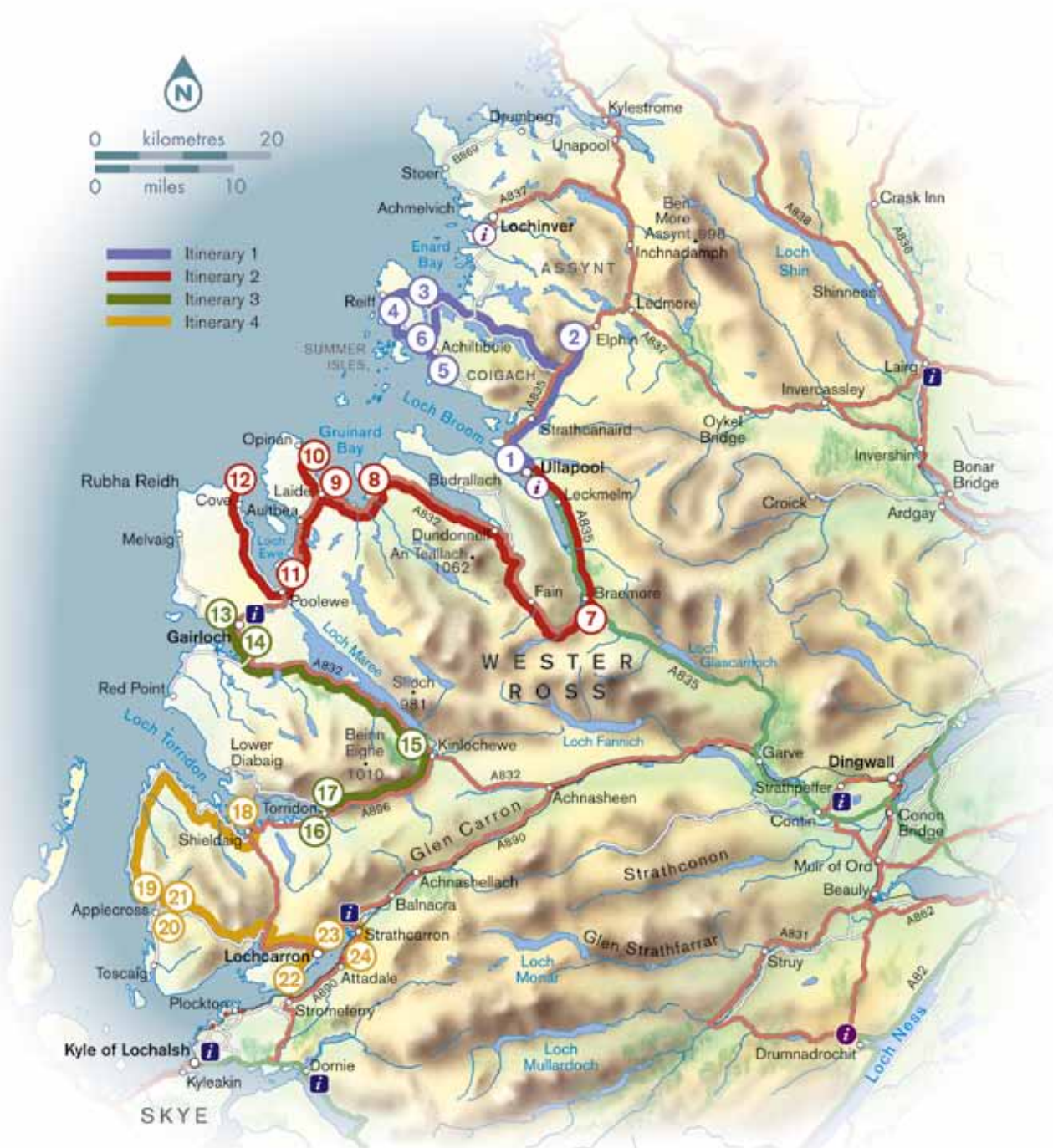


Scottish Natural Heritage

Explore for a day

# Wester Ross Ros an Iar





Wester Ross has a landscape of incredible beauty and diversity fashioned by a fascinating geological history. Mountains of strange, spectacular shapes rise up from a coastline of diverse seascapes. Wave battered cliffs and crevices are tempered by sandy beaches or salt marsh estuaries; fjords reach inland several kilometres. Softening this rugged landscape are large inland fresh water lochs. The area boasts the accolade of two National Scenic Area (NSA) designations, the Assynt – Coigach NSA and Wester Ross NSA, and three National Nature Reserves; Knockan Crag, Corrieshalloch Gorge and Beinn Eighe. The North West Highland Geopark encompasses part of north Wester Ross.

