



COILLE
MORE
HOUSE





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We are so glad you chose to come to Coillemore House and we really hope you enjoy your stay here. We are lucky to have a wonderful location – perfect both for relaxing and for exploring the northwest Highlands and Skye.

Coillemore is the anglicised version of Coille Mhòr, meaning “Great Wood” in Gaelic, which is the name of the wood directly above the house, part of the National Trust-owned Balmacara estate, a traditional Highland crofting estate. The name Coille Mhòr recalls the original ancient Great Wood of Caledonia that stretched across Scotland after the last ice age, and is in fact a rare example of the temperate Celtic rainforest. The house itself retains many original features and enjoys a wonderful location above the

village, with south-facing views over Loch Alsh, Skye, over to the Munros Beinn Sgritheall on the Glenelg Peninsula and beyond to Ladhar Bheinn in Knoydart on a clear day. It’s an ideal base to explore the land and seascapes of Wester Ross and Skye, sample the fantastic local food and fine dining, enjoy an invigorating array of nearby outdoor activities, or simply relax in the comforts of the newly refurbished house and grounds.

In this guide we give you the key details you’ll need for your stay plus some local insights to help make the most of your time here. You’re here to relax and unwind, so there’s no need to read it all, although we would really appreciate it if you look through the key information and utilities on pages 4-5.



GETTING HERE

Our exact location is here:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ezhPDif4yWKhnvj68>

Driving directions from Inverness, Edinburgh, Glasgow and the south are given below. Driving times are a rough guide depending traffic conditions and number of breaks taken, so be prepared for it to take longer in practice. In fact, you may well wish to take your time getting here as these are all beautiful journeys with plenty to see on route!

From Inverness

There are two routes which take a similar amount of time and are both very beautiful journeys. The southern route takes the A82 south out of Inverness and turns right onto the A887 at Invermoriston, which then joins the A87 road near the Cluanie Dam, heading towards Kyle of Lochalsh. The northern route takes the A9 north out of Inverness over the Kessock Bridge, turns onto the A835 at the Tore roundabout, turns left at Garve onto the A832 heading west and then branches left again at Achnasheen onto the A890 towards Lochcarron. Two miles before reaching Lochcarron, stay on the A890 by turning left to Strathcarron and follow the road round until it meets the southern route at Auchtertyre, by Loch Alsh, on the A87 about a mile before you get to Balmacara. To find the house from here, pass through the loch-side Reraig part of Balmacara on the A87 heading towards Kyle of Lochalsh and then round the next right hand bend take the right turn to Balmacara Square. The turning is by the adventure centre on your right as you come round the bend. Follow the smaller road up into the village, ignore two left turns to the cafe and gallery in the village itself and instead contin-

ue straight on uphill. The turning into Coillemore House, which has a green front gate, is on the left just around a gradual left bend very soon after you leave the village. Allow around 2 hours in total for either the northern or southern route.

From Edinburgh

Head north on the M90 to Perth, then join the A9 heading north. Follow the A9 as far as Dalwhinnie, then turn onto the A86 heading west to Spean Bridge. Here you turn right to follow the A82 north to Invergarry and then left onto the A87 taking the signs for Kyle of Lochalsh. You then follow the A87 past the Glen Garry viewpoint, down towards the Cluanie Dam where the A87 turns left heading west. Continue on through Glen Shiel and continue on the A87 around Loch Duich and Loch Alsh until you reach Balmacara about 3-4 miles before the road reaches Kyle of Lochalsh. Then follow the local instructions above. Allow around 4.5-5 hours.

From Glasgow and southern UK

If coming from Glasgow or anywhere south of there i.e the rest of mainland Britain, one option is to head towards Stirling via the M80 then onto the A9 to Perth where you will join the route from Edinburgh described above. However, we would also recommend the west coast route. Take the M8 around Glasgow to the Erskine Bridge, where you cross over onto the A82. This takes you north along the west bank of Loch Lomond and eventually past Crianlarich, Tyndrum, Bridge of Orchy, Rannoch Moor, Glencoe, Loch Leven and on to Fort William. From there stay on the A82 taking signs to Spean Bridge, then on to Invergarry, and then you take signs to Kyle of Lochalsh and follow the rest of the route as described in the paragraph above. Allow around 4 hours from Glasgow.



WELCOME PACK

To help your visit get off to the right start we have provided you with a Coillemore House welcome pack.

