

2019-20 EXPLORE

# INVERNESS, NAIRN & LOCH NESS

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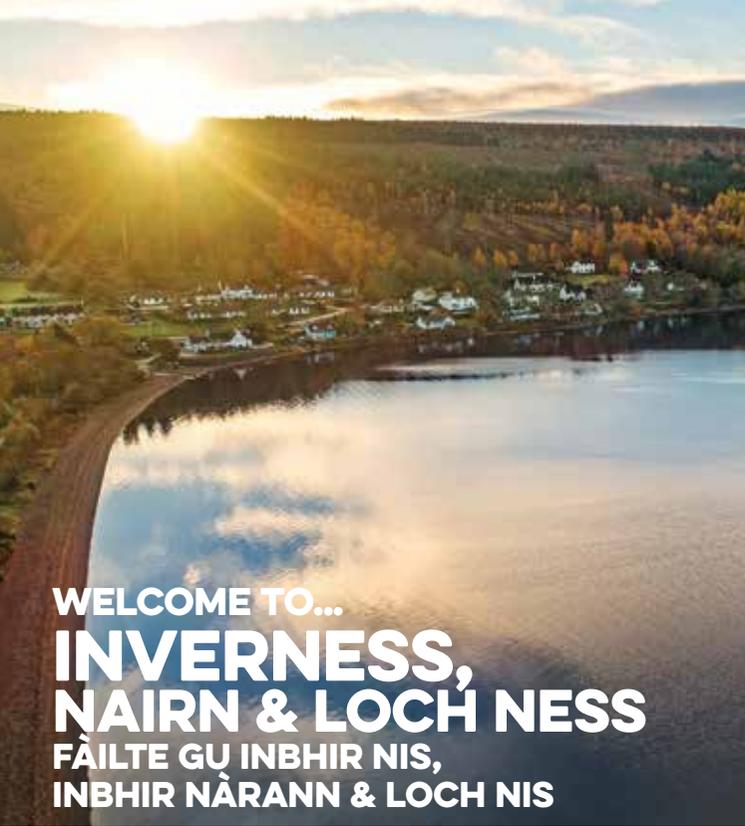
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# WELCOME TO... INVERNESS, NAIRN & LOCH NESS

FÀILTE GU INBHIR NIS,  
INBHIR NÀRANN & LOCH NIS

A visit to Inverness, Nairn and Loch Ness will be packed full of memorable adventures with so many things to see and do. Come here and you can dip your toes in the surf on Nairn's two golden beaches as friendly dolphins play offshore. Step back in time and learn the dramatic tales of ruined Urquhart Castle and the mysterious monster that lives in the loch beside it. Treat yourself to some of the most delicious local food and drink that Scotland has to offer. Then lace up your boots and explore the many mountains and glens of this ancient landscape. Everywhere you go, you'll discover Scotland's past and flourishing culture. Come and see why the Highlands and Islands have been named a top region in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2019.



Produced and published by APS Group Scotland (APS) in conjunction with VisitScotland (VS) and Scottish Provincial Press (SPP).

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visit **Inverness**  
**loch ness**

Cover: Loch Beinn a' Mheadhain, Glen Affric

Above image: A view of Loch Ness and the village of Dores at sunrise

Credits: © VisitScotland.  
Kenny Lam, Stuart Brunton,  
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# INVERNESS, NAIRN & LOCH NESS AT A GLANCE

## SINBHIR NIS, INBHIR NÀRANN & LOCH NIS AIG AON SEALLADH

Get your urban buzz on in a cool and compact modern city, take in the air in a delightful Victorian spa town, then get your binoculars out to go searching for a world-famous monster – what a day! Here you can dig deep into the past at fascinating historical sites, get an eyeful of some amazing local wildlife, dive into thrilling outdoor pursuits, or simply ease back and enjoy the breathtaking scenery.

### **Inverness**

Inverness, the ‘city in the Highlands’, is a jewel of a city in a beautiful Scottish mountain and riverside setting. Relax by the River Ness and enjoy walking around the lovely Ness Islands, taste the finest Scottish cuisine, or simply head out to the surrounding countryside and try your hand at a range of outdoor activities.

Enjoy spectacular 360 degree views of the Highland capital and surrounding scenery from The Castle Viewpoint - Inverness’ newest visitor attraction.

Feel the weight of the Achavrail bronze armlet at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, then play ancient

Celtic boardgames, learn how to speak some Gaelic and wrap yourself up in an 18th-century style Highland kilt!

Shop till you drop in Inverness, browsing in all sorts of stores from large brand name outlets to small independent shops. Round off a perfect day by treating yourself to a night of entertainment at Eden Court Theatre.

### **Beaully and Strathglass**

Take your time to enjoy all the quaint boutiques in the picturesque town of Beaully.

Cast your line and try your luck in the beautiful waters of the River

Beaully, one of Scotland’s renowned salmon fishing rivers.

Leave the everyday world far behind amid the splendour of Glen Affric and other stunning glens such as Glen Cannich and Strathfarrar.

Pause for a moment’s peace at the historic ruins of Beaully Priory, which was founded by Valliscaulian monks in 1230.

Lace up your boots, pack a sandwich and head out for a walk – the area is full of inspiring strolls. You could try the Cnoc-na-Rath hill path, the riverside route to the Priory, or wander in the woods on your way to Dunmore.



Loch Ness

### Loch Ness

Feeling monstrous? Everyone should come to the mysterious Loch Ness at least once in their lives, and hope for a sighting of 'Nessie', the legendary Loch Ness monster. You can brush up on your Nessie history at the exhibition centres in Drumnadrochit.

Step out on the spectacular and newly completed South Loch Ness Trail.

Go back 1,000 years into the turbulent past of one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart Castle. It perches proudly on a headland on the shore of Loch Ness, and has frequently been attacked and besieged over the centuries.

Get your fix of breathtaking scenery around Loch Ness and the Great Glen on horseback with Loch Ness Riding.

Wherever you travel in the region, keep an eye out for shy but beautiful local wildlife such as buzzards and roe deer.

### Nairn

Located on the Moray Firth, this lovely Victorian seaside resort with its grand villas and picturesque harbour is one of the driest and sunniest places in Scotland and a great place to take a boat trip to spot dolphins.

Paddle in the sea at the award-winning Nairn Beach. Roam through the low sand dunes and look out to sea – you might spot the famous Moray Firth dolphins frolicking in the waves.

Golfers can choose from one of the town's two championship courses, Nairn and Nairn Dunbar.

## LEARN THE LANGUAGE

Many local residents speak Scottish Gaelic, a Celtic language native to Scotland. If you hear them talking, why not have fun and join in with a few everyday phrases?

### Madainn mhath –

Pronounced: madeeng vah  
– **good morning**

**Fàilte** – Pronounced: falcha  
– **welcome**

### Ciamar a tha thu? –

Pronounced: keemar a ha oo?  
– **how are you?**

### Cò as a tha thu? –

Pronounced: co ass a ha oo?  
– **where are you from?**

### Tapadh leat –

Pronounced: tap-ah lat  
– **thank you**

### Uisge-beatha –

Pronounced: uska ber  
– **whisky**

### Slàinte mhath! –

Pronounced: slancha va  
– **Cheers!/Good health!**

### Mar sin leat! –

Pronounced: mar shin let-h  
– **goodbye**

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River Ness, Inverness

# CITY ESCAPE

## TEICHEADH CHUN BHAILE



**Inverness is the ideal getaway destination to recharge your batteries. It nestles on the banks of the River Ness, and here you can enjoy all the urban delights of shopping and fine dining while still being just a stone's throw from the wonderful natural landscapes of the Highlands. Soak up the culture and enjoy great museums, art galleries and the year-round events of this handy hub in the Highlands.**

Old meets new in the shops of Inverness. Wander in the heart of the Old Town to browse for special one-off purchases at the charming Victorian Market. Or head over to the Eastgate Centre where you'll find high street brands in a bright and airy shopping space.

Packing an appetite? Good, because you'll need it here.

Inverness has a smorgasbord of places to eat out including stylish restaurants, charming cafés

and cosy pubs. From traditional to contemporary, local to international, you can take your pick of rich dining experiences.

Seek out a moment's sanctuary in St Andrew's Cathedral in Inverness then revive your spirits even further with some home baking in the tearoom, which is open Monday to Friday between May and September.

The city is blessed with a bountiful natural larder right on its doorstep

– so be sure to sample the fine local food and drink. Savour seafood, succulent meats and, of course, whisky, uisge beatha, 'the water of life'. There are many distilleries in and around the area so why not visit one and sample a dram at its source?

How is a kilt made? Find out at the Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre where you can see kilts being crafted and delve into the fascinating history of tartan.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Clava Cairns are Bronze Age burial sites that are around 4,000 years old.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- You can catch amazing shows, musical performances and festivals at Eden Court Theatre, or watch the latest film releases. It's one of the best-equipped arts centres in the country, with a theatre, cinema and dance and drama studios – check out the events programme because there's bound to be something amazing happening.
- Perching like an eagle on a cliff overlooking the River Ness is Inverness Castle. This impressive red sandstone structure was built in 1836 by architect William Burn. Today it houses Inverness Sheriff Court and is not open to the public but you can visit the North Tower viewing platform.
- Stop and smell the roses at Inverness Botanic Gardens and discover peace and tranquillity amid beautiful floral displays. You can spot hundreds of species of subtropical plants and a blooming outdoor garden. Explore the Cactus House, home to a range of prickly plants from all over the world.

Inverness Town House

Explore the art, history and heritage of the Highlands at the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. The fascinating collections range from Jacobite memorabilia and authentic Highland weapons to medieval jewellery.

You need somewhere special to rest your weary head at the end of the day, and Inverness has lots of accommodation to choose from. Whether you want a large, modern city centre hotel or an inviting guest house or B&B, you'll find your ideal place to stay. You could opt for self-catering and stay in a central apartment or a delightful cottage. If you're on a budget,

you'll find hostels are great value for money.

Climb the North Tower of Inverness Castle and witness the stunning view over the city and towards Ben Wyvis from the brand new viewing platform.

Whenever you visit you'll find the city's calendar is packed with traditional events, such as Inverness Whisky and Gin Festival, Highland games, and the Blas Festival, a celebration of Gaelic culture. If you're a music fan, you have to come to the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival, which draws big-name performers and delights crowds every year.

Flora MacDonald statue at Inverness Castle





# GREAT OUTDOORS

## A BHUAILE A-MUIGH

**Who's that shy fellow hiding in the branches? When you're here, remember to look out for our remarkable local wildlife. As you explore the region you can uncover one of the best places in the UK to spot dolphins, feel at home in our stunning natural woodlands and roam like a stag over the majestic mountain scenery in the Great Glen.**

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and take a short walk along the banks of the River Ness where you'll discover peace and tranquillity in the heart of the city. Follow the river upstream and cross the suspension bridge to the tranquil Ness Islands where you can chill out by the river and spot wildlife such as otters, oystercatchers and occasionally red squirrel.

Look out for the most northerly group of bottlenose dolphins in the world. You can sometimes see these

playful mammals from Fort George; on the opposite side of the Moray Firth. Chanonry Point on the Black Isle is one of the best places to see them feeding close to the shore.