#### Gaelic dictionary

Gaelic	Pronunciation	English
beinn	bayn	mountain
gleann	glyown	glen
inbhir	een-er	mouth of a river
achadh	ach-ugh	field
mòr	more	big
beag	bake	small
madainn mhath	mat-in va	good morning
feasgar math	fess-kur ma	good afternoon
mar sin leat	mar shin laht	goodbye

Historically people have settled along the seaboard, sustaining themselves by combining cultivation and rearing livestock with harvesting produce from the sea. Crofting townships, with their small patch-work of in-bye (cultivated) fields running down to the sea can be found along the coast. The ever changing light on the landscape throughout the year makes it a place to visit all year round.

#### Symbol Key

	Parking		Information Centre
	Paths		Disabled Access
	Toilets		Wildlife watching
	Refreshments		Picnic Area

Admission free unless otherwise stated.

## 1 Ullapool

Ullapul (meaning wool farm or Ulli's farm)

This picturesque village was founded in 1788 as a herring processing station by the British Fisheries Association. Although fishing is less important now, the harbour is still the focal point with its main role as a ferry port for traffic between the Outer Hebrides and the mainland. The Ullapool Museum is an excellent place to discover more of the fascinating history of the area. Join one of the boat trips from the harbour and browse the good range of shops.

Grid reference: NH128942  
[www.ullapool.com](http://www.ullapool.com)

All facilities available.

2



## 2 Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve

Creag a' Chnocain (meaning crag of the small hill)

Do you wonder what kind of forces shaped this spectacular area? Knockan Crag holds the key to an amazing story of colliding continents and scientific discovery. Here you can see where the force of two continents crashed together and formed the Moine Thrust. The unmanned visitor centre has excellent information and interactive displays on the landscape and geology of the area. Trails allow you to get out into this exceptional landscape, and you can explore the art and poetry carved in the stone. After your visit you will see the landscape in a completely different way!

Unmanned Visitor Centre open all year round.

Grid reference: NC189092  
Tel: 01854 613418  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



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## 3 Achnahaird Bay

Bàgh Achadh na h-Àirde  
(bay of the field by the headland)

This narrow inlet is a wonderful place to spend a day at the beach. Dunes fringe the west side of the bay and beyond, lime rich machair provides excellent grazing for sheep. At low tide an extensive estuary of sand flats and salt marsh is exposed. From April to July lapwing, ringed plover and common sandpiper nest around the bay. Two coastal walks, one to the north of the car park and one to the east offer good views, interesting geology and wildlife spotting opportunities.

Grid reference: NC015140



4



## 4 Scenic Route from Achnahaird Bay to Achiltibuie

As you travel along the single track road you pass through typical Highland crofting townships and over windswept moorland. A croft is a traditional small holding which is usually not big enough to provide a family's sole income and most crofters will have additional sources of income. Much of the moorland you see is Common Grazing which gives local crofters the right to graze their animals over this area. Off the coast lie the beautiful Summer Isles, so called because traditionally sheep were taken out to graze on the islands in the summer months.

Grid reference: NC007135



5



## 5 Rubha Dunan & coastal walk

Rubha Dùnan (meaning the promontory of the small fort)

This short walk takes you to a ruined broch, one of a number of prehistoric sites in the area, which was built to protect people and livestock from seaborne raiders. Beside the broch is Loch Poll An Dunain, designated as a nationally important wet grassland. If you look carefully along the south side of the loch you will find two ruined sluice gates, indicating that this loch was once man managed.

You can extend the walk by continuing around Rubha Dunan peninsula, a wonderful place to spot marine wildlife.

