pl. (225 67 57). Open Mon.-Sat. 8:45am-9pm, Sun. 11am-4:30pm.

**Camping Supplies: Camping Outdoors Centre**, 77 South Bridge (tel. 225 33 39). No rentals. Open Mon. 9:30am-5:30pm, Tues.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm, Sat. 9am-5pm.

**Bike Rental: Central Cycle Hire**, 13 Lochrin Pl. (tel. 228 63 33). £4-10 per day. £20-40 per week. £20 deposit. Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm; May-Sept. Sun. 10am-noon and 5-7pm.

**Emergencies: Police or Ambulance** (tel. 999). Police Headquarters, Fettes Ave. (tel. 311 31 31).

## Accommodations and Camping

Finding a room should not pose problems except during the Festival. The tourist office is helpful (£1 fee), as is the train station accommodations office (free). Hostels are cheapest, but Edinburgh's myriad B&Bs and guesthouses provide more privacy and a home-cooked breakfast for £10-15 per person. Your best hunting ground is the Bruntfield district around Gilmore Pl. and Viewforth Terr. (take bus #10, 11, 16 or 23 from Princes St.) and the Newington area between Dalkeith Rd. and Minto St. (buses #3, 7, 8 or 31 from North Bridge). The brochure *Where to Stay 1991* from the tourist office gives a comprehensive list of lodgings. Arrive at your peril after 8pm, when bed-finding assistance winds down.

**High Street Hostel**, 8 Blackfriars St. (tel. 557 39 84), the 2nd right walking downhill on the Royal Mile after the South Bridge intersection. Top notch hostel, a traveler's dream. Central, friendly and clean. Free movie videos every night. 130 beds in 6-16-bed rooms. £5. Laundry service (£2.50) and kitchen. No phone bookings; arrive before noon in summer, 10am during Festival. Open 24 hrs.

**IYHF Hostel Eglinton**, 18 Eglinton Crescent (tel. 337 11 20). Get off at Haymarket train station or take bus #3, 4 or 44 to Haymarket. Lobby could be a centerfold of *Victoriana* magazine. Reception open 7am-2am, but arrive early or book ahead. £5.70. Open Jan. 2-Nov. 31.

**IYHF Hostel Bruntfield**, 7 Bruntfield Crescent (tel. 447 29 94). Take bus #11, 15, 16 or 17. Next to a park. Reception open 7am-2pm, but draconian regulations prohibit check-in before 11:20am or leaving the building before 7:30am. £5.20. Open March-Dec.

**Christian Alliance Frances Kinnaird Hostel**, 14 Coates Crescent (tel. 225 36 08). Women only. Clean rooms and good meals. Curfew midnight. No kitchen. £10-11. Breakfast included.

**Camping: Silverknowes Caravan Park**, Marine Dr. (tel. 312 68 74). Take bus #14. Tents £4-5. Open April-Oct.

## Food

Edinburgh has a spread of inexpensive restaurants, though you're not likely to find cheap food, friendly atmosphere, *and* traditional Scottish fare all in one place. The posh establishments that do serve Scottish treats will blow your budget, but you can get such delights as haggis or cock-a-leekie soup at reasonable prices in local cafés and groceries. Pub lunches are usually good values (£1.50-3 for an entree with vegetable and salad). Those cooking for themselves should shop at **Scotmid** or **Wm. Low** markets on Nicolson St.

**Teviot Restaurant**, Teviot Row Union, Bristo Sq. Edinburgh University student cafeteria, open Oct.-late June Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-6:45pm. Hot, full meals under £2. During the festival, it becomes the **Fringe Club**, a restaurant open to all, and prices go up by about 50%.

**Seeds**, 53 W. Nicolson St. Heaping plates of vegetarian entrees (£1.80-2) and restorative herbal teas. Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-8pm.

**Lachana**, 3 Bristo Pl., near the university. Delicious 4-course vegetarian meal £3.60. Open Mon.-Thurs. noon-2:30pm and 5-7pm, Fri. noon-2:30pm.

**Henderson's Salad Table and Wine Bar**, 94 Hanover St. Wide selection of hot dishes (£.90, with side salads), and wines. Live guitar and piano nightly from 7:30pm. Open Mon.-Thurs. 8am-11pm, Fri.-Sat. 8am-midnight; open Sun. during the festival.

**Oasis Café**, 14 Haymarket Terr., near Eglinton youth hostel. Very cheap, very small. 3-course meal £1.70-2. Full breakfast £1.20. Open Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-2pm, Sat. 9am-1:45pm, Sun. 10am-1:45pm.

**The Baked Potato Shop**, 56 Cockburn St., just below the Royal Mile. Creatively filled spuds (£1.35-1.60) and lots more. Open Sun.-Thurs. 10am-11pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am-11pm; off-season Thurs. to 9pm.

**The Waterfront**, 1c Dock Place, in Leith (Edinburgh's port). Take bus #16 and ask to get off at the bridge over Leith Water; the restaurant is on the left bank of Leith Water behind a parking lot. Nautical motif and luscious seafood barbecues which will set you back £5.50 but are worth every penny. Open Mon.-Sat. 6-10pm.

