

# Newton Lodge

## Terms & Conditions During Covid-19 Restrictions 2020/21

### Please read them carefully and take any appropriate action as required

We will be so happy to re-open and are really looking forward to welcoming you at Newton Lodge. As the situation with the pandemic and the re-opening of society is so fast moving and changes so frequently, we are leaving our policies and procedures from 2020 in place. As of early 2021 we do not yet have any guidance on re-opening. Therefore, we think it is best to continue in the same vein for now and if anything changes, we will be very relieved to relax any measures that we are able to, for your comfort and enjoyment and our own sanity! We have highlighted in yellow some of the measures that we hope will change back to normal, but we are hoping for more. Watch this space!

In line with government guidelines, in 2020, we were required to put all these new measures into place to follow social distancing and enhanced cleaning measures. We are all having to adapt to a new way of life, but we want you to enjoy your stay with us and will do our very best to make that happen. Please be patient with us as we are a small team. Thank you!

#### **Digital Registration - Prior to arrival, can you please:**

- **Complete the Digital Registration Form in full including the name and address of the establishment prior and post staying with us – it will be sent to you prior to arrival and must be with us before you arrive.**

Should you have any symptoms prior to travel, **please do not make your visit.**

**Please read the Guidelines and carry out the virus assessment prior to travel at:**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/self-help-guides/self-help-guide-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **CHECK IN/ARRIVAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

- **Arrival should be between 4pm and 5pm. This is to ensure we have sufficient time to carry out the additional thorough cleaning and disinfecting that is required, prior to your arrival and to manage meeting and greeting all guests in a reasonable and timely fashion.**
- Before entering Newton Lodge, please use the automatic hand-sanitiser station positioned at the main door, ring the bell and wait for us to attend to you.
- Please be mindful of the social distancing measures and do not congregate by the door if there are other parties waiting. Signage is in place.
- Be mindful of social distancing measures when arriving and do not congregate in the entrance hall. Tape/markers/signage are in place.
- **Hand sanitiser stations** are positioned around the building at doorways and we ask that you use them as often as necessary and please continue to wash your hands according to recommended guidelines as often as possible prior to sanitising.

#### **YOUR ROOM**

- Your sanitised key will be left in your door.
- Your television remote controls are now in sealed bags for your safety and so that you can still use the TV. Please do not remove them or try to move the TV's.
- Guest information folders are available in our rooms. However, newspapers, magazines and other reading materials will not be available in public areas. This Guide also includes the Guest Information to enable you to access as much information as possible prior to your visit.
- For your reassurance, all bedding has been washed in accordance with the guidelines.
- **On departure, please place your used towels in the red bag provided and please strip your bed and leave the pillowcases, sheet and duvet cover in the other red bag provided. This helps us to minimise contact and protect our staff as much as possible. Thank you. (2021 - This requirement may well change back to ourselves.)**

## **AMENITIES & SUPPLIES:**

**You can request supplies from us for your room as we are currently unable to leave these in your hospitality tray. Please let us know if you would like any of the following:**

- Complimentary beverages and sundries – tea, coffee, sugar, milk, filtered tap water.
- Hairdryer
- Clean towels (for stays of 3 or more days)
- Bin emptying - please place it outside your room door and we will empty it and return it.
- Cleaning products and cloths.
- All requested supplies will be left outside your room in appropriate bags/containers.

## **CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING:**

All rooms and the premises will be thoroughly cleaned and then disinfected using a “Fogging” machine. The product we are using is called Biosan – a completely natural, advanced antiseptic and disinfectant that kills 99.9% of bacteria. Biosan replicates natural particles created by our own immune system in order to eradicate invasive organisms and fight infection.

Whilst we have always adhered to the highest standards of cleanliness, we are adopting further enhancements, especially around the high touch and traffic points in our hotel and regular and robust cleaning will be taking place throughout business hours. Should you see a sign stating that “cleaning is in progress”, please do not enter and wait until we have completed the task. Thank you!