Subject to seasonal availability, we will also try to make sure you have a few other more enjoyable edible and drinkable items, as well as a starter pack of wood for the fire. You may even find the first dram of your trip is on us!

This will include the following

- Washing up liquid and dishwasher tablets, salt and rinse aid
- Rubbish bags
- Kitchen roll and toilet rolls
- Firelighters and Matches
- Essential cleaning materials (under the sink in the utility room).

KEY INFORMATION AND UTILITIES

Access

The front and rear door have a Yale lock and key which you will then find on the side table in the front porch. If any keys are lost or removed, we will need to cover our costs of replacing them.

Checking in

Check in is available from 4.30pm on your day of arrival. We would appreciate if you let us know if you plan to arrive later in the evening.

Checking out.

On your designated day of departure please ensure that you have checked out by 10.30 am so we have time to prepare for the next guests. We would really appreciate if you can ensure that you leave the house just as you found it and empty any rubbish before leaving. If you intend to leave earlier in the week, please kindly let us know.

We kindly request you to please remove the sheets and pillow cases from your beds on the morning of your check out. This will help us with the cleaning and changeover and be greatly appreciated

House Maintenance

Please note there may occasionally be essential maintenance tasks that need to be carried out during your stay, to ensure we keep the house in full working order. We will of course endeavour to keep these to a minimum but appreciate your understanding.

Internet

WiFi network: Coillemore Ground Floor
Password: none

Phone coverage

There is mobile phone coverage at the house but not for all networks. However, if you log on to the WiFi and activate WiFi calling on your mobile phone, this works well at the house. We do also have a landline (01599 566 776) which you may use for any incoming calls as required. Please do not use it for outgoing

calls unless in an emergency.

Heating and Hot Water

These are already pre-set to come on. However, if you wish to boost or change the temperature and/or hot water, there is a small switch box on the left as you enter the kitchen. You will find the thermostats for the ground floor in the hallway on the left as you face the stairs and on the landing for the first floor, where you can set the temperature to your desired level (please allow some time for the heating to adjust).

Fireplace and wood burner

Please use the fireplace and wood burning stove responsibly to minimise the risk of accidental fires. You can use wood or coal on the open fire in the west living room, with paper and firelighters to help get it started. Any remaining ash can be swept through the griddle before lighting. As it is an open fire, please be sure to keep all your personal items at a safe distance and use the fireguard.

For the wood burning stove in the east living room, please only use wood, not coal. Paper, kindling and firelighters can be used to start it off.

We provide a complimentary basket of logs to start you off. Additional logs, coal, kindling and firelighters can be purchased locally from Co-op in Kyle.

Fire safety

Fire extinguishers can be found in the hallway on the ground floor and landing on the first floor. There will also be a fire blanket in the kitchen.

No Smoking policy

We kindly request that you do not smoke inside the property. Thanks for your understanding.

Breakages

Please report breakages as soon as possible so that we have sufficient time to replace them. Depending on the item in question we may need to charge for it.

Repairs

If any urgent plumbing, electrical or other maintenance issue arises, please contact us for assistance. Please do not attempt to fix something yourself unless it is very simple. As summer 2021 is our opening season, there may be the occasional unforeseen issue that crops up, which of course we will do our best to rectify as quickly as we can. Thanks for your understanding!

Rubbish

Rubbish collection is on Thursdays (alternate weeks for recycling and non-recycling). Normal recycling (cardboard, paper, recycleable plastics, metal tins) should go in the blue bins at the front gate. All other rubbish should go in black rubbish bags in the black bin. You should find some black bags in the kitchen drawer. There is no food waste collection in the area so please put food waste in the general household waste. Glass is not allowed to be disposed of in regular rubbish or recycling in this area, so please do not put any glass items in these bins. Please collect all glass separately and dispose of it in the glass recycling bins at the bottom of Balmacara square on your departure.

Toilets

It is very important that you please do not flush sanitary towels, cotton wool, nappy liners or similar down the toilet as these will block up the septic tank system, which is definitely one to avoid!

First Aid Kit

Hopefully you won't need one, but if you do, it's in the top drawer next to the kitchen sink. Please inform us of any items used so they can be replaced.

Kitchen

You should easily find everything you need in the various drawers and cupboards. Please access the patio via the rear door from the Utility Room rather than the window doors in the kitchen.

