



Assynt Programme

Welcome to the lands of the MacLeods of Assynt!

For several years now, we have hoped for an opportunity for the Clan to visit Assynt. Not only do many of our Clansfolk have ties there, but the Alasdair Crotach Committee has been following and promoting the renovation of Ardvreck Castle, Inchnadamph Church and Calda House for many years.

In keeping with our Parliament 2010 theme of “Old and New Traditions”, we are going to explore both the historical (and more ancient geological) aspects of Assynt, as well the vigorous community of Assynt today.

Please note that there have been some changes to the programme to

There are four main tracks in the visit to Assynt, as previously announced in the Clan MacLeod:

- SEGMENT A1: HISTORY
- SEGMENT A2: GEOLOGY
- SEGMENT B1: COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AND GOVERNANCE
- SEGMENT B2: ON THE WATER

There have been some changes in the programme, several are noted below:

- Kerrachar Gardens have been for sale for a while, and a few months ago it changed hands. The former owners, Peter and Trisha Kohn, had made special arrangements for us to visit through a programme of the Scottish Horticultural Society. However, it turned out that the new owners wished to take possession of the property much sooner than expected, so we are not about to visit. However, we will be taking the Statesman Cruise from Kylesku out into Loch Glendhu, and be able to visit the tallest waterfall in Britain.
- A box lunch on Thursday is included with your registration. This will be eaten en-route on the B869.
- Friday, you will purchase your lunch, but you have the option of either another box lunch, or eating in the pub of the Kylesku Hotel, next to the ferry landing.



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THE BUS SCHEDULE

OUTBOUND FROM DUNVEGAN TO INCHNADAMPH

TIME	EVENT
17:00	Depart Dunvegan Hall.
18:00	Depart from bus stop in Kyle of Lochalsh.
20:30	Stop in Inchnadamph for dinner, if the riders want to do that. We have no riders to pick up in Inchnadamph.
21:30	Approximate arrival in Inchnadamph if we don't stop of dinner.
22:30	Approximate arrival in Inchnadamph if we do stop for dinner.

The bus station in Kyle is behind and below the Tourist Centre. It is a short walk from the train station (about 100 yards).

Note that cars can be parked and left overnight at no charge in the public lots at the Tourist Centre or the Leisure Centre in Kyle.

- The Tourist Centre is heavily marked, as you approach the Skye Bridge on the A87. The parking lot surrounds the Tourist centre, on both levels.
- The Leisure center lot can be found by exiting the Tourist Centre lot and bearing left as you get back onto the A87 but take an IMMEDIATE right onto Main Street – the Bank of Scotland building is on the corner. As you go down Main Street, you will see signs directing you to the Leisure Centre/Pool. The parking lot will be on your right, and it doesn't have a big sign announcing that it is a parking lot but you will recognise parking spaces. There is a set of green metal stairs at the far end that take you back up to the village street level, where you can walk back to the bus stop.

INBOUND FROM INCHNADAMPH TO DUNVEGAN

TIME	EVENT
10:00	Depart Inchnadamph Hotel.
About 12:30	Stop for quick lunch.
14:00	Stop to leave anyone off in Kyle of Lochalsh.
15:00	Arrival at Parliament registration in Dunvegan Hall.



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THURSDAY 22 JULY

TIME	EVENT
09:00	Depart Inchnadamph Hotel for the Assynt Visitors' Centre.
10:00	Depart Assynt Visitors' Centre for major historical monuments. These include the Inchnadamph Church, Ardvreck Castle, and Calda House.
noon	At about noon, we will break for lunch near Clachtoll, with a packed meal from Inchnadamph. Weather permitting, it will also be possible for some seaside walking nearby in Stoer.
14:00	We will be joined at Clachtoll by our guide from the Highland Rangers. Further historical sites we will pass include Clashmore, Clashnessie, Culkein, and Drumbeg. We will try to appreciate the significance of the UNESCO Geopark designation for this vast area.
16:00	Sometime after 16:00 we will return to Inchnadamph.
19:00	Arrive at the Inchnadamph Hotel. Cash bar.
19:30	Dinner is served.

THE ASSYNT VISITORS' CENTRE

This is more than a typical tourist information point as it is also the office for the highland rangers and other groups operating in the area. There is an extraordinary amount of information available, and it is truly the best place to begin an exploration of Assynt. You will also note that there is a real synergy among the various community groups, who are working together to renew and develop the area.