**To protect our team and to minimise unnecessary contact under the guidelines, we are very sorry, but we will be:**

- Unable to offer housekeeping services/room refreshing for any stays of more than one night and up to 3 nights. But we will be able to offer amenities that we can bring to you – please see AMENITIES & SUPPLIES. (2021 - This may well change back subject to guidelines.)
- Unable to provide an iron, ironing board or laundry services. (2021 - This may be re-available subject to guidelines.)

## **EMERGENCIES**

**In the unfortunate event that you become ill during your visit, please follow this procedure:**

- Do not leave your room.
- Inform us via email or phone that you are unwell.
- We will come to your room and speak to you through the door to document your symptoms.
- If you have signal, please call the emergency services on 111 – as you will need to describe your symptoms. If not, we will call them for you from the other side of the door.
- Wait for advice before vacating your room.
- Should you enter our establishment and become ill, then regretfully you will be liable for all associated costs. These will be room charges and lost revenue.

## **BAR & RESTAURANT – TABLE SERVICE ONLY**

All necessary measures are being taken to reduce your contact with other guests and have reconfigured our bar and restaurant layout accordingly to maintain social distancing. We hope you understand. Thank you!

- Should you wish to sit in the bar, the bar itself is no longer available, but you are welcome to take a table subject to availability. Please wait for us to seat you, however. (2021 - This may well change back to normal seating arrangements subject to guidelines.)

**Physical menus are available, but please do not come to the bar to order, we will come to you.**

Should you need to leave the table for any reason, or once you have finished your meal, please use the appropriate exit, following the one-way system in place.

### **Breakfast**

- Served between 8 and 9am.

### **Lunch**

- Packed lunches are available and must be ordered in advance the night before. An eat-in lunch service may be available in 2021.

### **Dinner**

- Please pre-book your table prior to arrival.
- Time slots are currently limited per table, so that we can accommodate all diners in the safest manner possible.
- Tables will be set at the correct distance between other tables.
- A one-way system has been implemented in our bar & restaurant. There are separate doors for entrance and exit. This is to avoid disruption and minimise contact with other guests.
- Menu choices may be reduced depending on stock availability.
- If you require Vegan options, please ensure to pre-order these 24 hours in advance.
- *The bar and restaurant will close no later than 9:15pm to enable us to perform the required cleaning processes and to abide by the curfew. Thank you. (2021 - These requirements may well change back.)*

### **PAYMENT PROCESS:**

- *All stays are payable in advance, online prior to arrival.*
- *If necessary, pay with contactless or card payments.*
- Card machines will be disinfected prior to and after every transaction.
- *We will be unable to accept cash as a means of payment. (2021 - This requirement may well change.)*

### **CHECK-OUT:**

- Check-out is 10am.
- Please drop your room key in our designated drop-box in the entrance hall.
- Please be mindful of social distancing when leaving and do not congregate in the entrance hall for a prolonged period.
- All charges incurred during your stay unless settled by card payment in our bar/restaurant will be deducted from the card we hold on file. All guests will receive an emailed receipt.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your understanding and patience whilst this situation is ongoing. If you would like any more information on any of the measures we have put in place, please call, email or, message us on our social media platforms.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

## **PAYMENTS & CANCELLATION POLICY**

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### **Payment Policy 1-2 Room Bookings:**

A valid credit or debit card is required to secure your reservation.

For bookings of one night – a charge equal to the night's stay is payable 14 days before arrival.

For bookings of multiple nights - a charge equal to the full booking amount is payable 21 days before arrival.

For bookings made within 7 days of arrival, 100% of the total booking is payable at the time of booking.

Any balance remaining for your booking and/or any incidentals including food, drinks or alcohol is payable before your departure by debit or credit card.

### **Cancellation & Refund Policy 1-2 Rooms:**

For any booking, we highly recommend taking out insurance against unforeseen cancellation.

For bookings of one night - If the booking is cancelled 14 days or less before arrival, then a charge equal to the first nights of the stay will be made.