Grid reference: NC033073



## 6 Achiltibuie

Achd Ille Bhuidhe (meaning field of the yellow haired boy)

This small crofting township is a popular place to holiday. It offers a relaxed, quiet atmosphere with wonderful views and is renowned for its local art scene. The village has a shop, petrol pump, hotel and art and crafts made by local artists and makers. The Highland Games are held every July and are well worth attending if you're around. Boat trips to the Summer Isles can be booked at the post office and offer the opportunity to see sea birds, seals and (if you're lucky) otters!

Grid reference: NC023086

[www.coigach.com](http://www.coigach.com)

All facilities available.



## 7 Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve

Coire Shalach (meaning ugly hollow)

The sheer-sided spectacle of Corrieshalloch Gorge carries the river Droma down a series of thundering falls, the most dramatic of which is the 45m Fall of Measach (Easan na Miasaich, meaning 'fall of the place of the platters'. This is a reference to the smooth, rounded boulders, or platters, which occur in the river bed above the falls.) A good path leads from the car park to this extraordinary natural feature. The heart-stopping highlight of any visit is to cross the gorge via a suspension bridge above the falls, from where the path leads you to a cantilevered viewing platform. The humidity and shelter provided by the gorge sides allows a range of special plants to thrive.

### Parking Charges

Open all year round.

Grid reference: NH204780

Tel: 01445 781200

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



Scotland's  
National Nature  
Reserves



## 8 Gruinard Bay (Sea Eagle Viewpoint)

Gruinneart (meaning shallow firth)

Gruinard Island, just off Gruinard Bay, is the hunting ground for a pair of White Tailed Eagles (Iolair sùil na grèine in Gaelic, meaning 'Eagle with the sun lit eyes' due to its bright yellow colour) who have successfully reared young since choosing to breed in the area. In 1942 anthrax was being tested as an agent for biological warfare and was released onto the island as an experiment. Since then few people visit the island, although it has now been declared safe, leaving the birds in peace. Best chance of a sighting is during the breeding season (January to October). The layby viewpoint (shore side of the road) can be found 22 miles/35km from Corrieshalloch Gorge.

Grid reference: NG964930

[www.visitwester-ross.com](http://www.visitwester-ross.com)



## 9 Laide Church, Chapel & Graveyard

An Leathad (meaning the slope)

There is some mystery surrounding the origins of Laide Chapel, also known as the Chapel of Sand of Udrigil. Legend has it that it was built by Saint Columba, an Irish Royal sent to Scotland to convert the Picts to Christianity in the late 500's. Others say it was constructed by George MacKenzie of Gruinard in the 1700's. However, it is most likely the later work was a restoration of the early chapel. The chapel was abandoned in the 19th Century and services were held at a nearby cave.

Grid reference: NG901920



## 10 Mellon Udrigle Bay

Meallan Udraigil (meaning knoll of Udraigil)

With its white sands, shallow turquoise sea and natural shelter from westerly winds this is an ideal place for all the family. But what makes it really special is the distant mountain vista. The sheltered bay attracts foraging waders, gulls, heron and red throated diver. A way marked path takes you to the top of the peninsula, Rubha Beag and along to a rough track at Opinan (Na h-Obaidhnean meaning the place of little bays) crofting township, once a salmon netting base, before heading back to the car park.

Grid reference: NG890959

[www.mellonudrigle.com](http://www.mellonudrigle.com)



## 11 Inverewe Garden Estate

Inbhir lùbh (meaning mouth of the river yew)

A lush, tropical oasis perched on a peninsula at the edge of Loch Ewe amid the rugged landscape of Wester Ross, this world-famous 21 hectare (54 acre) historic garden is one of Scotland's most popular botanical attractions. It is surrounded by over 809 hectares (2,000 acres) of estate land managed for conservation. Created out of bare rock and a few scrub willows in 1862 by Osgood Mackenzie, it's full of colourful and exotic plants from around the world.

### Admission charge

Garden and Visitor Centre: Open Daily: Easter to May - 9.30-5.30; Jun to Aug - 9.30- 6; Sep 9.30-5; Oct, 10-4.

Garden only: Nov to Mar, daily 10-3.

The garden may be closed for health and safety reasons in bad weather.

