

FÁILTE

*Welcome to
Gaelic Scotland -
Our language
and culture*



Fàilte welcome



Contents

The Celtic Roots of Europe
The Coastland of the Gael
The Lordship of the Isles
The Troubles
The Clearances
Genealogy
The Gaelic Renaissance
The Gaelic Trail
Travelling to & Within
Scotland
The Celtic World
What's On?
Learning Gaelic
Gaelic Hospitality

We, the Gaelic-speaking people of Scotland today welcome you. Ours is a land of dramatic contrasts and serene tranquillity, home of the eagle, the wild deer, and courteous, hospitable people. Our mountains, moors, lochs and islands have been celebrated for over a thousand years in Gaelic song. We are a people of ancient lineage, and we are custodians of part of Europe's rich Celtic heritage. This is our story. It is a story of loyalty and treachery, of high culture, dispossession and tragedy, and above all, of a new hope.

Scotland's Gaelic language and culture are now undergoing remarkable revival.

From modest beginnings some years ago,

new Gaelic schools, arts, broadcasting and businesses are developing and a new confident generation of young Gaels is emerging. These pages are designed to give you a taste of what Gaelic Scotland has to offer.

But it's just a taste.

Come and explore our story, music, culture and language for yourself.

You will never be the same again!

Welcome, or as we say in Gaelic, Fàilte!



Produced and published by:
Strathayr Publishing, 88 Green Street, Ayr, KA8 8BG.
Adapted from an original design by Canan, Isle of Skye.

Copyright photographs are reproduced with permission from:
Mike Williams, The Scottish Highland Photo Library,
National Museums of Scotland, Trinity College Dublin,
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Alastair Scott, EOLAS, CTG,
Gordon Gillespie.

© Fàilte

For further information on Gaelic development, contact Comunn na Gàidhlig:
Tel: 01463 234138; Email: oifis@cnag.org.uk; Website: www.cnag.org.uk

BEUL AN LATHA dawn

For a thousand years the ancient Celts dominated a vast pan-European commonwealth. The importance of their place in European cultural, linguistic and artistic development is only now being rediscovered. The old Celtic dialects were the close ancestors of modern Welsh and Gaelic.

SREUMS NAN CEILTEACH THE CELTIC ROOTS OF EUROPE

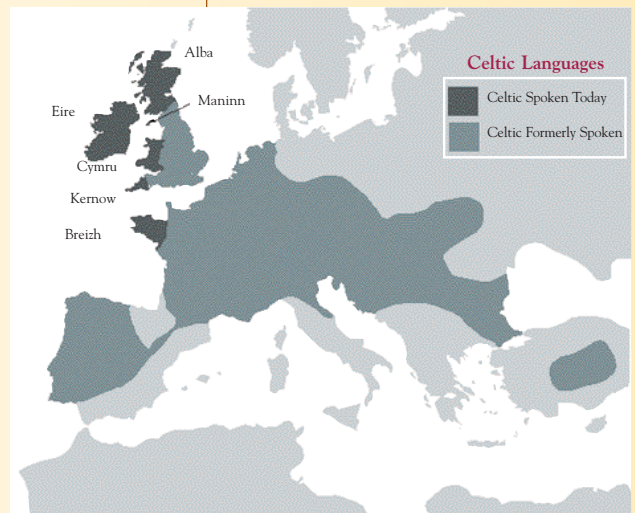
The Celts enjoyed life. Food and feasting were important in early Celtic societies, and lavish hospitality was a measure of nobility. This tradition of hospitality still survives in the Scottish Highlands. Celtic culture was transmitted orally; history and facts were not written down but memorised in the form of verse. Celtic education included subjects as diverse as religion and geography, philosophy and astronomy. Celtic orators were famed throughout Europe, and the Romans employed them as tutors for their sons. In this advanced culture, even

the ruler gave precedence to the Druid who was scholar, judge and bard as well as priest.

The bravery of the Celts was recognised even by their enemies. Spurning protective armour, they would often go naked into battle. Their women were also able warriors, merchants and rulers, because Celtic society gave women the same status and rights as men.

The Celts were also skilled and inspired stonemasons and metalworkers. Celtic art is widely recognised for its originality and outstanding quality.

Despite their advanced culture, lack of unity was the downfall of the Celts when the Roman military machine began to overrun their lands. Gaul fell, then the south of Britain. However, the Romans were stopped in Scotland and like the Celts in Ireland, Scotland remained unconquered by the Romans. It was from Ireland that the Gaels were to come to Scotland.



MADAINN morning

The first Irish Gaels, called Scotti by the Romans, probably set foot in Scotland some time before 450 A.D. near Dunaverty at the tip of Kintyre, where a ruin still remains.

The Gaels settled in Argyll (Earra Ghaidheal), which they called 'Dal Riata', after the homeland they had left. While establishing themselves, they

EARRA GHAIDHEAL THE COASTLAND OF THE GAEL



were fiercely resisted by the Picts. During their expansion they relied for security on a chain of fortresses, called 'dùn'. Dunadd near Lochgilphead is a key site which also includes an ancient Pictish sculpture.

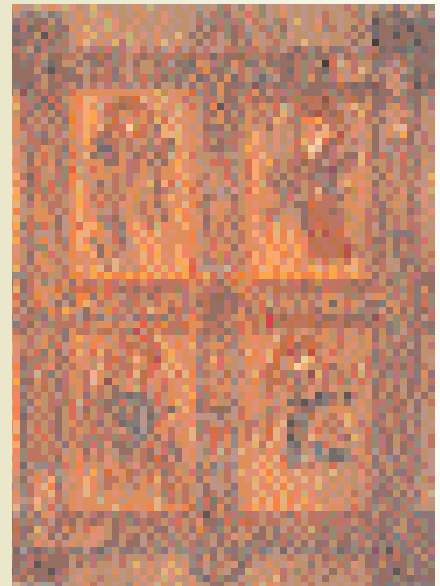
In 563, Colum Cille (St Columba) came to Dal Riata from Ireland. A powerful preacher, he converted the Picts to

Christianity. He founded a monastery on Iona, which has remained a special, spiritual place ever since. For 1000 years, Scottish and Norwegian kings were buried there.

Iona shows many relics of centuries of worship, including the graceful free-standing Celtic crosses. In the Middle Ages it was also a centre of learning. The world famous Book of Kells with its splendid illuminations was probably produced on Iona in the 8th century.

In 843, the Gaelic leader Kenneth MacAlpin united the Picts and the Gaels and became the first ruler of Alba which comprised most of Scotland north of Forth and Clyde.

Alba has since remained the Gaelic name for Scotland but the origins of the name are not Celtic and shrouded in the mists of time. The culture of the Gaels spread all over the country, and their language became the language of the king, court and most of the common people.



“Chan fhaca mi
aingéal no naomb,
ach chuala mi
fuaim na mara
agus eilean mo chridhe
na theis meadhan.”

“Angel nor saint
have I seen,
but I have heard
the roar of
the Western sea,
and the isle
of my heart
is in the
midst of it.”