THE B869

This road is described by LeSabre as "A truly fantastic drive along single track roads, with ... miles of thrilling ups and downs."

DINNER AT THE INCHNADAMPH HOTEL

This will be a sit-down, three course dinner with Scottish flair. Please note that we will not have the same ceremony and entertainment as we had in the Outer Hebrides last Parliament. The evening will be hosted by ACMS Honorary Vice President, John Davidson Kelly.



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**FRIDAY 23 JULY 2010**

TIME	EVENT
09:00	Depart Inchnadamph Hotel for a brief tour of several development sites in Lochinver Village.
10:00	Arrive Glencanisp Lodge. Adam Pellant will give us an overview of the acquisition of the Estate and the plans for the Lodge, which was recently refurbished.
12:00-14:00	Lunch at either the Kylesku Hotel or a packed meal from Inchnadamph.
14:00	We will board the Statesman ferry at the pier adjacent to the Hotel. .
16:00	Sometime after 16:00 we will begin the return trip to Inchnadamph.
17:00	Return to Inchnadamph.
17:30	Minibus shuttle into Lochinver begins, and continues until 10:00PM. (Last pass through Village is at 10:00PM.)

OUR LOCHINVER STROLL

Lochinver doesn't have a large "downtown", but there are local restaurants to be enjoyed along with a long evening's walk, perhaps ending with a malt.

Please note that dinner reservations in Lochinver need to be made in advance! On the following pages we have listed three restaurants you might consider.

EAS A'CHUAL ALUINN WATER FALL

Kylesku sits at the juncture between Loch A Chairn Bhain and Loch Glencoul. At 650 feet, Eas a'Chual Aluinn is Britain's highest waterfall.

THE GEOPARK

Today we The Northwest Highland Geopark is part of a global network of territories defined by their outstanding geological features, forward-thinking local communities and unique natural and cultural heritage.



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BUSINESSES IN LOCHINVER SERVING FOOD

Google maps have a very clear street view where all of the local businesses can be found and a virtual tour of the village is possible

LOCHINVER LARDER

Lochinver Larder is a licensed restaurant situated in the village of Lochinver on the river Inver estuary as you enter on the A837. The dining room to the rear looks out over the river and the estuary. It is owned and run by Ian and Debra Stewart. The Larder also has a range of homemade pies that can be eaten in or taken away. All food is freshly made on the premises from the best Scottish ingredients wherever possible.



For sample menus please see their web site <http://www.lochinverlarder.co.uk>. For bookings and opening hours please call (0)1571 844 688.

THE CABERFEIDH RESTAURANT AND BAR

The Caberfeidh Restaurant is situated on the right next to the car park as you enter the village on the A837. The bar restaurant looks out over the sea loch and river. It is owned and run by Simon and Jennifer Allen, who offered a lot of help to plan the Clan MacLeod trip.



Serving traditional home cooked food from a range of local and predominantly Scottish ingredients. It has a separate restaurant and bar area with a beer garden, serving traditional real ales and draught beers, with live local music in the bar weekly in the summer.

For a sample menu, as well as our opening hours please see their web site <http://www.thecaberfeidh.co.uk>. For booking please call 01571 844 321.

THE INVER LODGE HOTEL

The Inver Lodge is a grand and modern hotel in a superb location. They have a lovely bar and serve bar meals and in their restaurant. They are open to the public for dining, but this is not a casual place. More information about them is available at <http://www.inverlodgehotel.co.uk>. Call (0)1571 844496 for reservations.

THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Village Green is a tea and coffee shop opposite the play park and war memorial, on the left as you pass through the village. Serving Fair Trade tea and coffee, as well as a selection of home baked cakes. It is also a boutique gift shop with a range of local pottery made by Fergus Stewart, and also has a range of crafts, scents and a selection of books to read.

THE CULAG HOTEL

The Culag Hotel is situated at the pier at the far end of the village, near the working harbour. It was once the home to the Duke of Sutherland. It is now in private ownership, and serves as a hotel and bar. Offering a selection of foods and drink, they have a very large collection of malts.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN EMERGENCY SITUATION IN ASSYNT, PLEASE ASK FOR HELP AT YOUR HOTEL, OR ASK THE MOTORCOACH DRIVER



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