

Eriskay Lodge

Lochaber Lodges



Welcome to Eriskay Lodge! We hope you will enjoy your stay here.

You will find information about the Lodge and the area in the Reception Office – and the duty manager can answer almost any question you need to ask. In particular, if there are any problems they will do their best to resolve them quickly and efficiently, so please don't hesitate to ask.

Reception is open during the day and, if there is no one in the office, there will be a contact number for you to ring. Failing that, you should get a response if you call on 07599 288248.

The information provided here is a summary of some of the things you may wish to know and/or find useful.

Andrew and Sue Morrison

Owners of Eriskay Lodge

www.gairlochylodge.wordpress.com

(Visit the website for the on-line guide for easy access to the web links!)

July 2020

Contents:

Page

2	In the Lodge
3	Local Services
4	Activities
5	Days Out
7	Places to Visit
8	In the Evening
8	Walks
11	Wet Days

In the Lodge

Appliances

You will find instructions for the use of all the appliances in a drawer in the kitchen.

If you have any problem, please don't hesitate to contact the duty manager.

Cooker

Please, when using the grill, make use of the metal protector which slots in above the grill and keeps the oven door open.

This may be a statement of the obvious, but please don't use metal implements on any non-stick pans. There are plastic and wooden implements provided.

Heating

Please use the thermostat to set the temperature you require. You will probably wish to set a lower temperature overnight. **If you have any problems please contact the duty manager.**

Hot water

Hot water is heated on demand, so there should always be hot water available. Any problems, please contact the duty manager.

Toilets

The lodges use a septic tank. Please don't use them for sanitary towels or the like. Toilet paper is OK.

WiFi

Lochaber Lodges provides free WiFi:

MOY FARM FREE WiFi 1.

No password required.

Moy Farm is not yet in an area where super-fast broadband is available so speeds are limited and connection to the Internet can sometimes fail – usually the connection recovers quite quickly.

Eriskay Lodge is at the edge of the range of transmission from the main hub in the Reception Building. This does cause some problems from time to time, but the signal strength will usually be enough for a laptop and for some mobile devices.

If you wish to use a mobile device or to have a more reliable connection, a WiFi Range Extender is provided. This needs to be in line-of-sight with the antenna on the reception building – which means on the window sill of the main bedroom. **This will get very hot in sunny weather, so please keep it inside the blind.**

To use it, please plug in, switch on and wait for a minute or two. You will then be able to connect to MOY FARM FREE WiFi 1_EXT. When functioning properly you should see three green symbols lit on the device (the top one may drop to amber or even red on occasion, which indicates low signal strength, but it should generally show green). **In the event of problems with this device, it usually works if you switch it off and then on again!**

Television

The TV provided is internet connected. Note that (see above) there may unacceptable levels of buffering when trying to view on-line content.

To watch live TV: select 'TV' then 'Freesat'. For Internet content select 'APPS'.

To play a DVD: Select 'INPUT: AV' and 'VIDEO'. (If it is set to 'COMPONENT' the DVD will not display properly.)

For further information, please use the 'HELP' function on the remote control or consult the Online Manual at <https://tinyurl.com/wp7t9hn>

Local services

Shops

There is a [SPAR in Spean Bridge](#) (Open: 7.00am to 9.00pm Monday-Saturday, 8.00am to 9.00pm Sunday) which is a general store selling a groceries, household goods, drinks and newspapers) and a [Co-Op Store in Corpach](#) (Open: 6.00am to 11.00pm Monday-Sunday).

There is a Post Office counter in the SPAR.

You will find a wide range of shops in Fort William, including a large [Morrison's supermarket](#) (Open 7.00am – 10.00pm Monday-Saturday, 8.00am – 8.00pm Sunday). There is a Tesco Express on the High Street. There is a Marks & Spencer Foodstore and a large Aldi on the main road out of Fort William towards the lodge.

There are branches of Boots and Lloyds (Pharmacies) on the High Street in Fort William.

Medical and Dental

Medical Emergencies.