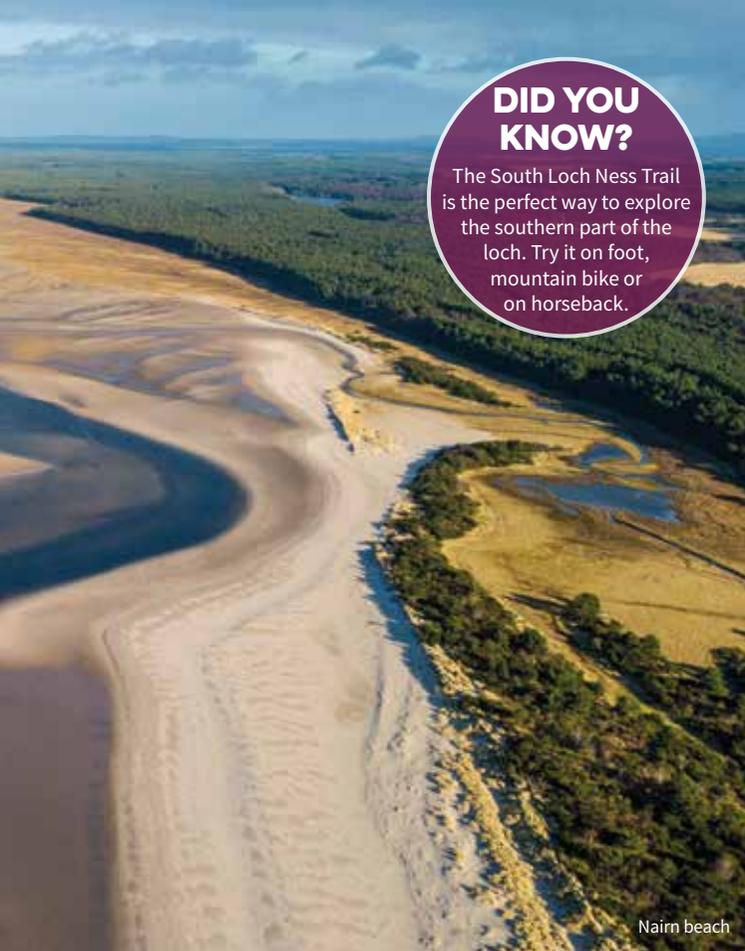
Not many cities have seals in the middle of town – Inverness often does! Watch out for seals bobbing up and down in the River Ness between the two road bridges in the city centre.

Explore ancient pine forests and high mountainsides, accompanied by a knowledgeable ranger, and

see all kinds of local wildlife from pine martens and golden eagles to red deer. Culbin Forest provides a haven for red squirrels, otters and other wildlife.

The world looks very different – and rather wonderful – when you see it by canoe. Paddle your way along the Great Glen Canoe Trail and you'll discover 60 miles of dazzling scenery and amazing wildlife.

Highland ghillie Alex Sutherland has more than 50 years'



Nairn beach

## DID YOU KNOW?

The South Loch Ness Trail is the perfect way to explore the southern part of the loch. Try it on foot, mountain bike or on horseback.

experience fishing rivers and lochs throughout this region – let him take you on a guided tour of some of the most remote hill lochs and streams on a memorable fishing adventure.

Feel your everyday cares melt away as you walk through the glens, forests and mountains that surround Glen Strathfarrar. The pathways on the lower slopes are great for catching a glimpse of the wonderful wildlife while the trails further up the slopes are ideal if you want to get your cheeks red and your heart pounding.

Unleash your artistic imagination in Torness at the Scottish Highland Art Gallery. In this isolated Highland

croft your artist guides will show you the best places to paint the wild dramatic scenery.

For an easy walk for all ages, follow the Abriachan Forest Walk from Drumnadrochit. Along the route you can explore a replica of a Bronze Age hut as well as a bird hide with serene views of Loch Laide and, usually, some local wildlife.

Watch the fishing boats and yachts bob in the swell in Nairn's picturesque harbour. Built by the great Victorian engineer Thomas Telford, the harbour is within easy walking of the town and there are plenty of seafront and riverside strolls for you to enjoy.

## DISCOVER MORE

- Rainy days are the best possible days at Plodda Falls in Glen Affric – it's one of the highest waterfalls in Scotland at over 40 m and after a downpour you'll find it's truly spectacular!
- Save a day to spend exploring the historic town of Fort Augustus on the most southerly tip of Loch Ness. Hiring bikes is a great way to make the most of the surrounding area, and the Suidhe Chuimen viewpoint to the north of the village offers some spectacular views over the valley of Stratherrick.
- Listen for the distinctive throaty call of the rare capercaillie at Corrimony RSPB Nature Reserve or in the beautiful glens of Affric and Strathfarrar.
- Imagine returning from the hunt 2,500 years ago when you walk to the site of an ancient fort atop Craig Phadrig. The views were just as glorious then.
- Red squirrels and red deer abound in the ancient Caledonian pine forests and magnificent mountainous scenery of the Scottish Highlands' great glens.
- Remember your camera – the glens of Cannich and Strathfarrar are breathtaking beauty spots and Glen Affric is widely considered to be the most beautiful glen in Scotland.



# TOUCHING THE PAST

## BURN RI LÀITHEAN BHO CHIAN

There's a haunting air of mystery and intrigue that cloaks the Highlands around Inverness, Nairn and Loch Ness. Some of Scotland's most momentous and turbulent events played out in this dramatic stage, and the Highland landscape echoes with the nation's past. From the early marks of the Picts and Celts to the ruins of once mighty medieval castles and famous battlefields, you can walk in the places where history was written, and see how it still shapes the lives of the people you meet.

Fort George is a must-see – it's the largest 18th-century fort in Europe. Built in the aftermath of Culloden, the vast walls and buildings are housed in a huge garrison. Visit the refurbished Highlanders Museum within Fort George and learn all about the proud history and traditions of this famous regiment.

Is she real? Of course she is! The legend of the Loch Ness monster captures the imagination of the millions of visitors to the Highlands each year. Decades of sightings have fuelled the mystery of what hides in the loch's depths. Try to catch a glimpse of Nessie yourself from the banks of the loch as you

drive along the A82 which hugs its shores.

It's hard to visit atmospheric Drumossie Moor and not feel the bravery, sadness and hope of the men who risked everything for what they believed in at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 – the last battle fought on British soil.

You can feel what it was really like to face down the enemy on that day at the excellent National Trust for Scotland Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre. Experience the sights and sounds of this infamous battle which saw the Jacobite forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie crushed by government troops and Highland culture altered forever.

There's blood on the walls of Urquhart Castle – well, not literally, it's a welcoming place these days. But it has had a turbulent history, with many clans fighting over its ownership. One of the largest castles in Scotland, its ruined remains include a visitor centre and tower house which afford superb views across Loch Ness and the Great Glen.

For an inside glimpse into what Highland life was truly like, visit Nairn Museum. It's a time capsule documenting the people and places of Nairn and the surrounding area, and its exhibits and archive material will help you see and feel exactly what it was like to live in this Royal Burgh in centuries past.



Cawdor Castle, Cawdor, by Nairn

## RICH HERITAGE

- Feel the awe and timeless mystery of the Corrimony Chambered Cairn near Drumnadrochit. Built 4,000 years ago, this passage grave is the best example of its kind to be seen in the area and is free to visit.
- Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century. Marvel at the splendour of the castle; explore one of three gardens, discover riches of nature in Cawdor Big Wood or try putting on the nine-hole golf course. Whatever you choose, you're sure to have a fantastic day out.
- Two miles east of Nairn you'll find the beautifully restored Boath Dovecot, originally built in the late 1600s as part of the estate of Boath House.

Idle away a mellow afternoon in Cawdor Castle and its three beautiful gardens – the Walled Garden, Flower Garden and the Wild Garden.

Watch the black grouse courtship displays at Corrimony RSPB Nature Reserve, a must for all bird lovers.

Step back in time in the Highland capital on the Inverness Historic Trail. Meandering through the old and new towns, the trail visits historically important locations such as St Andrew's Cathedral, the Town House, Inverness Castle and the Victorian Market. You'll also find excellent restaurants and shopping along the way.

Travel back even further in time to 500 million years ago by charting Scotland's geological past (and the possible history of the Loch Ness monster!) at the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition's multimedia presentation.

Culloden Battlefield, near Inverness





# AMAZING ADVENTURES CUR-SEACHADAN LONGANTACH

Are you raring to go wild in a beautiful outdoor playground? With the rolling hills, winding glens and shining lochs of Inverness, Nairn and Loch Ness as your backdrop, you can have a new adventure every day of the year. Try your hand at a thrilling range of outdoor activities, whether it's watersports on Scotland's most famous lochs, navigating your way to the top of a mountain or something a bit different such as venturing off-road on a Segway.

The world-famous Loch Ness has captivated visitors for generations. You can see why by boarding a leisure boat cruise or speed boat tour, or discovering the history and breathtaking views across the loch from the cliff-top ruins of magical Urquhart Castle. The pretty nearby village of Drumnadrochit makes a perfect base for you to explore the region – it's also home to the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition and Nessieland, where you can learn all about the loch and its mysterious monster!

To the south east of Inverness lies Glen Affric, a National Nature

Reserve and an ideal place to enjoy watersports such as kayaking, gorge swimming or even white-water sledging – an exhilarating way to slide down rapids and waterfalls on a riverboard. Back on dry land you can hone your archery skills or ride through the Caledonian pines on a mountain bike.

For an action-packed day, enjoy some of Inverness's great leisure facilities. Make a splash at Inverness Leisure and shoot down the flumes, or work up a sweat at the sports centre or athletics stadium, or try your best Spiderman impression on the climbing wall.

The real world seems very far away when you're deep in the glens of Strathglass – and you'll love that feeling! These glens are simply fabulous for walking and climbing.

For excellent horse riding tuition and a trek with a view, visit Loch Ness Riding Centre which overlooks Loch Ness and offers trails for a range of abilities by the loch, through woodlands and up hills with views of the Great Glen.

Climb a mountain such as Sgorr na Diollaigh, a Corbett which overlooks the end of Glen Cannich and offers a great day out hillwalking.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Castle Stuart only opened in 2009, but it is already recognised as one of the world's top 100 golf courses.

## AWESOME ACTIVITIES

- The Moray Firth is a watersports haven and from Nairn you can try sailing, surfing and water skiing. The scuba diving is also excellent in these safe clear waters and there's a good chance you may meet the local dolphins and seals.
- Cast your line in Strathglass and try your luck with wild brown trout or salmon against a stunning Highland backdrop.
- Feel the rush of the wind on your face as you drive through the fantastic Highland scenery in a hired classic car.
- Keen cyclists and walkers can follow the newly extended South Loch Ness Trail, which stretches 34 miles from Torbreck Woods on the outskirts of Inverness to Fort Augustus.
- Head to Explore Highlands for an early morning canoe trip through the Aigas Gorge and along the River Beauly – you could spot otters, ospreys, roe deer and other fascinating wildlife.
- For adventurous thrills you can go gorge walking and canyoning in this part of the Highlands, as well as abseiling, canoeing and kayaking.
- Head to the brand new Caledonian Canal Centre in Fort Augustus and explore everything the 200-year-old waterway has to offer.
- Walk along Ness Islands in Inverness and feel as though you are in the middle of the countryside. Watch out for fishermen!



Viewing platform at Plodda Falls



Ness Islands on the River Ness, Inverness

# LOCAL LARDER BIADH NA SGÌRE



Eden Court Theatre, restaurant, café and bars, Inverness

**It's perhaps no surprise that a place as beautiful as the Highlands produces beautiful food and drink. You'd better bring an appetite, because here you can enjoy fresh local produce anywhere from award-winning restaurants to homely country inns. Spring, summer, autumn or winter – you'll find there are mouthwatering foodie events and festivals happening throughout the year. You can taste the finest authentic, local Scottish dishes and drinks and travel home with a satisfied smile on your face!**

The Highlands is one giant larder of fine meats, fish and vegetables and at the Nairn Show in July, you can sample tables full of fabulous local produce, including fresh fruit and honey, wine, whisky and lots more.