Grid reference: NG863821

Tel: 0844 493 2225

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



## 12 World War II sites

Located on the Western Point of Loch Ewe, you can visit the extensive remains of a World War II emergency coastal battery. This area served as an Assembly point for Arctic Convoys bound for Murmansk in Russia. A memorial stone was unveiled in 1999 to those who lost their lives after sailing from here. Today visitors will find sheep rather than soldiers patrolling the area and keeping an eye out for any distant threats!

Grid reference: NG 814920



### 13 Gairloch Geàrrloch (meaning short loch)

The village of Gairloch is a collection of several small settlements. A popular holiday destination since Victorian times it offers everything that visitors come to the Highlands to see! It features an outstanding coastline with a wonderful combination of mountain, sea and island scenery. A wealth of activities is on offer including marine wildlife tours, a golf course and pony trekking. Beside services such as shops, restaurants and B&Bs the excellent Heritage Museum is well worth a visit to learn about local history!

#### Museum: Admission charge

Open Easter-October, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm.

Grid reference: NG803770 (Museum)

Tel: 01445 712287 (Museum)

[www.gairlochheritemuseum.org](http://www.gairlochheritemuseum.org)

All facilities available.

### 14 Flowerdale Glen

Due to its complex underlying geology, the sheltered Glen of Flowerdale is home to a wide variety of plant and animal life and was given its name due to the impressive display of wildflowers. A gentle walk passes Flowerdale House, built in 1738 for the Mackenzies of Gairloch, who still own the surrounding estate. A number of footpaths have been created and upgraded recently and the more enthusiastic walker can take a 4.5 mile/7km path up to the waterfall before heading back to the car park.

Grid reference: NG810751



### 15 Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve Beinn Eighe (meaning file mountain)

With a cluster of mountain peaks, ancient pinewoods and soaring golden eagles, it's no wonder Beinn Eighe was Britain's first National Nature Reserve. Set up in 1951, it stretches from loch-side to mountain top over 48 square kilometres. A trail network offers something for everyone, whatever the weather. The woodland trail explores the ancient pine forest which clings to the lower slopes, while the mountain trail is for the more ambitious walker. The Beinn Eighe Visitor Centre tells the story of the reserve through displays, video, hands-on activities and touchscreens.

Visitor Centre Open April to October: 10am - 5pm.  
(toilets open all year round)

Grid reference: NH019630

Visitor Centre: 01445 760 258

Office: 01445 760254

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 16 Torridon Countryside Centre & Deer Museum Toirbheartan (meaning isthmus)

With some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in Scotland, Torridon is a magnet for walkers, geologists and naturalists. The local countryside centre has an audio-visual presentation and information about the area, its wildlife, history and estate management. The Deer Museum is just along the track. Built up by local ranger Seamus McNally over many years, it gives an insight into the lives of wild red deer and those who manage them. Both centres are unmanned.

Countryside Centre Open: Easter to 30 September.

Sunday - Friday 10am - 5pm. (closed Saturdays)

Deer Museum Open All Year

Grid reference: NG905557 (Countryside Centre)

Tel: 0844 4932229

Ranger Tel: 01445 791221

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



### 17 Torridon Strandline Walk & bird hide Toirbheartan (meaning isthmus)

Just a little past the deer museum a footpath turning left off the track takes you to a bird hide overlooking picturesque Loch Torridon, where you may see an array of birds and possibly an otter. Back on the track, turn left, past the house and follow the 2 mile shore path which leads to an atmospheric open-air meeting place. Historically this was used as a preaching place after the religious disruption of 1843. Return to your start point along the single track road through the township. In the attractive Loch Torridon Community Centre you will find a gallery which displays and sells fine arts and crafts made by local artists and makers.

Bird Hide and footpaths open all year round.

Art and Craft Gallery open: Easter to October. Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm. October to March- Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am - 3pm.

