**What is there to do if you are staying in either The Cart Barn or The Smiddy?**

 **‘Slow Adventuring’ Roshven style with some more physical alternatives!!!!!!!**

This is a list of just some of the day trips and part days out that can be enjoyed from a stay in The **Cart Barn** or **Smiddy** in Roshven. Some suitable for dry, calm days and others that would welcome the wild Scottish coastal weather adding its own unique frisson??? There are some that could be joined together to make a longer day of it and others that could take you away for a mini-break within your holiday here, where you could stay over-night in a location we consider to be really special!!! We have walked all the walks noted and driven or taken the boats as described in all cases. The walks are graded by me (Siggy) from 1 to 10 with 1 being easy and 10 being one I will probably not do again!!!!!!!

1. **Loch Morar, this walk is classified by me as a 5 for the terrain but a 7 for the distance and if you want to spend time searching the skies and hills for wild life add an hour!**

The walk along Loch Morar from Bracorina to Tarbet at the head of Loch Nevis is a stunning 3-4 hour walk taking in beautiful scenery, the chance of seeing deer, lizards and eagles and is so peaceful that you feel in another world. There is much to see also of communities that thrived in the area in the past! All in all a great day out only a short drive from Roshven only improved by the sound of the ferry coming to meet you in Tarbet Bay and return you via Inverie, to Mallaig. The pick-up needs to be pre-arranged with the Seabridge Knoydart ferry (01687 462916) or you have to walk back!!!!!! To return to your car if you haven’t the benefit of having 2 cars or using the train (which adds a lot to the walk but is possible), a taxi service (TBA) can be pre-arranged. If some do not want to do the walk but like the idea of Knoydart and the ferry………. See below!

1. **Amble around Inverie and the woodland walks around the village which are a 1-2 in my classification.**

Take the Seabridge or Western Isles Cruises (01687 462233) from Mallaig and spend the day walking around Inverie and enjoy lunch in The Old Forge (01687 462267) or one of the Cafés (01687 460191 & 07788671501). Check in advance one or the other is open!! Relatively flat and easy walking can be extended to starting the long walk in to mountains along the Inverie River. A particularly lovely day out when the Rhododendron are in bloom! This day out could be done in tandem with the first one above, by those that prefer a less arduous day and then all join up on the boat back to Mallaig! You may see basking sharks, porpoises or even a whale depending on the weather and time of year!!!

1. **Ardnamurchan drive day out with potential for many short walks. None more than a 3 in my classification. Stunning on any day and you can add the lighthouse (most westerly point of Mainland Britain) or a trip to Tobermory to mix it up!**

This route can be the start of so many days out I am sure I will omit some but honestly if you turn right from our exit there is enough to keep you busy for many days just down that road! Firstly, as this is headed a ‘drive day’ you would take the road to Salen where you turn right towards Kilchoan. You could stay in your car, drop down to Kilmory & Ockle and get a different view of the Small Isles or you could get out and try one or more of the woodland/reservation walks. All easily signed with many affording stunning views of Loch Sunart. Here look for Otters and dolphins but don’t forget to look up. There are Sea Eagles on this route and we sat outside the Ardamurchan Natural History Centre (01972 500209) and saw three caught in the updraft for more than half an hour…… we had to leave to catch the ferry from Kilchoan or else I am guessing we could have been watching them all day! The beaches at Sanna are stunning, the lighthouse a must, especially if it is a wild day or a clear one. Obviously for different reasons!

From this route you could also take a drive off piste and do any of the following additional days out:

1. Turn right in Glenuig and leave the car at the end of the road and take the path down to Smirisary. Investigate this village still so reminiscent of past times and its’ wonderful rocky beaches and views north. Great rock pooling both once you get here and as soon as off the beach at Samalamam. Classified as a 5 if you stay on the track but a 6 if you return around the coastal less obvious path!.
2. As you continue along towards Kinlochmoidart there is an access on the right to Eilean Shona (itself a full day out) and Shona Beag, signed ‘Kylesmore’. Walk down here and either across the ford to explore the mudflats or along the northern side of The North Channel. Classified as a 6.
3. When you reach Kinlochmoidart take the left branch of the road along the glen Moidart. At the end leave the car walk in along the hydro road. This is a there and back unless you make it into a long hike but is still a lovely peaceful walk when once again Eagles are often seen. Classified as a 3-4.
4. As you leave Kinlochmoidart and climb Drynie Hill park in the carpark on the right and do either the short circular walk to the viewpoint (this is a 3-4) or continue the walk to join up with the Silver Walk from Castle Tioram. Make sure there is a car there to meet you though…..
5. As you approach Acharacle turn right to Castle Tioram. Enjoy exploring the castle (check tide times, don’t get marooned!!) look for oysters, rock pool or just amble along the shore. This can be the start of either a walk back to Drynie Hill (a 6) or the circular walk up and over the Bealach Ruadh (a 7) but just as easily a lovely walk along the river Shiel (a 1). Include a visit to either the Hotel (01967 431661) or the Café (01967 431508) and you have a spectacular day out! As you cross the Shiel don’t forget to look for Salmon and Brown Trout, a fly Fisherman’s paradise!
6. Just as you approach Salen there is a pull in on the right, this is the entrance to two short attractive community walks and a great picnic area. If you take the longer walk this affords great views each direction up Loch Sunart and you can work up an appetite for a lunch or supper at the Hotel (01967 431224). Classified as a 3 or a 4 depending on which route you take.
7. A short diversion from the route would be to continue towards Strontian past the camp site at Resipole (check the Art Gallery 01967 431506) and on to the woodland walk and Otter Hide! The hide is easy walking and wheel chair accessible, I would class as a 1-2 but can be extended to create a slightly longer walk. My Mother has shambled down here many times over the years and given quiet time has invariably seen otters! This drive route also provides the opportunity to take in many other community woodland walks most of which are helpfully graded and marked!
8. Back on track towards Kilchoan, the walk from Glenborrodale is beautiful and can be extended to a long return walk to Acharacle (I class as a 7 as it’s long but not too difficult and along tracks); boats can be hired from Laga Bay (01972 500208) and are great fun to pootle about on Loch Sunart and day trips can also be arranged from here to go out fishing or searching for wildlife on more adventurous deep sea going craft! [www.ardnamurchancharters.co.uk](http://www.ardnamurchancharters.co.uk) (01972 500208)
9. Don’t forget a trip to the Distillery (01972 500285)! Or take a boat to see the cave and puffins (in season) on Staffa [www.staffatours.com](http://www.staffatours.com) …… both best booked up in advance. One a trip for a wet day the other a fine!
10. Finally for here but I am sure I have missed out many excellent diversions, take the Calmac [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk) (01475 650397) boat to Tobermory. Visit the town and have lunch or take a picnic along the coastal path to the lighthouse without the car; or make it into a full day trip with the chances to visit Glengorm Castle (01688 302321) & grounds affording wonderful views of the Tresnish Isles, Coll & Tiree. Enjoy lunch in the café there and then a walk along Calagry beach before a return ferry crossing from Fishnish to Lochaline and the beautiful drive back via Claggan & Strontian. Of course you can return via Tobermory but this round trip takes in so much of what is beautiful and different about Lochaber & Mull!
11. **A short drive to Arisaig (turn left at Lochailort) with the choice of a coastal walk to Rhu or a round of Golf or for the more adventurous, sea kayaking from the Arisaig Sea Kayak Centre. (We have not used these but understand they are very professional and great at what they do with good quality kit, remember to book!)**

Arisaig is a small village but has the benefit of a shop, a café (01687 450707) and a couple of other perfectly good places to eat! It is a delightful spot to walk on the fore-shore or take the road to Rhu followed by a beautiful walk via Rhumach to empty white sandy beaches on the tip of the peninsula. I classify this as a 5, so if that is too strenuous and kayaking [www.arisaigseakayakingcentre.co.uk](http://www.arisaigseakayakingcentre.co.uk) (07858214985) or golf at Traigh (01687 450337) is not your thing; drive along the old coast road and park at Cammusdarroch. Walk through the dunes onto the beaches and coves and enjoy wide sandy beaches which if too busy (once a year) simply walk on a few 100 meters and find another!