St. Columba, 7th Century



MEADHAN - LAETHA mid-day

The Viking invasions, starting around 800, brought violent change to the western seaboard of Alba. The Norse language is still echoed in thousands of island and coastal place-names, and a restored Norse Mill can be found in Shawbost in Lewis. One of the most striking legacies of the Viking occupation in the Western Isles is the set of famous chess pieces found in Uig, on the west coast of Lewis during the winter of 1830-31. Examples are on permanent display in The National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh and have been exhibited on two occasions in Museum nan Eilean, Stornoway. An interactive CD ROM about the chess pieces is available. Two hundred years after the invasions, Somerled, one of the greatest leaders of Celtic Scotland, drove the Vikings out and established his own rule. He became the progenitor of

the Lords of the Isles, who for centuries controlled the Western Isles of Scotland and parts of the west mainland. The story of Clan Donald, who held the Lordship, is told at the Clan Donald Centre near Armadale on Skye. The Lords of the Isles ruled with the advice of a Council which met in many different places throughout the Lordship. But successive Kings of Scots sought to limit the independence of the Lords of the Isles, and in 1545 the power of the Lordship was broken. Finlaggan on Islay, which used to be an important meeting place of Comhairle nan Eilean (The Council of the Isles), is now a lonely, evocative ruin.

The time of the Lordship brought a marvellous flourishing of Gaelic culture.

At the courts of the nobles, professional bards sang powerful, intricate verse in true Celtic

tradition. Musicians played the clàrsach (harp) and the piob mhòr (bagpipes). Physicians, scholars, lawyers, stonemasons and metalworkers all had a place in the great households of

TIGHEARNAS NAN EILEAN THE LORDSHIP OF THE ISLES

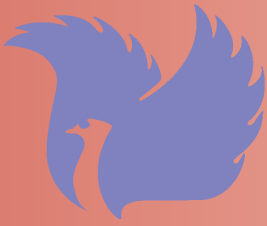
the Isles. The magnificent cross at Campbeltown is just one of many examples of their craft, and numerous culture and heritage centres throughout Scotland provide both a flavour and an experience of Gaelic music as it developed through the centuries.

Ni h-eibhneas gan Chlainn Dòmhnail
Ni combnairt bheith 'ne n-eagmbais
There is no joy without Clan Donald
There is no strength to be without them

Giolla Colum mac an Ollaimb,

Dean of Lismore 16thC



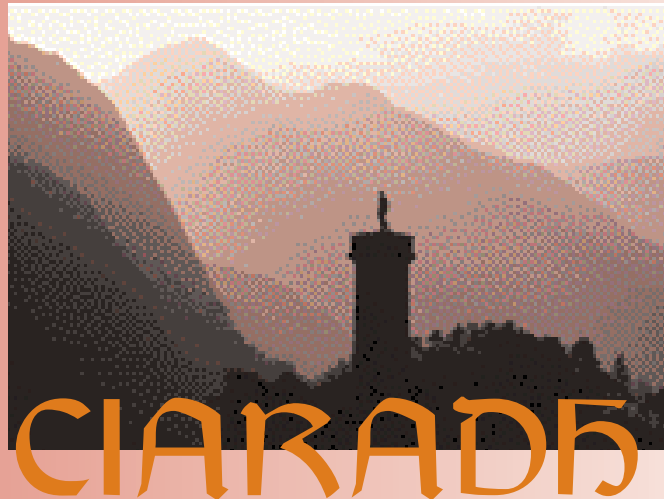


In 1603, James VI, the Stewart King of Scots, inherited the throne of England and moved south to become James I of Britain. For a century none of his successors was able to rule in peace, and they turned to the Gaelic clans for support. Their followers were called Jacobites. They won a spectacular victory for Charles I at the Battle of Inverlochy near Fort William in 1645, and Iain Lom, one of the greatest Gaelic poets, wrote an exultant song about it. Iain Lom was also a political activist, and his vengeance on the murderers of the heirs of MacDonald of Keppoch is still commemorated at the Well of the Seven Heads, near Laggan on Loch Lochy. In 1692, the new usurper of the Stewart throne ordered the cowardly murder of the MacDonalds of Glencoe who had failed to swear allegiance to him. Continuing unrest caused

AIMBREIT THE TROUBLES

the British government to build several forts to control the Highlands. Fort Augustus Abbey occupies part of the original army base built after a rising in 1715.

In 1745, Prince Charles Edward, the son and heir of the exiled king, arrived in Scotland to seek the clans'



dusk

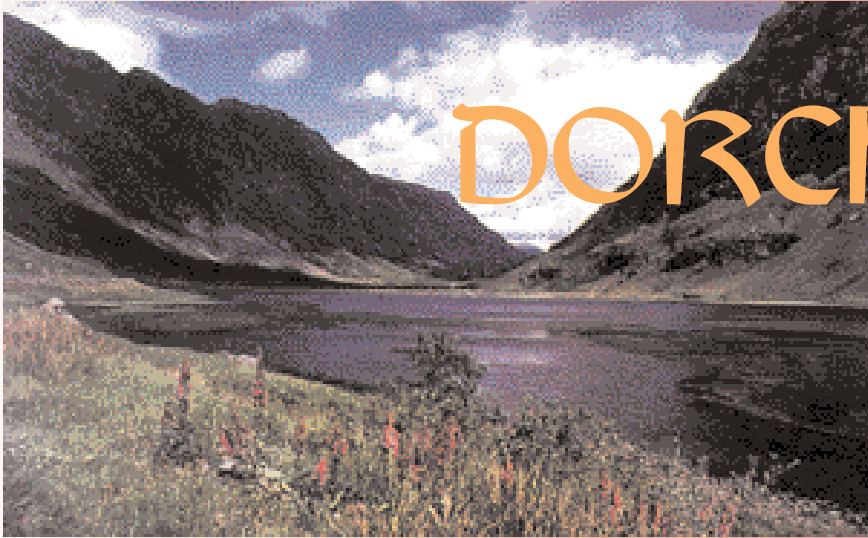
support to re-establish a Stuart crown. The clan chiefs were reluctant to join his desperate enterprise, but the most loyal of them attended his first muster at Glenfinnan. Incredibly, with an army of only 5000, Prince Charles took Scotland and won into England, to Derby, but had to retreat for lack of the promised support from English Jacobites and from the French.

The Jacobite cause died at the Battle of Culloden in April 1746, where their exhausted and depleted force was vanquished by a stronger, well-equipped British army. The defeat heralded the most cruelly repressive acts imposed upon the Gaels by the British government. The story of the '45 is told in Gaelic, as well as many other European languages, at the National Trust for Scotland Centres at Glenfinnan and on Culloden Moor. The annual

(part-Gaelic) memorial service is held on the battlefield in April each year.

Many fascinating Jacobite relics are held at the West Highland Museum in Fort William. A cairn marks the place at Loch nan Uamh (near Arisaig on the Road to the Isles) from which Prince Charles left Scotland forever, while his supporters were being hunted down and slaughtered.