## Sights

Centerpiece of the city, **Edinburgh Castle** looms into view from miles around. From its windows, on clearer days, you can see all the way across the Firth of Forth to Fife. Eleventh-century **Queen Margaret's Chapel**, the oldest building in Edinburgh, is contained within the castle walls. (Open Mon.-Sat. 9:30am-5:05pm, Sun. 11am-5:05pm. Admission £2.20, children, and seniors £1.10.) On the way down, the medieval **Gladstone's Land** is the oldest house on the Royal Mile, preserved as it was in the 15th and 16th centuries (open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm; admission £1.50, students 75p). **Lady Stair's House**, a 17th-century townhouse, contains memorabilia of Scotland's literary triumvirate of Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, and Robert Louis Stevenson (open June-Sept. Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 2-5pm during Festival; Oct.-May Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm during Festival 2-5pm; free). Next, view the **High Kirk of St. Giles**, whose open-work spire is supported by a crown of flying buttresses. (Cathedral open Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm, Sun. all day.) The final lap of the Mile includes **The People's Story**, a new museum housed in historic Canongate Tolbooth (open daily 10am-6pm; Oct.-May Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. during Festival 2-5pm; free). Save **Holyrood Palace** for last; worth special attention are the **Music Room** and the **Northwest Tower**, where Mary Queen of Scots' secretary, David Rizzio, was stabbed to death before her eyes. Bus #1 or 6 will take you to the palace. (Open Mon.-Sat. 9:30am-5:15pm; also late March-late Oct. Sun. 10:30am-4:30pm; sometimes closed for royal visits. Admission £2, seniors £1.50, students £1.

Of Edinburgh's heavenly constellation of galleries, two are especially notable. The **National Gallery**, on the Mound, has rooms of Old Masters including Raphael's Bridgewater *Madonna*. (Open Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm; free.) The **National Gallery of Modern Art**, on Belford Rd. (take bus #13), houses a statue of two American tourists, drawings by Picasso and Rouault, and rotating monthly exhibits. (Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 2-5pm; free.) The **City Art Centre** (open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm) and **Fruitmarket Gallery** (open Tues.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm, Sun. 1:30-5:30pm), both near the train station on Market St., house excellent exhibits of modern works.

One of the best ways to enjoy Edinburgh is to stroll through the elegant Georgian neighborhoods of the **New Town**, laid out in the 1790s by the young architect James Craig. Before beginning your exploration, visit the **New Town Conservation Centre**, 13A Dundas St. (open Mon.-Fri. 9am-1pm and 2-5pm), for a map and advice. The **Georgian House** on Charlotte Sq. (open April.-Oct. Mon.-Sat. 10am-4:30pm, Sun. 2-4:30pm; admission £1.90, students and seniors 95p), is a good starting point. From Charlotte Sq., head west across Queensferry St. and through the West End to Palmerston Pl. Turn right, passing the huge neo-Gothic **St. Mary's Anglican**

**Cathedral**, and follow the road downhill past Douglas Gardens to Belford Bridge. Here, various alleys and crooked stairs head off to your right to the medieval village of **Dean**, clustered in the ravine of Leith Water. A pathway leads east along Leith Water from Dean to **Stockbridge**, a quaint community full of students, coffeeshops, and good pubs. From here, you can take a bus back up the hill to Princes St.

For a sweeping view of Edinburgh, climb **Arthur's Seat**, an extinct volcano (823 ft.) located in **Holyrood Park**. Overlooking the west side of the seat are the colorful **Salisbury Crags**. Another view is from **Calton Hill**, well past the east end of Princes St., where you can also get a close-up look at Edinburgh's folly, an unfinished replica of the Parthenon; money ran out midway through the first row of columns.

## Entertainment

The destination of choice for live music is **Preservation Hall**, 9 Victoria St., a large pseudo New Orleans hall. Alternative bands play at **Calton Studios**, and **The Venue**, both on Calton Rd., and at **Negociant's** on Lothian Rd. near the university. Two especially good student bars are **The Pear Tree**, on West Nicolson St., with its large outdoor courtyard, and **Greyfriars Bobby's Bar**, both of which are open (and crammed) late. Greyfriars Bobby was a loyal dog who, for years, refused to leave his owner's grave in the yard of Greyfriar's Kirk. The **Café Royal Circle Bar** on W. Register St., off Princes St., is perhaps the most exquisite around, with old wood and stained glass.

The **Traverse Theatre** is on West Bow (tel. 226 26 33); the **Royal Lyceum Theatre**, on Grindlay St. is off Lothian Rd. (tel. 229 96 97). **Usher Hall**, Lothian Rd. (tel. 228 11 55), holds concerts of the superb Scottish National and Chamber Orchestras, while **Ripping Records**, 91 South Bridge (tel. 226 70 10), provides information and tickets for more contemporary musical performances. The best cinema in town is the **Filmhouse**, 88 Lothian Rd. (tel. 228 26 88), showing a selection of classic and critically-acclaimed films. (Tickets £1.50-3; student discounts (£1) available for weekday afternoon shows.) *The List* (80p), available at most bookshops, will let you know what's on.