The nearest Accident and Emergency Unit is at the Belford Hospital, Fort William. This is situated close to the Town Centre – you will pass it on the main road (A82) into Fort William. **In emergencies telephone 999.**

Non-urgent Medical Care.

If you need to see a doctor for non-urgent treatment, there are several medical practices at the Fort William Medical Centre which is situated near Banavie on the A830 close to its junction with the main A82, just next to Lochaber High School:

The Tweeddale Medical Practice Tel: 01397 703136

Craig Nevis Surgery Tel: 01397 702947

Glen Mor Medical Practice Tel: 01397 703773

Out of hours help in Scotland is provided by NHS 24 (Tel: 111)

Dentists.

There are several in Fort William and the surrounding area, including M&S Dental (Tel: 01397 702147). If you have any problem in obtaining emergency dental care, contact the NHS Dental Help Line on 0845 6442271 (9.00am to 4.00pm weekdays) or contact NHS 24 (Tel: 111).

Activities

Lochaber describes itself as the 'Outdoor Capital of Britain' (see www.outdoorcapital.co.uk) and there is certainly no shortage of outdoor activities! There is also a wide range of possibilities suitable for the less active. A pretty full list of suggestions is at www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk - or pay a visit to the tourist office in Fort William.

Here are a few suggestions to be going on with:

Walking – see the separate section on Walks on Page 13.

Cycling

The area is full of quiet roads and forest tracks suitable for all abilities and fitness levels as well as demanding courses for the expert. See www.ridefortwilliam.co.uk for general information. Cycle Hire is available from Nevis Cycles(www.neviscycles.com Tel: 01397 705555) and elsewhere.

Starting from the lodge, there is easy cycling along the Caledonian Canal and Loch Lochy (on the Great Glen Cycle Route), along either side of Loch Arkaig, along the forest roads near Strone Farm or up Glen Loy.

For experts, there are world class trails in the forests at the foot of Ben Nevis, including the downhill track from the top of the Nevis Range Gondola.

Watersports

Lochaber is a great centre for kayaking and other water sports with a variety of organisations offering days out. See www.outdoorcapital.co.uk/activities/watersports/canoeing-and-kayaking

Winter Sports

The Nevis Range is only a few minutes drive away. See <https://www.nevisrange.co.uk> .

Equipment hire is available at the Nevis Range. Be aware that equipment can sometimes run out at busy times.

Golf

There is a 9 hole course at Spean Bridge with magnificent mountain views to console you if your golf game is not as good as you'd like! - and an 18 hole course at Fort William. See <https://speangolf.co.uk> and www.fortwilliamgolfclub.co.uk. Club Hire is available at Fort William.

Fishing

Fishing in the Caledonian Canal and Loch Lochy is free. Permits are available for fishing on Loch Arkaig and the River Arkaig (honesty box at the bridge where the river flows into the loch). Fishing is also available at Loch Lundavra near Fort William.

And, of course, there is sea fishing on Loch Linnhe...

Fishing Tackle from the [Fishing Tackle Shop](#).

The Achnacarry Estate also offers a fishing package on Loch Arkaig (www.achnacarrycountry.co.uk/fishing.html .)

See also the [Highland Angling Experience](#).

Days Out

The lodge is ideally situated for visiting anywhere in the Central Highlands. Here are some suggestions:

The Jacobite Steam Train. The line from Fort William to Mallaig is one of the finest rail journeys you are likely to make. It will be familiar to many people as the Hogwarts Express! Operates Easter to October. Booking in advance is strongly advised.

<https://westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/steam-train-trip>

If the Jacobite is fully booked (or you want a much cheaper alternative!) the [Scotrail](#) service does the same journey. Buy tickets on the train (You can access this from Banavie Station).

Ardgour This is the land on the other side of Loch Linnhe from Fort William. Drive around Loch Eil to Camasnagaul (or you can get a passenger ferry from Fort William) and follow the waymarked trail (094750) just to the north of the ferry pier for a pleasing walk up a wooded hillside with outstanding views. There is a teashop a few 100m down the road. Continue down the quiet single track road to Corran, where there is a fine, flat circular walk round two small lochs – starting at the church (well worth a visit) and back by way of the small village of Clovullin.

