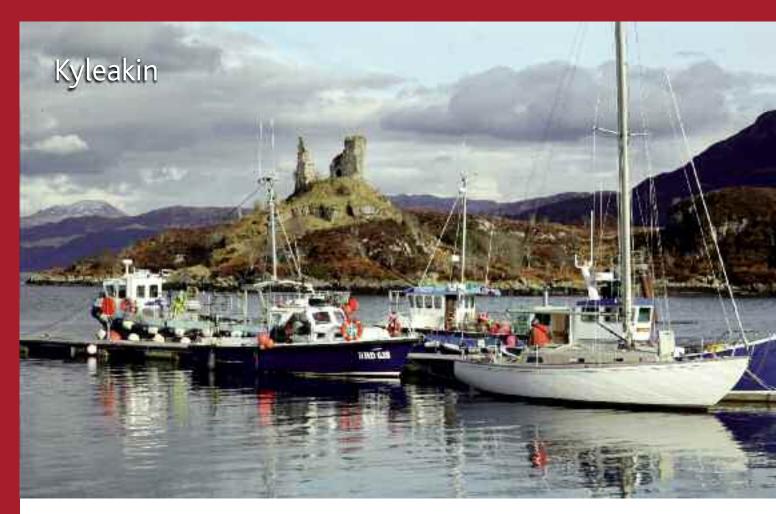


### Snap shot

The entry point to the Isle of Skye by bridge and ferry, South Skye and Sleat is steeped in the richness and vibrancy of Gaelic culture – explore and enjoy

# Ston on May Skycanol John Man Co. 44



# Don't miss the model town of Kyleakin

Until the opening of the Skye Bridge the village of Kyleakin was the main entry-point to the island, with two ferries shuttling back and fore on the five-minute crossing from Kyle of Lochalsh.



Now that the ferry traffic no longer streams through the village at regular intervals it is a peaceful place that is well worth a visit.

At the beginning of the 19th century Lord MacDonald conceived a grand plan to create a model town at Kyleakin which he proposed to call New Liverpool. However, in his classic book "Skye" (published by Birlinn in Edinburgh) the writer Derek Cooper observes: "A contemporary engraving shows the ambitious project which would have been about the same size as present-day Portree. The plans were grandiose and too far-fetched to be realised. The houses themselves, two-storeyed (compared with the traditional one-storey cottage) would have remained empty even if they

had been built — the economy of the island could not have supported such an extravagant folly."

Kyleakin today is a pleasant little fishing village with a scattering of hotels, bars and good eating places as well as plenty of bed-and-breakfast accommodation and independent hostels. You can take boat trips into the strait that separates Skye from the mainland — Haakon's Strait, hence the name Kyleakin — and pass under the road bridge.

The bridge, incidentally, makes one of its landfalls as it hops across the water on an island called Eilean Ban which was once owned by the author Gavin Maxwell of "Ring of Bright Water" fame who stayed there while he studied its otter population. Eilean Ban also boasts a lighthouse designed by David and Thomas Stevenson which, although no longer used, still stands on this tiny outcrop under the shadow of the bridge. A new track behind Old Kyle Farm Road also makes for a worthwhile walk or, if you feel up to it, cycle.

Another must on a visit to Kyleakin is a walk to the semi-ruinous Castle Moil, which stands on a promontory a few hundred yards from the slipway. Derek Cooper writes: "For centuries it belonged to the MacKinnons as vassals of the MacDonalds of Sleat. Legend says that it was built by Saucy Mary, the daughter of a Norwegian king, for the purpose of levying a toll on ships passing through the Kyles. Legend also says that she stretched a chain across from Kyleakin to Kyle to make sure that no ship sailed through without paying up — thus defying not only belief but all the known laws of engineering."

The irony of the Saucy Mary legend is not lost amongst those who campaigned against the extortionate tolls which were extracted by the Skye Bridge Company from 1995 until their removal late in 2004!

So, don't rush across the bridge and head northwards on the main road: take the brief detour into Kyleakin and stay awhile.