Appliances

The kitchen has an electric range cooker, a dishwasher and a microwave, and there is a washing machine and tumble dryer in the utility room next door. Instruction manuals for all the internal appliances

can be found in the bottom drawer to the right of the kitchen sink. If you are in any doubt on how to use any of them, please refer to these. There are also two hairdryers available on the first floor. The kitchen also has a Nespresso machine. We try to ensure you have some pods in your Welcome Pack but you may wish to bring some more with you if you have a lot of coffee drinkers in your group. The local Co-op also sells compatible pods.

Utility Room

You will find the washing machine and dryer plus an extra sink and storage. There is also a drying rack hanging from the ceiling above the sink for any wet clothes you need to hang up to dry. Please remember to remove muddy shoes and dirty boots here before entering the rest of the house – this will really help keep the house clean. We appreciate your cooperation. The downstairs toilet and wet room with disabled access shower is behind the Utility Room.

Basement and Top Floor

These are storage areas and are not designed to be in use. The door to the basement (next to the kitchen door) is locked deliberately – please do not try to open it or go downstairs. Similarly, please do not try to enter the rooms on the top floor. Thanks for your understanding.

Catering

If you would like some local help with catering during your stay, please let us know as early as possible and we can try to help you arrange this.

Cleaning, Linen and Towels

The house will have been cleaned and prepared prior to your arrival and you will find fresh linen and towels at your disposal. Spare towels and linen can be found in the Utility Room. If you would like to arrange additional cleaning during your stay, please let us know as soon as possible and we will check availability. The additional cost can be confirmed before any commitment. If you would like additional bed linen or towels, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to accommodate that if we can. For any stays longer than a week, again please if you would like some cleaning or new linen to be arranged during your stay.



Garden

You are of course welcome to enjoy the whole garden, but please take care when walking around as there can be uneven surfaces. Also, during the summer months, if the weather is still, don't forget to close doors and windows after dusk, to avoid midges getting inside.

We may come on Thursdays to attend to any gardening that needs to be done, but will do our best to respect your privacy. Please let us know if this will present any inconvenience.

Barbecue

We have a gas barbecue available on the patio – please use this sensibly and clean it fully after any use. If in any doubt about turning it on or off, please just ask.







WOOD-FIRED HOT TUB

It would be helpful to know if you intend to use the wood-fired hot tub during your stay, and particularly if you would like to use it at the start of your stay. Before you use it, we kindly request that you read these instructions to ensure sure you enjoy it safely and appropriately. We kindly request that you bring some extra towels if you plan to use it regularly during your stay.

The use of the hot tub is at your own risk. If you suffer from diabetes, heart disease or another condition that affects your blood pressure, check with your doctor before using the hot tub. If you feel sleepy, drowsy or uncomfortable, get out immediately and cool off. The stove and the flue are hot when in use – please take all due care.

Warming it up:

- Do not start the fire until the tub is full of water. Heating a half-empty tub can damage the heater or fiberglass shell. The water level should always be above the HOT water outlet while the stove is in use.
- Before you start the fire, remove any old ash that may remain from the previous use.
- The recommended water temperature is 37-40°C so keep an eye on the thermometer to avoid exceeding this level. Do not overheat the water by adding more wood to the stove once at this level.
- The normal heating time will typically be 2-4 hours, depending on the ambient temperature and weather conditions, wood quality and use of suitable firing up methods.
- Use good quality, dry wood – avoid using wet wood as it may damage the stove. Please only use wood (and firelighters) to fire the hot tub. Do not use coal or any other combustible material.
- Stir the water regularly while warming up and keep the lid closed while not stirring. You can adjust the intensity of the wood burning by letting more (or less) air into the heater. If you find it too hot you can add some cold water to help cool it down.

Usage instructions:

- Please take a shower before use. It is also sensible to drink plenty of water before and after use.
- One fill can typically be used for 2-3 days before it should be replaced. Keep the lid closed when not in use.
- Always ensure the fire is fully out before starting to drain the tub. Never start draining the tub while still in use as this can damage it and create a fire risk.
- Children should never be left in control of the stove and should never be left unattended either while bathing.
- There are three switches on the panel – one for the air compressor, another for the water compressor and one for the LED lights.
- When it is cold outside i.e. below 10 degrees, only turn the air compressor on when the water is above 30 °C.
- Avoid using the hot tub burner in rough weather or high winds.