**The Edinburgh International Festival** (Aug. 11-31, 1991) and its satellites—the Fringe Festival, the Jazz Festival, the Film Festival, and the Military Tattoo—transform the city and transfix their audiences. Thousands descend, and the city does its best to keep them happy—museum hours are extended and special exhibits are arranged. Tickets go on sale by mail starting in May, and the Festival Box Office, 21 Market St., Edinburgh EH1 1BW, opens in late May for counter sales; you can book by phone with a credit card (tel. 225 57 56) except on the day of a performance. (Office open Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm, Sat. 10am-noon; during the festival Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm.) Prices for musical and theatrical events can go as high as £33, but many plays and concerts cost only £3-7. Performances are often sold out well in advance, but sometimes you can buy unsold tickets at half-price on the day of the performance; go to the booth at the bottom of The Mound between 1 and 5pm.

Around the established festival has grown an even larger and more boisterous **Fringe Festival**, now with over 500 amateur and professional companies, which present theater, music, poetry, dance, mime, opera, revue, and various exhibitions. Ticket prices average about £4, and occasionally there are student discounts. For tickets and a comprehensive program, write the **Fringe Festival Office**, 180 High St., Edinburgh EH1 1QS (from abroad, include the equivalent of £2 postage for the program). Telephone or over-the-counter bookings can be made at the office, starting in late July (tel. 226 52 57; open year-round Mon.-Fri. 10am-6pm). The Fringe runs clubs where performers and visitors can chill. Membership fees are £16 for the three weeks.

Progress in contemporary cinema is tracked at the **International Film Festival**, and an **International Jazz Festival** (both in mid-August) has also recently swung into gear. Film information is available from **The Filmhouse**, 88 Lothian Rd., Edinburgh EH3 9BZ (tel. 228 63 82). The box office is open in early August, and phone

and postal bookings are accepted. For jazz information, contact the **Information Centre**, 116 Canongate (tel. 557 16 42). The **Military Tattoo**, a bombastic spectacle of bagpipes and drums, will be performed almost every night on the Castle Esplanade (Aug. 2-24, 1991). For tickets (from £6), write or stop by the office, 22 Market St., Edinburgh EH1 1QB (tel. 225 11 88).

## Glasgow

What Scotland's largest city lacks in stateliness and aesthetic appeal, it makes up for in sheer energy. Glasgow is the capital of workaday Scotland and home to one of Britain's strongest socialist movements. The 40,000 students of Glasgow University make the city one of the liveliest in Britain. Although Edinburgh's historical and cultural glories still put it justifiably first on most itineraries, Glasgow's theaters, museums, parks, and façades warrant a close second. The city's traditional pub crawls and annual festivals continue unabated.

Glasgow's **underground** system, recently redone, circles the center of the city (flat fare 45p). The fully computerized and highly efficient **tourist office** (tel. 204 44 00) is at 35 St. Vincent Pl., adjacent to George Sq. (Open June-Sept. Mon.-Sat. 9am-9pm, Sun. 10am-6pm; Oct.-Easter Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm; Easter-May Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm, Sun. 10am-6pm.) The **post office** (tel. 242 42 60) is at 2-5 George Sq. (Open Mon.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm, Sat. 9am-12:30pm.) **Postal code:** G2 1AA. **Telephone code:** 041.

The cheapest lodgings are in the **IYHF youth hostel**, 11 Woodlands Terr. (tel. 332 30 04), next to Kelvingrove Park and in one of the finest areas of town. It's an easy jaunt from the city center: take Sauchiehall St. west to Charing Cross and follow the hostel signs. From Buchanan Bus Station, walk about 6 blocks up Renfrew St. to the footbridge over the motorway. On the other side, turn right, take the steps past Claremont Terr., and then turn left onto Woodlands Terr. (Curfew 2am. £5.20. Advance reservations essential.) The residence halls at the **University of Glasgow**, located throughout the city, are a good choice in summer. **Maclay Hall**, 18 Park Terr. (tel. 332 50 56), overlooking Kelvingrove Park, is nearest the city center (£8.50, students £7). In summer, make reservations for hostels and B&Bs at least one week in advance. Try the tourist office's free "book-a-bed-ahead" service or, to avoid Glasgow's congestion, venture out to the large **Loch Lomond Youth Hostel (IYHF)** (tel. (038985) 226), less than one hour to the north by bus.

Inexpensive Indian and Chinese restaurants crowd onto Sauchiehall St., in the center of town, and the university neighborhood. The **Third Eye Centre**, 350 Sauchiehall St., has a good vegetarian menu (hot dishes from £1.50) and bookstore and art gallery (open Mon.-Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. noon-5:30pm). The **Grosvenor Café**, 35 Ashton La., off Byres Rd., is a student hangout with dandy deals (sandwiches 20-50p, homemade soup 35p; open Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm). The **Magnus Dining Room** in the University Refectory across from the library at Glasgow University, offers wholesome, inexpensive grub—you don't have to be a registered student (open Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-6:10pm, Fri. 8:30am-3:30pm).