### Don't miss

### South Skye and Sleat

- 1 CASTLE MOIL Ruined castle overlooking Kyleakin harbour. In the straits between Kyleakin and Kyle of Lochalsh you can also see Eilean Ban, the lighthouse island once home to "Ring of Bright Water" author Gavin Maxwell.
- 2 SABHAL MOR OSTAIG, Sleat. The restored farm steading which houses Scotland's only Gaelic college; a newer campus on the road to Armadale offers stunning views across the Sound of Sleat.
- 3 ARMADALE CASTLE and gardens, which house the Museum of the Isles. The woodland gardens boast some lovely walks and are open all year round.
- 4 KINLOCH FOREST WALK Five-mile woodland walk, taking in the abandoned settlement of Leitir Fura.
- 5 KILCHRIST CHURCH Ancient church and graveyard just outside Broadford, on the Elgol road. It is worth following the road all the way to Elgol, a picturesque township offering superb views of the Small Isles and north into the heart of the Cuillin Hills.
- 6 IRISHMAN'S POINT, Broadford This pleasant stroll from the main pier in Broadford is just one of a number of walks around the village.

### South skye and Sleat









# Visit the glorious south and the "Garden of Skye

There are three entry points at the south end of Skye. The most convenient is the Skye Bridge, which crosses to the island from Kyle of Lochalsh.

If you want the experience of a ferry crossing there's the Mallaig-Armadale service operated by Caledonian MacBrayne. Then there's the small turntable car ferry which plies the short crossing between Glenelg and Kylerhea from Easter through to October — but the road from Kylerhea to the main Kyleakin-Broadford artery is narrow and precipitous, so watch out!

The former ferry point and fishing village of Kyleakin boasts a number of shops and hotels as well as independent hostels, and overlooking the harbour there are the ruins of Castle Moil while in the straits between Kyle and Kyleakin you can see Eilean Ban — the lighthouse island where "Ring of Bright Water" author Gavin Maxwell once lived, and which now lies in the shadow of the Skye Bridge.

Broadford itself is the largest village in the south of the island — a hub of shops, hotels, youth hostel and restaurants gathered round Broadford Bay. It is an ideal centre for exploring the south end.

If you cross on the ferry from Mallaig to Armadale it is worthwhile lingering in Sleat, which by virtue of its relative greenness is commonly referred to as "The Garden of Skye".

Near Armadale is the Clan Donald Skye Visitor Centre, which includes the historic gardens surrounding the ruins of Armadale Castle, the award-winning Museum of the Isles and the Stables Restaurant and Gift Shop. There are some stunning walks on the Clan Donald Skye estate.

A left hand turn before reaching Clan Donald Skye will take you down to Ardvasar and to one of the oldest hotels on Skye, the Ardvasar Hotel, built in the early 1800s. From here you will be able to enjoy the magnificent views which include the stunning Knoydart mountains whilst enjoying good Scottish cuisine.

Further along the road towards
Broadford is a turning to Achnacloich.
This is the start of a loop road which
takes in the small crofting townships of
Ord and Tarskavaig, with the ancient
Tokavaig woodland and the ruined
Dunscaith Castle along the way. It is
well worth taking the detour on this
road which offers spectacular views of
the Cuillins as well as the islands of Rum

and Canna to the west, and over the Sound of Sleat to Loch Nevis and the mainland hills.

Incidentally, at the turn-off for Achnacloich you will see Sabhal Mor Ostaig, a beautifully-restored farm steading which houses part of the only further education college in Scotland where classes are taught using the Gaelic language. The main college campus in a truly magnificent building sits on the coast further south. Here, students are encouraged to learn skills in business studies and related courses which will enable them to find employment in the Highlands and Islands while at the same time fostering the use of their native tongue. Sabhal Mòr is also the venue for short summer courses in a wide range of subjects including piping, clarsach playing and the Gaelic language.

Having completed the Ord-Tarskavaig



loop you rejoin the main road, and a few miles on another short detour will take you to Isle Ornsay and Camuscross which offer outstanding views across the Sound of Sleat to the rugged mainland hills of Knoydart. Hotel Eilean Iarmain and attached Am Praban bar offer a warm welcome of their own, with a wide range of good home cooking and fine cuisine on offer. You can also sample some single malts and blended Gaelic whiskies including Poit Dhubh, Tè Bheag and MacNamara. While there, you can pop in to Buth Floraidh to see designer tweeds and wools or have a look round An Talla Dearg gallery.

Back on the main road, and a few miles apart, are Toravaig and Duisdale House Hotels owned and operated by partners Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn. The hotels have beautiful views to the Sound of Sleat and beyond, as well as all the luxury amenities you'd expect of fourstar establishments. As well as overseeing two award-winning hotels, Anne and Ken offer exclusive daily sailing trips onboard their luxury yacht 'Solus Na Mara' from April to September.