Grid reference: NG899554 (Bird Hide)

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

[www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk](http://www.lochtorridoncentre.co.uk)



## 18 Shildaig Peninsula and Island

The distinctive pine trees on Shildaig Island, situated on the south side of Loch Torridon, were planted over 100 years ago to provide poles for drying fishermen's nets but now provide a nesting site for a pair of White Tailed Eagles (sometimes called sea eagles). From the front of Shildaig village common seals can be seen at close quarters, along with eider ducks, oystercatchers and shags. From the north of the village there is a good path that takes you around the Shildaig peninsula. Marine wildlife watching tours can be taken from the pontoon

Grid reference: NG815539

[www.shildaig.info](http://www.shildaig.info)



## 19 Applecross Heritage Centre & Clachan Church A' Chomraich (meaning the sanctuary) An Clachan (meaning the village)

A derelict building has been renovated to ensure the historical, religious and cultural background of this uniquely isolated highland community was not lost forever. This centre gives a good insight and understanding into the community of this peninsula and how it has been shaped over the centuries. Just beyond the Heritage Centre is Clachan Church and the unmarked site of Maelrubha's burial. Maelrubha founded a Christian settlement in Applecross in 673. For some 120 years there was a thriving monastery from which the gospel was spread throughout the area.

Grid reference: NG711457

[www.applecrossheritage.org.uk](http://www.applecrossheritage.org.uk)



## 20 Applecross Broch

The Applecross Broch (adjacent to the Applecross campsite) was made 'famous' in 2005 when television's Channel 4 Time Team undertook an investigative dig and confirmed that the ruins were indeed what remained of a broch. Detailed information can be found in the heritage centre. The path that takes you past the broch is part of the longer Applecross Archaeology trail.

Grid reference: NG711443

[www.applecrossheritage.org.uk](http://www.applecrossheritage.org.uk)



## 21 Applecross Estate

Set in an area of the most stunningly beautiful landscape, the estate offers wonderful wildlife watching opportunities. A network of walking paths and trails have been developed allowing you to explore different parts of the estate. Sea birds, waders and wild fowl can be seen on the estuary while otters and heron hunt on both river and sea. Seals and dolphin are often seen along the varied and interesting coastline, whilst red deer roam the surrounding hills. There are also some great outdoor recreational activities available in the area.

Grid reference: NG711443

[www.applecrosstrust.org.uk](http://www.applecrosstrust.org.uk)



22



## 22 Stromemeanach Abandoned Village An Sròm Meadhanach (the middle stream)

A scenic half kilometre walk will take you to this village, which was abandoned in the 19th century. Explore the ruins of the once thatched 'black houses' and search out the well preserved circular foundation of a water mill by the stream. The walk starts some 50 metres beyond the weavers where there is a track to your right (signed) which leads you through an attractive birch wood to the abandoned village. Please note there's very limited parking at the start of the walk. Please ensure that you park safely and that you do not block any junctions or roads (due to fishery and forestry operations there may be large vehicles needing access to side tracks).

Grid reference: NG872366



## 23 Lochcarron Loch Carrann (meaning loch of the rough water)

This picturesque lochside village provides great opportunities for fishing, walking, climbing, sailing and offers a range of local services. The narrows at Strome (An Sròm meaning the current from Norse) create strong tidal currents, resulting in rich marine communities - bottlenose dolphins can sometimes be seen in the Loch. The exposed estuary at low tide makes it a great place for the keen bird watcher. The Lochcarron Producers' days (last Friday every month, April-October) offer a chance to buy top quality local produce. The Highland Games are held at the nearby Attadale Estate every July.

Grid reference: NG910403

[www.lochcarron.org](http://www.lochcarron.org)

All facilities available.

## 24 Attadale Gardens Atadal (of Norse origin, meaning unclear)

These spectacular gardens were started in Victorian times and have been lovingly developed over the last 40 years. The varied grounds feature extensive water gardens which extend along the driveway up to the house, Japanese gardens and well-hidden sculptures throughout. This is a place of ever changing interest, whatever the season. The paths take you through 20 acres of botanical bliss, over bridges, waterfalls and exotically planted ponds.

### Admission Charges

Open – April to end October (closed Sundays)

Well-behaved dogs on a short lead are welcome provided they are kept under control

Grid reference: NG926389

Tel: 01520 722603

[www.attadalegardens.com](http://www.attadalegardens.com)





## Itinerary 1

### Beyond The Rock

"The Rock" is the ancient description for the spectacular mountain – Ben Mor Coigach, which dominates the landscape around Lochbroom. Beyond "The Rock" the Coigach Peninsula is blessed with outstanding seascapes and mountain vistas. It lies within the Assynt – Coigach National Scenic Area and North West Highland Geopark. Steeped in human history, the peninsula, originally in the possession of the Macleods of Lewis until in 1610, was taken into the Mackenzie family through marriage and conquest.

### Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve (2)

Head north out of Ullapool on the A835 for 13 miles/21 km. Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve car park is well signposted on your right hand side.

### Achnahaird Bay (3)

3 miles/ 4.8 km south of Knockan Crag turn off the A835 onto the single track road to Achiltibuie. Passing through the Assynt – Coigach National Scenic Area, a mountain shaped like a cock's comb (Stac Pollaidh) comes into view, rising directly above the road. A car park at the base of the mountain, is an ideal place to stop to take photos. Continue along the single track road for 6 miles/9.6 km, turning right at the T junction, sign posted 'Achnahaird'. After another 1.5 miles/2.4 km up the road, take the right turn signposted for the beach. Follow this road to the car park where a path leads to the beach (wheelchair access for a short distance).

### Scenic route to Achiltibuie (4)

From Achnahaird Beach car park drive back to the single track road and turn right. The drive takes you over the moorland of the Rubha Coigeach peninsula. Long straight lines cut into the peat are noticeable; these are traditional peat banks and you may see peats piled up to dry. Look out for a viewpoint with wonderful views of the Summer Isles. Follow the road's left turn when it reaches the shore (signposted 'Achiltibuie'). Just over half a mile from the township of Altandhu is a turning to the right for Old Dornie harbour. It is from here that the morning or afternoon cruise to the Summer Isles departs. The township of Polbain is the last township you pass through before reaching the T-junction (signposted 'Achiltibuie'). The Achiltibuie township is 1 mile/1.5km further along the road.

### Rubha Dunan (5)

Pass through Achiltibuie. After the primary school and community centre is the township of Polglass. Look out for a small parking area on the left. Opposite the car park is a wooden sign indicating the route to the broch. A gate leads you onto a well-made path which winds its way down through a field below the croft houses to the shore. To return to Ullapool take the road directly from Achiltibuie to the T-junction overlooking Achnahaird Bay. Turn right and retrace your route to Ullapool. The direct journey from Achiltibuie to Ullapool takes about one hour.

## Itinerary 2

### A journey on the edge of wildness

This journey will take you along the edge of the stunning Wester Ross National Scenic Area. The rugged mountain splendour is tempered by sweeping open moorland, pockets of native woodland, myriad of fresh water lochans and crofting townships. The coastline is indented by fjords and sea lochs. Storm tossed rocky headlands and sea cliffs are softened by beaches, islands and small inlets. The rugged mountain area you circumnavigate on this journey is known as the Fisherfield Forest, which is not a forest at all. The word 'forest' has been used traditionally to describe an area where deer roam freely. Deer stalking became a popular pastime in the Victorian era. The wealthy bought up vast areas of the Highlands to create sporting estates where guests could stalk deer and fish for salmon and trout. Over the centuries it is the mix of managing the land for sporting, for crofting and for harvesting from the sea that has led to the pattern of human settlement found in Wester Ross today.

### Corrieshalloch Gorge (7)

From Ullapool head South on the A835 along Loch Broom. After 12 miles/19.2km. miles turn right onto the A832 where Corrieshalloch Gorge is signposted. The car park is on your right in 0.5 miles/1 km. It is a pay and display car park; the revenue earned from this goes towards maintaining the site for visitors.

### Gruinard Bay (8)

From Corrieshalloch Gorge continue along the A832 for 24 miles/38.5 km. You will travel the high moorland road known as "the Fain" from which you get spectacular views across into the remote Fisherfield "forest" mountains. As the road proceeds towards the coast along the foot of An Teallach the vista opens out to reveal glacial terracing on the floor of Strath Beag. You might see wild goats, red deer or red squirrels. At the end of Little Lochbroom the road ascends over moorland then drops down along the edge of Gruinard bay. There is a parking bay on the right. This is a good place to stop and spend time looking for white tailed eagles.

### Laide Chapel & Graveyard (9)

Continue onto the village of Laide. Just past the garage, turn right, following signs for Mellon Udrigle. After a few hundred metres, heading up the hill, there is a parking place on your right. A footpath just below this takes you down to the chapel & graveyard.