Even if you are in Glasgow only to catch a train, visit **Kelvingrove Park**. Lounge about by the Kelvin River, or wander the leafy paths, discovering the park's odd statues and fountains. In the southwest corner of the park is the **Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum**, home of an arms-and-armor display and many classic paintings, including Van Gogh's portrait of a Glaswegian art dealer. (Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-6pm. Free.) Towering at the north end of the park is the central building of **Glasgow University**. Nearby Byres Rd. is the place to begin your nighttime activities; a popular pub crawl usually commences at **Tennents Bar** by University Rd., and continues down towards the River Clyde—the path is long and the ale is strong. The **Halt Bar**, 106 Woodlands Rd., and the chic **Cul de Sac Bar**, 46 Ashton La., are also in vogue; **Nico's**, on 375 Sauchiehall St., is lively and hectic. More information on nightlife can be found in *The List* (80p), available at most newsstands.



The Glasgow **Barras**, billed as the world's largest open-air market takes place every Saturday and Sunday at London Rd. and Gallowgate (east of the city center). South of town (5km) is the wooded **Pollok Park** (buses #23, 45, or 57), site of the fascinating **Burrell Collection**, amassed from William Burrell's travels in the Orient. (Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-6pm. Free.)

Pick up a copy of *What's On* or *Culture City* for listings of Glasgow's extensive theater and cinema offerings.

### **Near Glasgow: Arran**

Two hours southwest of Glasgow by train and ferry lies the rugged island of Arran, the most accessible of the Scottish isles. Trains connect Glasgow's Central Station and the harbor at Ardrossan, where frequent ferries (1 hr., round-trip £4.60) leave for **Brodick**, Arran's largest village and only tourist trap. Rising above the curving, sandy bay at Brodick is the peak of **Goatfell**, from which you can see north to the ridges of Casteal Abhail and south down the coast to Holy Island.

From Brodick to the cold, windy peak and back averages five hours. Fifteen miles away, at the north end of the island, is **Lochranza**, as idyllic a Scottish village as you could imagine, with one store, one pub, one castle, and one **IYHF youth hostel** (tel. (077083) 631). This is the best base for exploring the gentle headlands of the **Cock of Arran** and the island's central peaks. At the southern end of the island, where peaks and ridges give way to meadows and beaches, the **IYHF youth hostel** at **Whiting Bay** (tel. (07707) 339) presents comfortable beds and an arresting location.

## **Highlands and Islands**

The Highlands and Islands are among the last stretches of true wilderness left in Europe. A tattered coast, cut by sea lochs and dotted with innumerable islands, stretches under the midnight summer sun. The area's meager population heightens the otherworldly atmosphere—even in tourist season you can easily hike for a full day without seeing fellow bipeds. Two hundred years ago, 30% of Scotland's people lived north of the Great Glen; various economic innovations combined to force a mass migration during the crushing Highland Clearances of the early 19th century. Only in the Outer Hebrides has the Scottish Gaelic tongue survived these waves of industrialization and anglicization.

Travel in the Highlands requires a measure of advance planning. *Getting Around the Highlands & Islands* (£3.50 at any tourist office) is indispensable; it collects all the public transit schedules in the region. **Caledonian MacBrayne** runs ferry services to most of the inner and outer isles. Trains leave Glasgow for Oban (the Highlands' main port) and Fort William (the Highlands' main resort) three or four times per day in summer. Express buses are significantly cheaper, and only slightly slower. Regional buses tend to run only once or twice per day, and rarely on Sunday.

### **Inverness**

Inverness is Scotland's busiest tourist trap and the transportation hub of the Highlands. The castle in town (closed to the public), contrary to lore, is not where Macbeth murdered King Duncan; the actual fictional site is **Cawdor Castle**, 20km east of town, complete with moat and drawbridge. (Open May-early Oct. daily 10am-5:30pm. Admission £2.90. Hard to reach by public transport.) If the weather is good, rent a bike at **Cycle Trax**, 19 Harbour Rd. (tel. (0463) 22 25 22), for £9 per day, and cycle down the east side of **Loch Ness**. Start at the riverbank in town and stick close to the water. The suburbs give way shortly to placid farm country; after 5 mi. you'll reach the head of the loch. The ruins of **Urquhart Castle**, are on the loch's west side, where most sightings of the spurious monster have occurred.

Inverness' **tourist office**, 23 Church St. (tel. (0463) 23 43 53), can book local B&Bs for free, or give you a map and accommodations list. (Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-8:30pm,

Sun. 9am-6pm; off-season Mon.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm.) The **train and bus stations** are but a few blocks away off Academy St., and the **post office** is 1 block away on Queensgate. Arrive very early in the day during high season to pin down a bed in your price range. The **IYHF youth hostel**, 1 Old Edinburgh Rd. (tel. (0463) 23 17 71), is comfy and convenient. (Curfew 2am; £5.20.) The cozy **Inverness Student Hotel**, 8 Culduthel Rd. (tel. (0463) 23 65 56), is across the street from the hostel (£5.20-5.40). The areas around **Argyll Street** and **Old Edinburgh Road** gush B&Bs.

