



StayAroundStornoway.com

Rental Accommodation

Welcome to:

Druim Mor

a www.StayAroundStornoway.com house

General information

Druim Mor: General Information

Thank you for coming to stay at Druim Mor!

We bought Druim Mor (Gaelic for “large hill”) on 3rd January 2007.

The superb views were what attracted us to Druim Mor, which you have no doubt already seen through the front windows, weather permitting. The front of the house is actually the back. We are from Ireland, so the back is the front!

If there was a plan, it was to rent Druim Mor to holiday makers, but we never got around to that until recently. We have had all sorts of people staying here over the years: pilots, a specialist crane company, electricians, wind turbine engineers, builders, craftsmen carpenters working on restoring the castle, various families from doctors to ministers and well... all sorts! Its been a lot of fun.

The location speaks for itself. You're now on Point, a peninsula that would be an island if it wasn't for a thin slither of rock that connects Point to the remainder of of the Isle of Lewis. That thin slither is known as “The Braighe” (rhymes with “fry”). During winter, the sea powers vertically up The Braighe seawall and produces spectacular effects of towering water fountains. Both sides of The Braighe are worthy of exploration for beaches and the old church.

We want you to enjoy the views, but we want you to explore the surrounding area too. There are some inland lochs (lakes?) nearby, some beaches and cliffs. Please be careful near the cliffs.

So, please don't just sit in the house watching TV. Get out and enjoy the views and of course the people. You will find the locals the friendliest people on earth. Nevertheless, please treat them with respect. They live here and you're only visiting. There are various areas that appear to be public, but its only through the decency of the local owners/crofters that you can walk in some of those areas.

Lewis is flatter than Harris, but don't use that as an excuse to not see the scenery in Lewis. There are some fantastic places to see. Just take off in the car for a few hours and meander around the island and explore the villages, and outlying parts. There are lots of little cafés, craft shops, beaches, cliffs, hills, lochs, walks, wildlife, and lots and lots of churches. A lot of churches! Stornoway, both in and around the town and around the harbour, is full of character and characters.

So, take your time. Nobody is in a hurry around here.

John & Gillian Gibson

Shopping, dining out, activities and Sundays!

Shopping. **The first thing that you will need is groceries etc., so here is some help:**

Tesco: You'll find Tesco opposite the ferry terminal. Its doesn't sell clothes and its non-grocery offering is limited, but you can still get your food there, buy newspapers and use the ATMs. Parking is tight and the aisles seize up with locals gossiping.

CoOp: The CoOp is big by mainland standards. Bigger than Tesco. You can buy groceries, top up electricity, newspapers, electrical goods, has a decent wee café and ATMs. Its also easier to park and larger, roomier aisles. It can be a tad more expensive than Tesco for some things, but the choice is vast by comparison. Take the road out of Stornoway towards Lochs/Barvas and you simply can't miss it.

Woolworths: We don't have a Woolworths any more on the island, but we do have “Aladdin's Cave”, next door to Tesco. Same idea and locally owned.

Butchers: Charles MacLeod a.k.a “Charly Barley”. Next door to the Post office to the right on your road out of Stornoway at the roundabout towards Barvas/Lochs. Famous for their Black Puddings.

Post Office: Beside Charles MacLeod butchers to the right on your road out of Stornoway at the roundabout towards Barvas/Lochs.

Seafood: Stornoway Fisherman's CoOp. This is a must for salmon lovers and all sorts of other seafood. You'll find them right down at the harbour. Well worth a visit to their fish shop and also their outdoor/marine gear shop.

Dining out:

- **Expensive:** Digby Chick. Michelin starred and very good indeed.
- **Not so expensive:** The Boathouse / “HS1”, Cromwell St, Stornoway. Part of the Royal Hotel. Overlooks the harbour. Can be pricey, but good honest grub from a menu in plain English.
- **Should be more expensive.** Bar Eleven. On the road to the ferry terminal and round the corner from Tesco. Great lunchtime carvery and good value too. A pleasant evening can be enjoyed there.
- **Moderate, but far away.** Borge house (hotel) past Barvas on the west side. A bit far away but never disappoints.
- **Reasonable but still good:** The Woodlands. Across the wooden bridge and over to the Castle grounds. Often a queue, but with good reason. The locals do a lot of meeting up in here. Go for a walk in the grounds afterwards and you'll not regret it.
- **Cheap, but still respectable:** The Chip Shop a few yards up Church St.

- **Nearby: A cuppa and generally anything light:** “Comunn Eachdraidh an Rubha”. Simply follow the road from Druim Mor and you'll see an old school about a mile from here towards town. You can buy a few groceries and chat to the locals. Just don't be in a hurry.

Activities: We cannot list everything here, but this is a small sample:

The nearest decent inland lochs from here: Take the road towards town on foot from here. About 600 metres, take the lane to the right through the gate. Keep going and you'll come to a Loch Shuardail - beautiful on a sunny day. Nice for a Sunday afternoon stroll.

Cliffs and beaches: Take a right out of our gate and keep walking. Please respect the common land, the crofts and just be sensible. **Children should not go unaccompanied.** If you've had a few drams too many, just don't bother.

Fishing: We used to have a company of demolition workers who'd drop their men off on the Braighe while coming home. They'd pick them up an hour later when they'd caught their tea. The Braighe is the causeway that you came across joining this peninsula to the main island. Get more fishing advice/permits etc at Engebrets.

Further afield:

An Lantair: The Arts centre in town. Relatively new and contains a cinema, hosts plays, debates, works of art and has a good café and restaurant. Opposite the bus station, on the corner of Kenneth St. They've free WiFi and a good spot for watching people.

The museum in town

The Castle and castle grounds

The Creed river at the edge of the castle grounds – an absolute must see. Bring a camera!

Callanish standing stones: Our version of Stonehenge. Good café and visitor centre there too.

The **Lewis chessmen**

Beaches: Tolsta/North Tolsta is the largest and almost empty. Back is the nearest and a classic sandy beach. It'll take an afternoon to walk around it. Dol Mor on the west side is a surfer's dream. Popular with Germans and surfing dudes from all over the world.

Eropie **Dunes Park** at Ness. Coffee shop, play park and see the lighthouse while your there.

We have some houses down at Balallan, on the way to Tarbet. There are some fantastic lochs down there, both freshwater and sea water, that you can spend a day

at and see lots of wildlife.

Sundays. **Sundays.** Now there's a subject! It's quite important to at least attempt to understand the Stornoway Sunday. Don't reject it out of hand! No matter what your view of Sunday observance is, to most of the locals it's their "Sabbath". They slow down, take it easy, visit their families and go to church. The shops close and it's a day off. Some of our guests from further afield have initially had difficulty coming to terms with the whole concept, but after a short time, almost every single one of them changed their opinion and said they began to respect the "Stornoway Sabbath" and even enjoyed it. Our message to you is that we'd really appreciate it if you respect their views – it's their homeland. Let them get on with it. If you do need emergency supplies of petrol, groceries etc., go down to Engebrets petrol station, normally between noon and 4:00pm and you'll be able to buy most emergency items, so don't panic!

This list is by no means exhaustive. The friendly staff at the Tourist Information Centre in town will give you all the guidance you need.

Get out and explore. Enjoy the solitude. Enjoy the food and be good!