Have you ever tried Cullen Skink? You have to – trust us on this. So visit The Classroom in Nairn to taste this famous Scottish fish soup specialty, as well as Highland venison and Kildrummie beef.

In autumn, head to Highland Feast in Nairn, a food and drink festival including cookery demonstrations, local produce and child-friendly culinary entertainment!

If you're feeling peckish in Nairn, try the Sunny Brae Hotel for great food, a selection of over 100 malt whiskies and a wonderful sea view.

Treat your tum by popping into award-winning Boath House and feasting on wild foraged

mushrooms, herbs and organic fruit and vegetables.

Cheesy does it at Connage Highland Dairy, in Ardersier, a fully organic family farm which produces a fantastic selection of quality cheeses, which you can sample and purchase in the Cheese Pantry. You might be lucky enough to see the cheese being made from scratch!

Relax at Corner on the Square, a fabulous delicatessen, and take



Look out for the Taste Our Best logo as a sign that great quality Scottish food and drink is on the menu – [www.visitscotland.com/tasteourbest](http://www.visitscotland.com/tasteourbest)



in the view of the historic town of Beaulieu, while enjoying a bite to eat.

Where better to get fresh, local food than from a farmers' market? There are several you can visit across the Inverness, Nairn and Loch Ness area. Browse a variety of stalls selling quality produce including cakes, cheeses, meats and even arts and crafts. Why not ask the producers for some handy hints and tips on cooking some of their amazing produce?

Chocoholics must try at least a few stops on the Chocolate Trail, which links dozens of independent artisan chocolatiers in all four corners of the country. The trail will lead you to several chocolatiers in the area, including the Chocolate

Place in Inverness, where you can view the chocolate-making process and take home some treats for later. To find out more about this and other foodie trails visit [www.visitscotland.com/foodietrails](http://www.visitscotland.com/foodietrails)

Enjoy a fabulous lunch with a selection of great sandwiches, wraps and ciabattas at Crown Deli in Inverness.

For an authentic Highland meal, why not visit Fiddler's? This restaurant, malt whisky bar and café in Drumadrochit serves award-winning haggis and fine whisky.

Sample some great food, wine and ales on the shore of Loch Ness at the cosy Dores Inn, the perfect spot for a hearty meal after a day in the great outdoors.

## TASTY TREATS

- For a bite to eat before a bicycle ride, visit Inverness' quirky and wonderful bicycle café and workshop, Velocity. Come in, drink coffee, eat cake, fix your bike, sign up for a course, eat some more cake!
- Visit Ashers Bakery in Nairn to pick up one of their award-winning whisky cakes.
- When you dine at the Loch Ness Inn you can expect some of the best fish, prawns, beef, lamb and venison in the region. You can also taste a fine selection of whisky and real ales in the Brewery Bar.

## WHY NOT TRY

- Authentic rustic food served at Little Italy in the heart of Inverness, a firm favourite with locals!
- Scotland's finest seasonal produce in the quirky setting of the Dairy Café at Daviot, which is bursting with character and charm and offers a variety of home-cooked dishes.



Scottish cheese board



# COASTS AND WATERS

## CLADAICHEAN IS UISGEACHAN

Explore the variety of brilliant experiences that await you in Inverness, Nairn & Loch Ness. And what better way to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 with an exciting programme of events that showcases all the great wonders that the region has to offer? But why wait when you can be ahead of the game and experience it all this year?

Scotland's coasts and waters have shaped our history, culture and way of life, from fishing and textiles, to whisky and wave power. Inverness, Nairn & Loch Ness boasts a hugely diverse coastal scenery, ranging from sea cliffs to gleaming white beaches, and a rich offering of inland waters, rivers, mysterious lochs and waterfalls.

### Outdoors Adventures

Embrace the great outdoors and explore the region's dramatic coastline and natural water features, with an unparalleled range of adventures, from kayaking to fishing.

Enjoy some great walking trails, from hill walks passing sparkling lochs and long distance hikes

along the Great Glen Way, the Affric Kintail Way and the South Loch Ness Trail, to accessible riverside walks in the heart of Inverness city.

Spend a relaxing day out on the water fishing for salmon, trout, sea-trout, char or pike. Or try your hand at sailing or canoeing on the Loch or Caledonian Canal. On a rainy day, why not spend a day at Inverness Ice Centre and try your hand at skating?

Don't forget to pack your clubs for a round of golf overlooking the Moray Firth at Nairn Championship Course or Castle Stuart.

### Go Wild

The seas and waters in Inverness, Nairn & Loch Ness are teeming with wonderful wildlife.

Head to the southern shores of Loch Ness for wild, natural landscapes that are rich in wildlife. Along the South Loch Ness Trail, you might spot many roe deer, red deer, and sika deer, among badgers, pine martins and red squirrels. The route has many short stretches so it is perfect for the whole family to explore. With so many creatures, great and small to spot in our hills and glens, there is no need to wait around for the famous monster to make an appearance!

Keep your eyes peeled whilst visiting the RSPB site at Loch Ruthven for ospreys, golden eagles, red kites and black grouse. Take a wildlife boat trip from Inverness or head to the shores of Chanonry Point on the Black Isle to witness



Caledonian Canal at Fort Augustus

the UK's only resident dolphin population playfully leaping in the Cromarty Firth.

### From sea to plate

Savour a taste of some of the freshest catch of the day in the many seafood restaurants in the area.

There are plenty of places to go for a Highland feast, from the fantastic Boathouse restaurant in the seaside town of Nairn to the award-winning Corner on the Square delicatessen in the historic village of Beaulie.

No visit to Skye & Lochalsh would be complete without sampling a 'wee dram' of uisge beatha or 'the water of life' that is Scotch whisky. Enjoy a warming dram from the Tomatin Whisky Distillery, or a refreshing pint of local ale by the award-winning Loch Ness Brewery, which include Darkness, Lightness and Hoppyness.

### Stacks to do

Uncover the iconic Loch Ness, the UK's largest freshwater loch, and explore the mystery behind the Loch Ness Monster. Take a cruise up and down the loch and learn more about the legends of the fabled monster, and see a different perspective of Urquhart Castle which is perched on the lochside along the way.

The Inverness Botanic Gardens is an idyllic setting featuring greenhouses, a cactus house, landscaped gardens, a cascading waterfall and tropical fish ponds full of friendly Koi Carp.

Head east and visit the nearby Victorian seaside town of Nairn for riverside walks, family beach adventures and spectacular views over the Moray Firth. Nearby Fort George is the mightiest artillery fortification in Britain with garrison buildings, artillery defences, and a superb collection of arms, including bayoneted muskets.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Loch Ness holds more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined.

## DON'T MISS...

- A chance to spot a pod of dolphins in the Moray Firth.
- The North Coast 500 – which starts and finishes in Inverness.
- The Great Glen Canoe Trail – an unforgettable paddle crossing the country coast to coast along the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness.
- The South Loch Ness Trail, a new long distance trail that traverses the entire length of South Loch Ness, passing heather covered hills, sparkling lochs and wild natural landscapes.

2020 is officially the Year of Coasts and Waters, so look out for a year packed with events, but in the meantime there is plenty for you to discover!

Share your experiences using **#ScotlandIsNow** and **#YCW2020**



Plodda Falls near Tomich



# WHAT'S ON TACHARTASAN

**Calling all culture vultures, sports fans, foodies, fitness bunnies, and wildlife lovers – guess what? There's something going on this year in Inverness, Nairn & Loch Ness that you are going to love!**

Jazz Nairn is a must-stop for great jazz performances from local and internationally renowned artists throughout the year.

In April, Etape Loch Ness hands the roads around this mighty loch over to seasoned cyclists and newcomers alike or come and cheer on the athletes.

Inverness Whisky and Gin Festival in April is a five day celebration of Scotland's malt whisky and craft gin producers mixed with liberal

dashes of master classes, tastings, food and music.

Here come the clans! They gather at the Inverness Highland Games and Gathering in July for a weekend of traditional competitions. It's one of the biggest Highland games in the world and draws athletes from across the globe – don't miss it!

Your family will be entertained, amused and stuffed full all day long at the Nairn Show. There are livestock competitions, a dog show,

delicious locally-sourced food and drink, and much more.

Ever seen a 20 ft larch tree fly through the air? Come along to the Nairn and Inverness Highland Games and you will – that's what tossing the caber is all about! You'll also see Highland dancing and piping contests and fierce competition from the biggest, toughest athletes to win the Cuach na Cuiridh (the Cup of the Strong Man)!

## FIND OUT MORE

To discover all the events happening here, visit [www.visitscotland.com/events](http://www.visitscotland.com/events)

## MORE EVENTS

- Inspire your creative streak by meeting writers, poets, artists, musicians, historians, comedians, gardeners, chefs and photographers at the annual Nairn Book and Arts Festival.
- Good music and good beer make excellent companions, and you can enjoy music sessions at Hootananny in Inverness or concerts at Abriachan Village Hall or Blazin' in Beauty in October.

## DON'T MISS...

- Man versus Horse. Race against a horse? We do that here at south Loch Ness in April.
- In June look for world-class piping and drumming as Inverness plays host to the European Pipe Band Championships!
- Give yourself over to nine days of glorious Gaelic culture at the Blas Festival, which features Highland music, dance and food events in autumn.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Shinty is a competitive sport, played in the Highlands of Scotland since ancient times.

[www.shinty.com](http://www.shinty.com)



Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival, near Inverness

Join thousands of visitors from all over the world for this wonderfully woolly event - the Loch Ness Knit Fest. Exploring the rich cultural crafting traditions of Scotland, enjoy talks, presentations, demonstrations and over 40 stalls across the weekend in October.

Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival is a major musical extravaganza. This much-loved summer gathering has quickly gained a reputation for being a very laid-back and family-friendly festival.

If you're going to run a marathon, make it one to remember. On the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon in

September you'll run past some of the world's most beautiful scenery. You can also run 5K, 10K and half marathon distances - just remember to watch out for Nessie.

Shinty is a fast, physical team sport played using a curved stick called a caman, there are local teams throughout the area - why not come along and watch them in action?

Is there a more noble fish than the salmon? Pack your tackle and head to Inverness in September to Scotland's Salmon Festival for the International Casting Competition as well as other great events!



# TRAVEL TIPS

## DOIGHEAN SIUBHAILE

There's an excellent public transport system, which makes exploring this part of the Highlands a joy. The region is large but easily accessible by car and bicycle. You'll probably encounter single track roads when trying to reach some of the more remote areas of the region.

### By rail

ScotRail (Abellio) runs regular daily train services from Inverness to Aberdeen (via Nairn), Wick and Thurso, and Kyle of Lochalsh (both via Beaulieu). There are regular trains to Inverness from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Perth. For more information visit [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk)

### By bus

Stagecoach and Citylink are the main bus operators for the area and run regular services throughout the region.

For more information visit [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

### By road

The A96 is the main road between Inverness and Nairn, while the A82 runs from Inverness down the side of Loch Ness.

The A862 takes you from Inverness to Beaulieu.

Some of the minor roads in the region are single track; use the passing places to carry on safely.