## **Oban and Fort William**

Although Oban (3 hr. by bus or train from Glasgow) is the largest port on the west coast, it retains the cheer of a small town. If you tire of the bustling pier, gaze at the bay from the *ersatz*-Colosseum **McCaig's Tower** (built in the 18th century to employ local masons) or walk 15 minutes north out of town to the crumbling tower of **Dunollie Castle**, from which you can see the mountains of Mull. The **IYHF youth hostel**, on Corran Esplanade (tel. (0631) 620 25), presides over the bay. (Reception open 7-11am and 2-11pm. £4.20. Open early March-Oct.) **Jeremy Inglis**, 21 Airds Cresc. (tel. (0631) 650 65 or 630 64), has become a *Let's Go* institution. (B&B £5.50. Bath and kitchen facilities included.) The **tourist office**, Argyll Sq. (tel. (0631) 631 22), books accommodations for free. (Open June-Aug. Mon.-Sat. 9:15am-8:45pm, Sun. 10am-4:45pm; May and Sept.-Oct. Mon.-Sat. 9:15am-5:30pm, Sun. 10am-5pm; Nov.-April Mon.-Fri. 9:15am-5:30pm.) Most visitors leave from the Oban pier for **Mull**, the largest of the southern isles. Ferries leave several times per day in summer for **Craignure** (£2.10, day return £3.65). Craignure is but a few shops and a pier; climb aboard the narrow-gauge railway for the trip to **Torosay Castle**, a graceful Victorian mansion nearby, or else bus it to **Tobermory** (Mull's main town) or **Fionnphort** (from where ferries to Iona leave). The **IYHF youth hostel** (tel. (0688) 24 81) in Tobermory, overlooks the bay among the colorful houses on Main St. It should have showers by 1991. (£2.90. Open mid-March to Sept.) Hitch or cycle west along the A849 by Loch Scridain and Ben More to Fionnphort, where you can catch a ferry to the sacred isle of **Iona**—one of the beacons of British culture in the Middle Ages. The **Iona Community** continues to maintain an alternative spiritual center in the old abbey. The community occasionally offers accommodation in the abbey (tel. (06817) 404; 3-day min. stay; board £19, students £13). For B&B, try the **Bishop's House** (tel. (06817 306; £12, 15% student discount) or **Finlay, Ross Ltd.** (tel. (06817) 357; £7.50-12).

**Fort William** no longer has a fort, but it could use one to fend off summer tourists. Mountaineers come for the challenge of **Ben Nevis** (4406 ft.), the highest peak in Britain. The main tourist path starts just up Glen Nevis past the town park. Count on seven hours round-trip. The **tourist office** (tel. (0397) 70 37 81) is practically a small museum. (Open June-Sept. Mon.-Sat. 9am-9pm, Sun. 10am-6pm; Oct. Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5:30pm, Fri.-Sat. 9am-5pm; Nov.-Dec. Mon.-Thurs. 9am-5:30pm, Fri. 9am-5pm; Jan. daily 9am-5:30pm; Feb. daily 9am-6pm.) At the base of the Ben Nevis trail, in the lush valley of Glen Nevis, the pleasing **Glen Nevis youth hostel (IYHF)** (tel. (0397) 70 23 36) is often booked (£4.20). You can camp for free in the meadow farther up the valley. Any one of the indistinguishable coffee shops on High St. (the town's only thoroughfare) will fill you up cheaply. **Lochaber**, the area west of Fort William, is stunningly beautiful. The famous "Road to the Isles" winds to **Mallaig** through mountains and past lochs to the Silver Sands of Morar, white beaches that would look more at home in the Caribbean. A bus runs from Fort William to Mallaig one to three times daily, once on Sundays, stopping near the Garramore hostel. Five miles north of **Arisaig**, the **Garramore youth hostel (IYHF)** (tel. (06875) 268; £4.20) sits not far from the Morar beaches. From Mallaig frequent ferries shuttle to Skye and the **Small Isles** of Muck, Eigg, Rhum, and Canna. On **Rhum** stay in the lavish turn-of-the-century **Kinloch Castle** (hostel-oid accommodation £7; call ahead, tel. (0687) 20 37). Sadly, **Ledgrainoch**, the splendid hostel near Oban run by the charming Lesley Scott-Morton is closed in 1991.

## Hebrides

The charismatic **Isle of Skye** is deservedly the most touristed of the Hebrides. The **Cuillin Hills**, volcanic peaks surging boldly into a halo of clouds, are perhaps the most dramatic mountain vistas in Britain. Lush peninsulas and bays mark the ends of the island near Staffin and Armadale. Historic clan wars have given way to debate over building a bridge to the island; for the meantime, Skye is easily reached by ferry from Mallaig (£2) or Kyle of Lochalsh (free). Transportation on the island is not easy; bus service is infrequent and expensive, and hitching unreliable. Try biking, hiking, or renting a car.

Skye's five **IYHF hostels** are sweetly situated. Try to call at least one night in advance. **Glenbrittle** (tel. (047842) 278) is in the heart of the Cuillins, accessible only to hikers and those with their own transportation. (Open late March-Sept.) **Uig** (tel. (047042) 211), overlooking the bay on the northern peninsula, is the least crowded and is accessible by bus or by ferry from the Outer Hebrides. (Open late March-Oct.) **Broadford** (tel. (04712) 442) is the most central, near mountains and beaches. (Open early March-Oct.) **Armadale** (tel. (04714) 260), on the southern tip of Skye, is ½ mi. away from the Mallaig ferry and provides a good base from which to tour the lush **Sleat Peninsula**. (Open late March-Sept.) **Kyleakin** (tel. (0599) 45 85), near the Kyle of Lochalsh ferry, is the island's largest hotel and offers meals from Easter to September. (Open Feb.-Nov.; £4.20 per night.)