There is a pub at the jetty in Corran and you can then get the Corran ferry back to complete the circuit back to Fort William. You might wish to visit the Red Squirrel feeder and observation point at Glen Righ near the Corran Ferry. <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/glen-righ>

Glenfinnan This is the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard at the start of the 1745 uprising, which is marked by a monument and [Visitor Centre](#). You can also view the railway viaduct made famous by the Harry Potter films, cruise on Loch Shiel (www.highlandcruises.co.uk), visit the West Highland Railway Museum (www.glenfinnanstationmuseum.co.uk) and eat in the Dining Car cafe. (40 minutes drive)

Arisaig, Morar and Mallaig. (1 hour drive to Arisaig). This is an ideal destination for a fine day as it takes you to a string of fine sandy beaches between Arisaig and Mallaig. Morar and Camusdarach are particularly fine - and have starred in a number of films and TV shows (www.scotlandthemovie.com/movies/camus.html). A walk along Loch Morar and up to the ridge high above Loch Nevis is also highly recommended.

Glencoe. This wild and spectacular glen was the site of the notorious Massacre of 1692 (www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/union/trails_union_glencoe.shtml) and is well worth a visit. The Visitor Centre (<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glencoe>) will tell you all about it - and much more. Entry to the Visitor Centre Café is free. There is a charge for entry to the exhibition (free to National Trust members) (45 minutes drive)

Rhum, Eigg and Muck - the Small Isles. On a fine day this is a great trip. Depending on the day you can visit one or more of these delightful islands and get a glimpse of a very different way of life. The views are magnificent and, if you are lucky, you may see dolphins and other marine life. Access is by small boat from Arisaig or Calmac Ferry from Mallaig. www.arisaig.co.uk or www.calmac.co.uk/destinations.

Skye. Take the Road to the Isles and reach Mallaig (70 minutes drive) and then 'go over the sea to Skye' using the Skye Ferry (www.calmac.co.uk/destinations/skye.htm)

Ardnamurchan. The Ardnamurchan Peninsula is the most westerly point on the British mainland. It is remote, unspoilt and home to some of the finest beaches you'll find anywhere. Views to the Small Isles and to Skye are sublime. Allow plenty of time to get there - much of the road is single track with passing places. You might perhaps go via the Corran Ferry and make a circuit via Loch Eil. The wildlife hide on Loch Sunart is a good place to view seals and other wildlife including - if you are lucky - otters. <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/qarbh-eilean-wildlife-hide>.

You can also take a ferry from Kilchoan to Tobermory on Mull. You can also join a [boat tour](#) from Kilchoan to Staffa (for Fingal's Cave) and Lunga (for seabirds - including, in season, puffins).

Oban. The 75 minute drive to Oban takes you along the shores of Loch Linnhe with a series of great views. Oban itself is a bustling town with lots going on. You might wish to climb to McCaig's Folly above the town and enjoy the views over Kerrera (<https://www.calmac.co.uk/destinations/kerrera>) to Mull. Also close to Oban is Ben Cruachan - the 'Hollow Mountain' (www.visitcruachan.co.uk) - which offers tours of this impressive piece of engineering set in glorious countryside. From Oban it is possible to visit Mull, Iona, the Treshnish Isles and Fingal's cave (<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/staffa>) on Staffa. www.staffatours.com/boat-tours/departs-oban

The Cairngorms National Park. You might wish to visit some of the following: Rothiemurchus Forest and Loch-an-Eilein (www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/loch-an-eilein.shtml), The Highland Wildlife Park (www.highlandwildlifepark.org), The Osprey Centre (www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/quide/l/lochgarten/about.aspx) at Loch Garten, Loch Morlich, the

Highland Folk Museum (www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum) at Newtonmore. (90 minutes to Aviemore).