Further details on driving safely around Scotland can be found at [www.visitscotland.com/about/practical-information/driving-in-scotland/](http://www.visitscotland.com/about/practical-information/driving-in-scotland/)

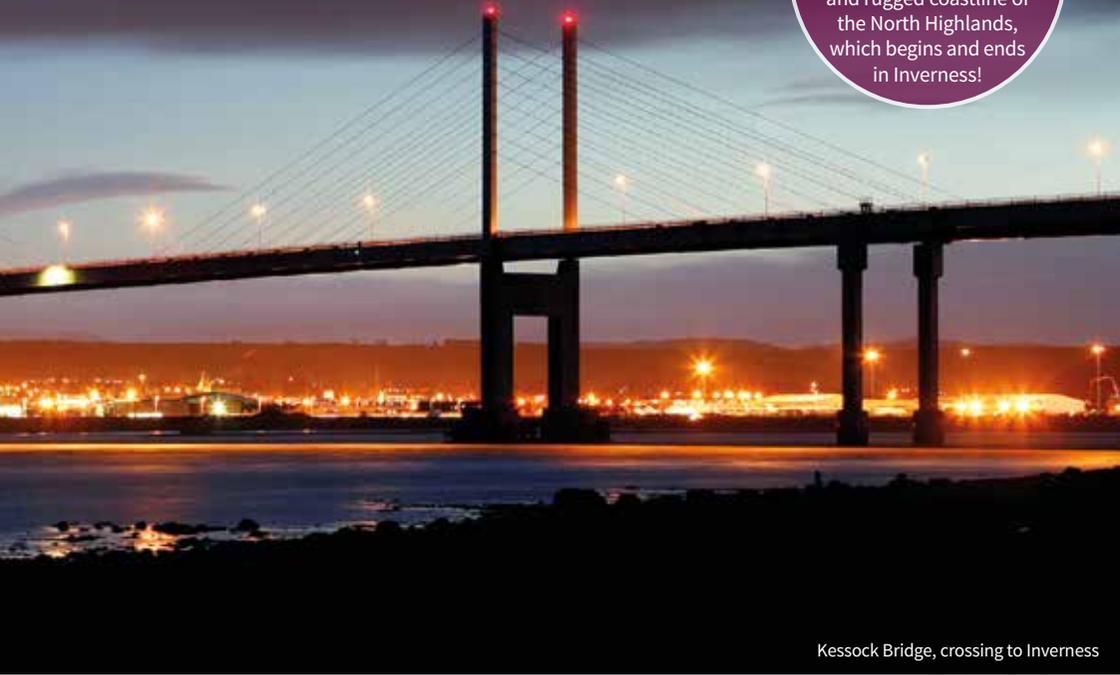
Find more information on touring the region at [www.visitscotland.com/touristroutes](http://www.visitscotland.com/touristroutes)

For all local and national public transport timetables and journey planning information contact Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33, visit them at [www.travelscotland.com](http://www.travelscotland.com) or download the smartphone app. The Traveline Scotland call centre is open 24 hours a day.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The North Coast 500 is a 500-mile tour around the wild and rugged coastline of the North Highlands, which begins and ends in Inverness!



Kessock Bridge, crossing to Inverness

### Where to find out more

Discover more of Inverness, Nairn & Loch Ness in a VisitScotland iCentre. Our friendly information experts can offer advice on what's on and where to go as well as book accommodation and tickets for events, activities and transport. Our Shop Local initiative promotes local artisans so we can also help you find the perfect Scottish gift.

Find us at:

36 High Street, **Inverness**, IV1 1JQ

You can also get tailored advice and top tips on the local area from our accredited iKnow Partners.

Find out more at

[www.visitscotland.com/iknow](http://www.visitscotland.com/iknow)

Come and talk to our knowledgeable and friendly staff. You never know, we might just let you in on a few local secrets.

Inverness High Street



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## FIOSRACHADH FEUMAIL

The listings within this guide have been split into the following sections:

- Places to visit
- Leisure activities
- Shopping
- Food & drink
- Tours
- Transport
- Events & festivals
- Family fun
- Accommodation

Businesses within these sections are listed in alphabetical order by business location, then by business name. Each entry has a map reference (see example) relating to the map which appears at the back of this guide. Most entries will have a postcode which can be used to pin point locations. Where a business is listed as being 'By' a town or village it is wise to check the actual location before making

your journey. Some listings may have a distance beside the location; this indicates the approximate road distance in miles from the main location. The mileages are voluntarily provided by the businesses themselves.

Display advertising is placed at the end of each section. Business listings who also have display advertising will have this icon ●.

## SAMPLE ENTRY

### Location

'By' designates that a property is within 10 miles of this location. Mileage in brackets after the location indicates the distance from the named location.

### Name of business

### Contact details

### Business description

### Quality Award

Where a Quality Assurance award has been included on an entry, the business has been graded by VisitScotland and provides assurances on quality and standards. Further information on page 23 of this guide. Quality Assurance Awards are correct as at January 2019.

### Pricing

Where prices for admission, services and facilities are included in the entries, this is taken from information provided by the advertisers. Please note that prices are for your guidance only and include VAT where applicable (VAT as at December 2018). It is always advisable to check cost prior to booking.

**ANY LOCATION (4 miles)** F2

**Scott Gardens**  
Kinross KY22 9YR  
T: 01599 862655  
www.scottgardens.co.uk

Beautiful 18th century gardens with café and popular daily events, overlooking one of Scotland's famous lochs. Plenty to see and do for all the family.

★★★★ Visitor Attraction

Open: Mar-Jun: Centre open 10am-5pm. Sep-Dec: Centre open 9.30am-4pm. Closed Christmas and New Year.

Admission: Adult £3, Concs £2, Child £0.50, Family £6. Car parking £5 all day.



### Map reference

To assist you further in locating each business, this grid reference relates to the maps on pages 70 & 71.

### Facilities and symbols

See page 23 and the page opposite for details.

### Opening times and admission prices

### Booking

Accepting a booking by telephone or in writing means you have entered into a legally binding contract with the proprietor of the establishment. If you cancel or fail to turn up, for whatever reason, the proprietor has the right to ask you for compensation. You should

always check the cancellation terms in advance and, if you must cancel a booking, advise the business immediately. Online bookings are also subject to terms and conditions, please check direct with the proprietor for these.

### Insurance and cancellations

Should you have to cancel for whatever reason, it is reassuring to know that you can be insured against any compensation claim. It is advisable you take out cancellation insurance prior to your trip.

### **A** Accessible and

#### Assistance dogs

Whether you want a cosmopolitan city break or a relaxing holiday in the countryside, you'll find a great range of accessible accommodation, attractions and things to see and do, whatever your requirements. You can stay in a bustling city centre, with great access-friendly attractions right on your doorstep, or out in the countryside, where you can enjoy accessible walks or trips to the beach. Look out for facilities such as onsite restaurants, free WiFi, hearing loop, level access and accessible parking or drop off points. It is always advisable to check with each establishment prior to visiting/booking. Please note that these icons are not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show these symbols. Find further information at [www.visitscotland.com/holidays-breaks/accessible/](http://www.visitscotland.com/holidays-breaks/accessible/)

### Hearing loop

Many establishments will be able to cater for those with a sensory impairment but please do check with the business before booking. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.

### **SB** Short breaks

There is a fabulous range of accommodation throughout Scotland. Establishments

purchasing advertising within this guide can opt to display the above symbol. Many establishments have offers throughout the year, contact direct for latest special offers.



### Family fun

There is a wealth of things to see and do that will keep smiles on faces all day. Attractions and establishments which are particularly suitable for children have been highlighted within this guide. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.



### Dogs welcome

Dogs are welcome to this establishment, on the understanding that they are on their leash and are kept under control. You may have to check with each establishment whether there are restricted areas for your dog. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.



### Refreshments available

Café or refreshments are available at this establishment. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.



### WiFi available

Guest WiFi access is available at this establishment. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.



### Gaelic

The Gaelic language is rich in tradition, history, music and culture, and will add an interesting dimension and unique sense of

place to your holiday. Gaelic is enjoying a revival and can be heard from Lowland pubs to Hebridean hotels. So if you wish to stay with Gaelic speakers please look out for the symbol within listings and ask when you book your accommodation/visit to confirm that this is available. Please note that this icon is not verified by VisitScotland as businesses can opt to show this symbol.

### Wild camping

Please camp responsibly, in particular by taking away all your litter, removing all traces of your tent pitch and not causing any pollution – for further information see the Scottish Outdoor Access Code [www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

Take extra care and follow any local advice when parking cars or campervans. Please note, these wild camping access rights do not extend to motorised vehicles. If you're planning to travel in a motorhome or campervan check with the landowner before you stop or book a pitch in a nearby camping park.

### Smoking

Scotland's indoor public places, including pubs, restaurants and cafés are smoke-free by law, creating a healthier and fresher environment for residents and visitors to our beautiful country.

### Drinking and driving

Scotland's drink drive limit is 50 mg (of alcohol per 100 ml of blood). The Scottish Government recommends the best approach is to have no alcohol at all, if you're intending to get behind the wheel in Scotland.

For further information go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

# BRINGING INSPIRATION AND IDEAS TO YOU

**i KNOW**  
SCOTLAND



🔍 Urquhart Castle

Wherever you are we're on hand to help you experience the best of Scotland.



Our friendly information experts can offer advice on what's on, where to go and book tickets for events, activities and transport. Our Shop Local initiative promotes local artisans so we're sure to help you find the perfect gift from Scotland. Find us on page 19.



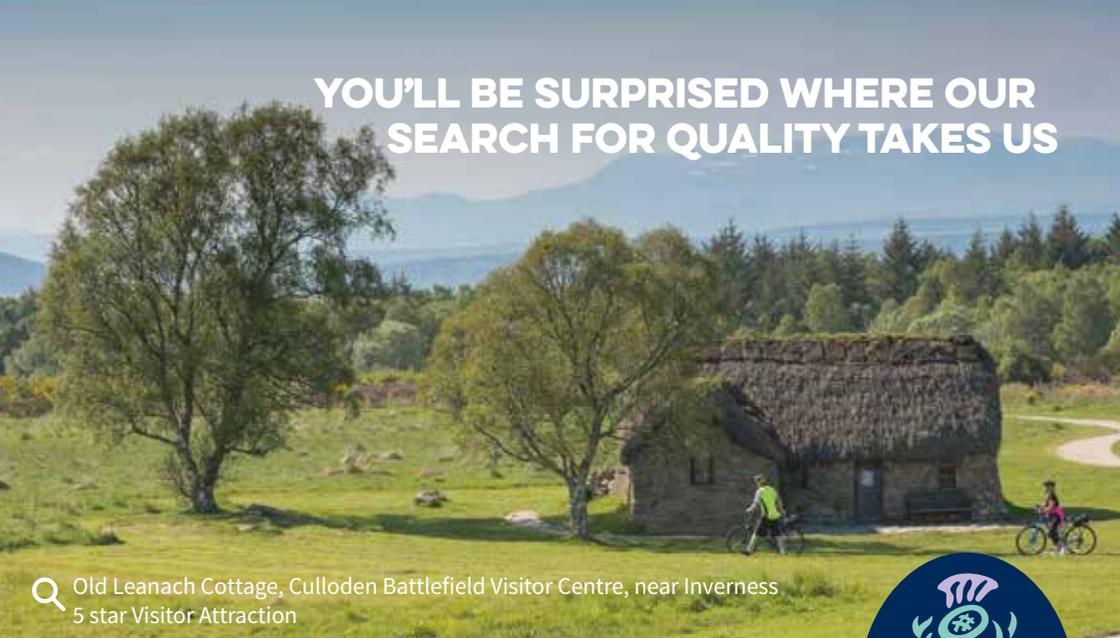
Our happy herd of Coo Vans will be on the moo-ve throughout Scotland, with our Coo-visors delivering excellent local advice. Look out for them at events and attractions and discover our top tips to make the most of your Scottish experience.



