

The Great Park Debate

We're campaigning for the creation of more National Parks in Scotland – and we want to hear your opinion...



THE UK has 15 National Parks – just two are in Scotland. We at *The Scots Magazine* believe that's woefully inadequate.

Our wonderful home has many unique habitats of international importance that, by any standards, merit the title National Park and the protection that brings. The Scottish Campaign for National Parks and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland have identified the seven areas outlined here as potential new Parks. What do you think?

JOIN THE DEBATE

Do we need more National Parks?
Which areas should be included?
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BEN NEVIS/GLEN COE/BLACK MOUNT: Majestic mountains.

The Highlands at their most mountainous, this area embraces Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis, the alpine splendour of Glens Nevis & Coe, bleak Rannoch Moor and the fjord-like Loch Leven and Loch Etive. Famed for its scenery and much of it recognised as a Geo-Park, it's popular for hillwalking and mountaineering, has two ski resorts and brands itself the "Outdoor Capital of the UK".



CHEVIOTS AND BORDER HILLS: Timeless landscape rich in history.

Lonely, remote sheep-farming country of grassy moorland, interspersed by rocky outcrops. The hills' southern flanks lie in Northumberland National Park, yet the equally fine landscapes of the north, with layered ridges of hills, largely treeless valleys and wealth of historic and archaeological interest, enjoy no recognition nationally. Key entry point at Carter Bar boasts a view to equal any in the British Isles.



GLEN AFFRIC: Secluded and sylvan – Scotland's finest glen.

The most beautiful and least spoilt of a trio of magnificent glens, bringing together mountain, moorland, woods and water in captivating combination. Heading east to west takes the traveller from dense forests of Scots pine and birch, past beguiling lochs to wild moorland surrounded by daunting peaks. Particularly enticing in its autumn colours. The scene of major efforts in habitat restoration.



GALLOWAY: Lush and wild – Scotland's pastoral gem.

Our south-west corner has astonishing contrasts: coastal habitats ranging from soft muds at the inner Solway to the sands of Luce Bay and dramatic cliffs at the Mull of Galloway, farmland, rich woodland, and hills from the gently rounded to the starkly severe. There's a wide array of historic and cultural sites, attractive villages and towns, world-class bike trails and the UK's first Dark Skies Park.



WESTER ROSS: Majesty in stone – wild Scotland epitomised.

Spectacular mountains rise abruptly from rocky moors threaded by a mosaic of lochs. It's framed by a sporadic fringe of coastal farmland, with its distinctive crofts. Pockets of native woodland nestle amid tracts of wild land. Magnificent sea lochs and occasional sandy bays punctuate an otherwise forbidding coast, with attention-grabbing seaward views of Skye and the Western Isles.



COASTAL AND MARINE PARK: The dramatic, magical west coast.

The western seaboard casts a spell. Its dramatic variety reflects a complex geological history. With its exposed position on the edge of the Atlantic, it gives rise to richly diverse ecology and fascinatingly varied landscapes. Fruitful seas contribute to the area's dynamic feel, it teems with wildlife. A park centred on Mull, Coll and Tiree, taking in the Small Isles and parts of Skye as well as Islay and Jura would capture its essence.



HARRIS: A world apart – dazzling beaches and amazing rockscapes.

Expresses to perfection the unique Hebridean mix of land, water, sand and stone, rich grazing and barren hills. A wild, mountainous interior descends in the west to flower-strewn machair, dunes and beaches; in the east, to a maze of rock and peat. Seas are dramatic – cliff-girt inlets and island-studded sounds to open ocean, all convey a feeling of being on the very edge of the continent.