LOCAL AMENITIES AND SERVICES

Shops

The biggest supermarket close by is the Co-op in Kyle, about 3 miles away. Drive down the hill, turn right into the village square and continue until you reach the A87, then turn right again and in a few minutes you'll be there. The Co-op is the next left after the traffic lights in the middle of the village, before you get to the Skye Bridge. There is also a larger Co-op about 8 miles further on at Broadford on Skye, which also has a petrol station. You'll pass it when heading to Skye.

Opening hours are:

Co-op Kyle: 7am-10pm

Co-op Broadford: open 24 hours

Tesco Extra in Inverness also delivers all over the Highlands. You can arrange a delivery just as you may do back home. Bear in mind you may need to allow some lead time for deliveries.

For small immediate needs there is a small local Spar in on the seafront in Balmacara, open 8am-9pm, Sundays 10am-9pm.

There is a butcher in Kyle, Lochalsh Butchers, on the left-hand side before you reach the traffic lights, open 8.30am-5.30pm except Sundays and Mondays.

You can buy fresh local fish and seafood at the Fisherman's Kitchen on the harbour slipway in Kyle – turn left at the traffic lights – or at the Seafood Shop fishmonger / fish & chip shop just over the Skye bridge (phone ahead to check if open 07766 529 907).

Petrol & Diesel

The nearest service station is Central Filling Station in about 3 miles away in Kyle, which is on your left as you enter Kyle. It is generally open 9am-5pm but you can get fuel 24hrs with the payment pumps.

Other service stations in the wider area include:

Broadford Co-op: 12 miles, open 24 hours

Inverinate: 9 miles, 7am-8pm except Sundays

Lochcarron Spar (if you're heading towards Torridon or Applecross): 7am-7pm, 10am-5pm Sundays

Glen Shiel: 13 miles, 9am-6pm

In the Highlands it's always worth making sure you

are reasonably well stocked as often journeys can be deceptively long, and some of the more remote service stations have prices to match!

Banks/Cashpoints

Kyle has a cashpoint on the left as you drive through towards Skye, and a Bank of Scotland on Main Street (turn right at the traffic lights). There is also one available at the Co-ops in both Kyle and Broadford. Further afield, you'll also find them in Portree and Lochcarron. It can be useful to have some cash on you rather than rely always on card/contactless, but also bear in mind that banks will issue Scottish notes which can be tricky to use in the rest of the UK.

Doctor

Kyle Medical Practice on Station Road in Kyle is open 5 days a week, 8am-6pm

Tel: 01599 534 257

For A&E, the Dr Mackinnon Memorial Hospital in Broadford on Skye is the closest hospital

Tel: 01471 822 491

The hospital is at the far end of Broadford village, turn right shortly after the main road crosses the bridge over the Broadford River.

Post Office

Spar on the waterfront in Balmacara on the main A87 road has a post office. There is also another post office at Mace on the left hand side of the main road as you drive into Kyle, just before the traffic lights.

Church Services

There are churches in Kyle, Plockton, Kyleakin (Church of Scotland), Dornie (Catholic) and also further afield in Broadford.





OUR FAVOURITE PUBS, RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

There are so many fantastic places to eat across the wider Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross region, there is no way we could provide an exhaustive list here, so we just show a selection that we can vouch for ourselves (there's still plenty we've not yet made it to!). These are designed to suit a range of occasions and budgets from a quick lunch stop to a special dinner. We're lucky enough to have arguably some of the best pubs in the UK around here. If you think we've left anything essential off the list, by all means let us know!

We do recommend booking ahead for the most popular pubs and restaurants, as availability can often get very limited. Generally the more expensive places tend to need booking further ahead but with the generally high standard of food even pubs can quickly get very booked up. Also bear in mind opening hours in the Highlands are different to city life, so don't bank on being able to find kitchens still open after 2.30/2.45pm for lunch and 8.30/8.45pm for dinner. As Covid-19 lockdown restrictions ease, many places that have temporarily closed may have different opening times or have delayed re-opening entirely, so we can't fully guarantee the accuracy of the opening hours detailed below and it's always worth checking before you go. Driving times are of course approximate and assume no stops on route – it's always worth allowing plenty of time to enjoy the journey!

