



Reading and Movies

We do carry a portable library on tour, but you may also be interested in the following books. Be sure to check out the blog portion of our website at www.experienceplus.com/blog for additional suggestions and to read reviews.

Guidebooks

We recommend any of the standard, current guidebooks such as Fodor's, Frommer's, Rick Steves, or Lonely Planet. The regional Michelin "Green Guides" are personal favorites and probably the best available sources for historical and geographical information. For encyclopedic history and art, the "Blue Guide" series of guidebooks are recommended. These guides are available in a number of editions by region or by city.

Literature on Scotland or by Scottish Authors

- *Scotland: The Autobiography 2000 years of Scottish History by Those Who Saw It Happen* by Rosemary Goring. A compilation of stories of firsthand accounts of the history of Scotland that present real life perspectives and not just factual historical time lines.
- *Scotland: The Story of a Nation* by Magnus Magnusson presents a condensed version of the history of Scotland.
- *Waverly*, by Sir Walter Scott. Scott's first novel tells is reported to be the start of the historical novel genre and vividly displays the Scottish Highlands during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745.
- *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson. You may have read this as a child and wish to revisit the story of David Balfour's adventures of kidnap and shipwreck in 18th century Scotland to claim his rightly inheritance that his deceitful uncle tries to keep from him.
- *Calum's Road* by Roger Hutchinson. A true story of Calum MacLoed of the Isle of Raasay, who singlehandedly set out o build a road connecting his hometown of Arnish to the town of Brochel. It combines historical and political events of this Hebridean community with one man's determination and hope to repopulate the northern portion of the island.
- Edinburgh, Scotland is the birth place of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the famed Sherlock Holmes detective stories.
- Robert Burns (1759 – 1796), Scotland's celebrated poet and lyricist. His noted works are *Auld Lang Syne*, *A Red, Red Rose*; *A Man's A Man for A' That*; *To a Louse*; *To a Mouse*; and *The Battle of Sherramui*.
- Try any of Neil M. Gunn's works. He is an acclaimed 20th century Scottish novelist known to evoke the landscape and lifestyle of the Highlands with his writing. *Off in a Boat*, *Butcher's Broom*, *Whisky and Scotland*, *Highland River*.
- *Blue Bells of Scotland: Blue Bell Trilogy Book One* by Laura Vosika combines modern and medieval Scotland with time travel when a main character is thought to be a medieval Highland warrior.
- *Queen Hereafter: A Novel of Margaret of Scotland* by Susan Fraser King is historical fiction of 11th century Scotland showing the lives of Queen Margaret, King Malcolm, and a Celtic bard named Eva. The author's concluding note explains why she chose Margaret for her story.
- *Golf in the Kingdom* and its sequel *Shivas Irons* by Michael Murphy combines myth, mysticism, philosophy and golf of Scotland.
- *Another Time, Another Place* by Jessie Kesson tells the story of three Italian prisoners of war in 1944 that are housed in northeast Scotland.
- *Following the Sun: A Bicycle Pilgrimage From Andalusia to the Hebrides* by John Hanson Mitchell. As a self-proclaimed sun worshipper the author shares his travel journey tales from Spain to Scotland on his old Peugeot.



His story is filled with history, archeology, lore, and the study of ancient sun worshipping cultures and his conversations with locals along the way.

Literature on Cycling

- *Miles from Nowhere* by Barbara Savage. One of the best-written bicycle adventure stories available.
- *Bicycling Magazine* regularly carries articles on training and technique. Visit your local library on a Sunday afternoon and peruse their collection.
- *Effective Cycling* by John Foresters. Tells you everything you could possibly need to know and more, including safety, maintenance, technique and the physiology of cycling.

Movies About or Set in Scotland That We Have Enjoyed

- *Monarch of the Glen* (TV series 2000– 2005). A London restaurateur returns to his homeland of the Scottish Highlands to assume his role as Laird of a 40,000 acre estate that is on the brink of bankruptcy. It has a touch of comedy, drama, and romance all set with a backdrop of the Highlands. It is a wonderful choice for viewing the beautiful countryside and architecture and people of Scotland.
- *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969) – Dame Maggie Smith won an Academy Award for her starring role as an eccentric teacher at an Edinburgh's girls' school that sparks controversy with her unorthodox methods in this Scottish classic set in the 1930's.
- *Braveheart* (1995), winner of 5 Academy Awards, Mel Gibson's 3 hour long action packed bloody battle epic portrays Sir William Wallace (1270 – 1305), a Scottish freedom fighter warrior, leading his country in an uprising against English rule.
- *Rob Roy* (1995), a swashbuckling movie starring Liam Neeson that is best watched for its vivid picture of Scotland in the early 1700's. Many scenes were shot around Fort William, Crieff, and Edinburgh.
- *Made of Honor* (2008), a romantic comedy with poor reviews, yet it has scenes of Scotland and the Isle of Skye. Perhaps worth a view using the fast forward feature.
- *The Queen* (2006) – In her Oscar-winning role, Helen Mirren portrays Queen Elizabeth II as the royal family and Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) work together in the days following the death of Princess Diana. Includes scenes of Balmoral Castle.
- *Ring of Bright Water* (1969) – A story for all ages, but beware it includes some sadness. Graham Merrill, a London professional, and his newly acquired otter move to a ramshackle cottage situated on the coast of Scotland. A romance develops between Graham and the town's doctor and the three of them explore their beautiful surroundings.
- *Local Hero* (1983) - The encounters of when representatives of an American oil company hoping to secure property rights for a refinery meet with locals of a village in northern Scotland. A funny and visually stunning movie.
- *I Know Where I'm Going!* (1945). A critically acclaimed romantic drama by Powell and Pressburger about a middle-class Englishwoman certain of her path in life to travel to The Hebrides to marry a very wealthy older gentleman until inclement weather, a young Laird, and a curse on his castle come into her life.