Further on you can branch off to Kinloch with its forest walk, as well as the Michelin-starred restaurant at Kinloch Lodge Hotel, or to the isolated township of Drumfearn which looks across Loch Eishort to Heaste.

While in Sleat, it's worth stopping at one of the many restaurants and hotels for a meal or just a snack — most of them use fresh local produce.

Once back in Broadford, there's yet another corner of the south end to be explored: the Elgol peninsula ought not to be missed. The road winds out of Broadford past the ancient Kilchrist church and graveyard and on to Kilbride, from where a rough track leads to the cleared townships of Suisinish and Boreraig. Further along the main road, looking down Loch Slapin, is Torrin, where the famous Skye Marble is quarried. Round the loch is Kilmarie, where another rough track winds its way some four miles to the beach at Camasunary (and for the keen walker there are paths from here through the Cuillins to Sligachan).

From Kilmarie it's only a few miles to the end of the road, at Elgol — a

breathtakingly beautiful spot with views north and west into the Cuillins and south to Rum and the Small Isles. It's worth taking a walk along the rocky shore at Elgol, with its strange honeycomb cliffs, or round to Glasnakille where you can see Spar Cave. And from Elgol you can have the unforgettable experience of a boat trip into Loch Coruisk in the Cuillins. You can also find a choice of places to eat, and to stay.

Around Broadford itself there are a number of walks to be enjoyed, including a Forestry Commission walk or a pleasant stroll past the pier to Irishman's Point. For the more energetic a climb to the top of Beinn na Caillich (2,400ft) is rewarded by uninterrupted panoramic views for miles around.

And instead of rushing up the main road to Portree, why not branch off and take the old Moll road at the head of Loch Ainort. The old road passes the fish farm and winds round the coast, affording fine views of Scalpay and Raasay, before rejoining the main road at the Sconser golf course.



Awarded the Romantic Hotel of the Year, Island Hotel of the Year and fine-dining Restaurant of the year at the Scottish Hotel Awards. Kinloch Lodge on the Isle of Skye is a perfect haven to escape to for a dose of rext and relaxation at any time of the year. The fuxuriously appointed 19 super king-size bedrooms each have spectacular views of the dramatic, surrounding landscape and the three drawing rooms have roaring log fires and deep sofas.

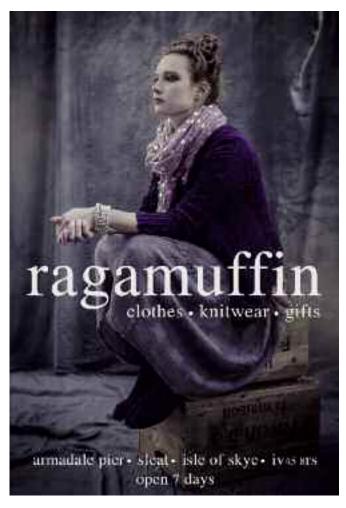
The restaurant at Kinloch Lodge has won many coveted awards. Started by Scotland's best loved cook, Claire Macdonald, and now run by Michelin starred chel, Marcello Tully – come and enjoy a fabulous lunch, alternoon tea or dinner – and indulge in the very best of Scotland's natural larder.