Our accredited iKnow Partners are based throughout Scotland and can offer tailored advice to help you make the most of your visit. Chat with them for insider tips about the must see attractions in the local area. Find them at [visitscotland.com/iknow](https://visitscotland.com/iknow)

**VISITSCOTLAND.COM**

# YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WHERE OUR SEARCH FOR QUALITY TAKES US



 Old Leanach Cottage, Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, near Inverness  
5 star Visitor Attraction



Quite simply, it takes us the length and breadth of Scotland to visit thousands of different properties every year and grade them on the things we know matter to you. Things like the overall quality on offer and warmth of welcome to help you make a more informed choice. VisitScotland Quality Assurance – **Quality you can trust.**

- ★ An acceptable standard
- ★★ A good, all round standard
- ★★★ Very good standard, with attention to detail in every area
- ★★★★ Excellent – superb food where provided and friendly, professional service
- ★★★★★ An exceptional standard where quality, hospitality and service are hard to fault



Serviced accommodation establishments awarded gold stars have consistently achieved the highest levels of excellence within their star grading.



## Taste Our Best

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy great quality Scottish food and drink, prepared with care and delivered with passion, is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme. 



## Green Tourism-because we care

Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze , Silver  or Gold   
[www.green-tourism.com](http://www.green-tourism.com)

**We want you to feel welcome** – find establishments that pay particular attention to your specific needs:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Walkers             |  Cyclists |
|  Anglers             |  Bikers   |
|  Classic Cars        |  Golfers  |
|  Visiting golfers    |  Children |
|  Field Sports        |  Groups   |
|  Ancestral Tourism   |  Pets     |
|  Experiencing Gaelic |  |

For any feedback or comments you may have on quality assured properties please email us on [qa@visitscotland.com](mailto:qa@visitscotland.com).

Places to visit

## Castles, historic homes & attractions

Also check Visitor attractions



**Braemar Castle**  
 On A93, east of Braemar, on The Snow Roads & NE250 routes AB35 5XR  
 T: 01339 741219  
 info@braemarcastle.co.uk www.braemarcastle.co.uk

Fairy tale castle built by the Earl of Mar in 1628. 12 fully furnished rooms. Guided tours, tales of Jacobites, Farquharsons and ghosts. Friendly community run castle with a warm welcome. Personal guided tours and audio tours. Also visit (free) the Earl of Mar's earlier Castle, Kindrochit, in the centre of Braemar, the heart of the Cairngorms National Park.

- 12 fully furnished rooms • Guided tours • Audio tours (English, French and German) • Gift Shop

★★★ Castle

Open: Apr-Jun; Wed-Sun, 10am-5pm. Jul-Aug; Daily, 10am-5pm. Sept-Oct; Wed-Sun, 10am-5pm. Closed on Sat 7th Sept for the Braemar Gathering.

Admission: Adults £8, Concessions £7, Children £4, Family £18. Pre-booked groups (of over 10 people) qualify for 10% discount.



**Cawdor Castle and Gardens**  
 Cawdor Castle, Cawdor, Nairn IV12 5RD  
 T: 01667 404401  
 info@cawdorcastle.com www.cawdorcastle.com

Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century, built as a private fortress by the Thaness of Cawdor, with the ancient medieval tower built around the legendary holly tree. Still home to the Cawdor family & lovingly filled with beautiful furniture, intriguing objects, fine portraits & amazing tapestries the Castle has evolved for over 600 years.

- A Scottish home like no other • Guided Tours • Coffee House • Gift Shop • Highland Shop • Wool Shop

★★★★★ Castle

Open: Open 7 days 13th April-6th Oct, 10am-5.30pm, last entry 5pm. Guided tours of Castle, Gardens & Woodland available, booking advised. Café, Coffee House, Gift Shop, Highland Shop & Wool Shop open daily.

Admission: Adult £12.50, Concession £11.50, Child £7.50 (Under 5 free), Family £35



**Culloden**  
 National Trust for Scotland, Culloden Moor, Inverness, IV2 5EU  
 T: 01463 796090  
 culloden@nts.org.uk www.nts.org.uk

Visit the powerfully moving site of the final Jacobite Rising – the last and most harrowing pitched battle to be fought on British soil. Explore the interactive visitor centre, view fascinating artefacts from both sides of the confrontation, and experience the battle in our immersive surround cinema. Browse our extensive range of unique, authentic Scottish gifts.

- Immersive experience • Memorial cairn • Battlefield walk • Living History presentations • Shop & café

★★★★★ Visitor Attraction

Open: Please see our website or call for opening times and admission prices.

VisitScotland Quality Assurance  
**Quality you can trust**

www.visitscotland.com/qa

**DRUMNADROCHIT** Map 1 C3

**Urquhart Castle**  
 Historic Scotland On Loch Ness, near Drumnadrochit on the A82 IV63 6XJ  
 T: 01456 450551 customer@hes.scot  
 www.historicenvironment.scot/daysout  
 Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life and enjoy stunning panoramic views over Loch Ness from the ruins of this grand castle.



62678

★★★★ Castle      

Open: Check website for up to date opening times.  
 Admission: Adult £12, Child £7.20, Concs £9.60

**FORT GEORGE** Map 1 E1

**Fort George**  
 Historic Scotland, 6m W of Nairn, 11m NE of Inverness off the A96 IV2 7TE  
 T: 01667 460232 customer@hes.scot  
 www.historicenvironment.scot/daysout  
 March into Britain's mightiest artillery fortress for an unforgettable experience. Explore this huge military base & gain an insight into life as a Redcoat



26571

★★★★ Historic Attraction      

Open: Check website for up to date opening times.  
 Admission: Adult £9, Child £5.40, Concs £7.20

**Places to visit**

**Visitor attractions**

See also other categories



**ARMADALE, ISLE OF SKYE**

**Armadale Castle, Gardens & Museum**  
 Armadale, Sleat, Skye IV45 8RS  
 T: 01471 844305 www.armadalecastle.com  
 Explore 40 acres of woodland gardens boasting spectacular sea and mountain views. Discover 1500 years of history at the fascinating Museum of the Isles.



16527

★★★★ Visitor Attraction      

Open: Mar-Nov - high season (1 Apr-31 Oct) open daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Low season (4-31 Mar) open Mon-Fri 10am-3pm. Check website for Nov opening.  
 Admission: Adult £8.75, Children £7.20 (Children under 5 free), Seniors & Students £7.20, Family £25

**Places to visit**

**Distilleries & breweries**



**BRODIE** Map 1 F1

**Brodie Countryfare**  
 Brodie, by Forres, Moray IV36 2TD  
 T: 01309 641555 F: 01309 641499  
 enquiries@brodiecountryfare.com  
 www.brodiecountryfare.com  
 Enjoy top ladieswear & accessories, quality gifts & interiors, menswear, leisurewear, foodhall and traditional family restaurant.



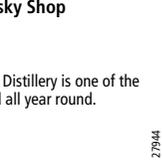
16527

★★★★ Tourist Shop      

Open: All year: Daily, 9.30am-5.30pm (5pm winter).

**MUIR OF ORD** Map 1 C2

**Glen Ord Distillery Visitor Centre & Whisky Shop**  
 Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7UJ  
 T: 01463 872004 glen.ord.distillery@diageo.com  
 www.glenorddistillery.com  
 Nestled on the outskirts of Muir Of Ord, Glen Ord Distillery is one of the Highlands' hidden treasures producing liquid gold all year round.



27944

★★★★ Visitor Attraction    

Open: January, February, November, December: Mon-Sun 10am-4pm. March & October: Mon-Sun 10am-5pm April: Mon-Fri 9.15am-5pm. Sat & Sun 10am-5pm. May-September: Mon-Fri 9.15am-6pm. Sat & Sun 10am-5pm.  
 Admission: Adult £8, Children (8+) £4 Exhibition from £3.

**DRUMNADROCHIT** MAP 1 C3

**Loch Ness Exhibition Centre**  
 Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition A82, Drumnadrochit IV63 6TU  
 T: 01456 450573 debbie@lochness.com  
 www.lochness.com  
 A high tech multi-media presentation leads you through 7 themed rooms and 500 million years of history, natural mystery & legend. 11 language narrations.



59804

★★★★ Visitor Attraction   

Open: Nov-Mar, 10am-3.30pm. Apr-Jun & Sept-Oct, 9.30am-5pm. Jul & Aug, 9.30am-6pm. We only close on Christmas Day

**FORT AUGUSTUS** Map 1 B4

**Clansman Centre**  
 Canalside, Fort-Augustus PH32 4BD  
 T: 01320 366444 clansman.centre@btinternet.com  
 www.scottish-swords.com  
 Visit our craft and gift shop. Locally sourced antlers, hand-made antler gifts, celtic plaques, hand-made targes, jewellery, Harris tweed, sporrans and much more.

91299

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Open: Daily, 10am-6pm.

**INVERNESS** Map 1 D2



**Simpsons Garden Centre**  
 Inshes, Inverness IV2 5BA  
 T: 01463 250200  
 info@simpsonsgc.co.uk www.simpsonsgardencentre.co.uk

87318

Best Destination Garden Centre in Scotland award winner. Situated on the outskirts of Inverness, with stunning views over the city, Simpsons Garden Centre is ideally located for a stopping point for all the family. Fabulous restaurant.

- Garden centre • Restaurant • Florist • Gifts • Oak furniture
- Food Hall • Aquatics • Free Parking • Wi-Fi

★ ★ ★ Garden Centre ☕ 📞 ●

Open: All year: Daily, 9am-6pm. Late night shopping Thurs until 7pm. Coach parties welcome (by appointment).

**MEY, CAITHNESS**

**The Castle and Gardens of Mey**  
 Mey, by Thurso, Caithness KW14 8XH  
 T: 01847 851473 F: 01847 851475  
 enquiries@castleofmey.org.uk  
 www.castleofmey.org.uk  
 The Queen Mother's home. Castle, gardens, shop and tearoom with an animal centre for children.

50753



★ ★ ★ ★ Visitor Attraction 🐾 📞 ☕ 📺 📶 🚰 ●

Open: 30 Mar-1 Apr; 1st 3 weeks in Apr; 1 May-30 Sept. Please check website for details as dates may vary.  
 Admission: Adult £11.75, Child £6.50, Concs £9.75, Family £32. Gardens and grounds only £6.50. Family garden and grounds £18.



**By CANNICH** Map 1 B3

**Glen Affric National Nature Reserve**  
 Forestry Commission Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, by Cannich IV4 7LN  
 T: 0300 067 6100 invernesscrosskye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
 www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland  
 Often described as the most beautiful glen in Scotland, Glen Affric is a magical mix of glistening lochs, haunting moorland and ancient pinewood. Enjoy a wander amongst the pine trees accompanied by the calls of woodland birds.

69877

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Open: Reserve open all year.  
 Admission: Free (parking charges apply).

**KINCRAIG, NR AVIEMORE (7 miles)** Map 1 E4



**RZSS Highland Wildlife Park**  
 Kincaig, Kingussie, Inverness-shire PH21 1NL  
 T: 01540 651 270 F: 01540 651 236  
 wildlife@rzss.org.uk highlandwildlifepark.org.uk/

30461

Set in the majestic Cairngorms National Park, RZSS Highland Wildlife Park covers 200 acres and is home to over 200 amazing animals from polar bears to Amur tigers, snow leopards and red pandas. Open 364 days a year.

