

The Greenland Tartan

Scotland and Greenland share a long and enduring connection. As a relatively small Sovereign nation located on the northern periphery of Europe, Scotland was appalled and horrified to watch the territorial posturing over Greenland, displayed by the President of the USA during January 2026.

In Scotland's long history, we are only too aware of how an overly aggressive and acquisitive neighbour can shape and affect a peoples' cultural and social identity. And we thought hard about a way that we could show solidarity and strength with our Greenlandic friends; our company, **Great Scot**, with the keen support of Brendan O'Hara MP (Chair of the APPG on Greenland) decided to create and gift a valuable piece of our cultural identity in the form of a Scottish Tartan design, - exclusively for the use of Greenland and her people.

In Scotland, Tartan cloth has long been understood to be politically, socially and culturally powerful, and through the Scottish diaspora, that power has been exported all over the globe. The proud and historic Clan and family lineages that our tartans represent today attest to this fact. So it made perfect sense for Greenland to have her own tartan too.

From the very first whaling expeditions to Greenland's coasts in the 1750s, to modern day polar expeditions, Scots men and women have humbly played a key role in both exploration and in furthering our understanding of the Arctic environment and its peoples.

Inspired by the sett pattern of the Wylie tartan, this tartan pays homage to the Scottish explorer, filmmaker and botanist, Isobel Wylie Hutchison, whose research in Greenland provided a wealth of specimens and seeds for the botanic gardens of Edinburgh. But Isobel also forged strong and influential friendships with the Greenlanders she met including with the highly respected explorer and anthropologist, Knud Rasmusson - the 'Father of Inuit Studies'.

Slightly more recently, the **Great Scot** designer of this tartan himself crossed the inland ice of Greenland as part of the Scottish Trans-Greenland Expedition, in 2004, in doing so becoming one of the youngest teams ever to successfully make the crossing. More than 20 years after that life-defining journey, it is the greatest privilege for him to help bring a Greenlandic tartan to life.

The colours of the tartan are inspired by the red and white of the *Erfalasorput*, the Greenland flag. But there is also a subtle reference to the diverse natural environment; the delicate pink signifies the hardy *Niviarsiaq*, or Dwarf Fireweed, Greenland's national flower.

Finally, there's an old saying in Scotland that goes:

'If you wear the tartan, then you can fight for the clan!'

And you can be sure that as Scots, we will always wear our tartan with you, and stand in solidarity for the right of Greenland to be for the Greenlanders!

Patrick Lewtas,
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