### Mellon Udrigle Beach and Coastal Walk (10)

After leaving the Chapel, continue North for 3 miles/4.8 miles, following the signs for Mellon Udrigle. As you come down into Mellon Udrigle, just past the camping ground, there is a small car park on your right. Park here and take the board walk down to the bay.

### World War II sites (12)

Return to the A832 and continue south. Follow this road for 8 miles/13 km, Inverewe Gardens are on your right. The village of Poolewe is half a mile on from the gardens. To get to the World War II Sites, cross the bridge in the village and turn right, signposted to Inverasdale and Cove. Follow this coastal road for 8.5 miles/13.5 km until you come to a parking area from where you can explore these interesting remnants.



## Itinerary 3

### Into the heart of scenic grandeur

Leaving behind the sandy beaches and rocky inlets of Loch Gairloch, you pass the hills of Flowerdale deer forest. Wide straths and narrow glens to the south of the road lead the eye to the peaks of Beinn Eighe and Torridon. To the north east are the mountains of Letterewe, the most prominent of which is Slioch. Beautiful Loch Maree stretches out before you. This 12 mile long fresh water loch follows a geological fault line. Five large wooded islands and over 25 smaller ones create sheltered places for Black throated diver to nest. White tailed eagle also take advantage of the peace of this loch. The islands have an interesting history of human settlement dating back to 7th Century. Extensive oak woodlands grew on the north eastern shore, but only the remnants of these survive today. The wood was used for fuelling the first industrial scale iron smelting works, settlements associated with the works grew up on that side of the loch. Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve lies at the foot of Beinn Eighe at the head of Loch Maree. The inland village of Kinlochewe is the gateway to Glen Torridon. A single track road to Torridon will lead you through some of the most spectacular mountain scenery in Scotland.

### Gairloch Heritage Museum (13)

Leave Poolewe, heading South on the A832. In just over 5 miles/8 km you will come to the village of Gairloch. Just before you enter the village there is a carpark & viewing area with local information on your right. As you come down into the village there is a car park on your right (signposted Heritage Museum). Park here for the Museum.

### Flowerdale Glen (14)

Turn back onto the A832 and follow the road along the shore of Loch Gairloch for just over 1 mile/ 1.5 km. About 200m from the Heritage Centre Museum you will pass an interesting wooden and glass building on your left, which is home to the Tourist Information Centre. Continuing along the road, you will notice that Loch Gairloch is blessed with lovely sandy beaches. The car park for the Flowerdale walks is 500m from the golf course on the north side of the Flowerdale river. The Old Inn faces you on the opposite bank. Parking is free. There are a variety of walks signposted. Across the road you see Gairloch harbour, from where marine wildlife watching boat tours depart.

### Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve (15)

Continue further south on the A832 for about 15 miles/24 km along the road where you will see a picnic site on your left. This has wonderful views over Loch Maree and two lovely walks start from here: a short walk that allows you to explore the ancient Scots pine woodland at the foot of Beinn Eighe and a much more rugged and demanding walk that takes you up just under the peaks of Beinn Eighe to the land where ptarmigan make their home. Further along the road the Beinn Eighe NNR Visitor Centre is signposted on your right.

### Torridon (16) & (17)

Continue on the A832 into Kinlochewe, turning right onto the A896, signposted to Torridon & Shieldaig. From Kinlochewe it is 10 miles/16km to Torridon. Turn right off the A896, and the countryside centre is the green building immediately to your left. The Deer Museum, bird hide and strandline walks are along the rough track that leads from the Countryside Centre towards the shore. This pedestrian track is wheelchair accessible.





## Itinerary 4

### Over the roof of Wester Ross

This journey is an exciting one. The pretty lochside village of Shildaig will give you the opportunity to take a break before venturing onto the remote road to Applecross which boasts breathtaking views over to the Island of Raasay and the mountains of Skye beyond. Sometimes you can even see the Outer Hebrides to the north. As the road bends east you will come into the sheltered glens of Applecross, a green, pastoral oasis after the long areas of moorland and rugged seascapes you have just passed through.