Pubs

Plockton Inn, Plockton (5-10 mins drive)

Great local pub with excellent food and seating both inside and outside in a beer garden across the road. You can take turns for a stroll along the pebbly beach while waiting for your dinner.
www.plocktoninn.co.uk 01599 544 222

Plockton Hotel, Plockton (5-10 mins drive)

Nice wee pub on the waterfront, definitely best visited in good weather when you can sit outside amid Plockton's palm trees watching the tide roll in and out.
www.plocktonhotel.co.uk 01599 544 274

Sligachan Hotel / Seumas Bar, Sligachan (45 mins drive)

Lying at the foot of the legendary Black Cuillin ridge, this famous mountaineers' inn is less about the food and all about the location and the range of single malt whiskies on offer, numbering 400+ at the last count.

www.sligachan.co.uk 01478 650 204

Applecross Inn, Shore Street, Applecross (1hr 15 mins drive)

Over the steep hairpin bends of the Bealach na Ba on the wild, windswept Applecross peninsula, lies one of this country's most remote but popular pubs, serving great local fare, especially the fish dishes (their monkish and chips is a personal favourite). Always a good atmosphere at the cosy bar and plenty of tables outside for al fresco pub lunches and dinners with views of Raasay and Skye. Very busy in summer.

www.applecrossinn.co.uk 01520 744 262

Glenelg Inn (45 mins drive)

Over the Ratagan pass from the end of Loch Duich you descend into the secluded, magical Glenelg peninsula. The Inn is a wonderful highland pub, with an atmospheric interior and a spacious garden looking directly across to southern Skye. Great food and beer selection.

www.glenelg-inn.com 01599 522 273

Shieldaig Bar and Coastal Kitchen (1hr drive)

Friendly village pub downstairs and a restaurant upstairs, with fresh seafood and a large pizza oven being the main draws, set in the very picturesque village of Shieldaig with its magical wooded island in the middle of the bay. Tigh an Eilean restaurant next door run by the same people.
www.shieldaigbarcoastalkitchen.co.uk 01520 755 251

Kintail Lodge Hotel (20 mins drive)

At the far end of Loch Duich, at the foot of the Five Sisters ridge, this is a good choice after a walk in Kintail or if heading in the direction of Glen Shiel
www.kintailodgehotel.co.uk 01599 511 275

Lochcarron Hotel (30 mins drive)

The main pub in Lochcarron village which you pass through on your way to Applecross, Torridon and beyond (rather than a destination in itself). The food is usually decent (good venison stew if available).
www.lohcarronhotel.com 01520 722 226

Restaurants and Cafes

Croft Café, Duirinish (5 mins drive)

Nice little café just over the hill in the neighbouring village of Duirinish
01599 544 343
Open Wednesdays-Sundays 10am-4pm

Fisherman's Kitchen, Harbour Slipway, Kyle (5 mins drive)

Great local fish stop overlooking the old ferry port at Kyle: cullen skink, smoked salmon salads and sandwiches, good fish and chips and more. Great place to try Cullen skink if you haven't before.
www.fishermans-kitchen.co.uk 01599 534 002
Open Tuesdays-Fridays: 11-5.30pm (6.30pm on Fridays)

Hector's Bothy, Station Road, Kyle (5 mins drive)

A solid local choice for a quick lunch out – decent food, reasonably priced. Also has an associated take-away.
www.hectorskyle.co.uk 01599 534 248
Daily 10am-3pm

Waterside Restaurant, Railway Buildings (5 mins drive)

Good local fish and seafood restaurant at the railway terminus in Kyle
www.watersideseafoodrestaurant.co.uk 01599 534 813

Kishorn Seafood Bar, Kishorn (45 mins drive)

Freshly landed seafood on the road towards Shieldaig and Torridon.
www.kishornseafoodbar.co.uk 01520 733 240
Opening hours can vary, worth calling ahead to check.

Carron Restaurant, Strathcarron (25 mins drive)

Family team who have been serving good local cuisine for many years
www.carronrestaurant.com 01520 722 488
Daily 10am-8pm, Sundays 10am-4pm

Lower Deck, Portree, Skye (1 hr drive)

Good local fish café in Portree, a nice lunch stop when heading to northern Skye
www.lowerdeckseafoodrestaurant.co.uk 01478 613 611

Applecross Walled Garden, Applecross (1hr 15 mins drive)

Lovely family-run café/restaurant based on the restoration of the Victorian walled garden of Applecross House, serving fresh local organic produce – especially worth a visit in spring/summer
www.applecrossgarden.co.uk 01520 744 440

Tigh an Eilean, Shieldaig (1hr drive)