For bookings of multiple nights - If the booking is cancelled 21 days or less before arrival, then a charge equal to the full booking amount will be made.

In the event of a Force Majeure or Disinclination to Travel – please see below.

For cancellations of bookings made within 7 days of arrival, 100% of your payment will be non-refundable. In the event of a Force Majeure or Disinclination to Travel – please see below.

In the event of a no show or booking reduction, the full cost of the booking is charged.

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### **Group Booking Payment Policy - 3 Rooms Plus:**

A valid credit or debit card is required to secure your reservation and your booking is payable either one month or 5 weeks before arrival depending on the number of nights booked – please see below:

For bookings of one night - a charge equal to the night's stay in each room is payable 28 days before arrival.

For multiple night bookings – a charge equal to the full booking amount for all rooms is payable at the time of booking if the booking falls within 5 weeks of the booking date or at the date of 5 weeks prior to arrival. Any balance remaining for your booking and/or any incidentals including food, drinks or alcohol is payable on the evening before your departure by cash, debit or credit card.

For bookings made within 7 days of arrival, 100% of the total booking is payable at the time of booking.

### **Cancellation & Refund Policy - 3 Rooms Plus:**

For any booking, we highly recommend taking out insurance against unforeseen cancellation.

For bookings of one night - If the booking is cancelled 28 days or less before arrival, then a charge equal to the full booking amount for all rooms will be made.

For multiple night bookings – If the booking is cancelled 5 weeks or less before arrival, then a charge equal to the full booking amount for all rooms will be made.

In the event of a Force Majeure or Disinclination to Travel – please see below.

In the event of a no show or booking reduction, the full cost of the booking is charged.

### **VOUCHERS:**

Please note that advance booking is necessary when using gift vouchers, and bookings are subject to availability. Please call or email us to check availability and to book.

We kindly ask that you notify us at the time of booking that a voucher is to be used and that you present it to a member of staff on arrival. Vouchers are non-refundable and no refund is available for part-use.

All vouchers are valid until the date shown on the voucher itself. Any balance remaining for your booking and/or any incidentals including food, drinks, or alcohol is payable before your departure by cash, debit, or credit card.

### **Cancellation Policy Vouchers:**

For any booking, we highly recommend taking out insurance against unforeseen cancellation.

For cancellations within one month of the stay, the voucher will not be redeemable.

For cancellations outside one month of the stay, the voucher will be able to be re-presented one further time apart from in the event of Disinclination to Travel – please see below.

### **FORCE MAJEURE:**

In the event of an epidemic or pandemic or both or any other Force Majeure which leads to a Government or Local Authority enforced closure of our premises, refunds may be made on a case-by-case basis. A credit may be available.

In the event of an epidemic or pandemic or both or any other Force Majeure which leads to a Government or Local Authority enforced ban on your travel and we remain open for business, no refund or credit will be available. We highly recommend taking out insurance for your trip.

### **Disinclination to Travel:**

In the event that you cancel your trip due to a disinclination to travel, any payment will be non-refundable, and a credit or postponement will not be available.



# NEWTON LODGE

KYLESKU - SUTHERLAND - SCOTLAND

**A very warm welcome to Newton Lodge.  
We wish you the most pleasant stay.**

**This guide contains information you will need  
during your stay.**

**There is also a handy guide detailing lots of  
things to do in the area.**

**Lisa Arcari and Edward Newton  
Proprietors**

## **About Us & The Property**

We purchased Newton Lodge in early Spring 2018, having moved from Cornwall after many years visiting the area. The opportunity arose to purchase the property and so here we are!

After completing our first season, we decided to re-vamp Newton Lodge and spent the entire winter of 2018/19 refurbishing the interior for the benefit of our guests. This work included the installation of new central heating radiators, fresh new decor, new flooring, the installation of new bathrooms and towel radiators, new furniture for each bedroom, installation of extra electrical sockets including those with USB outlets and a re-vamp of our guest areas.