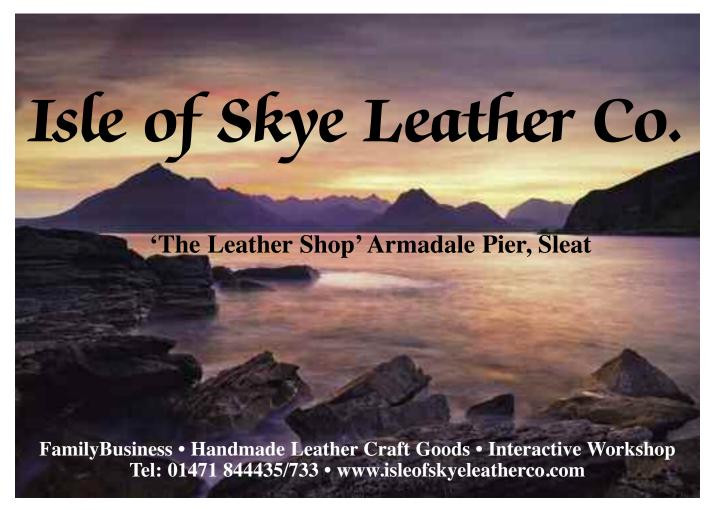


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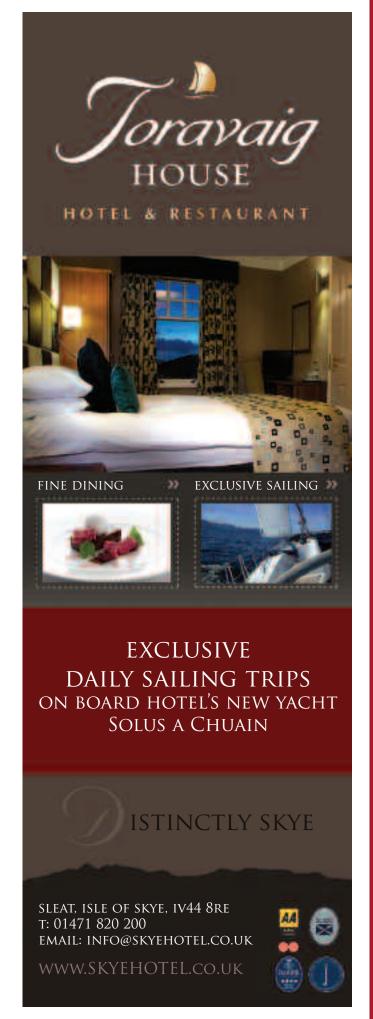












## 20,000 acres of Skye

Clan Donald Skye is a large Highland estate on the Sleat peninsula in South Skye. Once part of the traditional lands of Clan Donald, the estate was purchased by the Clan Donald Lands Trust in 1971. The trust was established to promote an understanding of the history and heritage of Clan Donald and the Lordship of the Isles. As custodians of this wonderful estate, the trust has worked tirelessly to save and develop this important resource for the benefit of visitors to Skye and, importantly, for the local community.

The estate offers some stunning walks for all levels of fitness, with views eastward across the Sound of Sleat to Knoydart, or on the west of the peninsula across to the Cuillin mountain range. It is home to iconic wildlife species including red deer, golden eagles and sea eagles.

The heart of the estate is its Visitors Centre. First opened in May 1976, the everexpanding facilities of the centre have been enjoyed by increasing numbers of national and international visitors over the subsequent years. As a testimony to its drive for excellence, Visit Scotland awarded the centre its fifth star as a visitors attraction in August 2013.

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The magic of Clan Donald Skye unfolds as the visitor enters the gates and proceeds down Lord MacDonald's Drive into the 40acre restored historical gardens of the estate. Here, between cultivated lawns and beautifully planned terraces and herbaceous gardens, stand towering trees, centuries old, giving way to enchanted woodland walks carpeted in seasonal wildflowers and enriched with bird song. The drive ends at the imposing ruins of Armadale Castle, designed by James Gillespie Graham and a monument to the aspirations and dreams of the 19th Century Lords of Sleat.

The fully accredited Museum of the Isles, opened within the gardens in 2002, incorporates the library and study centre. Here you can discover the history of the Highlands and Islands through the story of Clan Donald, its most powerful clan.

Six interconnecting galleries, each with their own theme, take you through 1,500 years of history and culture of the area once known as the Kingdom of the Isles. The MacDonalds — or Clan Donald — were Lords of the Isles and sit at the history of Gaeldom. Our museum follows their story and that of the Highlands.

Audio guides in several languages and for the visually impaired are available. Young visitors can enjoy exploring the museum with our children's trails.

There is a lot to see, so allow yourself enough time. Most of our visitors spend between 45 minutes to an hour in the museum. You will need more time if you are researching your ancestors and planning to use the genealogical resources in the library, which is housed in the museum.

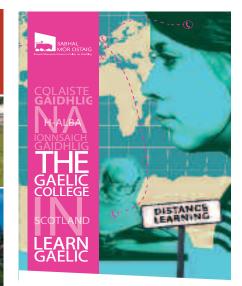
As well as the ever-popular children's adventure playground, which is suitable for all ages, in 2013 Clan Donald introduced Armadale Activities offering visitors the opportunity to engage in a range of exciting target sports. This year, this popular addition to Clan Donald will be offering clay pigeon shooting as well as archery, tomahawk throwing and air rifle shooting.