DORCHADAS

darkness

After the '45, the British government methodically set about eradicating Gaelic culture and consciousness. Parliament passed laws that forbade the wearing of tartan in Scotland, and prohibited the playing of the pipes. Land was taken from rebel chiefs and given to new owners. Gaelic society had been based on a sense of kinship, and the measure of a chief's status had been the size of his following. But to the new owners, land was more valuable for its economic returns than for the number of fighting men it could support. The new 'chiefs' preferred to put sheep on their lands.

In the early nineteenth century the Marquess of Stafford, who had become the new Duke of Sutherland, evicted his tenants in the name of progress. Tens of thousands of Gaels were forced from their homes to become squatters on poor land. Their fields were destroyed and their houses were burned, so that they could never return. Rocky Badbea, on the edge of a cliff just north of Helmsdale, shows the kind of place they were expected to survive in. Children and animals had to be tied to posts to prevent them from

being blown over the cliff! Without support the people were helpless in the face of such cruelty. Many Gaels were forced to leave Scotland. Croick Church, ten miles north of Ardgay, was a temporary refuge, and many of the victims inscribed their names on a window — in English, because they were not taught to write their own language.

The Timespan Heritage Centre in Helmsdale brings this period back to life, and both the Gairloch Heritage Centre and the Strathnaver Museum in Farr, Bettyhill show what traditional life in the Highlands was like.

NA SUADAICHEAN

THE CLEARANCES



COMB - THRÀTÈ

the new dawn

Like all Celts, we Scottish Gaels have a strong sense of lineage — a sense of who we are and how we relate to each other. From the earliest times Gaelic society was organised on a tribal basis as 'Clans'. The Gaelic word clann simply means children. The sense of personal relationship between the people and the clan chief even applied to the King who in Scotland was always known as



CINNIDHEAN GENEALOGY

'King of Scots' not of Scotland. The influence of some clans was vast. At the height of their power, the largest, the mighty Clan Donald held sway over a maritime federation which stretched from Northern Ireland to the Outer Hebrides. The Campbell chiefs became

Earls and later Dukes of Argyll from their base at Inveraray Castle and the Stuarts (or Stewarts) provided the last line of Scottish monarchs. The futile attempt to re-establish the Stuart monarchy ended in defeat at Culloden in 1746. This was the death knell of the Clan system. Information is available on the clan feuds in many of the clan centres throughout the country.



DÙSGADH

awakening

Late in the 19th century the Gaels started to fight back. Skye crofters fought police in the Battle of the Braes and soldiers were sent to Glendale. Memorial cairns record these historic events. Mairi Mhòr nan Òran, arguably Skye's greatest

ACH - BHEOTHACHADH THE GAELIC RENAISSANCE

poetess, wrote many songs against the injustices of the land system. On Lewis, too, crofters asserted their rights, and the Cuimhneachain nan Gaisgeach memorial cairns in Lewis commemorate their struggle. In 1886 crofters were finally given security of tenure on the land. But Gaelic was still discouraged and by 1970 it was clear that it was dying. Many Gaels remember being punished in school for speaking their own tongue. The big revival started in 1975, with the establishment of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Islands Council), the first statutory public body to recognise and use the Gaelic language as part of its day to day work. The Council initiated a number of innovative Gaelic projects including the introduction of bilingual education in some of its schools. In 1982 the first Gaelic playgroups were established creating a new

generation of Gaelic speaking young people. A new Gaelic development agency, Comunn na Gàidhlig, (CNAG) established in 1984, with a national remit to support, promote and develop the Gaelic language and culture throughout Scotland, drove progress forward. Now there are numerous Gaelic playgroups, Gaelic units in primary schools, a Gaelic School in Glasgow, Sradagan (Gaelic Youth Clubs) and many Gaelic television programmes. Gaelic is gradually being re-incorporated into Scottish public life for the first time in two centuries.

A new Gaelic economy is emerging. At Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye and the Lews Castle College on the Isle of Lewis, full-time vocational courses are taught through Gaelic in a Gaelic environment, and a variety of short courses are available to the public during the summer. An Comunn Gaidhealach was founded in 1891 and promotes the Gaelic language and culture through the everyday use of the language and encouraging the tradition of music, song, folklore and literature. If you wish to play your part in the continuing development of the Gaelic language, music and culture you

can help by becoming a member of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Comunn na Gaidhlig (CNAG) based in Inverness, with offices also in Glasgow and Stornoway, is a Government-funded agency promoting the language and culture in four main areas — Education, Community Development, Youth and Language Policies and Planning. CNAG aims to achieve Secure



Status for Gaelic and to promote and establish the conditions for Gaelic to grow and flourish, by working in partnership with others, particularly through Gaelic Medium Education, cultural enrichment and economic development. The agency has been actively involved, along with other local bodies, in promoting cultural linguistic tourism, through the Fàilte Projects. Until recently the naming of official bodies in Gaelic was virtually unknown. Now over a hundred bodies, including national organisations, local authorities, banks and commercial organisations have adopted Gaelic names.



The language revival is matched by a new community confidence, and in 1992 the crofters of Assynt in Sutherland made history by buying their own estate. Similar community buy-outs have since taken place in Eigg, Valtos, Gigha and Knoydart. Internationally renowned bands like Runrig and Capercaillie make Gaelic language and music interesting to a younger audience, and the fèisean (Gaelic tuitional festivals) and Mods (Gaelic competitive festivals) attract hundreds of young musicians. Gaelic writing is flourishing, and the National Gaelic Arts Agency, Proiseact nan Ealan, is involved in promoting a wide range of cultural activities. Places all over Scotland are now re-discovering their Gaelic heritage, and you will find Gaelic learners' courses from Galloway to Sutherland. Scotland's Celtic legacy pervades the entire country. Discover it for yourself! The establishment of a Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, following the first elections to the Parliament in May 1999 was followed by a number of significant announcements from the Scottish Executive on the Gaelic language and culture. The Executive has a Minister responsible for Gaelic. A Gaelic Officer has been appointed to Parliament to advise and assist Members and officials of the Parliament on the use of Gaelic within the work of the Parliament. Translation facilities are available for Members wishing to use Gaelic

in Parliamentary debates, and there is widespread use of bilingual Gaelic/English signage within the Parliament building. A Gaelic/English Parliamentary Glossary has also been produced and is available free of charge from Comunn na Gàidhlig's Offices in Inverness, Stornoway or Glasgow (www.cnag.org.uk) or from the Scottish Parliament at www.scottish.parliament.co.uk.

A National Cultural Strategy was developed by the Executive following widespread consultations. The Strategy aims to improve the understanding of culture within and outside Scotland and allow culture to play its part in a range of other government agendas including social inclusion, education, health and economic regeneration. Specific reference is made in the Strategy to the importance of both Gaelic and Scots in Scotland's national culture.

A National Tourism Strategy identifies the three niche markets of golfing holidays, cultural tourism and genealogy as the main focus for marketing tourism in Scotland. These three markets are specifically suited to the Highlands and Islands, in particular, where ideal

opportunities exist for golfing holidays, cultural tourism and in the Gaelic speaking areas, linguistic cultural tourism and genealogy.

