

SCOTLAND

Every week *Country Watch* explores a new area for nature lovers. This week we travel to **Scotland**, the most northern country in the United Kingdom.

1 Scotland is a mountainous country. The Highlands in the north and west are the wildest and the most beautiful part of it. There are high mountains and deep valleys. The highest mountain in the UK is in Scotland. It is called Ben Nevis and is 1,343 metres high.

2 Travel downhill and you'll reach the sea, but the country doesn't end there. There are 780 islands in Scotland. The most famous are the Shetland Islands, home of the Shetland pony, the smallest horse in the world. The people on these islands knit beautiful pullovers and gloves from the wool of the Shetland sheep.

3 Loch is the Scottish word for "lake". There are a lot of lochs in Scotland. The most famous one is undoubtedly Loch Ness. Every year lots of tourists visit Loch Ness because they believe that Nessie, a dinosaur-like monster, lives there.

4 The climate in Scotland is wet and mild in the west and a little colder and dryer in the east. Winters are generally mild, except in the Highlands, where heavy snowfalls are regular. Summers are cool, as temperatures are rarely higher than 18°C.

5 Nature lovers can see lots of animals and birds in Scotland. You'll find seals on the coast, while red deer—as well as reindeer from Sweden—live in the Highlands. Finally, it isn't unusual to see a rare golden eagle flying high over the mountain peaks.