Fort Augustus, Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle. You can learn all about the Loch Ness Monster at the Visitor Centre (www.lochness.com/home.aspx) and - who knows - you might even spot it! Urquhart Castle (www.historic-scotland.gov.uk) sits on a magnificent location overlooking Loch Ness (40 minutes to Fort Augustus, 1 hour to Urquhart Castle)

Kintail and Eilean Donan Castle. The road to Kyle of Lochalsh takes you through the majestic scenery of Kintail and the "Five Sisters". Eilean Donan Castle (www.eileandonancastle.com) is one of the most famous - and most photographed - castles in Scotland. Well worth a visit. (80 minutes to Eilean Donan)

Inverness is the capital of the Highlands and has a number of visitor attractions including the Castle, Museum, Art Gallery, Theatre and Cinema. www.scotland.com/highlands/inverness

Places to Visit

The central location of the lodge means that you are spoilt for choice when it comes to possible places to visit. Here is a selection of those close by. (See 'Days Out' for those further afield.)

The Commando Monument and Museum Spean Bridge. This part of Lochaber was used during the Second World war as a commando training centre and the monument and museum are a tribute to their bravery. You can also see the remains of a concrete landing craft used for training purposes on the right hand side of the road to Achnacarry!
(<http://commando.speanbridgehotel.co.uk/index.html>)

The Clan Cameron Museum, Achnacarry. Learn about the history of Clan Cameron and their links to the wider history of Scotland including the 1745 Jacobite Uprising. www.clan-cameron.org/museum.html

Neptune's Staircase, Banavie. This string of locks on the Caledonian Canal is a good spot to watch the boats going through. Excellent views to Ben Nevis.

Ben Nevis Distillery. Find out about the art of whisky distilling - and maybe taste a wee dram or two. www.bennevisdistillery.com

The Nevis Range Mountain Gondola. Let it whisk you up to the Snowgoose Restaurant and enjoy a meal and spectacular views. www.nevisrange.co.uk/gondola-info.asp

Treasures of the Earth, Corpach. A fine collection of minerals and gemstones.
www.treasuresoftheearth.co.uk

Old Inverlochy Castle, Inverlochy. Now ruined, this is one of Scotland's most historic castles.
www.inverlochycastle.co.uk

The West Highland Museum, Fort William. This small museum tells the story of the region and its history. www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

Glen Nevis and the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre. Glen Nevis offers a chance to walk along the riverside and admire the mountains and waterfalls. The Steall waterfall is Britain's second highest with a single drop of 120m - well worth a visit, but the walk to it needs some care! <http://ben-nevis.com/visitor-center/visitor-center.php>

Red Squirrel Viewing. You can see red squirrels in a number of locations in the area. A good spot to try is the Red Squirrel viewing hide at the Glenrigh Forest Onich (<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/glen-righ>) car park, Inchree just off the main A82 near The feeders at the hide attract squirrels on a regular basis. You can combine this with a short walk (or a longer one) to view the waterfalls.

In the Evening

If you are looking for a wild night time scene you're probably in the wrong place, however there are plenty of options for an evening outing.

Dining out: Fort William offers a wide range of choices - including pubs, cafes and restaurants. You might consider the Crannog Seafood Restaurant or the Lime Tree restaurants. Nearer to home there is the Moorings in Banavie, Russell's (highly recommended) in Spean Bridge, the Whispering Pine Lodge Hotel (stunning views over Loch Lochy) - and a 'chippy' at the Spean Bridge Hotel (try the haggis and chips!).

Entertainment: You can find live music in a number of Fort William pubs and around – including;

- The Ben Nevis Inn, www.ben-nevis-inn.co.uk (also a great place to eat and drink) has regular live music sessions.
- Clachaig Inn, Glencoe. <https://www.clachaig.com/whats-on>
- The Grog and Gruel. www.grogandgruel.co.uk
- The Snowgoose Restaurant at the top of the Nevis Range Gondola does occasional Ceilidh Nights. See 'Activities' at www.nevisrange.co.uk
- The Skippinish Ceilidh House (<http://aboutfortwilliam.com/entertainment/live-entertainment/skipinnish-ceilidh-house-fort-william>) (Tel: 01631 569 599 as the website is not very informative.)
- Caledonian Hotel Fort William (Tel: 01397 703 117)

See 'What's on in Fort William' (www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk) and look at local shops for information about ceilidhs, performances etc. There are regular shows at the Nevis Centre.