Comainn Eachdraidh

These fascinating community based historical associations are to be found in many highland and

O cuimhnichibh nach tràig sibh i,
 Gach Gàidheal tha 'n-diugh beò,
 Cha dèan i chaoidh 'ur sàrachadh,
 Ach blàths tha innt' gu leòr,
 Nuair bhios sibh anns na fàsaichean,
 'So àmhghar neo fo leòd,
 Bidh rann de dh'òran Gàidhlig dhuibh
 Nas fheàrr na botal mòr

~

Please do not forsake your language,
 I plead with each Gael today,
 It will never let you down,
 But will always be your stay,
 When you tread life's lonely pathway,
 In distress or troubled mood,
 A verse of Gaelic song will cheer you
 As no bottle ever could.

Aithne Do 'n Òige

Calum Mairead, Arrol, Lewis.

island communities. They vary in scope but all have built up large collections of local songs, stories, lore, tradition, artefacts and photographs and most have a strong Gaelic content. They are well worth a visit.



AIR

LORG BÀIDHLIG THE GAELIC TRAIL

As you travel around Scotland, you will find increasing evidence of Gaelic on signs, displays and most importantly, hear it spoken. Here are some further places where you can hear, speak, learn about and enjoy Gaelic language and culture.

Argyll

In Appin, you can follow the 'James of the Glen' Trail to investigate the mysterious Appin Murder, starting at James's burial place at Keil Church Session House, Duror. The Sandaig Museum on the Isle of Tiree is set in a Gaelic community and houses many relics of Tiree crofting life. The Iona Heritage Centre provides a display of local and natural history. On the island of

Lismore close to Oban, once the seat of the bishops of Argyll and the Isles, the local historical association has assembled a fascinating display of local Gaelic culture, life and history.

The Western Isles

Getting to the Western Isles has never been easier as individual package breaks are available at very affordable prices. The Barra Connection features a unique beach landing on a British Airways twin-otter or visit Benbecula and the Uists with easy access to the beautiful Isle of Eriskay from South Uist on the new causeway. The Isle of Harris is famous for its stunning sandy beaches and is the home of an outstanding Genealogy Centre that includes over 30,000 family trees covering all of the Western Isles. The Isle of Lewis, formed from the oldest stone on earth, is overflowing with history and culture. All are within an hour or so from Glasgow and Edinburgh Airports as part of an attractively priced package break organised by Scotia Travel, Glasgow. Further details are available on www.scotiatravel.com. On Lewis contemporary bilingual visual arts exhibitions are displayed at An Lanntair Gallery

in Stornoway, the island capital. At the megalithic Standing Stones of Calanais the Visitor Centre is completely bilingual in Gaelic and English and also caters for other European languages. Ordais, a self-catering croft house in Bragar, houses an extensive collection of Gaelic-related books, and Gearrannan on the west coast is the last intact old crofting township of the island. Its thatched blackhouses have been restored and used by the community and by visitors. Thatched buildings on the island of Berneray and at Howmore in South Uist have also undergone restoration and are used for Hostel accommodation. In Lochmaddy, North Uist, the award-winning Taigh Chearsabhaigh provides a glance at past and present life on the island. Lionacleit in Benbecula has a community school which also houses a museum and offers sports facilities to locals and visitors. Also worth visiting is the Visitors' Centre at Kildonan, Nunton Old Steading and Barra Cultural and Heritage Centre with its local collection. Finally, many pubs and cafes in the Western Isles have Gaelic speaking staff — simply try your luck!

Skye, Raasay & Lochaber



Skye & Raasay

The Aros Centre near Portree on Skye takes you on a journey through the history of the island in Gaelic as well as other European languages. The staff of the Skye Museum of Island Life near Duntulm are Gaelic speakers, and you will also find some Gaelic in the Giant MacAskill Museum in Dunvegan and the Colbost Folk Museum. Many Gaelic speakers meet at Hotel Eilean Iarmain restaurant and bar at Isle Ornsay. A regular ferry service takes you to Raasay where you can see much of historical interest at Urras Dualchais Ratharsaigh. This lovely sparsely populated island is the birthplace of the late Sorley MacLean, one of the finest exponents of twentieth century verse.

Lochaber

Acharacle in Moidart is a community where Gaelic is spoken. You may find a traditional cèilidh at the Clanranald Hotel restaurant and bar, and the Illegal Moidart Museum also belongs to the hotel. Gaelic is also spoken at the Kinacara Restaurant at Kinlochmoidart which is locally owned and serves superb food. Several Forest Walks and Picnic Sites in Strontian, Ardery, Salen and Camustora on Loch Sunart have Gaelic signs. Further north, the Mallaig Heritage Centre houses many fascinating documents and photographs of life in the area in the last century, which are explained on bilingual signs.

In Fort William, the Lochaber capital, Gaelic is spoken in some hotels and very often cèilidhs are held. The recently renovated West Highland Museum is worth a visit. The nearby Ionad Nibheis in Glen Nevis tells you about the natural history of the glen.



Inverness & Moray

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery not only contains an interesting collection of historical and modern exhibits, but also provides full Gaelic information. The Speyside Heather Centre at Dulnain Bridge tells you all there is to know about this ubiquitous Scottish plant, in Gaelic as well as other languages. The Highland Folk Museum in Kingussie and Newtonmore houses a collection of exhibits depicting the social history of the Highlands.

The Northern Highlands

Going north from Inverness, the Dingwall Museum, the Highland Museum of Childhood in Strathpeffer and Ullapool Museum all have some Gaelic information or facilities. You may also find some Gaelic at A' Bhratach Bhreac (The Chequered Flag), a restaurant in Bonar Bridge. The guided commentary to the exhibition at the Tain Pilgrimage Centre includes a Gaelic tape as well as Gaelic songs in their audiovisual presentation.



In Gairloch, Ionad Ciùird sells local products by local people and uses Gaelic in its signage. Gaelic is also spoken at the Old Inn restaurant and bar in the village. At the Assynt Visitors Centre, Sutherland a multilingual audio-visual and CD ROM presentation explains the local culture and environment. The Smithy Heritage Centre in Lochcarron is of equal appeal and the Piping Centre at Achiltbuie is well worth a visit.

Elsewhere in Scotland

In Killin, the Breadalbane Folklore Centre which tells you about the history of the Clans and of the Celtic Saint Fillan is bilingual with Gaelic and English throughout. If you visit Glasgow, you will find Gaelic speakers at the Park Bar, Argyle Street, while Edinburgh's Gaelic speakers congregate at the West End Hotel, Palmerston Place. Edinburgh also has an interesting collection of Celtic artefacts belonging to Gaelic culture in the National Museums of Scotland.

The Ralia Centre at Newtonmore is a Gateway to the Highlands with tourist information, exhibition space, computer terminals and multi-lingual (including Gaelic) graphic displays of Highland wildlife, placenames and historical features.