- Gift Shop • Restaurants • Car Park

★ ★ ★ Visitor Attraction 🐾 📞 ☕ 📺 📶 🚰 ●

Open: Nov-Mar, 10am-4pm (last entry 3pm). Apr-Oct, 10am-5pm (last entry 4pm). Jul-Aug, 10am-6pm (last entry 5pm) Open every day of the year except Christmas day.  
 Admission: Please see website for more information.

## KYLE OF LOCHALSH

## Spirit of Adventure - Sea Eagle Safaris

Old Ferry Slipway, Kyle of Lochalsh, IV40 8AE

T: 0800 980 4846 M: 07814 784 402

E: [info@the-spirit-of-adventure.co.uk](mailto:info@the-spirit-of-adventure.co.uk)W: [www.the-spirit-of-adventure.co.uk](http://www.the-spirit-of-adventure.co.uk)

Wildlife Adventures in Spectacular Scenery with Sea Eagles, Seals, Porpoise, Dolphins & Whales. Fast, Comfortable & Heated. On-board toilet & Refreshments.



89135

## ★★★★ Tour



Open: April - October. Regular 2 hr Scenic Wildlife Trips. Also Half Day/Full Day & Combination Wildlife/Fishing Trips & Special Transfers. Why not Charter for your own Special Adventure?

Admission: 2 hr trips: Adult £35, Child £25, Family £100. Group rates also available. Private charter (max 12) from £100 per hour.

## Places to visit

## Display adverts

## NORTH COAST GLASS

Designed by Brodie Nairn &amp; Nichola Burns



Discover luxurious glass art and tableware at one of the country's most exciting hot glass studios.

Come and visit us. Gallery open throughout the year  
Monday To Friday 9am - 5.30pm Saturday 9am - 5pm (Or By Appointment)

2 Chapel Street, Tain, Ross-shire, Scotland, IV19 1EL Tel: +44(0)1862 893 189  
[info@NorthCoastGlass.com](mailto:info@NorthCoastGlass.com) | [NorthCoastGlass.com](http://NorthCoastGlass.com)



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
ALBA AOSMHOR

## DISCOVER 5,000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Explore the very best of Scottish heritage with our Explorer Passes from just £35. Available at [historicenvironment.scot/explorer](http://historicenvironment.scot/explorer) or any of our sites.



Urquhart Castle



Fort George

Part of Historic Environment Scotland





# CULLODEN



**CULLODEN - THE BATTLE THAT CHANGED THE HIGHLANDS. GET AS CLOSE AS YOU DARE!...**



- \* Immersion Cinema Battle experience like no other!
- \* Inspired 'Outlander'! See where the real Jamie Fraser fought!
- \* Family friendly Visitor Centre with Café



- \* Read Bonnie Prince Charlie's letters
- \* Peek inside the building that saw battle action
- \* Walk the front lines
- \* Buy unique, authentic Culloden gifts in our shop
- \* Take regular battlefield tours
- \* All spend on site supports conservation of the battlefield



For more info go to [www.nts.org.uk/culloden](http://www.nts.org.uk/culloden)

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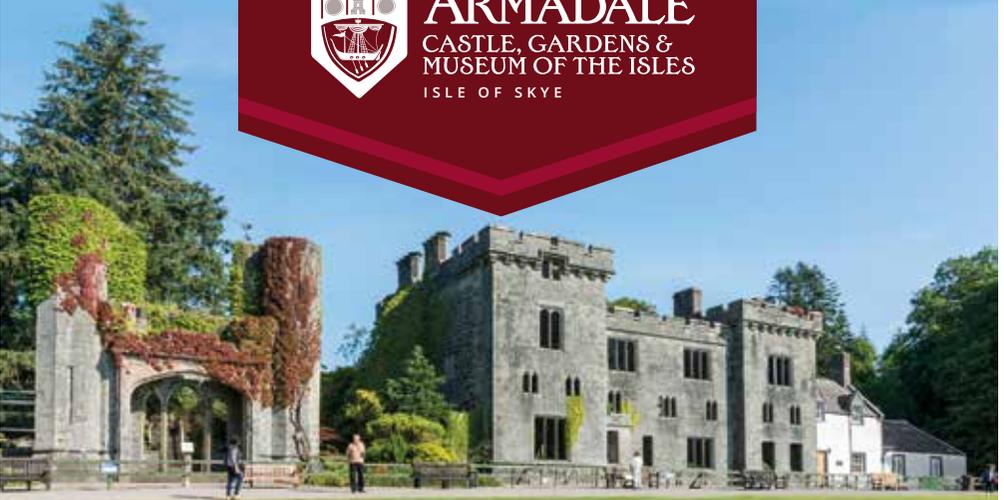
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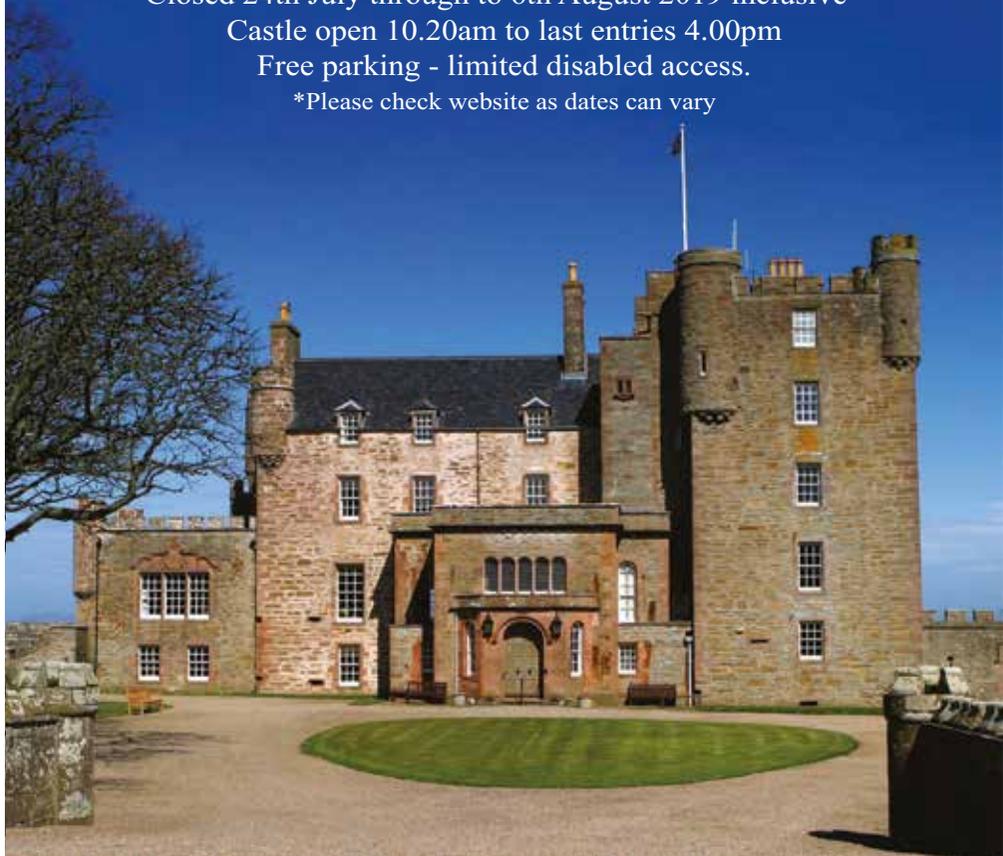
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\*Please check website as dates can vary



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There is a shop specialising in Celtic and locally produced crafts, a Scottish armoury and a recreated interior of a Highland turf house where an authentically dressed clansman brings the past to life.

Fort Augustus was originally known as Kilchuimen until it was renamed in honour of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, when it became a garrison town following the Jacobite risings.



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Leisure activities

Activities – outdoor



By ABRIACHAN

Map 1 C2

The Abriachan Trail

Between Drumnadrochit (4 miles) and Inverness (9 miles). [www.abriachan.org.uk](http://www.abriachan.org.uk)

Sitting high above Loch Ness, the Abriachan mountain bike trails, known as the Kelpies' trails, offer a range of routes, particularly suited to families but also with 4km of red grade trail. Kelpies' obstacle course (3km easy green trail; moderate blue 7km trail. Exquisite panoramic views over the whole area. Easier paths close by provide varied interest.



Leisure activities

Country sports – fishing, shooting



GLEN STRATHFARRAR, by BEAULY(11 miles) Map 1 B2

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[www.fishpal.com/scotland/beauly/culligran](http://www.fishpal.com/scotland/beauly/culligran)  
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Open: Apr-Oct, Mon-Sat. Salmon (Jul-15 Oct). Trout (Apr-Sep).  
Admission: Fishing permits per rod per day (Not Sun). 15 minutes drive from Beauly. Please phone or email for further information, prices and directions.

By ROSEMARKIE

Map 1 D1

Learnie Red Rock Mountain Bike Trails

By Rosemarkie, Cromarty, Black Isle  
T: 01463 791575 [invernessross&skye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:invernessross&skye@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
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**Leisure activities**

## Pony trekking/ horse riding



**COUGIE (CANNICH 10 MILES)** Map 1 B3



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**Admission:** Please phone 01456 415323 for details and booking.

**Leisure activities**

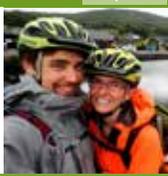
## Mountain biking/ leisure biking



**INVERNESS** Map 2 C3

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**Leisure activities**

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**Shopping**

## Arts & Crafts



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**Shopping**

## Shops



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**INVERNESS** Map 2 C2

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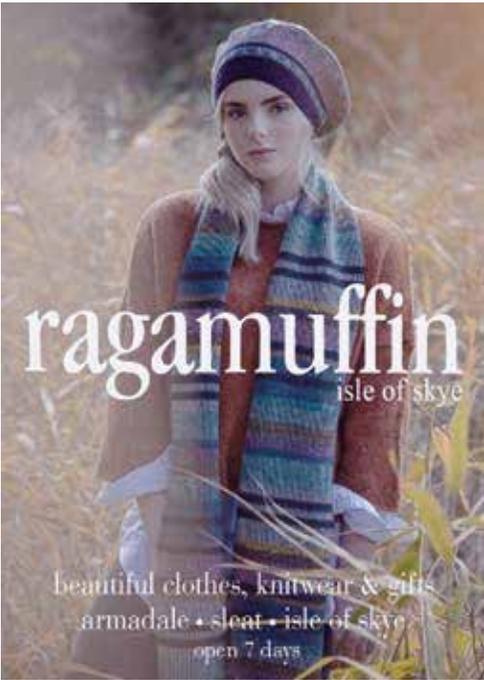
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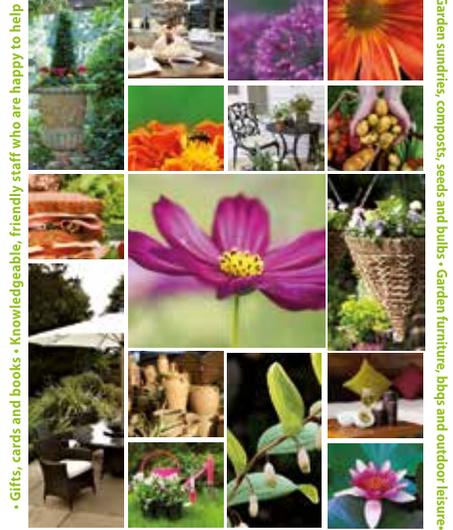
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Map 1 D2

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## Pibroch Restaurant & Whisky Bar



Drumadrochit, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire, IV63 6TU

+44 01456 450342

[info@lochness-hotel.com](mailto:info@lochness-hotel.com)

[www.lochness-hotel.com](http://www.lochness-hotel.com)

## Loch Ness Lodge Hotel

"We love to use carefully prepared Scottish produce in all of our dishes, and we pride ourselves in our use of local produce."