Arisaig is also the location of the local Marina from which boat trips to the Small Isles can be taken during the season. An alternative to the Calmac route from Mallaig and one which will offer a better chance of seeing some of the wonderful wild life within and on the waters on the west coast! The Shearwater (01687 450224) to Eigg, Muck or Rum is a wonderful experience and a great day out. Don’t forget your sea legs and binoculars. Every time I have gone I have seen something truly spectacular, Minke, Eagles, Porpoises or a massive collection of diving Gannets! The islands are all quite different so tell us what you want to see and we can point you in the right direction. The walk across the middle of Muck to get views of the back of Rum is lovely and I classify as a 4!

1. **Day trip to Skye which can be a drive day, take in Dunvegan Castle or the chance to walk the Quiraing**

Take the Calmac (08000665000) boat from Mallaig to Skye. If just wanting to visit Ardvsaar and Armadale Castle the Museum & grounds (01471 844305), great for a wet day; leave the car! If you want to make a day or more of the trip take the car and ensure you are booked on the ferry both ways! It is a long drive back via Glen Gary and Fort William!

For a start there is just so much you can easily see with a day spent in Armadale visiting the few shops, pottery as well as the castle, walks and the museum however there is so much more of Skye and I will mention just some of our favourites. The drive to Elgol is fabulous from Broadford as is the drive down to Kylerhea. If doing the latter go across on the turntable ferry (01599 522355) and walk to one of the Broch’s along from Glenelg (classified as 1-2) or the slightly more strenuous walk down to Gavin Maxwells’ house at Sandaig, Classified as a 4-5. This walk has been made more difficult to find due to forest workings but is well worth the investigation and once on the beach by his house and the cairns to his Otters it is quite magical. If you want to spend more time here stay at the Hotel (01599 522273)…………….. just a sandwich here or a drink is an experience though. A proper old style, welcoming highland Inn with peat fire and local banter!

A drive to Portree takes in much of the mountainous majesty of Skye and the town is fun for a wander while those searching out more exhausting pastimes go on to take in the 4-5 hour walk around the stunning Quiraing. Classified as an 8! This is a truly tremendous walk and while parts are a little tricky there are good paths throughout and no need to scramble at all. Take a picnic and sit at the top looking down into the area the cattle were hidden and take in the 360 degree views. Aim for a clear day as you can see across to the mountains of Torridon on the mainland, out to Harris and the chain making up most of the Outer Hebrides and south to Rum and on occasion Mull! Wow, a huge view without having to clamber up a mountain or use an ice pick!

An absolute must if you can do it……………….. if not, take the road up around the top of Trotternish. This is a classic highland road with wonderful views and many great places to stop and take in the sea scape or even visit the Skye Museum of Island Life (01470 552206)? If you are intending to take a ‘mini-break’ within your holiday in Roshven, this might be the one for you as to do Skye any justice at all and in order to see the huge variety of terrain you should also try to visit the other two peninsula’s of Waternish (try the Stein Inn 01470 592362 and visit the famous Skye Skins!) and Duirinish. Not forgetting to visit the Neist Lighthouse (classified as a 4) with its great cliff top walking and viewpoints. These longer walks should be classified due to length and often muddiness as a 5-6!! A long day of driving can take in a lot of this but if you want to stop and look, visit pools, churches, potteries (try Edinbane 01470 582234) and soak up the Skye atmosphere you might decide to stay a night or make two visits!? Ask us for any more information on this you need!

1. **A trip to Plockton via Eilean Donan Castle, starts with either the long drive from Fort William through Glen Gary or the Calmac ferry to Skye and over the bridge to Kyle. Another diversion if you love interesting roads is to take the road to Kylerhea when on Skye, the turntable ferry and then the road over from Glenelg to Sheil Bridge. Or mix it up entirely and take a look at Loch Ness on the way!?**

Whichever route you choose this is a great drive with spectacular views but also affords the chance to take in a number of landmarks, not the least of which is the classic Castle of Eilean Donan (01599 555202) and the unique West Coast, east facing village of Plockton; (01599 544222 & 544274) with its palm trees. If you do the drive from Fort William there is the Commando Monument at Spean Bridge, an extremely evocative place and worth stopping and taking in the monument and location. You then drive part of the Great Glen before turning left for Kyle at Invergarry and the stunning drive through the glen taking in the Five Sisters of Kintail.

