



*Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau
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30th Annual Scots Fest Coming

ESTES PARK – It’s been 30 years since the first Scottish Festival in Estes Park featured a handful of participants and caused a few curious stares. Now about 75,000 attend the annual four-day Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival event that’s filled with pageantry, athletic contests, jousting, concerts, food and plenty of bagpipes as well.

This year’s event is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 7 through Sunday, Sept. 10.

There will be an hour-long parade through downtown Estes Park on Saturday morning (9:30 a.m. Sept. 9), evening tattoos (massed pipe bands in performance), pipe band and folk concerts, international jousting championships, athletics, Dogs of the British Isles, dancers, musicians, scotch tasting, ceilidhs (parties), gathering of the clans, food and crafts, comprising a veritable encyclopedia of all things Celtic.

Activities in Estes Park kick off at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7 with the first of three evening pipe band performances (also known as tattoos) at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds.

Friday’s schedule (Sept. 8) includes a morning seminar about “The Ulster-Scots, a Forgotten People,” by Dr. Brian Trainor and a mid-afternoon seminar, covering “History, Lore, Myths and Legends about Scotland’s Water of Life” that concludes with scotch tasting at the Estes Park Conference Center (U.S. Hwy. 36 and Colo. Hwy. 7).

Those attending the festival have choices to make for activities on both Friday and Saturday nights (Sept. 8 and 9). Both evenings include a tattoo at the fairgrounds, a folk concert at the Estes Park Conference Center, a Colorado Celtic concert at Ruesch Auditorium on the grounds of the YMCA of the Rockies and a Ceildh (pronounced kay-lee) Celtic New Years Party.

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Festival grounds (Stanley Park adjacent to U.S. Hwy 36 at Community Drive) are open for activity from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, Saturday, Sept. 9 and Sunday, Sept. 10. There, people will be can enjoy the Gathering of the Clans, music, dance and athletic competitions, exhibitions, Dogs of the British Isles on parade, merchants, food, drink, crafts and music.

The Saturday morning parade features festival participants heading through the heart of downtown Estes Park at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 9.

Guest bands and performance groups include the US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Band, Celtic Cannons, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pipes & Drums, 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Pipes and Drums, 2nd Maryland Co. E Confederate Civil War Fifes & Drums & Drill Team, Track 29 and 10th Mountain Division, USO Show.

The U.S./International Championships in jousting featuring teams from Canada and the U.S., and men's and women's Scottish athletic events add to the excitement, as do competitions for Irish and Scottish Dancers, regional pipe bands, folk musicians and more.

Celtic Artists include folk entertainers Alex Beaton, a native of Glasgow, Scotland; Seamus Kennedy, a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Oceans Apart, a group that combines the traditional music and dance from the British Isles and America, the five-member band Seven Nations, and Brother (Celtic-Aboriginal-Australian music with a rock & roll attitude).

Ticket prices are: adult field pass one day/\$20; adult field pass three days/\$45; children (ages 6-15) field pass/\$5; children 5 and under free. Evening performances, concerts and tattoos are \$20 each.

For more information or to order tickets call 1-800-903-7837.

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