Inverness, Moray & the Northern Highlands

SIUBHAC TRAVELLING TO G WITHIN SCOTLAND

How to Get to Scotland:
Scotland is a world pioneer in road building, railways, steamships and aviation from which we have developed today's excellent road and transport network. International connections are efficient as are links with the rest of the British Isles.

Car

This is your best chance to see a lot. The main roads are mostly excellent, but on rural single-track roads please remember to use the passing places to allow faster moving traffic to overtake you. In the west and north it may be difficult to buy petrol on a Sunday. If you are from overseas, remember to drive on the left!

Sea

From the continent, get to Scotland via ferry from Rotterdam or Zeebrugge to Hull in England and cross the border either at Carter Bar for scenery or at Berwick for convenience. From Ireland, take the ferry from Larne or Belfast to Stranraer or Cairn Ryan. Information on these and new ferry services is available from the Tourist Information Offices. Most inhabited islands are accessible by car and passenger ferry. From the earliest times, the sea has been a highway for the Gaels. For the saints in their skin covered curaich, the Lord of the Isles with the fleet of birlinn (galleys) and the Gaelic speaking fishermen of today in the



bàtaichean-iasgaich (fishing boats) the sea was and is their natural element.

Steam navigation came to the West Highlands and Islands with the first successful European steamboat - the Comet of 1812. Today Caledonian MacBrayne is the name synonymous with sea travel to the islands off Scotland's West Coast. The famous company whose Head Office is in Gourock, operates a fleet of 28 modern roll on/roll off car and passenger ferries to the islands on the Firth of Clyde and to the Western Isles. In total, they operate to 23 Scottish Islands and use 52 different ports or terminals.

Besides being the lifeline to the islands for essential supplies, and passengers with or without vehicles, Caledonian MacBrayne's ferries also carry the produce from the islands to the markets on the

mainland. The conveyance of livestock is another important task done by these ferries.

Amongst the deals available for tourists are 'Island Hopscotch' tickets — attractive fares for cars and accompanying passengers on a selection (there are 26 to choose from!) of pre-planned routes on island hopping Holidays, 'Island Rover' runabout tickets for passengers with, or without, cars, 'Family' and 'Day Saver' tickets. The traditional way to Argyll from Glasgow is to sail on the world's last sea going paddle steamer, Waverly. Details of summer sailings by this historic ship from:

*Waverley Excursions Ltd.
Anderston Quay
Glasgow G3 8HA
08451304647*



Air

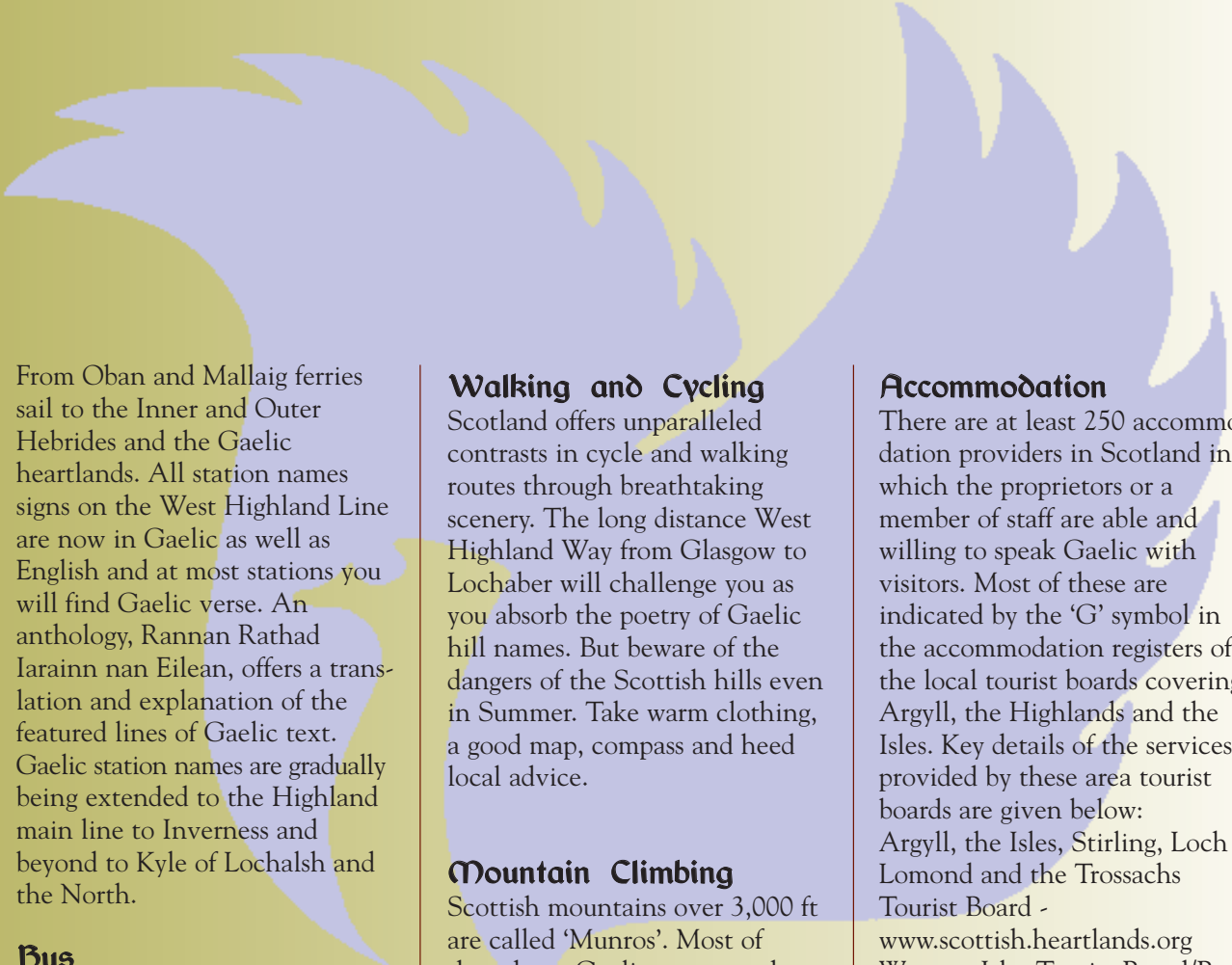
Many British, Irish and continental cities have flights to Glasgow, Prestwick, Edinburgh or Aberdeen. Glasgow is Scotland's North American gateway. Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, Campbeltown, Wick and the islands of Islay, Tiree, Barra, Benbecula and Lewis are accessible by local air services. The Loganair Twin Otter which lands on Barra beach is dependent on the tide for arrival times.

Rail

The Highlands are served by regular train services from London, other English cities, and Edinburgh / Glasgow. Once in the Highlands, you can enjoy many famous scenic train journeys. The Highland Main Line (Rathad Iarainn na Gaidhealtachd) runs to Inverness with connections further north, west and east. The spectacular West Highland Line to Oban, Fort William and Mallaig is one of the great railway journeys of the world. The local people fought hard and successfully for the retention of Rathad Iarainn nan Eilean (The Iron Road to the Isles).



