

Isle of Canna, Inner Hebrides

This small island to the southwest of Skye is bursting with human history. It's thought to have been inhabited since 5000 BC, and now supports a small crofting community. The island was donated to the National Trust for Scotland by Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell and his wife Margaret Fay Shaw, who together amassed and researched a huge collection of Gaelic and Celtic songs, stories, poetry and a unique collection of butterflies and moths. Canna is also home to scores of wild creatures, from porpoises and whales to puffins and eagles. Canna is a bird sanctuary and the island's coastline is home to over 20,000 breeding seabirds.

The North Coast 500 route

Beginning and ending in Inverness, the NC 500 loops around the spectacular northern coastline of Scotland, through the regions of Wester Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Easter Ross, the Black Isle and Inverness-shire.

St Kilda, Outer Hebrides

The archipelago of St Kilda is the remotest part of the British Isles and holds the proud title of being the UK's only dual World Heritage Site. First recognized by UNESCO in 1986 for its natural importance, which was extended in 2004 to include the unique marine life, it was also designated in 2005 for its cultural heritage. The islands of Hirta, Dùn, Soay and Boreray are home to awe-inspiring volcanic landscapes and some special wildlife. The towering cliffs are home to nearly one million noisy seabirds – the largest colony in northern Europe.

The Isle of Skye Highland Games, Portree

They have taken place every year since 1877. The games consist of heavy field events, athletics, piping and Highland dancing. These events, unique to the Scottish Highlands, are an illustration of a way of life as well as being sporting events and traditional forms of entertainment. There is also a sailing regatta, which consists of a single race for all classes of yacht. One of the most spectacular and popular events at any

Highland Games is the Highland dancing competition. Beautifully dressed trim bodies execute intricate and exciting movements to the stirring music of the bagpipes. skye-highland-games.co.uk

Harlosh, Isle of Skye

Two architecturally designed self-catering homes, offering beautiful contemporary holiday hideaways. Situated along the island's spectacular west coast, the houses overlook Loch Bracadale with views to the Cuillins to the east and MacLeod's Tables to the west. harlosh.co

Loch Bay restaurant, Isle of Skye

A contemporary Scottish restaurant with classic French influences by Michelin star chef Michael Smith. A cosy 16-seater seafood restaurant owned by husband-and-wife team, situated in the 18th-century Thomas Telford-designed fishing village of Stein on the picturesque Waterish peninsula of the Isle of Skye. Celebrating Skye seafood, chef Michael personally cooks his "Skye Fruits de Mer" menu: a multiple-course menu showcasing the shellfish and fish caught locally in the loch and the waters around Skye. lochbay-restaurant.co.uk

Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, Isle of Skye

Dunvegan is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and has been the ancestral home of the chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years. Its five acres of formal gardens began life in the 18th century. In stark contrast to the barren moorland and mountains which dominate Skye's landscape, the castle's water garden, rose garden, walled garden and woodland walks provide a hidden oasis for an eclectic mix of flowers, exotic plants, specimen trees and shimmering pools fed by waterfalls and streams flowing down to the sea.

Loch Coruisk

Sitting right in the heart of the Cuillins, Loch Coruisk must be one of Scotland's most beautiful freshwater lochs. It can be reached by foot from Elgol or Sligachan, or by taking a boat trip from Elgol. If you opt for the comfortable journey by boat, you'll go

past a seal colony and then have some time to walk along the shores of the loch. The views of the Cuillins are spectacular. Loch Coruisk used to be one of the favourite destinations for landscape painters in the Victorian age.

The Black Shed, Dunvegan

Based on a working croft, The Black Shed provides a high standard of self-catering accommodation available for weekly lets all year round. Situated at the foot of MacLeod's Tables, The Black Shed at Skinidin is set in a stunning location with beautiful views overlooking Dunvegan Loch. Ideally placed on the northwest peninsula of Duirinish it is the perfect spot from which to explore the whole island. blackshed.co.uk

The Three Chimneys, Colbost, Isle of Skye

Legendary, multiple award-winning restaurant with rooms overlooking Dunvegan Loch in the northwest of the island, The Three Chimneys prides itself on the quality of local seafood, meat and game and has been serving food of the highest standard for over two decades. The menus reflect the amazing variety of the island's natural larder, allowing them to authentically serve you the absolute best of Skye, land and sea. threechimneys.co.uk

Uist Forest Retreat, North Uist, Outer Hebrides

Luxury treehouse accommodation on the wild and beautiful island of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. Nestled within sheltered forest land, this is a designated National Scenic Area. Far-reaching views stretch out to the tidal sands of Claddach Vallay and Vallay Island, as well as the magnificent beaches and ocean. uistforestretrreat.co.uk

Lamraig Cottage, Isle of Berneray, Outer Hebrides

The cottage is situated on the seashore and next to a saline lagoon so you may catch a glimpse of playing otters, nesting waders and herons fishing on the falling tide. A two-minute walk along the shore and you will find yourself on the white sands of East Beach overlooking the Sound of Harris. On the North

Uist hills and moorland you will have the chance to observe eagles and red deer. From there, within a couple of miles, you can be on the machair, one of the rarest habitats in Europe and almost unique to the Hebrides. This dune pasture produces an abundance of beautiful wild flowers from spring to autumn and is an important location for ground-nesting birds and waders. lamraigcottage.co.uk

Market Street Hotel, Edinburgh

The hotel sits behind a façade of Scottish stone where Edinburgh's historic Old Town meets the New Town. While the Old Town is dominated by the spectacular Edinburgh Castle, which dates back to the 12th century, the New Town – which isn't that "new", having been built between the late 1700s to mid-1800s – is home to the National Gallery of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Academy Building, and more. Take a walk from the picturesque Dean Village along the Water of Leith river up to Leith, a neighbourhood brimming with waterside dining options and traditional pubs. marketstreethotel.co.uk

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh

A fascinating overview of Scotland past and present though a wealth of imagery encompassing painting, photography, sculpture and film. nationalgalleries.org

Spry, Edinburgh

A neighbourhood wine bar and bottle shop that specializes in naturally made wines. sprywines.co.uk

Noto, Edinburgh

An independent restaurant focused on food for sharing, small-domaine wine producers and bespoke cocktails. notoedinburgh.co.uk

Smith & Gertrude, Edinburgh

An independent cheese & wine bar established in the Stockbridge district in 2015, born out of a passion for great wine, great cheese and enjoying both of these with friends and family. smithandgertrude.com