The more formal sister restaurant to the Shieldaig Bar and Coastal Kitchen, and part of the Tigh an Eilean hotel
www.tighaneilean.co.uk 01520 755 251

Fish and Chips

The Harbour Fish Bar, Plockton (5-10 mins drive)

A wee kiosk on your right as you drive into Plockton, just past the Plockton Inn as you arrive at the seafront
01599 544 479

Fisherman's Kitchen – see above

Seafood Shop, Kyleakin (5-10 mins drive)

Go over the Skye Bridge, turn right at roundabout, its immediately on your left
07766 529 907
On Thursdays there is also a Fish & Chip van down on the seafront at Balmacara, opposite Spar

Restaurants:

High End

Three Chimneys, Colbost, Dunvegan, Skye (1.5 hrs drive)

Pricy but outstanding, worth the long drive, definitely requires booking ahead

www.threechimneys.co.uk 01470 511 528

Kinloch Lodge, Sleat, Skye (25 mins drive)

Highland fine dining in a stylish, old-school hotel to match

www.kinloch-lodge.co.uk 01471 833 333

1887, The Torridon Hotel, Annat, Loch Torridon (1hr 15 mins drive)

Redesigned in 2020, this is the showpiece restaurant at the 5* Torridon Hotel, which enjoys outstanding views across Loch Torridon to Beinn Alligin and Lìathach. The focus is on innovative dishes using produce from the hotel's own farm and kitchen garden as well as the surrounding area. There is also a more casual restaurant at the Torridon called Bo & Muc and an impressive whisky bar that also features its own home-made gin.

www.thetorridon.com 01445 791 242

Other highly rated places in Wester Ross and Skye that we've not yet tried:

The Gorse Bush, Kinlochewe www.thegorsebush.com

Gille Brighde, Diabaig www.gille-brighde.com

Badachro Inn, Badachro www.badachroinn.com

Loch Bay Restaurant, Stein, Skye www.lochbay-restaurant.co.uk

Edinbane Lodge, Edinbane, Skye www.edinbanelodge.com

Oyster Shed, Colbost, Skye www.theoysterman.co.uk

Claymore, Broadford, Skye no website / 01471 822 333

Hebridean Inn, Broadford, Skye www.hebrideaninn.co.uk

Alternatively bring fine dining to Coillemore and give Harbourside events a shout for a chefs table, whisky tasting or fine dining menu



Great Walks

The area is truly a walker's paradise, not just because of the many famous Munros on our doorstep, but also because of the wonderful coastal walks and woodland trails available nearby. Below you'll find links to everything in the area from shorter local rambles to full mountain traverses. There really is something for everyone in this area. Obviously you can only do a tiny selection of what is on offer during the course of one week, but if this is your first time in the area, it is well worth trying to fit in a trip to Skye (a surprisingly large and diverse island), a trip north to dramatic Torridon, potentially taking in the legendary Bealach na Ba road to the Applecross peninsula, and there are also fantastic walks all around the Kintail, Glen Shiel and Glenelg areas which are very close by. Finally, there are some wonderful walks you can do right from our doorstep, not least heading over the road and up through the magical wood of Coille Mhor, our local piece of Celtic rainforest. Oh, and did we mention that at the top of that mountain opposite the house we have our very own infinity pool? www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oBRgcYGWqE

From the Doorstep:

Coille Mhor: www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/5515/2156/3032/Collie_Mhor_A4webPDF.pdf
Loch Achaidh na h-Inich www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/lochachaidhnahinich.shtml

Balmacara to Kyle: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/Kylebalmacara.shtml

Balmacara-Reraig circuit: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/Balmacara.shtml

Lochalsh Woodland Walk: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/balmacara-woods>

The Balmacara Estate website sums up the special character of the local area very well:

“Balmacara Estate, a finalist in the Conservation Award category is cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. It is described as “an outstanding example of a Highland crofting estate” with the flower rich meadows of Duirinish and Kirkton, the oaks and birch woodlands of the Celtic rainforest at Coille Mhòr and the crannog on the dragonfly laden Loch Achaidh na h-Inich. The landscape supports a rich range of habitats and species including migrant birds,

otters off the coastline, pine martens, red squirrels, 300 types of moth and butterflies.