Our acclaimed chef, who is renowned in the Highlands for his outstanding cuisine, along with his excellent team, aim to provide you with a truly Scottish gastronomic experience."




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Inverness IV1 3XN

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[info@whitecottage-tearoom.com](mailto:info@whitecottage-tearoom.com)





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The Village Green, Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire, Scotland IV63 6TX  
Tel. 01456 450678 E-mail [info@fiddledrum.co.uk](mailto:info@fiddledrum.co.uk) [www.fiddledrum.co.uk](http://www.fiddledrum.co.uk)



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**01997 421 487 [www.coulhouse.com](http://www.coulhouse.com)**

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[www.staylochness.co.uk](http://www.staylochness.co.uk)

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Tours  
Cruises

**DRUMNADROCHIT** Map 1 C3

**Deepscan Cruises**  
 Deepscan Cruises Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition, Drumnadrochit IV63 6TU  
 T: 01456 450573 debbie@lochness.com  
 www.lochness.com  
 Cruise on the research vessel used for the Loch Ness Project investigations. Meet our friendly project skipper and listen to his fascinating stories!



Open: Cruises run on the hour every day Easter - October (weather permitting)



**DRUMNADROCHIT** Map 1 C3

**Loch Ness Cruises**  
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 T: 01456 450395 info@lochness-cruises.com  
 www.lochness-cruises.com  
 Hourly cruises on Nessie Hunter. An entertaining and informative cruise on Loch Ness!



399.25

★★★★ **Tour** 

Open: Mar-Nov, 9am-6pm.  
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 2020  
 COASTS  
 & WATERS

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**INVERNESS** Map 2 C2



**Rabbie's Small Group Tours**  
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 tours@rabbits.com www.rabbits.com

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- Guaranteed small groups
- Guaranteed departures
- Guaranteed experience

★★★★ **Tour** 

Open: Tours operate all year round. Telephone line open daily: 8am-10pm.  
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65904

## INVERNESS

**Timberbush Tours**

Stance 6, Inverness Bus Station, Inverness IV1 1LT  
T: 01312 266066  
tours@timberbush tours.com www.timberbush tours.com

Award Winning coach tours of Scotland. Explore Scotland with our friendly guides. See Orkney, Skye, Applecross & more. Book today, travel tomorrow!

**Open:** Tours depart daily from Inverness Bus Station. Our phone lines are open 0700-2200 daily.  
**Admission:** Adults from £39, concessions from £37. Written translations available by request.

## KYLE OF LOCHALSH

**Skye Tours – Discover Skye**

Skye Tours Office, Station Road, Kyle of Lochalsh, IV40 8AE  
T: 01471 822 716 M: 07814 784402  
E: info@skye-tours.co.uk W: www.skye-tours.co.uk

Join us on a fully-guided 5 hr Day Tour of the Isle of Skye. Our experienced local guide will take you along the spectacular coastal route, and up through rugged mountain passes, to see the major landmarks that make Skye one of the world's most beautiful islands. The tour also includes time for lunch/sightseeing in the capital, Portree.

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★★★★ **Tour**

**Open:** All Year. Mini-bus departs daily from Kyle of Lochalsh at 11.45am, connecting with the train, or bus, to & from Inverness. Flexible pick-ups. Prior reservation required.  
**Admission:** From Kyle, Kyleakin & Broadford: Adult: £50, Conc: £48, Child: £35. Family tickets & group discounts offered. Secure online booking. Also available for private hire.

## INVERNESS - ORKNEY

**Inverness to Orkney Day Tour**

Ferry Office, John o' Groats, Caithness KW1 4YR  
T: 01955 611353  
contact@jogferry.co.uk www.jogferry.co.uk

Orkney in a day – Direct from Inverness. Our tours leave Inverness Bus Station every summer morning at 7.15am. See the far North Highlands, visit famous John O'Groats and enjoy a fascinating six hour tour of the Orkney Islands. See Skara Brae, Scapa Flow the Standing Stones, Kirkwall and the Italian Chapel.

- Fascinating day trips • Direct from Inverness • Far North Highlands • Famous John O'Groats • Orkney Islands tour

**Open:** Jun-Aug: Tour leaves Inverness at 7.15am. Returns 9pm. Please book online at [www.jogferry.co.uk](http://www.jogferry.co.uk) or phone.

## SCOTLAND-WIDE

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Edinburgh EH9  
black-kilt-tours.org  
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**Admission:** Check availability and start planning your tour via the website. Ross.

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[VISITSCOTLAND.COM](http://VISITSCOTLAND.COM)



Tours

# Wildlife trips

**CROMARTY** Map 1 E1

**EcoVentures**  
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 IV11 8YE  
 T: 01381 600323 info@ecoventures.co.uk  
 www.ecoventures.co.uk  
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6 7974

★★★★ **Wildlife Experience** 

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 Admission: Adult £31, Children £24 (5-12yrs), Family tickets available

**KYLE OF LOCHALSH**

**Glass Bottom Boat Trips**



**Seaprobe Atlantis, Glass Bottom Boat Trips**  
 Old Ferry Slipway, Kyle of Lochalsh, Ross-shire, IV40 8AE  
 T: 0800 980 4846 M: 07814 784 402  
 E: seaprobe@msn.com W: www.seaprobeatlantis.com

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★★★★ **Tour** 

Open: April 1st to October 31st. Regular Trips Daily. All scheduled  
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 online or call/email to confirm sailing times & reserve seats.  
 Admission: Price indicator: 1 hr Trips - Adult £15, Child £8. Family tickets  
 & Group rates available. Coaches welcome. Free parking.  
 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence 2018.



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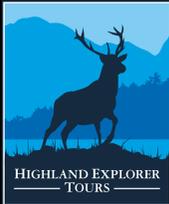
### To book your trip

☎ 07544 800620

[www.dolphinspirit.co.uk](http://www.dolphinspirit.co.uk)

Inverness Marina, Stadium Road,  
Inverness, IV1 1FF

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### ISLE OF SKYE EXPLORER

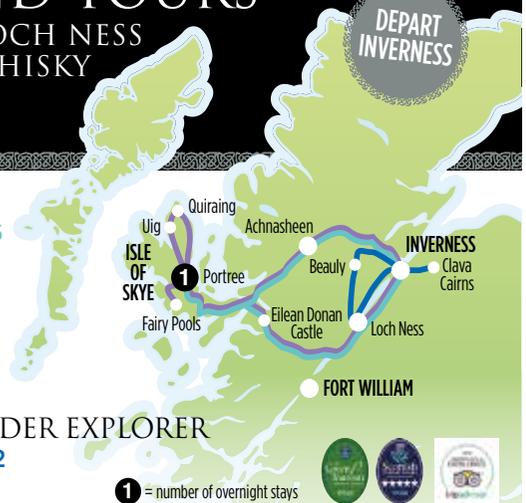
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① = number of overnight stays



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Seals  
Every  
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As seen on  
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Internal view  
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See Spectacular Scenery, Seals, Seabirds, Otters, WWII Shipwreck,  
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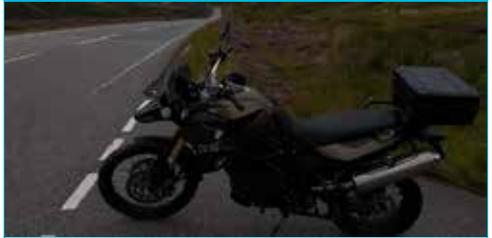


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MUIR OF ORD

Map 1 C2



**Highland Motorcycle & E-Bike Hire**

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A comfortable lounge offers excellent views on passage, and for those who prefer fresh air, the

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# Your Island Adventure

## There's no better time to explore Scotland's Northern Isles.

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Your journey begins as you set sail with NorthLink Ferries. On board you'll be able to enjoy many comforts before arriving at your destination feeling refreshed and ready to begin your island adventure.

With regular sailings from Scrabster and Aberdeen, travelling to Orkney and Shetland is more convenient than ever before.



Considered to have some of the best locations in Scotland for bird watching, the Northern Isles are home to over **100 bird species**, including the signature puffin, best spotted in May and June.



Built in 1943 by Italian prisoners of war, **the Italian Chapel** was exquisitely painted by Domenic Chiocchetti – a gifted painter from Moena, Italy.

*Orkney and Shetland.  
Closer than you think.*



WV

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**St Ninian's Isle** is connected to Shetland's South Mainland by one of Europe's finest natural sand causeways.



Explore artisan products on Orkney and Shetland's **Craft Trails**. From jewellers and knitters to furniture makers, buy island-inspired crafts and visit local workshops.



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Events & festivals

# Events & Festivals



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Join the conversation #YCW2020

NAIRN

Map 1 E1



### Nairn Book & Arts Festival

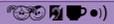
Nairn Community and Arts Centre King Street, Nairn IV12 4BQ

T: 01667 452197 M: 07818183190

[enquiries@nairnfestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nairnfestival.co.uk) [www.nairnfestival.co.uk](http://www.nairnfestival.co.uk)

The 16th Nairn Book & Arts Festival offers a packed programme of cultural events, including readings and talks by top quality authors, performance poetry, live music, drama, film, visual arts exhibitions and creative workshops for all ages.

- Brilliant programme of talks and performances
- Great live music
- Free Kids Events
- Festival Club



**Open:** Festival pre-launch kids' day with free activities and street food fair on Sat 7th September. Exhibitions and Festival Fringe events from Sunday 8th September. Festival runs from 10th-15th September.

**Admission:** Book online from Tuesday 11th Jun. Tickets from £3. For more information visit [www.nairnfestival.co.uk](http://www.nairnfestival.co.uk).



Clava Cairns, near Culloden

## A new home for the European Pipe Band Championships!

On Saturday 29th June 2019 Bught Park, Inverness will come alive to the sound of world leading pipe bands – over 120 bands and more than 2,000 pipers and drummers are expected along with the best of food, drink and craft exhibitors from across Scotland, entertainment for all the family and of course thousands of spectators.

Save the date for what's set to be a highlight of the summer in Inverness.

For tickets and information visit our website:  
[pipinginverness.com](http://pipinginverness.com)



A wide-angle photograph of the Caledonian Canal at Fort Augustus. The canal is a long, narrow body of water with a lock in the center. The water is calm and reflects the sky. On the left bank, there's a paved walkway and some greenery. On the right bank, there are several buildings, including a prominent white church with a steeple. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. A large, semi-transparent teal shape overlaps the bottom right corner of the image, containing text.

## IN 2020, SCOTLAND CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF COASTS AND WATERS

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From our beautiful natural features to our industrial heritage, Scotland's coasts and waters have shaped our culture, our stories and our way of life. Whether you want to navigate your way around distant isles, experience our maritime heritage, enjoy our abundant natural larder or discover our wildlife on a local boat trip, Scotland's coasts and waters are perfect for that get-away-from-it-all adventure.

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Join the conversation [#YCW2020](https://twitter.com/ycw2020)

Q Caledonian Canal, Fort Augustus



## BRORA, by DORNOCH

★★★★ Hotel

## Royal Marine Hotel

Originally a private country house, now offering superior accommodation and excellent cuisine amidst stunning coastal scenery in this beautiful part of Sutherland.