Over the winter of 2019 and into 2020, we completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of refurbishment to the building. This included designing and installing our Rustic Highland Bar which we have called No.4 and removing the old plastic conservatory and re-building that into a fresh new dining room. All the windows and external doors have been replaced along with a large picture window in the lounge, making the view over the Loch even better! A new boiler has been installed to improve efficiency and the flow of hot water and the car park has been dug out to make more space. We are now also open to the general public as a Bar/Restaurant which is a very exciting time.

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## **GENERAL ROOM & PROPERTY INFORMATION**

### **Fire Procedures**

Please refer to the information on your room door for evacuation details. On hearing the fire alarm, please exit the building immediately without stopping to collect any belongings. The assembly point is the car park in front of Newton Lodge. Leave via the nearest exit and do not re-enter the building until told to do so.

**Please note: the fire alarms are tested each week on a Monday morning. If you are still in the building, it should last for no longer than 5 seconds. In the event that the alarm sounds for longer, or for a second time, please evacuate immediately.**

### **Food Allergies**

If you are allergic to any food items, please let us know in advance in the Digital Registration Form.

### **Heating**

The central heating comes on in the morning and mid-afternoon/early evening, unless it is during the warmer months, when it may not be required. You can adjust the TRV (thermostatic radiator valve) on the radiator in your room to get to a temperature you prefer. With the installation of new radiators, you should find a lower temperature will be more than adequate, but please do not hesitate to ask us for help!

## **Pets**

We are currently not able to offer stays to pets.

## **WiFi – Internet Access**

Internet access here is challenging due to our location and, like most properties in the locale, we do not have the benefit of a fibre connection. We have been on a satellite, but now with the advent of EE in the area, we are currently trialling a new 4G router. Whilst this new system should provide a decent connection, it is not an unlimited provision as you may be used to at home and can run out if overused.

As such, you are very welcome to browse the net and use email accounts but in the spirit of fair usage **please do not** stream or download content (music, movies, photographs, tv etc) as we may reach our capacity too early and run out of data. ***This is especially important now because we are going to need the data so that the App is always available. Thank you!***

As a community, we are trying to find a solution, but in the meantime, we thank you very much for your understanding. It is one of the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges of this beautiful and remote location!

## **Telephone**

Mobile signals are variable. If you are on the EE network, you should have full signal and 4G. In an emergency, we can use our landline to make a call for you, but we may make an appropriate charge if it is an overseas call. Please be mindful of social distancing which may make this difficult.

## **Broken Items**

If anything in your room doesn't work or is broken, please let us know by email and we will do our absolute best to get it fixed for you.

## **Contacting Us & Emergencies**

Due to the current restrictions, if you need to contact us, then please send us a message by email. We have long working days so please only contact us after 11.30pm in an emergency.

## **Wet Clothing/Laundry**

We are unable to provide this service during the COVID-19 restrictions.

## **Iron & Ironing Board**

We are unable to provide these during the COVID-19 restrictions.

## **Packed Lunches**

We offer a selection of sandwiches, snack bars, crisps etc. Should you require a packed lunch, please complete your order the evening before – no later than 8pm please!

## **TV**

New TV's and a new satellite for FREESAT were installed in 2019. Your television is fitted to a bracket on the wall. Whilst we are under the current restrictions, please do not try to move the televisions.



If you are in Rooms 7 & 8, the brackets are slightly different, and they can be extended out a little into the room. However, we would advise against this at the moment as if there is an issue, we will be unable to attend your room due to the restrictions.

Your television remote controls are now in sealed bags. The remotes themselves will have been cleaned and sanitised and then placed into the bags for your safety. Please do not remove them.

**To use each television:**

Switch it on using the TV remote by pressing the red button.

Press "INPUT"

Then choose "HDMI1"

Then use the FREESAT remote to choose your channel by pressing the up and down buttons.

**Hairdryer**

We are unable to leave these in your room during the COVID-19 restrictions. However, we will be delighted to provide one to you on request. It will have been cleaned and sanitised.