Scotland's rainforest is a rare and endangered habitat. It's as important as tropical rainforest, but even rarer. The conditions to support this coastal temperate rainforest occur on less than 1% of the globe's surface. Scotland's rainforest, also known as Atlantic woodland and Celtic rainforest, is a special kind of woodland, containing trees dripping with lichens and rocks clad with abundant mosses. These native woodlands are found on our west coast where there are high levels of rainfall and relatively mild, year-round temperatures... The Coille Mhòr (Big Wood) above Balmacara Square is one example of these diverse ancient woodlands. The mosaic of habitats has been influenced by generations of crofters as they grazed their animals in the woods. These predominantly oak and birch woodlands have a magical feel, with thick carpets of mosses, colourful fungi and glorious ferns.

The Coille Mhòr is both an SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) for its oakwoods and the internationally important rare lichens it contains. These lichens include the interestingly named Norwegian specklebelly (*Pseudocyphellaria norvegica*) and abundant old man's beard (*Usnea* sp.), which is an indicator of good air quality.”

Local Area:

Duirinish and Drumbuie: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/Duirinish.shtml

Plockton Coral Beach: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/plockton-coral-beach.shtml

Forests of Lochalsh: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/images/pdf/rec_pdfs/Forests-of-Lochalsh-guidemap.pdf

Stromeferry: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/stromeferry.shtml

Wider region:

Kintail: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/kintail.shtml

Glenelg: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/kintail/glenelg.shtml

Skye: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/

Strathcarron: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/torridon/lochcarron.shtml

Torridon: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/torridon/torridon.shtml

Applecross: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/torridon/applecross.shtml

Looking down over Balmacara with the Skye bridge and Isle of Skye beyond

Coillemore House is visible middle right





LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

Outdoor Activity Operators and Mountain Guides

Skye Adventure, Portree www.skyeadventure.com/

Sea to Skye Experience, Glen Shiel

Only a few miles away at the end of Loch Duich, they specialise in guiding kayaking and hillwalking
<https://seatoskyexperience.co.uk/>

Mountain and Sea Guides, Applecross

A bit further away over the Bealach na Ba, another mountain guiding and kayak course provider
<https://www.applecross.uk.com/msg/>

Skye Guides, Luib <https://skyeguides.co.uk/>

Kayaking

Sea Kayak Plockton www.seakayakplockton.co.uk/

South Skye Sea Kayak www.southskyesekayak.co.uk/

Mountain Biking

Skye Mountain Bike Adventures www.skyemtbadventures.co.uk/

Sailing and Watersports

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club, Plockton www.plockton-sailing.com/

Torridon Yacht Charter, Shieldaig 07803 206 303
Skye Sailing Club, Portree www.skyesailingclub.com/

Boat Trips

Spirit of Adventure - www.the-spirit-of-adventure.co.uk/

Bella Jane - www.bellajane.co.uk/

Misty Isle Boat Trips - <http://mistyisleboattrips.co.uk/>

Seaprobe Atlantis, Kyle - www.seaprobeatlantis.com/

Calum's Seal Trips - www.calums-sealtrips.com/

Wild Skye Boat Trips - <https://wildskyeboattrips.com/>

Fishing

West Coast Fishing - www.westcoastfishing.co.uk/

Spirit of Adventure – see above

Wild Skye Boat Trips – see above

Riding

Glen Shiel Pony Trekking Centre www.highlandponytrekking.co.uk/

Golf

Lochcarron Golf Club, Lochcarron – 9 holes <https://lochcarrongolfclub.co.uk/>

Isle of Skye Golf Club, Sconser – 9 holes www.isleof-skyegolfclub.co.uk/

LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST

If you've had your fill of great walks and adrenaline-filled activities, there are some nice half and full day-trips in the wider area. In no particular order, here is a selection of some which may be of interest. It is always worth double checking opening hours where relevant as these can be subject to change.

Balmacara Estate www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/balmacara-estate

Eilean Donan Castle, Dornie www.eileandonancastle.com

Dunvegan Castle, Dunvegan, Skye www.dunvegan-castle.com

Armadale Castle & Gardens, Sleat, Skye www.armadalecastle.com

Talisker Distillery, Skye www.malts.com/en-row/distilleries/talisker

Isle of Raasay Distillery, Raasay <https://raasaydistillery.com/>

Attadale Gardens, Attadale, Strathcarron <https://www.attadalegardens.com/>

Inverewe Gardens, Poolewe <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/inverewe>













COILLE
MORE
HOUSE