Walks

There are any number of Munroes (mountains higher than 3000 feet/914m) and other mountains within an hour's drive. These include Ben Nevis, the highest in Britain. Climbing some of them could be one of your highlights.

There are some local maps and guide books in the lodge to help you plan, but a detailed mountain guide book (available in outdoor shops, at the tourist office or on-line) would be a good investment.

Please make sure that you are properly equipped and prepared – Scottish mountains are rough and often trackless. You can encounter severe and wintry weather at any time of the year. We strongly recommend that you take note of the advice at www.walkhighlands.co.uk/safety .

The guidebooks in the lodge describe a range of lower and higher level walks of varying lengths which you are welcome to use. They cover all of Lochaber, some of the Great Glen and out towards the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. If you do follow any of these routes and find anything that has changed (e.g. stile no longer there), please feel free to annotate them accordingly!

Of the nearer walks in the guidebooks, the walks at Cow Hill, Fassfern and the circuit from Laggan Locks are certainly well worth doing.

www.walkhighlands.co.uk is a very useful website which lists any number of walks – short and long – with maps, instructions and GPS data. See, for example, www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/inchreefalls.shtml

If you'd like to do some shorter and/or closer walks here are a few suggestions.

To the Lighthouse ...

Distance: 1 mile Start: At the swing bridge at Gairloch.

Walk along the canal towards Loch Lochy. The lighthouse marks the entry from Loch Lochy into the Caledonian Canal and gives great views along the Great Glen. A pleasant stroll for an evening.

If Moy Bridge is closed (check with reception) you can extend this by walking from the lodge to Moy Farm, crossing the canal and walking to the lighthouse and back.

Another possible extension is to walk from the lighthouse along the shore of the Loch, then along the river to rejoin the road from the Commando Monument to Gairloch.

Great Glen Way walks

The Great Glen Way runs along the canal opposite the lodge. There are several close-by sections you can walk, all of which give wonderful views:

- 1 *Banavie to Corpach (2.5 miles there and back)*. Park at Neptune's Staircase in Banavie. Watch the boats going through the locks. Walk down the canal to reach the sea and Loch Linnhe at Corpach. Great views of Ben Nevis.
- 2 *Gairloch to Banavie. (6 miles one way)*. A pleasant walk along the canal – especially if you can arrange to be met at Banavie. Possibly reward yourself with a drink or meal at the Moorings!
- 3 *Gairloch to Bunarkaig. (4.5 miles there and back)*. Follow the Great Glen Way signs from Gairloch into the forest and then down to the lochside until you get back to the road just short of the houses at Bunarkaig. This is a lovely walk with lots of great picnic spots along the way
- 4 *Clunes to Laggan. (7 miles one way)*. Park at Clunes and follow the Great Glen Way as far as you like. If you can arrange transport back, there is a floating pub at Laggan which makes a good end point for your walk. Lots of good views and you walk through varied woodlands alive with birdsong.

Achnacarry, Loch Arkaig and Eas-Chia Aig Waterfalls

Distance: 4.5 miles

Start: Drive along the B8005 from Gairloch to Bunarkaig. There is a good parking space opposite the private road which is signed to the Clan Cameron Museum.

Walk along the road past the houses and admire the glorious view across Loch Lochy to the Grey Corries. After a few hundred yards, reach the bridge across the river and turn left to walk along the river (rough path, can be muddy) eventually reaching a footbridge. Check the notice which warns if there is a shoot going on. Turn left from the footbridge and follow the path toward the buildings to the left of the big house (Achnacarry House, the seat of Cameron of Lochiel). Reach the private road at the Clan Cameron Museum. You might wish to visit if it is open - see www.clan-cameron.org/museum.html Continue up the road toward Loch Arkaig.

Cross the wooden bridge to reach the B8005 again and turn right to walk to the Eas-Chia Aig Waterfalls and the Witch's Pool - one of the locations used in the film of Rob Roy.