**Trotternish**, the untouristed northern arm of the island, is guarded by the ruins of the MacDonalids's **Duntulm Castle**; nearby, the **Quirang**, a dramatic rock escarpment, surveys Staffin Bay. Many accessible walks lead out of **Sligachan**, where there's a large campsite, a small store, and a hotel. The main path here runs over a stately bridge and through a river valley between the peaks. For a spellbinding view of the Cuillins across the sea, make the strenuous bike trip or catch a bus from Broadford to **Elgol**. From Sconser on Skye, take the ferry to **Raasay** (May-Sept. Mon.-Sat.), a long, narrow island with an **IYHF youth hostel** (tel. (047842) 240; few restrictions; open mid-May to Sept.).

The landscape of the **Outer Hebrides**, 40 mi. into the Atlantic, is ancient and original. Much of the exposed rock here has been around for about half as long as the planet itself—2½ billion years. The landscape is largely flat, treeless, and—at first sight—utterly depressing. But the pure light and drifting mists off the Atlantic that shroud the untouched miles of moorland, create cold, luminous vistas. Try to visit the islands between late April and October; the rest of the year accommodations are scarce; the weather, fearsome. This is the last stronghold of both the Gaelic language and the Free Church, whose strict observation of the Sabbath makes travel, shopping, and eating out impossible on Sundays.

The **Caledonian MacBrayne** ferries run from Oban (for Castlebay on Barra and Lochboisdale on South Uist), from Uig on Skye (for Lochmaddy on North Uist and Tarbert on Harris), and from Ullapool (for Stornoway on Lewis). The company's main Highland office is in Oban (tel. (0631) 622 85). An **Island Hopscotch** ticket will take you through all the islands at a reduced rate. Start in Oban and take the ferry to South Uist or Barra (a breathtaking 6-hr. journey that takes you past most of the Inner Hebrides), work your way up to Harris and Lewis, and then return to Skye or Ullapool.

From south to north, the Hebrides run in a string from Barra, South Uist, Benbecula, and North Uist to the largest island, which is divided into Harris (the southern third) and Lewis. There are seasonal **tourist offices** (May-Sept.) on the southern group at Castlebay (tel. (08714) 336), Lochboisdale (tel. (08784) 286) and Lochmaddy (tel. (08763) 321), all served by ferry. On North Uist there is an **IYHF youth hostel** at Lochmaddy (tel. (08763) 368; £3.85; open mid-May to Sept.); when the rain and wind pour off the Atlantic, the warden opens early so you can toast by the woodstove. Buses are infrequent, but hitching is a fairly reliable alternative. The southern archipelago's most spectacular feature is the Mediterranean beach on the western coast, which stretches uninterrupted for nearly 40 mi. There are numerous archaeological and historical sites, blending effortlessly into the surrounding land-

scape. The *Outer Hebrides Leisure Map* will show you the location of every single stone and bird preserve. On these islands, as well as on Harris, there are several **croft-house hostels** run by the Gatliff Trust—rudimentary accommodations run by bouncy wardens, with bunks, coin-operated electricity, and cooking facilities. Get their green pamphlet at the ferry port tourist offices when you arrive.

Northernmost in the chain, “The Long Island” of **Lewis and Harris** is divided by the mountainous Forest of Harris, in which there is nary a tree. These once impassable mountains, formed by volcanic gneiss, give Harris an almost otherworldly landscape. Open hills, softened by a carpet of *machair* and wildflowers, make for great off-trail rambling.

Lewis is better known for its prehistoric sites, most famous of which are the **Stones of Callanish**. This extraordinary Bronze-Age circle is as isolated as Stonehenge is overrun. Local archeologists have claimed that the cruciform site is a bafflingly complex lunar observatory. The best way to inspect Callanish and other ruins is on the tour (£5) run by the Stornoway tourist office. Off this route, at the northern tip of the island, is the **Butt of Lewis**, where a lighthouse stands above a pounding surf. **Stornoway**, the island’s largest town, is a dull ferry port with a helpful **tourist office** (tel. (0851) 70 30 88; open Mon.-Sat. 9am-5:30pm and for ferry arrivals). There is also a **tourist office** in **Tarbert** (tel. (0859) 20 11) on Harris (open early April-early Oct. same hrs.). **B&Bs** are often in the middle of nowhere; book ahead at the tourist offices. The **Stockinish Youth Hostel (IYHF)** (no phone; £2.90; open mid-May to Sept.) is 8 mi. south of Tarbert along the desolate east coast; one to two buses run daily. This is a sublimely soothing spot with few restrictions; there are no showers but always an open peat fire. Gather mussels and periwinkles from nearby beach rocks.

## The Northwest

Stretching from the craggy Torridon Hills to the breathtaking cliffs of Cape Wrath and John O’Groats, the Northwest is an enormous and majestic wilderness. The region’s oddly shaped mountains—most notably Suilven and Liathach—glare at each other across great expanses of moor.