Scotland's main centres have fast Intercity and Sleeper connections with the rest of Great Britain and also with continental Europe via the Channel Tunnel. Within Scotland, ScotRail runs trains to most parts of the country. Scotland's first line, between Cockenzie and Tranent, near Edinburgh, was opened in 1722. The last main line completed in Britain was the famous Mallaig extension of the West Highland Line. The West Highland Line runs from the heart of Glasgow through some of Scotland's wildest and most spectacular scenery.



From Oban and Mallaig ferries sail to the Inner and Outer Hebrides and the Gaelic heartlands. All station names signs on the West Highland Line are now in Gaelic as well as English and at most stations you will find Gaelic verse. An anthology, *Rannan Rathad Iarainn nan Eilean*, offers a translation and explanation of the featured lines of Gaelic text. Gaelic station names are gradually being extended to the Highland main line to Inverness and beyond to Kyle of Lochalsh and the North.

Bus

Apart from excellent long-distance coach services, there is also a local network of bus services which link up with ferries where appropriate. A value for money and friendly way to enjoy the Highlands.

Cultural Tourism Package Holidays

A number of interesting package holidays to Scotland's islands, allowing visitors to explore the language, culture and way of life of the islands, are available. Further information on these and other Hebridean package holidays from Scotia Travel: 0141 305 5050, website: www.scotiatravel.com

Walking and Cycling

Scotland offers unparalleled contrasts in cycle and walking routes through breathtaking scenery. The long distance West Highland Way from Glasgow to Lochaber will challenge you as you absorb the poetry of Gaelic hill names. But beware of the dangers of the Scottish hills even in Summer. Take warm clothing, a good map, compass and heed local advice.

Mountain Climbing

Scottish mountains over 3,000 ft are called 'Munros'. Most of these have Gaelic names and climbing them is a very pleasurable Scottish activity. The *Munros through Windows* is a comprehensive multi-media programme on CD-ROM for Microsoft PC users. Gaelic pronunciation and spelling is given for each hill and there is considerable information about the Munros and Tops, and 100 photographs. The 50 plus features include routes, calculated panoramas — a must for hill identification, and a personal log. Further information can be obtained from Comunn na Gàidhlig's Inverness Office on 01463 234138.

Accommodation

There are at least 250 accommodation providers in Scotland in which the proprietors or a member of staff are able and willing to speak Gaelic with visitors. Most of these are indicated by the 'G' symbol in the accommodation registers of the local tourist boards covering Argyll, the Highlands and the Isles. Key details of the services provided by these area tourist boards are given below:

Argyll, the Isles, Stirling, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Tourist Board - www.scottish.heartlands.org

Western Isles Tourist Board/Bord Turasachd nan Eilean — www.witb.co.uk

Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board — www.host.co.uk

For further holiday information on Scotland, please contact: Visit Scotland, the National Tourism Agency; www.visitscotland.com

an saoghal the celtic world today ceilteach

The language and culture of Gaelic speaking people of Scotland carry forward traditions, values and thought processes whose roots lie directly in the rich pan-European Celtic commonwealth which disintegrated about two thousand years ago. The Scottish Gaels are not the only custodians of this inheritance — the wealth of which is exhibited in multi-lingual centres in other Celtic countries.



Two groups of Celtic languages are spoken in six countries today. Of these the Gaelic speakers of Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man represent the older group and are known by scholars as 'Q' Celtic. Speakers of Welsh, Cornish and Breton represent the Brythonic or 'P' Celtic group. A key distinction is a shift by the Brythonic languages from the old Celtic 'C, K or Qu' sound to a 'P' sound.

The Gaelic languages retain the original sound. There is a degree of mutual comprehension among the languages within each group but not readily across the 'P' and 'Q' divide. Thus Scots and Irish Gaels can, with effort, carry on a conversation through Gaelic. Welsh speakers and Gaelic speakers could not similarly converse unless one of them had learnt the other's language.

The following table illustrates the differences and similarities between the two languages.



cànanan ceilteach THE LIVING CELTIC LANGUAGES

'Q' Celtic			'P' Celtic			
Gaelic	Gaeilge	Manx	Welsh	Cornish	Breton	English
ceann	ceann	kione	pen	pen	penn	head
Càisg	Caisc	Caisht	Pasg	Pask	Pask	Easter
bàrd	bard	bardagh	bardd	barth	barzh	poet
trì	tri	tree	tri, tair	try, tyr	tri, teir	three

These variations in language certainly exist. There is nevertheless much lively interest, contact and exchange of ideas among the six Celtic speaking nations. Music, especially, has been a powerful 'common language' which is now taking the wider world by storm.

Iona & Mayo Abbeys Link

A variety of celebrations were held in 1997 to mark the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Columba, the founding father of the Celtic church on Iona, whose influence reached out far beyond the shores of Scotland and into Europe. This saw the introduction of the St Columba Initiative, set up to foster closer cultural and linguistic ties between Scotland and Ireland. Iona is also a place of peace and harmony and recently ancient links between Iona and Mayo Abbey in Ireland have been revived with joint co-operation in the development of interpretation and welcome centres.

Sailt Erriu ayns Ellan Vannin

(Welcome to the Isle of Man)

The Isle of Man's Celtic inhabitants arrived centuries before Christ and were untouched by the Roman Empire's rise and decline, and assimilated later Norse settlers so successfully that their Celtic language remained the language of the Manx people until English became predominant in recent times. The Manx Church too, has its origins in early Celtic times when Christian missionaries visited Man and established their small keeills (chapels). Manx music, song and dance have developed from a long Celtic tradition which has distinctive Manx elements. Today's annual Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic Festival in the last week of July encourages all of these forms of Celtic culture in Man.



ðè tha òdol?

what's on?



What's On

Throughout the year a wide range of Gaelic events or events that include Gaelic content take place within Scotland and beyond. These range from the small informal and impromptu concert or cèilidh to major festivals such as the Royal National Mod or Celtic Connections.

ðè Tha Òdol?

(What's On?

Arts and Events Listing)

A comprehensive information sheet is widely available in the Highlands and Islands, Gaelic events are marked with the 'G' symbol. To subscribe, contact HI Arts, Ballantyne House, Academy Street, Inverness. 01463 717091.

Television & Radio

There are now more Gaelic television programmes than ever before, ranging from topical to children's programmes to dramas, many of which have English sub-

titles. Further information can be obtained from Comataidh Craolaidh Gàidhlig. Gaelic Radio broadcasting also enjoys a wide range of programmes to cater for all ages and

tastes. Programmes are also available on the internet. Check your newspaper for details. Local Community Radio Stations are in operation at Stornoway, Ullapool, Portree, Fort William, Oban, Speyside and Pitlochry.

