

Iron road to the Highlands

Von Glasgow mit dem Zug in das winzige Mallaig, dem Fährhafen für die Insel Skye: Die Reise hat Charme und verläuft gemächlich. Und die Landschaft gehört zum Besten, was Schottland zu bieten hat. JULIAN EARWAKER über seine Reise [medium](#) [plus](#) [www.](#)

The train rattles through the night, shaking me awake every time I fall asleep. I'm on the sleeper from London to Glasgow, sharing a cabin with a young Londoner called Alan. He's never been to Scotland before, and he can hardly contain his excitement. "I'm going to get my first look at Scotland," he says, opening the door to let in the cold light of early morning. When he returns a few minutes later, he looks a little disappointed. "Well?" I ask him.

"It's misty," says Alan, "and very post-industrial."

In the late 1800s, Glasgow (see *Spotlight 4/06*) was the British Empire's second city, a major transatlantic port for coal and steel. The steam engine, invented by local man James Watt, had given this expanding city its industrial power. In 1894, Glasgow was connected with the town of Fort William, 120 kilometres to the north, by the new West Highland Railway.

contain sth. [kən'teɪn]	etw. zügeln/im Zaum halten
misty ['mɪsti]	dunstig, leicht neblig
sleeper ['sli:pə]	Nachtreisezug
steam engine ['sti:m ,endʒɪn]	Dampfmaschine, Dampflokomotive