Nestling within the beautiful grounds of Armadale, Clan Donald is also able to offer holiday accommodation both for short breaks and longer visits. The Visitors Centre boasts gift shops and a wonderful family restaurant which often hosts special musically-themed nights. You can also enjoy Clan Donald's estate-produced venison and, if you wish, you can buy some to enjoy at

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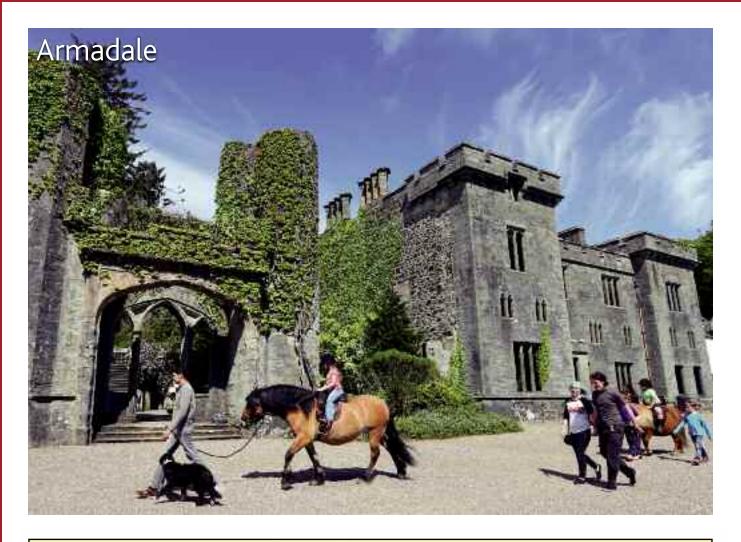


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# Take time to enjoy what Broadford has to offer

Just eight miles north of the Skye bridge on the A87, the village of Broadford offers a wide range of accessible facilities and attractions with which to waylay the travel-weary tourist

Perfectly placed between the spectacular Red Cuillin and the distant mainland Torridon mountains, the village centrepiece is a landscaped garden area, where quiet picnics can be enjoyed while watching ducks dabble on the foreshore — a truly relaxing and tranquil spot.

If you prefer eating indoors, the village also has a wide range of cafes, restaurants and hotels, and a full range of services including a 24-hour filling station, a hospital, a post office, library, bank, pharmacy, supermarket, and a range of gift and book shops — plenty there to cater for all your needs. The village is also home to the wildife charity, the International Otter Survival Fund, and the Skye Serpentarium — Scotland's only serpentarium and refuge.

Broadford is an ideal base from which to explore south Skye.

So, whatever your length of stay, take time out from travelling and enjoy stunning scenery, a quiet picnic, or a wide range of services. Broadford, the second-largest village on Skye, has a lot to offer.



### 

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### Keep dogs under Control

Keep dogs under close control.

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Remember to protect your dog against ticks.

Also, remember to pick up after your pet!





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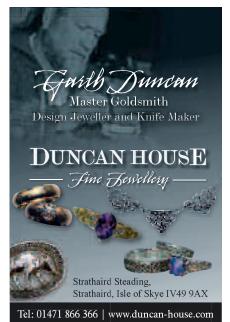
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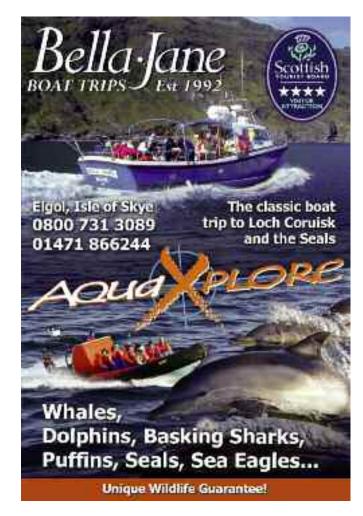
### Check out The Visitor website at WWW.welcometothehighlands.com

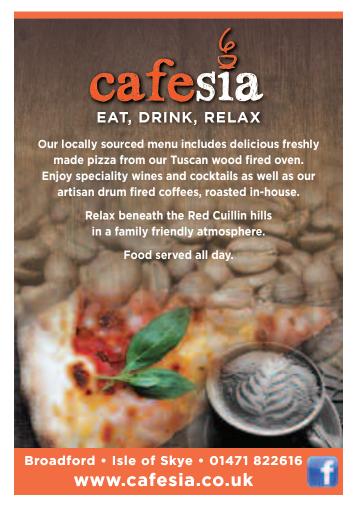












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