**Smoking**

In the UK, it is illegal to smoke in any commercial building. We have a non-smoking policy throughout the whole house and grounds. This includes any of our bedrooms and vaping is also prohibited. If you wish to smoke, please do so outside, away from the building as far as possible and please do not under any circumstances, put your finished cigarettes into any bin in the building. Should we find any evidence of smoking in any room, we reserve the right to charge for fumigating.

**Windows**

When we have heavy rain coming from the wrong direction it can pour through the open windows, including through the new Velux windows. Whilst in your room, if you would like to have the windows open, please put them on lock. The lock mechanism is at the top right of the window inside the top bar. Slide the peg into the round hole on the frame.

We also have swallows nesting and they can become confused and fly into the rooms, so please ensure all windows are shut when you go out. Thank you!

**Midges**

As many of you may be aware, midges appear from early June until October. They are worse when there is no wind, and it is still and wet. Please do not leave any windows open and lights on as they will take up occupation in your room and ridding the room of them can be difficult. Thank you!

**Doctor**

The Assynt Medical Centre is in Lochinver (17 miles to the south). Please call 01571 844755 for an appointment. It is a dispensing practice.

### **Petrol Stations**

There are petrol stations in both Lochinver (17 miles to the south) and Scourie (12 miles to the north). Opening times vary during the year. Both have a “pay at pump” facility.

### **Banks**

- RBS Mobile Bank - Monday 10:15-10:30am in the car park near The Kylesku Hotel
- Royal Bank of Scotland – Ullapool

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## **GUIDE TO THE AREA**

Where outings are concerned, please contact the relevant parties direct to pre-book to avoid disappointment. This is also because, in prioritising the implementation of social distancing measures and other operational requirements, our time will be limited.

There are many ideas in this guide, and we hope that you will get to enjoy as many as possible. Should any activities not be available, there are many walks and drives that you can enjoy.

We are also being asked to advise travellers to carry as much of their own food and drinks with them to avoid using local shops where possible. Alternatively, delicious, packed lunches can be purchased directly from us.

### **Fishing**

It is possible to fish in the Reay Estate, many of the lochs in the area and sea angling is also available from Kinlochbervie – 45 minutes in the car to the north.

Fishing permits for the lochs in the Scourie area can be purchased from Scourie Outdoor Leisure which is situated at the Filling Station in Scourie.  
<http://www.scouriefillingstation.uk/>

Assynt Fly-Fishing – Stewart Yates – Orvis Endorsed Guide – Pre-booking is essential  
<https://assyntflyfishing.com/>

### **Boat Trips**

The Kylesku Hotel usually operate boat trips from the hotel slipway between April to September. This is a fantastic way to get close to the seal colonies and other wildlife and to see Britain’s highest waterfall. Booking is advised – 01971 502231.

There are also boat trips to the Summer Isles which depart from Achitibuie:  
<http://www.summerisles-seatours.co.uk/>

For trips to the Summer Isles from Ullapool try:  
<http://www.summerqueen.co.uk/>

## **Some Ideas to Start With**

There is so much to see and do in the area. We have a selection of maps which you are very welcome to borrow and can share our ideas and favourite places with you. You may find there just isn't enough time to see and do everything on one visit and have to come back again!

### **Driving...**

#### **Coast Road to Lochinver**

Turn left at the end of our lane and take the right hand turn towards Drumbeg. This is a fantastic drive, but please note that it is single track all the way and a bit like a rollercoaster! There are lots of steep gradients, blind bends and summits, so do take care.

You will experience some of the most amazing scenery and views. A couple of the best places to stop are the Lighthouse at Stoer and Achmelvich beach, but there are plenty of others. Allow a good 50 minutes for the drive to Lochinver plus stoppage time.

#### **Coast Road from Lochinver to Achiltibuie**

One of our most favourite places until we discovered Kylesku! This road is another single-track experience. Visit yet another lovely beach at Achnahaird and for the best views of the Summer Isles and indeed the area itself, take the loop around Reiff. Wonderful! Why not visit The Summer Isles Hotel for a spot of lunch or a coffee?