Should you wish to make this into more than a day trip you could drive a little further along the A82 and see the start of Loch Ness and then take the road from Invermoriston to get back on track and on to Plockton. Maybe go a little further and take a trip on the Loch and get to see Urquhart Castle (01456 450551) from the water (01456 450395)? Still more of a trip to include a mini-break could take you on to Applecross over the Pass of the Cattle to the stunning village, great Inn (01520 744262) stunning camp site (01520 744268) and wonderful walks. Maybe stay at the Inn with its roaring fires and great local menu and then drive on after a full Scottish breakfast to see the world renowned gardens at Inverewe (01445 712952) before retracing some of your steps of taking little exploratory diversions to investigate villages off the main roads. We can happily help design such a trip!!!!

1. **Glenfinnan Viaduct and the Train station with chances to see the Steam Train (01538 382323) for Potter spotters or cruise on the Loch Sheil, Eagle cruises (01687 470322)……. Self-explanatory; or visit the station museum (01397 722295) or Glenfinnan monument (08444932221)!?**

Drive towards Lochailort and turn right. Depending on the time of day and whether you have booked a cruise, a lunch, a dinner or want to catch sight of the train as it crosses the viaduct; you can either park at the Hotel, the station or the visitors center. There is a walk from the station (check out the wonderful Dining Car (01397 722300), lovely snacks and cakes) which takes a circuit and fabulous advantageous views of the trains’ arrival. This is classified as a 6 because while relatively short, there are steps and uneven stones in places. You can also take an easy walk (classified as a 2) from the visitors center up the glen road and under the Viaduct. The continuation of this track takes you into wonderful mountainous scenery and the start of a more serious walk into a group of Munro’s. These have not been walked by me!

The cruises on the Loch are wonderfully informative, great peaceful viewing and simply a lovely way to see the stunning area without breaking into a sweat! If you feel like more of an adventure ask the Captain to drop you off and walk the 13 miles along forest tracks back to Glenfinnan……… working up that appetite! Classified as a 5-6 only due the length! Finish off your day with tea or something stronger in the fabulously welcoming Glenfinnan House Hotel (01397 722235), a roaring fire and more tartan and stag heads than you can shake a stick at…….. a heavenly day out however you choose to plan it!

1. **Fort William and** area has a lot to offer, try on a clear day, a visit to the Snow Goose up on the Gondola (01397 705825) and then a spectacular easy walk around to the view points from where you can see the Cullin on Skye, Ben More on Mull and the whole of the Nevis range! There is also the High Wire adventure (01397 705825) which needs to be pre-booked as would mountain biking on the same number for the more bonkers and athletic!!!! For those with a quieter day in mind there is also the Distillery (01397 700200) to be visited! The Crannog Seafood Restaurant (01397 705589) is also wonderful if you like seafood and is a great place from which to watch Loch Linnhe! Maybe try a Crannog Cruise (01397 700714) to see the seals and just get out into the water!?
2. **Further still is a trip to Oban.** It may seem far but it is under two hours, the road takes in the wonderful views of Castle Stalker (01631 730444) and passes the entrance to both Kinlochlaich Gardens (07881525754) and the The Sea Life Center (01631 720386). Oban has all you would expect of a thriving seaside town with an active fishing fleet and the hub of the Calmac ferry services to the islands. Short trips to Kerrera (01631 563665) can be taken to see seals, longer trips can be taken to visit unique sites such as the Correyvreckan whirlpool or sea life cruises (01852 300203). All need to be pre-booked and we can help with this! Oban is a fun day out in any event and has enough to do on a wet day!!!! For the very intrepid with a deeper pocket there are flights from the small airport (01631 572910) to take in the views in a spectacular way. A more realistic option might be a day trip for instance to Tiree or Coll???

There is just so much to do and so many wonderful sites to be visited. Please ask us for any help when designing your ‘slow adventure’, especially concerning how long it takes to get to places (!!!!!) as we might be able to help make a great day into a memorable, fabulous one!