Retrace your steps to the museum and take the footpath opposite the museum, turning right to walk back past the small church in the woods to get back to your car.

This is a lovely walk at any time of year and we have often seen deer in the fields and woods.

Shorter versions:

Start as above, but follow the signs to St. Ciaran's Church, walk past it to the Clan Cameron Museum and walk back along the road.

Alternatively, start as above, but turn off the B8005 to walk along a track about 200m before you reach the bridge over the river.

Extension 1: Walk up past the waterfalls into the woods as far as you like - you soon reach wild open country.

Extension 2: Walk as far as you like along the south side of Loch Arkaig.

Erracht , Glen Loy and Inverskilavulin

Erracht (5 miles there and back if you walk to the end of the track): About 1 mile from the lodge towards Banavie, there is a sign marked Erracht. Follow the forest road up through the trees to enjoy views of Aonach Mor and Ben Nevis. This eventually takes you out to the edge of the forest high above Glen Loy. Retrace your steps.

Lower Glen Loy (4.2 miles): Park at the bottom of the forest road half way up the hill to Strone Farm on the road to Banavie. Follow the forest road to reach the Glen Loy Road at Inverskilavulin. Walk back along the quiet road through the beautiful wooded glen along the banks of the River Loy which tumbles over rocky ledges and through still pools. The walk can be extended by following the forest road further up the glen. A slightly longer variation is to take the forest road which starts just beyond Strone Farm.

Upper Glen Loy (as far as you like!): Drive to the end of the Glen Loy road. Carry on up the track into wild country and walk as far as you wish - all the way to Fassfern on Loch Eil if you want!

Kilmonivaig Church, Spean Bridge and the High Bridge

Start: Kilmonivaig Church off the road to Spean Bridge.

Distance 3.5 miles

From the church, walk back to the main road and walk along the pavement up to the Commando Monument. Follow the footpath from there which leads down to the disused railway, past the historic High Bridge and high above the gorge of the River Spean. This is an easy walk on good, dry paths through woodland and hillside.

Eventually reach the road just short of Spean Bridge. Either walk into Spean Bridge for coffee (or something stronger) or simply retrace your steps to the church.

Near Spean Bridge

There are several easy forest walks starting from the minor road which goes along the south side of the River Spean, some of them waymarked from the parking place (227815) just after the road crosses the railway.

An alternative is to follow the road to park about 100m after it becomes a track (253806) and walk from there:

1 The East Highland Way. Walk further along the river towards Roy Bridge – following the East Highland Way. This eventually reaches a bridge across the river at Monessie (4 miles). If you cross this a further short walk takes you to the historic church of Cille Choirill. Good views – can be muddy!

2 A Loop Walk. (6.5 miles) Walk back to the metalled road and turn up past Corriechoille. Turn right off the track to enter the forest at 251793. Follow the forest road to a junction at 237777 and turn sharp right along another forest road. Follow this for about half a mile and turn left to cross a footbridge at 238734. Continue on until you meet the road at Killiechonate and follow the road back to your starting point.

Roy Bridge

Start: Park near the church in Roy Bridge, just before the main road crosses the river

Distance: 2.5 miles

Cross the bridge and take the minor road, signed Bohenie. Walk up the road until you reach a sign for Achaderry where you take the track to your right. After about 300m, follow the track marked Lochan Path. Walk round the Lochan and take the path marked 'way out' which will take you back to where you left the minor road.

If you want a longer walk (3.5 miles), this walk can be extended – see

www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/roybridge.shtml

Wet days (it does occasionally rain in Lochaber!)

Many of the 'Places to Visit' and 'Days Out' are also suitable for wet days.

The Nevis Centre has a sports hall, ten-pin bowling centre and soft play area for small children.

www.neviscentre.co.uk

The Lochaber Leisure Centre offers swimming and fitness gym.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/lochaber-leisure-centre>

...or just borrow a DVD from reception, do a jigsaw or curl up with a good book! The lodge will be warm and cosy even if the weather outside is not!

Enjoy your stay!

If you have any problems, please contact Reception who will do everything they can to resolve them quickly.