#### **Durness**

Home of probably our favourite beach in the entire world! Durness is less than an hour's drive to the north where you will find Balnakeil with its crystal-clear water and amazing sand dunes. A walk through these takes you to Faraidh Head, a great puffin spotting place.

Go to the Craft Village and pop into Cocoa Mountain for the best 'hot chocolate experience' and a box of their finest hand-made chocolates or maybe visit Smoo Cave and the Smoo Cave Hotel for a good old rustic lunch. Further north along the coast find Sango Bay. Another glorious favourite of ours.

#### **Loch Eriboll and Loch Hope**

For those wanting a longer drive, continue around Loch Eriboll all the way to Hope Bridge. Turn right along a single-track lane that takes you all along the side of Loch Hope to Altnaharra. It's quite simply stunning! Please allow 3 / 4 of a day for this outing.

### **Kayaking, Mountaineering & Zip Wire**

Mountaineering, Kayaking and Canoeing - Hamlet Mountaineering

<https://www.hamletmountaineering.com/>

Whole or half-day sea kayaking can be organised in the area through:  
Ridgeway Adventure - 01971 521006

Norwest Sea Kayaking in Lochinver – 07900 641860

For a thrilling Zip Wire experience:

Golden Eagle Zip Wire at Ceannabeinne Beach near Durness -

<https://www.facebook.com/goldeneagleziplines>

## **Beaches – so many wonderful stretches of sand...**

**Oldshoremore** – head north towards Durness, branch off at Kinlochbervie. It's absolutely beautiful here and on the way to another stunner – Sandwood Bay.

**Sandwood Bay** – over a mile of unspoilt golden sand awaits after a good 1.5 hour walk in both directions. From Kinlochbervie, head towards Sheigra and park at Blaimore. Please make sure you take something to eat and drink though. (Remember our packed lunches!)

**Achmelvich** – tiny but really beautiful and sheltered. It's just off the coast road to or from Lochinver, depending in which way you are headed.

## **Handa Island**

<http://www.handa-ferry.com/>

Only accessible by boat. This runs from April to early September. A great place to spot puffins and a multitude of other sea birds. Walking around the island will take around 3 hours, but it's not strenuous. You can also whale spot. Another option is to take the Handa Island Stacks and Seabirds Half Day Tour as previously mentioned and experience both perspectives on this amazing island.

## **Walking**

There are so many walks that suit all levels of ability. Some have paths, but some are over rough terrain and should not be undertaken lightly. Please always ensure you have a map and a compass with you and that you are equipped with the right clothing and footwear. Visibility can change very quickly. Here are some favourites.

**Reay Estate** – on the shore of Loch Glendhu just across the Kylesku bridge, a couple of miles south of us. Park in the car park at the top and walk down through the estate. A reasonably level walk takes you along the edge of the loch to a bothy at the end. This is about 4.5 miles each way. You can continue beyond this point, where the scenery changes again. We have seen sea eagles here. Amazing! Alternatively, walk as far as the Hydro and take a left turn uphill.

This circular walk will bring you back to the car park at the start. It's about 3.5 hours and the views are stunning across the sea and whole area. If you're feeling energetic and the weather is good, why not do both walks and spend the day? Remember your food and drink though!

**Sandwood Bay** – As this has become a must do walk, don't expect to have the beach to yourself during the summer months. Saying that, the beach is over a mile long, so you shouldn't find the odd other person too bothersome! This walk is a good 4.5 miles so remember food and drink again!

**Old Man of Stoer** – Take the Lochinver coast road and park at the lighthouse. These fantastic sea cliffs are home to a number of birds. There are stunning views and it is yet another great spot for whale or dolphin watching. Walk along the cliff to the Old Man – about 50 minutes – and either retrace your steps or return via the slight hill and trig point.

