

Responsible camping with tents in Scotland



SCOTTISH **OUTDOOR**
ACCESS CODE
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In Scotland, you can enjoy the outdoors on most land as long as you act responsibly. This includes lightweight camping in tents which is done in small numbers and for two or three nights in any one place.

Scotland offers a range of managed campsites with all the necessary facilities for an enjoyable and comfortable visit, and these are normally a much better option in busy areas. If you are camping elsewhere, it is essential to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

How to camp

- Be considerate – keep groups small, quiet and well away from buildings and roads. If it's busy, go elsewhere.
- Do not camp in enclosed fields of crops or farm animals.
- Take away all your belongings and litter – leave no trace.

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Cooking

- Use a camping stove.
- Never light open fires, BBQs or fire bowls during dry periods, or near forests, farmland, buildings or historic sites at any time.
- Never cut down or damage trees.
- Follow all local advice to prevent fires at high risk times and places. Report any fires on 999 immediately.

Toileting

- Use public toilets where available.
- If not, go at least 30 metres from open water – carry a trowel and bury your poo.

Parking

- Access rights don't include motor vehicles. If public or private land owners restrict or regulate parking on their land, you must comply with this.
- Don't cause any damage or create an obstruction, for example by blocking entrances or making it difficult for other people to use a road or track.
- Have regard for the safety of others.
- Try not to damage the verge.
- Use a car park if one is nearby.

Remember that access rights only apply if you behave responsibly – and they don't provide an excuse for anything that is an offence.

For more information and further guidance on different activities, visit the Scottish Outdoor Access Code website.

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