Gail Sutherland, Golf Road, Brora, Sutherland KW9 6QS  
T: 01408 621252 F: 01408 621181  
info@royalmarinebrora.com www.royalmarinebrora.com

Sgl (4) £95-£186 prpn  
Dbl/twn (15) £109-£295 prpn  
Fam (2) £109-£295 prpn  
Ensuite (21)



66543



Open: All year

## CULLEN

★★★★ Small Holiday Park

## Cullen Bay Holiday Park

Discover this exciting coastline, with dramatic cliff-top scenery & panoramic views over the sandy beach of Cullen bay & the Moray Firth. Cullen is an excellent base for golf, walking, and the castle & whisky trails.

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T: 01542 840766 enquiries@cullenbay.co.uk  
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Bedrooms (2-3)  
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21676



Open: 31 Mar-29 Oct

## DORNOCH

★★★ Hotel

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T: 01862 810216 enquiries@dornochcastlehotel.com  
www.dornochcastlehotel.com

Sgl (1) £80-£123 prpn  
Dbl (18) £109-£129 prpn  
Twn £109-£129 prpn  
Fam (3) £129-£145 prpn  
Ensuite (22)



22964



Open: All year

## DRUMNADROCHIT

★★★ Inn Map 1 C3

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T: 01456 450080 bookings@benleva.co.uk  
www.benleva.co.uk

Dbl/twn (5) from £60 pppn  
Fam (3) from £50 pppn  
Ensuite (8)



103799



Open: All year

## FORT AUGUSTUS

★★★★ Hostel Map 1 C4

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www.moragslodge.com

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Fam (4) from £81 prpn  
Dorm (8) from £24  
Sleeps (74)  
Ensuite (16)



38950



Open: All year

## INVERNESS

★★★ Bed and Breakfast Map 2 C3

## Cavell Guest House

Centrally located overlooking Cavell Gardens and the River Ness.

3 Moray Park, Cavell Gardens, Inverness IV2 4SX  
T: 01463 232850 M: 0792 355 5224  
cavellhouse@hotmail.co.uk www.cavellguesthouseinverness.co.uk

Sgl (1) £35-£60 pppn  
Dbl/twn (2) £30-£40 pppn  
Fam (1) £30-£40 pppn  
Ensuite (4)



18609



Open: All year

**INVERNESS**

★★★ Guest House Gold **Map 2 B2**

**Abermar Guest House**

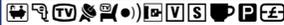
A friendly family-run guest house. Abermar is located in a quiet residential area about a 10minute walk from the city centre. Down by the riverside there are many cafes/restaurants where you can relax & enjoy the scenery

James & Allison Mackay, 25 Fairfield Road, Inverness IV3 5QD  
T: 01463 239019 M: 0777 578 5043  
abermar@talk21.com www.abermar.co.uk

Sgl (2) £40-£50 pppn  
Dbl (3) £35-£45 pppn  
Twn (1) £35-£45 pppn  
Fam (1) £30-£40 pppn  
Ensuite (7)



10835



Open: All year

**INVERNESS**

★★★★ Hotel **Map 2 D3**

**Kingsmills Hotel Inverness**

Much loved hotel dating back to the 18th century. 147 luxurious ensuite bedrooms with extensive conference and banqueting facilities. Leisure club and spa, choice of restaurants and complimentary parking.

Culcabock Road, Inverness IV2 3LP  
T: 01463 237166 reservations@kingsmillshotel.com  
www.kingsmillshotel.com

Dbl (67) from £95 prpn  
Twn (68) from £95 prpn  
Fam (12) from £105 prpn  
Ensuite (147)



80992



Open: All year

**LOCH NESS, FORT AUGUSTUS**

**Map 1 B4**

**Old Pier House**

Highland farmhouse on the shores of Loch Ness with unique views across the water. B&B & Log Cabins. Private Parking. Free WiFi. Canoes for hire. Highland cattle. Fluent French, German, Italian, Spanish spoken.

Jenny & Ossian Mackenzie, Old Pier House, Fort Augustus, Inverness-shire PH32 4BX  
T: 01320 366418 bookings@oldpierhouse.com  
www.oldpierhouse.com

Dbl (3) £25-£50 pppn  
Twn (3) £25-£50 pppn  
Fam (3) £25-£50 pppn  
Ensuite (9)



90006



Open: All year

**NAIRN**

Bed and Breakfast **Map 1 E1**

**The Braighe**

Cosy 4 star quality B&B in Victorian villa in quiet area. MINIMUM 2 NIGHT STAY. 2 en suite double rooms. TV WIFI Near sea & Nairn Golf Club  
Fluent French spoken. We look forward to welcoming you.

Marie and Blair Cruickshank, The Braighe 32 Albert St Nairn IV12 4HQ  
T: 01667 453285 marie.cruic@gmail.com  
www.ambraighe.com

Dbl (2) from £80 prpn  
Ensuite (2)



97875



Open: Easter-Oct. Check in 4-6pm

**NAIRN**

★★★★ Self Catering **Map 1 E1**

**Cottar House**

The Cottar House is a comfortable, well equipped self-catering cottage for two. It is situated in the centre of Nairn, only a few minutes walk from the shops, beaches, river walks and two championship golf courses.

Pat MacGregor, 2 Manse Road, Nairn IV12 4RN  
T: 01667 455137 info@cottarhouse.co.uk  
www.cottarhouse.co.uk

£300-£400 Per Week  
Cottage (1)  
Bedrooms (1)  
Sleeps (2)



67873



Open: All year



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Loch Ness Highland Resort in Fort Augustus provides all the facilities you would expect a five star glamping pod, camping, caravanning and motorhome park.

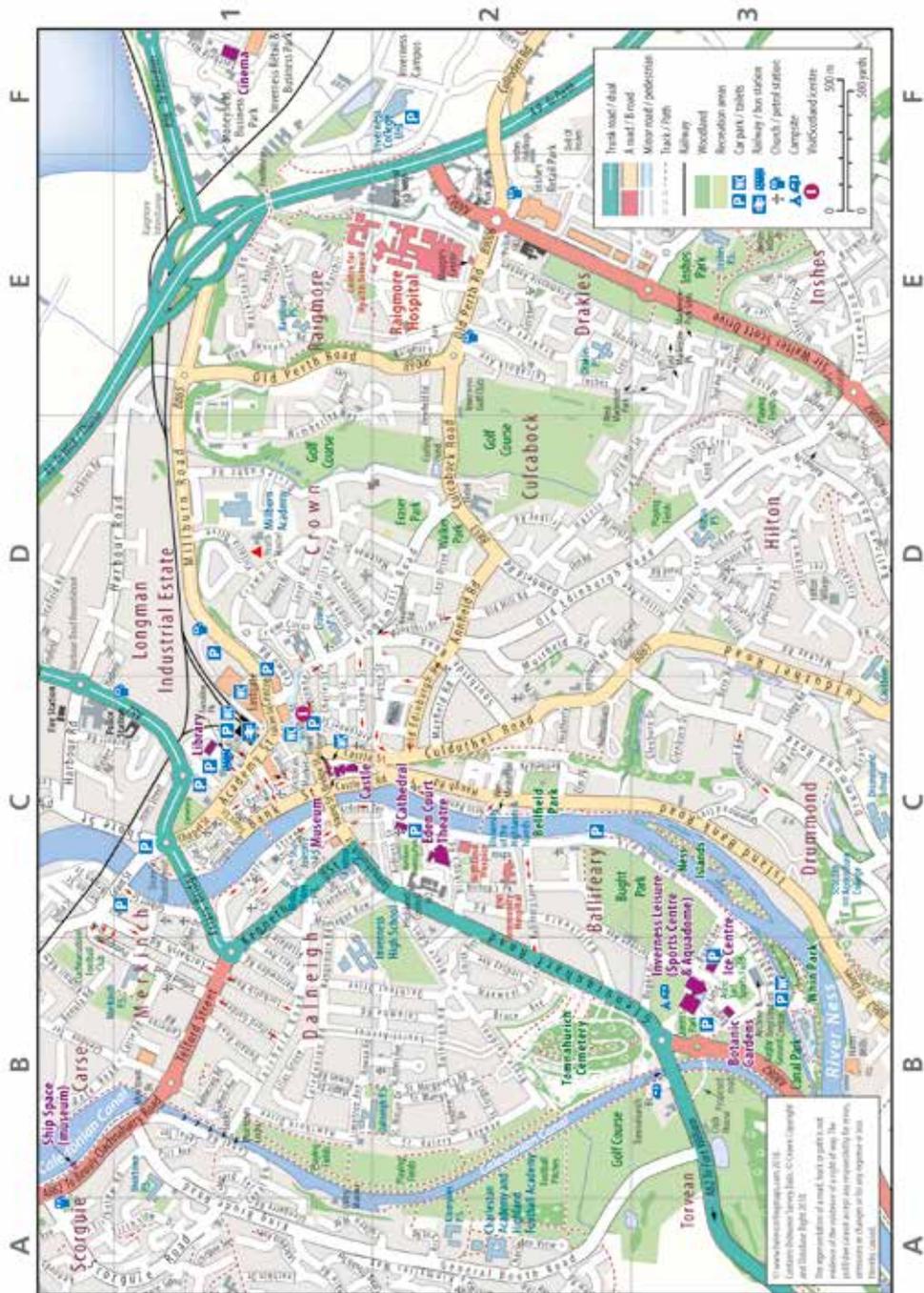
[enquiries@lochnesshighlandresort.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lochnesshighlandresort.co.uk) | 01320 366257





River Affric







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 **ROLEX**



# Art by the Riverside

Pleasantly situated on the banks of the River Ness, close to the city centre, the Riverside Gallery and Scottish Flair Gallery have probably the largest selection of Scottish Art in the Highlands.

From the best of 19th Century oils and watercolours to the latest contemporary work by some of the Highland's finest artists you can be sure to find an image to suit your requirements –

call in and browse at leisure.

**Tel. 01463 248500**

[info@scottishflair.co.uk](mailto:info@scottishflair.co.uk)

**Tel. 01463 224781**

[riversidegallery@btinternet.com](mailto:riversidegallery@btinternet.com)

11 Bank Street, Inverness



SCOTTISH FLAIR

Riverside  
gallery

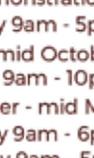
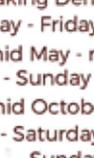
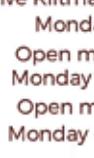
## Highland House of Fraser



4 - 9 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5PR  
& 9 - 11 Bridge Street, Inverness, IV1 1HG



Live Kiltmaking Demonstrations  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm  
Open mid May - mid October  
Monday - Sunday 9am - 10pm  
Open mid October - mid May  
Monday - Saturday 9am - 6pm  
Sunday 9am - 5pm  
Closed Sunday January - March  
Business hours subject to change



Tel: +44 (0) 1463 222781

Email: [info@highlandhouseoffraser.com](mailto:info@highlandhouseoffraser.com)

Website: [www.highlandhouseoffraser.com](http://www.highlandhouseoffraser.com)

The Scottish Kiltmaker Visitor Centre

# LOCH NESS CENTRE & EXHIBITION



Since 1980

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

“A portal to the unique natural phenomenon that is Loch Ness” **Scottish Natural Heritage**



Scottish Natural Heritage  
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad



## Large Shopping Complex:

Cashmere & Woollens, The Nessie Shop, The Whisky Shop,  
Kiltmaker, Ancestral Names, Local Crafts, Cobbs Cafe,  
Restaurant & Bar, Hourly Cruises on Loch Ness.



**DIRECTIONS:** FROM INVERNESS, follow the Loch Ness Trail  
along the A82 to Drumnadrochit.

FROM DRUMNADROCHIT, follow A82 signs for Inverness,  
**TURN RIGHT** over the bridge and look for this Building.

Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire IV63 6TU  
01456 450 573 [www.lochness.com](http://www.lochness.com)