**River Inver & Glencanisp Estate** – we have walked this route many times over the years and it is one of our daughter's favourites, especially in the Autumn when the trees are changing colour. It's beautiful. Drive to Lochinver and park in the lay-by just across the bridge before you reach the town. The walk takes you along a wonderful stretch of the River Inver through woodland and eventually you come out into the open. You then head uphill (nothing too strenuous) for about 30 minutes where you have fabulous views of Suilven and Canisp. You then head down via Glencanisp Lodge – heavenly views again – until you reach Lochinver at the other end. It's a circular walk of about 4.5 miles and well worth it!

**Culag Woods – Lochinver** – The main entrance is just south of Lochinver on the road that leads to Ahchiltibuie. A network of paths lead through the woodland and it was another of our daughter's favourites when she was younger as it is perfect for exploring. See for yourself!

**Little Assynt Estate** – A great favourite of ours on the edge of Lochinver. Run, walk or simply stroll. This is a great combination of established paths for all abilities. The views to Suilven on one side and Quinag on the other are simply fabulous. The varied route options including some cheeky inclines and will keep the different fitness levels amongst you very happy! Leaflets are available at reception.

**Bone Caves – Inchnadamph** – Just south of Inchnadamph, there's a walk to the bone Caves. It was called this as there have been remains of all sorts of animals found here, some dating as far back as the last Ice Age. It's a lovely walk along a river bed that literally bubbles up from underground. We have even walked a bit further and looped back. The walk to the caves takes about 45 minutes and, on the way back, there is a wonderful view to Loch Assynt in the distance.

**Stac Pollaidh** – an iconic part of our landscape – on the way to Achilitibuie and immediately recognisable. There is a path that loops around this little mountain, so it shouldn't take more than about 3 hours to walk around it. There are amazing views of the Summer Isles which take your breath away. The path takes you to the col between the two peaks and whilst the first is fine, the second is only recommended for serious scramblers. So please be careful!

**Mountain Walking** – there are many challenging mountain walks, such as Ben More Assynt and Conival – the 2 Munros in the immediate area. Just behind us is Quinag – indeed you have a great view of it from the upstairs hall and Room 1! Quinag has a number of different peaks which means that you can choose how long you want to be out for. You can be up and down in 3 hours or spend the whole day doing the horseshoe. From the saddle there are simply outstanding views across the sea and whole area. Suilven is one of the most fabulous (and longest) walks and to the north you have Arkle and Foinaven.

**Please, please be careful and let us know where you are just in case we need to raise the alarm. We are unable to provide maps at the moment so we would highly recommend bringing your own and we would also advise taking a compass with you, just in case.**

## **If it's Raining**

Rain?! Never! You might believe that it's always raining here but it's actually unusual and unlucky to have an entire day of rain. If this does happen, here are a few suggestions:

### **Durness**

At the Balnakeil Craft Village

Mudness Ceramics - <http://www.mudnessceramics.com/>

The Wee Gallery - <https://www.nicolapoole.co.uk/>

Cocoa Mountain- <https://www.cocoamountain.co.uk/>

### **And also**

Smoo Cave - <http://smoocavetours.weebly.com/>

The Smoo Cave Hotel -<https://www.smoocavehotel.co.uk/>

The coast road through Drumbeg is great in any weather.

### **Lochinver:**

Highland Stoneware Pottery - <https://www.highlandstoneware.com/> and buy some keepsakes to remind you of your stay.

Ullapool is fantastic – right on the shores of Loch Broom - we love it! Visit the Ceilidh place for food and drink, there's a great deli serving coffee and home-made food. Other pubs and cafes along with shops and galleries to purchase some treasures as a reminder of your stay.

You might even consider popping over the east coast to Dornoch for example. We love it there! It's a very charming town with a links golf course, a lovely beach on the Moray Firth and a Cathedral. Visit "The Jail" for some great shopping and choose from one of many places to eat and drink – including Cocoa Mountain – There is a branch there as well now!

### **Finally...**

**Thank you so much for taking the time to read this information. Have a great stay!**

*Ed and Lisa*