



Remember these key points when camping in Scotland:

- **Be considerate.** Avoid causing problems for land managers. Do not camp in enclosed fields of crops or farm animals.
- **Lighting fires.** Never cut down or damage trees. Use a stove if possible. If you must have an open fire keep it small and under control and remove all traces before leaving.
- **Toilet waste.** If public toilets aren't available, carry a trowel and bury your faeces.
- **Clean water.** When you need to go to the toilet, do so well away from open water, rivers and streams.
- **Litter.** Take away all of your rubbish and consider picking up other litter as well.
- **Avoid overcrowding.** Keep groups small, quiet and well away from buildings, roads or historic structures.

  
**KNOW THE CODE  
 BEFORE YOU GO**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)



### For further information

If you would like a copy of the full Code phone Scottish Natural Heritage on **01738 444177**, email **pubs@snh.gov.uk** or visit **outdooraccess-scotland.com**

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland and the Scottish Canoe Association provide information on camping responsibly in Scotland.

**www.mcofs.org.uk**  
**www.canoescotland.com**

ScottishCamping.com provides an accessible, accurate and comprehensive directory of campsites in Scotland.

**www.scottishcamping.com**

Photography: Front cover & P4 Lorne Gill/SNH, P2, P3 & P5 iStockphoto.  
ISBN 978-1-85397-665-0

## Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment**

Visit **outdooraccess-scotland.com** or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



**KNOW THE CODE  
 BEFORE YOU GO**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)

# Camping in Scotland

## How to camp responsibly and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code



  
**KNOW THE CODE  
 BEFORE YOU GO**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)





# Camping in Scotland

Scotland's access legislation means that everyone can go camping wherever access rights apply, as long as it's done responsibly. There are a few reasonable exceptions to where you can camp - you should avoid camping in enclosed fields of crops or farm animals, or near buildings.

Access rights depend on responsible behaviour, and it's vital that people think about the effects of their actions on others and on the environment.

Access rights are not an excuse to justify behaviour that may be an offence under other legislation. For example byelaws preventing the consumption of alcohol in a public place remain.

The **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities of those exercising access rights including advice about lighting fires, toilet waste and litter.



## How to follow the Code

### Lighting fires

Out of control fires are one of the most damaging consequences of camping. Never cut down or damage trees.

Wherever possible use a stove rather than light an open fire. If you do wish to light an open fire, keep it small, under control and supervised – fires that get out of control can cause major damage, for which you might be liable.

Never light an open fire during prolonged dry periods or in areas such as forests, woods, farmland, or on peaty ground or near to buildings where damage can be easily caused. Heed all advice at times of high risk. Remove all traces of an open fire before you leave.

### Keep it clean

Take away all your rubbish and consider picking up other litter as well. Do not leave any food scraps as these might be eaten by animals and help to spread diseases.

### Where to 'Go' outdoors

Human sanitation in the outdoors is as essential as other outdoor skills. If public toilets aren't available the best method to dispose of excrement is usually to bury, but this needs to be done sensitively.



If you need to urinate or defecate, do so more than 30m away from open water, rivers and streams. Keep well away from buildings and farm animals. Dig a hole approximately 15-20cm deep and 10-15cm in diameter to bury faeces and replace the turf.

Visit [outdooraccess-scotland.com](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