The Royal National Mod

A Mod is a competitive Gaelic music festival. The Royal National Mod is held in various locations throughout the Gaelic speaking areas during October, but there are many local Mods all over the country throughout the year. For further information, contact An Comunn Gaidhealach on 01463 231226

Celtic Connections

The annual Celtic Connections Festival takes place every January and brings artists from as far afield as Canada, the United States, Spain, Ireland and France to descend on Glasgow for seventeen days of concerts, talks, cèilidhs, workshops and entertainment. For more information, contact Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on 0141 353 8000

Celtic Film and Television Festival

This four-day festival for the Film and Television industries of the Celtic countries takes place annually around the Celtic areas of Europe. It includes screenings of film from Celtic countries, entertainment, keynote speakers and awards. Come and see what the Celtic nations are doing with their growing film and television industries!

For further information, contact 0141 302 1737



Fèisean

Fèisean (festivals) are held at different times and various locations throughout the year. All are tuition based, and in most cases prior notification has to be given if you are considering taking part. Many of the fèisean are exclusively for children, although some accommodate a wider participation. The fèis organiser will be able to tell you what is on offer e.g. dancing, learning an instrument, singing, drama etc. Each fèis celebrates their talent in a concert or cèilidh on the final night. This is open to all! For further information, contact 01478 613355. www.feisean.org

Fèis an Eilein

The ten-day Gaelic and Music-based Festival, held in the superb new venue of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in south Skye, overlooking the Sound of Sleat. Concerts, ceilidhs, dances, workshops run alongside the College's own week-long summer schools. The Fèis offers a refreshing soft-Gaelic approach to encourage visitors to learn a little of the language. Also on the programme are children's events, a few surprises in theatre and World Music, Festival Saturday and the international indoor all-Gaelic paper-plane throwing competition! Contact 01471 844207. www.feisaneilein.com



Hebridean Celtic Festival

This four-day summer festival, held in mid July in Stornoway, has become one of the most eagerly awaited attractions on the Celtic music calendar. The Festival boasts one of the largest venues in the north of Scotland, located in the scenic grounds of Lews Castle. The central venue is the big marquee which is capable of accommodating up to 3,000. Featuring some of the best of traditional music, song and dance the Festival incorporates performances by artistes from throughout the Celtic nations. Complementary evening concerts are fringe events such as drama productions, historical lectures, music and language workshops. An ideal opportunity for visitors to be introduced to the islands' beautiful landscape, archaeological treasures and distinctive Gaelic culture. Contact PO Box 9909 Stornoway HS2 9DW. Tel: 07001 878 787; infor@hebceltfest.com www.hebceltfest.com





Ceòlas

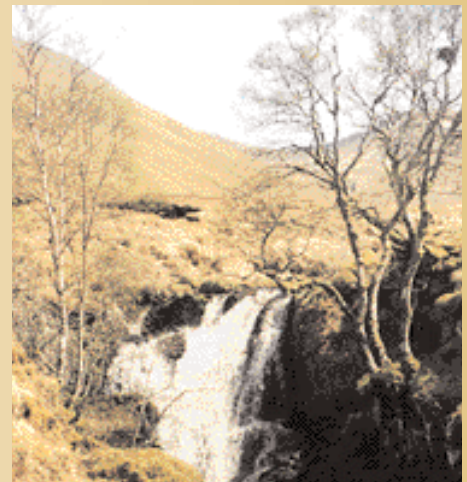
A unique Gaelic music and dance summer school taking place in July based in South Uist that offers tuition in piping fiddle, Gaelic song, square sets, Scottish reels, step dancing and other topics while lessons and lectures in Gaelic are also provided. Over 120 paying pupils attend this event, with more than half the number of pupils coming from the mainland or abroad. House cèilidhs, concerts, cèilidhs in village halls and music and song sessions in local pubs provide opportunities for visitors to experience island hospitality, language and culture. Contact: 01878 710376.

Church Services

Several churches, mainly in the Highlands and Islands, but also in Glasgow and Edinburgh, offer Gaelic services at particular times. Local people will be happy to inform you of the venues, dates and times of Gaelic services.

Bho Èrpa Gu Èrpa

This Indo-European exhibition which circulates throughout Scotland places the Gaelic language in its historical and European context. The suppression of the language at various times and the recent upsurge in popularity are amongst its main themes. The role of Gaelic and Development agencies in contemporary society are considered, as are storytelling and song. The presentation is in Gaelic and sub-titled in other European languages. For further information, contact Comunn na Gàidhlig on 01463 234138.



Gàidhlig a' fàs

Learning Gaelic

One of the features of the Gaelic renaissance is the increasing number of adults who are actively learning to speak Gaelic. Young and old are also finding their way into Gaelic through music, dance, drama and other art forms. A wide range of courses, classes and materials on the Gaelic language and culture are now available throughout Scotland and further afield. A selection of these is advertised on these pages. Details of other opportunities to learn Gaelic are available from CLÌ, the Gaelic learners and supporters organisation. Contact CLÌ on 01463 226710.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

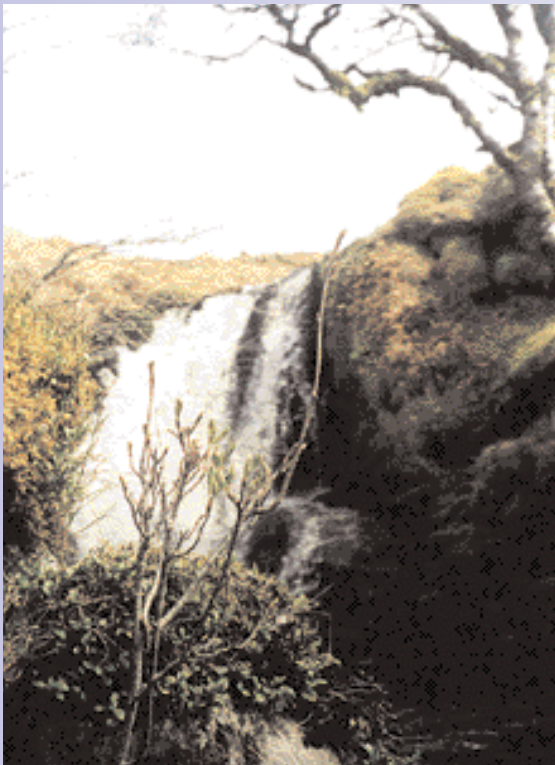
Short Courses — Gaelic and Music:
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has been running Gaelic short courses since 1973. Gaelic conversation classes at all levels, beginners to advanced, in 5-day blocks Monday-Friday during the Easter and Summer holidays. Also courses in Highland Fiddle, Step-dance, Gaelic song, Clàrsach, Piping and other instruments.

Full-time Courses

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has been running full-time courses taught through the medium of Gaelic since 1983. Now Sabhal Mòr graduates of these courses are among the most sought after employees in the Highlands and Islands. Current courses include:

- Gaelic and Communications
- Business Administration with Information Technology or Gaidhealtachd Studies
- Gaelic Arts
- Diploma in Gaelic Television
- Distance Learning

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Teangue,
Sleat, Isle of Skye IV44 8RQ
Tel: 01471 888000
Fax: 01471 888001
oifis@smo.uhi.ac.uk



Learning Gaelic

Lewis Castle College

Short Courses — The College have developed a Gaelic Taster Course that has been run in conjunction with the Fàilte Cultural Tourism Project and the Hebridean Celtic Festival. More recently a series of community courses have been developed with the Community Education Department of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and delivered throughout Lewis and Harris.

