

# Guidelines to Wearing Highland Dress

**Helpful Hints** – You will find it easier to dress from the “bottom up”. Start with socks, shoes, flashes and sgian dubh. Once you have “below the knee” in order, put on your shirt and tie, followed by the kilt, sporran, and chain. The waistcoat (vest) is next, and finally the jacket to complete the outfit.

**Tie** – The bow tie is usually worn with a wing tip shirt; however, a normal collar shirt can also be worn. (Note: shirts are not included with our rental outfits).

**Kilt Pin** – This should be pinned only through the front apron of the kilt and serves only as a decoration. This should not pin the fabric together as it can result in ripping the cloth of the kilt.

**Sgian Dubh** – The literal translation of sgian dubh is “hidden knife” and that is what it should be. Only the top 1” should be showing above the hose. Generally worn down the right sock, although a left-handed person could wear this down the left side.

**Flashes** – Worn to the outside of the leg directly above the laces of the Ghillie Brogues (if worn) or lined up to the front of the ankle bone, bring the sock turnover down and cover approx. half of the double loop.

**Plaid** (not shown) – If rented, place the tapered edge under the jacket’s left shoulder epaulette then secure the plaid to the jacket with the brooch. **DO NOT PIN THE PLAID TO THE SILK LAPELS OF THE PRINCE CHARLIE JACKET.** The plaid then simply hangs over the left shoulder.

**Kilt** – The kilt is worn with the **pleats to the back** and should sit well up on the body, approximately 2” above the waist. The bottom of the kilt should be approximately 1” above the ground when kneeling, adjust the kilt until the centre of the front apron is in line with the navel.

**Sporran** – Feed the chainstrap through the loops at the back of the kilt and centre the sporran to the front apron of the kilt. When worn with the Prince Charlie Jacket the sporran should sit a couple of inches below the points of the jacket.

**Hose** – Should not be pulled up right to the knee, but should be approx. 2-3 finger widths below the bottom of the kneecap. (Note: hose are not included with our rental outfits).

**Shoes** – Any men’s dress shoe will be fine if you do not have Ghillie Brogues.

Ghillie Brogues should be tied up as follows as per the diagram: a) start off in the usual shoe tying manner by crossing the two laces and pulling tight b) hold this foundation, twist the laces three times and pull tight (this will produce a vertical thong of approx. 1”) c) pass the laces around the back of the ankle, bringing both laces back around to the front d) tie in a normal knot, to the outside of the ankle (alternately, can be tied in the front), leaving remaining lace and toggle to dangle.



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