Hitching can prove difficult, as many of the coastal roads are single-lane and the few cars that do pass are often full. The only public transportation routes with frequent summer service spoke out from Inverness: daily buses run to Ullapool, while both trains and buses serve Thurso and Kyle of Lochalsh. Making bus connections along the northwest coast or across the interior can take days. Hitching is reasonable, but traffic, sparse; rent a car if you really want to explore the area.

From Kyle of Lochalsh, one-lane roads thread north through a maze of mountain-rimmed sealochs and one-pub villages. The bold should venture to **Applecross**, a small village separated from the rest of the mainland by a massive mountain range. The most inspiring way up here is by the tortuous **Bealach-Na-Bo Pass** from Kishorn. On a clear day, the isles of Rhum and Skye are visible from the top. Heavy summer traffic over this pass facilitates hitching. Take the post bus back to Kishorn along the equally bedazzling coastal road (Mon.-Sat. 1 per day). Heading farther north, the mountains wrapping **Torridon** hide some of the oldest rock formations in Europe, providing limitless terrains and surfaces for climbers and hikers. At the junction into the village (where there’s a shop and post office), the **ranger station** has information on hikes in the area. Nearby is a modern **IYHF youth hostel** (tel. (044587) 284; £4.20; open early March-late Oct.), which, if full, has a small campground on the side. Smack behind is the ragged ridge of **Liathach** (3456 ft.), perhaps the mightiest of Scotland’s mountains. Post buses run to Torridon from Achnasheen on the Inverness-Kyle rail line, via Kinlochewe.

**Ullapool** is the only bona fide town of any size along the northwest coast and the main ferry link to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. There is an **IYHF youth hostel** to the right of the pier (tel. (0854) 60 22 54). The **tourist office** (tel. (0854) 60 23 15) can book you a **B&B** for about £11. (Open July-Aug. Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm, Sun. 1-6pm; May-June and Sept. Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. 1-6pm; April and Oct.

Mon.-Sat. 9am-1pm and 2-5:30pm.) From Ullapool, you can slowly hostel-hop by bus or thumb north to **Durness** and then west across the north coast to the railhead at Thurso.

**Thurso** itself is mainly a docking point for ferries from nearby **Scrabster** to the Orkney Islands (1-3 per day) and the Faroe Islands (Sat. 8pm, 13 hr., £62), but the **Culrain** whistle-stop on the rail line between Thurso and Inverness is home to Scotland's most lavish IYHF youth hostel, **Carbisdale Castle** (tel. (054982) 232; £4.20; open mid-March to Oct. except May 1-11). Located in an actual castle with regal views of the surrounding valleys, this hostel begs a special trip (book ahead).

Buses leave Ullapool for Inverness (Mon.-Sat. 2 per day) and **Lochinver**, a sheltered village surrounded by imposing seas and unbroken wilds. To imbibe Scotland at its most remote, visit the **Achmelvich youth hostel (IYHF)** (tel. (05714) 480), 4 mi. west of town (£2.65; open Easter-Sept.); a post bus runs twice per day to the turn-off, 1½ mi. from the hostel. Ask the hostel warden where to find **One Man's Castle**, built in 1959 as a retreat for its since-vanished architect.

On the north coast, 55 mi. from Lochinver, is **Durness**, with an **IYHF youth hostel** (tel. (097181) 244) 1 mi. outside town at Smoo. (£3.55. Open mid-May to Sept.) Iris MacKay (tel. (097181) 343) runs a minibus out to **Cape Wrath**. Also in this area are the enormous **Smoo Caves** (ask at the hostel or tourist office) and some empty sand beaches.

## Orkney Islands

The Orkneys are sleepy, fertile islands just off the northern coast of Scotland. Released from Danish dominion only 500 years ago, Orkney maintains a strong cultural identity. The best time to visit is the summer solstice, when the sun shines eternal and the big **St. Magnus Festival** in Kirkwall (June 21-26, 1991) inspires the islanders with traditional and modern music, drama, and poetry.

Two ferries serve Orkney: one into Stromness from Scrabster, near Thurso (£9.50), the other into Burwick from John O'Groats (May-Sept.; £9, round-trip £12 on afternoon departures from John O'Groats). Bus service is relatively frequent on the Mainland (the largest of the Orkneys), and hitching almost always scores. Timetables for all buses and boats within the archipelago issue from the tourist offices (6 Broad St., Kirkwall, tel. (0856) 28 56, and on the pier in Stromness).

**Stromness** looks as if it has just slid down the hillside and lost half its houses to the harbor—bayfront buildings, with their private piers, project into the water. Narrow and paved with flagstones, **Victoria Street** looks medieval, but Stromness in fact dates only from the late 18th century, when it became a port of call for transatlantic shipping. The recently refurbished **IYHF youth hostel**, on Hellihole Rd. (tel. (0856) 85 05 89), is open from April to September. (Lockout 10:30am-5pm. Curfew 11pm. £3.85.) The independent **Brown's Hostel** is on Victoria St. (tel. (0856) 850 661; £4.80). The town hosts a succession of all-night ragers for **Stromness Shopping Week** (July 14-20 in 1991).

