

The Bealach, Applecross and peninsula

Check weather forecast, tide tables and how much fuel you have.

Visit Lochcarron if you need fuel, cash or the post office as there are more supplies in this village (20 miles) than anywhere else locally. Applecross now has a community fuel station - cards only DIY.

Head towards Lochcarron and ignore the first signpost to Applecross, just out of Shieldaig – this is the coast road you will come back by.

The turning to Bealach na Ba and Applecross is before Kishorn. This road goes from sea level to 2053 feet in 6 miles with a steep hairpin section at the top. If you are a nervous driver then maybe not! We think it is easier to drive, for the first time, by going up and over then come back around the coast road. This road Oct-March is frequently closed due to ice or snow on the hairpin section at the top. There is a car park & viewing point at the top – which looks over the Inner Hebrides and across the Inner Sound. Realistically the top needs to be clear of cloud to get the views. It is usually windy up there even if it is flat calm at the bottom! You can walk at the top if the conditions are favorable.



Please be considerate and try not to stop in passing places to take photos beginning of May to end Sept, there is just too much traffic. The locals, who are just trying to get in or out of Applecross as part of their daily work/life, can get very frustrated with the volume of slow traffic. Just let them pass as soon as it's safe to do so – saves a lot of stress. Only use the passing places on your left to pull into. Stop opposite passing places on your right to allow oncoming traffic to pull in to their left. It is no accident that there are 3 repair garages in Lochcarron!

Food options

The award winning Applecross Inn (open all year, food all day)
Potting Shed also known as the Walled Garden (seasonal opening).
Flower tunnel on Applecross Campsite (seasonal opening)

Walks

There are various walks in and around Applecross village both gentle and strenuous. The Applecross Trust has a myriad of paths around Applecross House and the Potting Shed – see on-site walks folder & local info.

A favourite walk of ours is the Sand Beach walk. North of Applecross village, past the sweeping bay and part way up the hill ahead. Stop in the small car park on the left, beyond the Heritage Centre, just past the signpost to the walk (on right). This walk is a gentle steady climb up, on a reasonable path which levels out, allowing you to really enjoy the tremendous views across to Skye & the Cullin. This is one of the best ways to savour the amazing views of Skye rather than whizzing past in a car just getting glimpses. After a while the path drops back down to road level where you can walk down to Sand beach. The walk is just over 3 miles (1 way) but you can also stop off and enjoy the beach and rock pools if the tide is out.



History & Culture

If a wet day is forecast then a good way to spend the day is in Applecross Heritage Centre (closed Sundays) and visiting the various places to eat in Applecross! Main course at the Potting Shed, dessert at the Inn, afternoon tea in the Flower tunnel...

The Heritage Centre

A superb way of getting a feel to life in this area in times gone by, touching on all aspects of life on a remote peninsular. The coast road was only completed in the 1980's before then they were frequently cut off for long periods of time. Access was often by boat as the high pass was impassable for much of the winter, but rough seas still limited access. A great booklet has been produced by a local chap – a copy of which is in the living room.



Broch remains

The remains of a high status Iron Age settlement are on the campsite in Applecross and there are plans to keep part or all of the foundations to view.

Read about the 'Time Teams' archeological dig (in the Heritage Centre) before visiting the campsite which un-earth the foundations of the Broch (dig completed in 2009). They are an exceptional example of the complex Atlantic Roundhouse with an associated souterrain.

Drive south of Applecross to explore many little bays, crofting villages and lovely views.

Drive north about 4 miles and there is Sand beach to the left (Beachcomber cottage has something of celebrity status since Monty Halls spent a little time there in 2008). At low tide this is a fabulous sandy beach with a few rock pools.

Continue along this road to follow the coastal road back to Shieldaig (50 minutes). There are various places to stop along the way.:

Jewellery Studio Callakille

The Wool shop at Cuaig,

Stained glass workshop Arrina,

McIver Shellfish and

Angora Ecosse.



Keep an eye out for red deer frequently seen (dusk) around Applecross and the Highland cattle – which may be resting on the road closer to Shieldaig.