Courses include:

Open Learning Courses:

SQA Module Gaelic 1
SQA Module Gaelic 2
SQA Module Gaelic 3

Higher Learners

Full time Courses
Further Education courses

Gaelic Immersion Course:

This is a full-time year long course for Gaelic learners who are interested in achieving fluency in the Gaelic language.

Gaelic Language and Culture Skills

This is a year long course, aimed at fluent speaker or advanced learners who wish to improve their Gaelic skills.

Gaelic Music and Song -

Foundation Course:

This is a year long course based in Colaiste Beinn na Faoghla

Higher Education Courses

CertHE

Advanced Immersion course

CertHE

Gaelic and communications

DipHE Gàidhlig

Gaelic Medium Teacher Training Course

BA Gaelic

with North Atlantic Studies

BA Gaelic

Language and Culture

Further details from:

01851 770457,

www.lewis.uhi.ac.uk





Cothrom na Fèinne

Cothrom na Fèinne at Balmacara, Kyle, offers residential courses in approximately the first week of each month from May to October. Individually tailored weeks or weekends are offered from November to April. The level of Gaelic taught is generally agreed with students beforehand. Contact: Cothrom na Fèinne, Balmacara Mains, Kyle, Scotland IV40 8DN. 01599 566240.

Edinburgh University

The University of Edinburgh provides a unique opportunity to study Scotland's History, Gaelic and the Oral Traditions of Gaelic and Lowland Scots. For information write to: Faculty of Arts, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JX. Tel: 0131 650 3568.

An Ceathramh

An Ceathramh, a purpose-built Gaelic learning centre in Rogart, Sutherland offers week-long courses at four levels from beginner to advanced. The courses, which take place from March to October, also incorporate local history, folklore and the croft environment. Strategically located in the Sutherland area, it provides wonderful opportunities for Gaelic learners to enjoy field trips while they learn. Contact: Alasdair Mearns, Muie East, Rogart, Sutherland IV28 3UB. Tel: 01408 641474.

Books from 'Sàilte'

Facal Phrase Books

A new easy way to use Gaelic pocket phrase books in the Facal series give a useful range of Gaelic phrases and vocabulary with full pronunciation guide. Facal, which means "word" or "phrase" is available in the following languages: English/Gaelic; Spanish/Gaelic; German/Gaelic; Italian/Gaelic; French/Gaelic.

Facal may be purchased in local shops or may be ordered direct from CNAG for £4 each including postage.





Books from Acair

Acair Publications based in Stornoway publish a wide range of Gaelic, English and Bilingual books. From the adventures of Rosie Rabbit and Mr Bear to the writings of Sorley MacLean and Iain Crichton Smith there is something for everyone. Their website with on-line shopping features over 70 of their most popular titles.
Tel: 01851 703020.
www.acairbooks.com.

Scotland (A Linguistic Double Helix)

This is the second book produced by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in a series of publications about European Languages. "Double Helix" outlines the history of the Gaelic and Scots languages and is available in Gaelic, English and French, at £3.50 from CNAG.

Speaking Our Language Cùm Gàidhlig Beò! Keep Gaelic Alive!

If you've enjoyed the Gaelic experience, why not try Speaking Our Language, the user friendly Gaelic learners' course. Attractive work books, audio and video tapes, teaching materials available from:
Cànan Ltd., PO Box 345,
Isle of Skye IV44 8XA.
Tel. 01471-844 345
Fax: 01471-844 421
canan@smo.uhi.ac.uk.

CLÌ

Promote the learning and national status of Gaelic and disseminate information on Gaelic and Gaelic affairs throughout their membership. Gaelic books and tapes available. Quarterly magazine, Cothrom, available through annual subscription to CLÌ, £15 UK and £20 outwith UK. Further information from website: www.cli.org.uk.
CLÌ, North Tower, The Castle, Inverness IV2 3EE.
Tel: 01463 226710.



Annlan na h-Alba

A Taste of Scotland

Scotland is renowned worldwide as a source of the world's finest food and drinks made from the best quality, natural raw materials. As consumers from all over the world increasingly look for freshness and variety with quality, Scotland's reputation

ANNLAN NA H-ALBA A TASTE OF SCOTLAND

continues to grow. Within the range and variety of Scottish produce, uisge-beatha (Scotch whisky) stands out as a flagship. However, other foods such as Scotch beef, fresh and smoked salmon, game - venison and grouse; shellfish, seafish - fresh and smoked; oats, shortbread; soups - such as Scotch Broth, Cullen Skink or Cock-a-Leekie, all have the hallmark and reputation for

being simple and natural quality. While for centuries Scotland has been in the business of producing and exporting food, this has not taken place at the expense of supplying and satisfying the palate of its own residents and visitors. Through all sorts of establishments, such as those listed in the Taste of Scotland Guide, ranging from our grandest hotels to the humblest of restaurants and cafes, consumers anywhere in Scotland can buy good quality meals at whatever price suits them.

Enjoy the tastes of Scotland!

Within the Taste of Scotland Guide there is a range of highly recommended eating places, large and small, from restaurants to hotels and country houses, guest and farm houses. Some feature traditional dishes from the Gaidhealtachd (Highlands and Islands).

It is important to know that caterers cannot buy their way into the Guide. They have to be identified and selected as being



of superior standard and pass a strict inspection system. The Taste of Scotland Guide, costing £8.99 (£9.50 inc. p&p) is available in most good bookshops or from The Taste of Scotland Scheme, 33 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7SF. Tel: 0131 220 1900. www.taste-of-scotland.com.

The Columba Centre

Islay

... is a new centre for Gaelic language and heritage in Islay. Opened in 2002, the Centre provides formal further and higher education courses and informal learning opportunities for islanders and visitors alike.

Situated right on the shores of Loch Indaal, Bowmore's former cottage hospital was extended and thoroughly modernised to house teaching rooms, exhibition area, crèche, library and radio studio. Due to extensive use of glass throughout the building, the centre enjoys magnificent views of the Paps of Jura and the Rhinns of Islay.

Gaelic has been spoken in Islay for over 1,500 years. The impact of the language and culture of the Gaels is to be seen, heard and felt all around the island: Gaelic conversation on the street; the Irish high cross at Kildalton; Gofraidh Croven's memorial stone; the magic of Finlaggan the seat of the Lords of the Isles; music and poetry of the island.



Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle aims to ensure that the traditional Gaelic heritage shall be celebrated and promoted for many years to come. It undertakes to do this in a number of ways: Gaelic medium higher education; research projects into Gaelic language and culture, promotion of language and cultural activities locally and the marketing of an extensive range of short courses about many aspects of Gaelic language and culture. The short courses offer individuals a taste of Gaelic language or the opportunity to

improve their language skills in a relaxed environment. The Centre also offers courses on traditional arts and crafts, music, archaeology, whisky and an introductory course on Gaelic language and culture.