Twenty-five km east of Stromness on the Mainland is **Kirkwall**, the shopping, transport, and cultural center of the Orkneys, as well as the capital. The red sandstone **St. Magnus Cathedral** was started in 1137; it is almost entirely in Norman style, though the building was begun by the Norse Earl Rognvald and completed during the Gothic period. The **IYHF youth hostel**, Old Scapa Rd. (tel. (0856) 22 43), rarely fills. (Open mid-May to Sept.; £3.85.) Between Kirkwall and Stromness you can see the 5000-year-old village **Skara Brae**, the magnificently preserved chambered tomb of **Maeshowe**, and the **Ring of Brodgar**, a 27-stone circle.

Ferries from Stromness reach the island of **Hoy**, whose dramatic cliff scenery is visible from the Stromness ferry. There are two IYHF youth hostels here, both often deserted. For both, make reservations (tel. (0856) 35 35), and bring food from Stromness. **Hoy Hostel**, open from mid-May to mid-September, is next to the church, a mile up from the Moaness pier; **Rackwick Hostel** open mid-March to mid-Sept.) is 6 mi. southwest, by a tiny village and beach of the same name. **Ward Hill** (1565 ft.) has a sweeping view of the entire archipelago. The **Old Man of Hoy**,

a 450-foot rock stack that eluded climbers until 1966, is the impressive remnant of an ancient sea-arch; the cliff path along **St. John's Head** hovers more than a thousand feet above the sea (these are the highest coastal cliffs in Britain).

## Shetland Islands

Three times closer to Norway's Bergen than to London, the Shetland Islands are Britain's northernmost outpost, and locals prefer to see the region as part of Scandinavia. North Sea oil brought big business to Shetland—the terminal at Sullom Voe now handles half the U.K.'s oil—and Lerwick often harbors large fish-processing ships from as far as the Soviet Union. Despite all this, moors and birds assert a much stronger presence than industry. Given to Scotland 500 years ago as the dowry of a Danish princess, Shetland was not fully integrated into Britain until the 20th century. The local dialect, with its liberal smattering of Norse-derived words and its lilting accent, is a potent reminder of Shetland's Nordic heritage.

**P&O Ferries** chug five times a week between Lerwick and Aberdeen (14 hr., reclining seats £36, berths £43-44). There is also service between Stromness (Orkney) and Lerwick (1-2 per week; £23.50). **Smyril Line** sails from Lerwick to Bergen, Norway (Mon. at 11pm, £48) and to the Faroe Islands and Iceland (Wed. at 2am, £57 and £124); students get 25% off. For details, contact P&O Scottish Ferries, P.O. Box 5, Jamieson's Quay, Aberdeen, Scotland AB9 8DL (tel. (0224) 57 26 15).

The friendly folk at the **Shetland Tourist Organisation**, at Market Cross in Lerwick, will tell you all you need to know and book you a bed for free (tel. (0595) 34 34; open in summer Mon. 9am-6pm, Tues.-Fri. 8am-6pm, Sat. 8am-5pm). You will need the *Inter-Shetland Transport Timetable* (50p), which provides information on all boats, buses, and planes. Heavily subsidized, ferries are relatively cheap. Hitching is excellent on the A970, except north of Voe, where the traffic evaporates.

**Lerwick**, where ferries arrive, is the most convenient base. There is a cuddly **IYHF youth hostel** at Islesburgh House on King Harald St. (tel. (0595) 21 14), but it may be closed part of summer 1991; call ahead, or reserve a B&B through the tourist office, which accepts book-a-bed-heads up to a week in advance. You can tent at four official campgrounds on the main island (see the tourist office). In Lerwick, the **Fort Cafe & Takeaway** offers a local fish delicacy, skate and chips, for £1.40 (open Mon.-Sat. 11am-10:30pm, Sun. 5-10:30pm).

Lerwick is the site of the annual **Up-Helly-Aa Festival**, held on the last Tuesday in January. An enthusiastic torch-lit revival of Shetland's Viking heritage, the festival ends with the immolation of a Viking galley. Look over the harbor from **Fort Charlotte**, a Cromwellian relic (free), or, for a better chew, take the ferry (5 min., 55p) to the isle of **Bressay** and walk up the conical **Ward of Bressay**. The island of **Noss** (dinghy service from Bressay, £1) is a well-populated bird sanctuary; a good place to look for skuas, puffins, and gulls. Made famous by Walter Scott's *The Pirate*, **Jarlshof**, near Sumburgh at the southern tip of the Mainland, is a large prehistoric site. **St. Ninian's Isle**, off the southwest coast, is linked to the Mainland by a *tombolo*—a white, crescent-shaped sandbar, washed by waves on both sides.

## Northern Ireland

British pounds (£) are used in Northern Ireland.

The six provinces of Ulster, which since 1920 have comprised troubled Northern Ireland, are as beautiful and traditional as any in Ireland. Because it is subsidized by British taxpayers, Northern Ireland is better maintained than the Republic. Celtic heritage runs deep: sagas recall pagan warriors battling upon the hillsides, and legend claims that it was near Downpatrick that St. Patrick founded the Emerald Isle's first church. Northern Ireland also effervesces with festivals, folk customs, and traditional music. Renowned festivals include the **Ould Lammis Fair** at Bally-