

## SCOTLAND: HIGHLAND DRESS

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<http://naukabezgranic.pl/podcasty/scotland/>

Highland dress is the traditional, regional dress of the northern part of Scotland. It is worn today by people from all over Scotland and elements have even made their way into mainstream fashion, inspiring designs that you might find in your local shopping mall.

Perhaps the most famous feature of these clothes is the tartan pattern. Tartans are a group of patterns involving repeating horizontal and vertical stripes of different colours. Each family or "clan" in Scotland traditionally had their own tartan with their own family colours. There are also different types of shirt, jacket, and hat that can be worn, along with clan badges and other symbols indicating family heritage.

Men's highland dress includes a kilt, which is a type of men's skirt designed to help the wearer move around easily in battle. Trousers, or "trews" can also be worn in the family tartan. Accessories may include a belt, a type of purse called a sporran and a sgian dubh. A sgian dubh is a knife kept in the right sock in case you need to fight in a hurry. So what does a Scotsman wear under his kilt? The answer is: nothing! Traditionally at least, although competitors in the Highland Games often do wear shorts under their kilts these days to avoid giving the public more than they paid for.

Ghillie brogues are the traditional, thick soled shoes with no tongues and long laces. The laces are wrapped around and tied firmly above the wearer's ankles so that the shoes do not get pulled off in the mud. The shoes lack tongues so the wearer's feet can dry more quickly in the typically damp Scottish weather.

Women's highland dress is also based on the clan tartan, either that of her birth clan or, if married, that of her husband's clan if she so chooses. Traditionally, women and girls do not wear kilts but may wear ankle-length tartan skirts, along with a colour-coordinated blouse and vest. Women's shoes, also called ghillies, are more often the thin, foldable variety with sole and uppers cut from one piece of leather, now used mostly for indoor wear

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and dancing. Like the modern ghillie brogues, they also have no tongue, and the laces are wrapped around and tied above the wearer's ankles.

These days, Scottish people do not wear highland dress every day, but it is still worn at important events like weddings, funerals and cultural events such as the Highland Games. Famous people to wear kilts include original James Bond, Sean Connery; Billy Boyd, from Lord of the Rings and Lost, and Gerard Butler.

Do you have traditional dress in your country? Do you like it? On what kind of occasions do people wear it? How do you think it compares to Highland dress?