The road to Lochcarron takes you up and over a mountain pass in a series of tight hairpin bends. Known as Bealach na Bà (Pass of the cattle) this is the highest mountain pass in Scotland. A view point at the top of the pass allows you to enjoy breathtaking views of mountain scenery and seascapes.

**Please note: The Bealach na Bà mountain pass is not suitable for caravans and should not be attempted in wintry conditions!** The alternative route is the way you came via the coastal route to Shildaig.

### Shildaig Peninsula & Island (18)

The village of Shildaig has a picturesque lochside location and lies about 19 miles/30.5 km west of Torridon just off the A896. The Peninsula walk starts from the car park at the north end of the village (public toilets are located here). Walk up hill to the school, next to which you find a way marker. Wildlife sea tours of the loch leave from the pontoon to the south of the village.



### Applecross Heritage Centre and Clachan Church (19)

Less than a mile south of Shildaig, turn right following the signs for the 'Wester Ross Coastal Trail'. This single track road winds 24 miles/38.5 km around the Applecross Peninsula to Applecross. About 1 mile/1.5km before you reach Applecross village you come down the long hill overlooking Applecross Bay; there is an information panel to your right and the Heritage Centre car park to your left. A footpath takes you up to the Centre. Clachan church is just beyond the Heritage Centre.

### Applecross Broch (20)

Turn left from the Heritage Centre car park and follow the road round the bay towards the village. Turn left onto the road signposted 'Loch Carron and the Wester Ross Coastal trail'. About 500m up the road there will be a turning right into the campsite and 'Flowertunnel' restaurant. From the campsite car park you can access the footpath that passes the broch ruin.

### Stromemeanach abandoned Village (22)

From Applecross village take the steep mountain pass over Bealach na Bà (see info above) back to the A896 where you turn right (signposted 'Lochcarron'). Just after you enter Lochcarron village turn right (signposted 'North Strome' and 'Ardaneaskan'). After 4 miles/3.2 km, near Lochcarron Weavers, find safe parking. The walk to the abandoned village starts some 50 metres beyond the weavers shop to your right (signed). Parking is limited, please ensure that access to all side tracks and all roads remains clear for larger vehicles (fishery & forestry operations).

### Attadale Gardens (24)

Retrace your journey to the A896, turn right to get to Lochcarron village. To reach Attadale Gardens continue along the A896 until you come to a T-junction. This is the A890 road to Kyle of Lochalsh. The right turn will take you through Strathcarron, along the loch side and past the Loch Carron Pottery. After just over 3 miles/ 4.8 km a left turn will take you into Attadale Estate. Ignore the parking on the right for hillwalkers and continue to the parking for the gardens.

For where to stay, what to see and do and where to eat visit [www.visitwester-ross.com](http://www.visitwester-ross.com) and [www.northhighlandsscotland.com](http://www.northhighlandsscotland.com)



## Other visitor information

There are many other sites to discover in the area. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres, which are situated in:

**Ullapool** (seasonal) Tel: 01854 612486

**Gairloch & Loch Ewe**

(all year round) Tel: 01445 712071

**Lochcarron, Torridon &**

**Applecross** (seasonal) Tel: 01520 722952

For bus times please contact Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33 or go to [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com). For information on local walks please visit [www.walkhighlands.co.uk](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk). There are also walks booklets available locally.

### **North West Seaboard – Places to visit for wildlife and landscapes in Wester Ross and West Sutherland**

is a publication that compliments this leaflet. Available at Ullapool and Beinn Eighe SNH offices or local Tourist Information Centres.

### **Know the Code before you go...**

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly!  
Find out more at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**National Nature Reserves** are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural world. Located throughout Scotland, National Nature Reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at [www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)

**National Scenic Areas (NSAs)** represent Scotland's finest landscapes.

**Scottish Natural Heritage** is the government agency looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes, across all of Scotland, for everyone. Find out more at [www.snh.gov.uk](http://www.snh.gov.uk)



## Scotland's Protected Places

Explore and discover some of Scotland's natural and historic protected places.

[www.scotlandsprotectedplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsprotectedplaces.gov.uk)

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All of nature for all of Scotland  
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**North Highland Initiative**  
Success is in our nature