



Spend Less, Travel More in

Isle of Skye, Scotland

MINI GUIDE WITH 3 DAY ITINERARY, FOOD, ACCOMMODATION,
ACTIVITIES, FULL BUDGET BREAKDOWN AND MUCH MORE

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THE GUIDE



Who are we?

We are a British (Jordan) and Irish (Chrisy) couple, currently based in the UK. We met while travelling 13 years ago in Bolivia, and have been travelling alongside our day jobs ever since, squeezing our budget and time to get the most out of our annual leave. We're passionate about getting great value trips and self-guiding our own adventures.

Find us:

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How to use this guide

- This guide is based on our own experiences and we aim to keep it as up-to-date as possible.
- Prices are correct as of June 2026 and are subject to change. Any costs are listed in GBP as we are from the UK.
- Anything underlined is a direct link to the relevant source/website
- **"Choose your own adventure"** sections detail alternative things to see or do, if you have the time or want to swap them out for something in our itinerary.
- We would love to hear your feedback via our socials - this guide and our other resources are FREE, but if you found them helpful, you can [buy us a coffee here](#).

Disclaimer - this guide contains affiliate links, which means we receive a commission if you decide to book/purchase via the link, at no extra cost to you. We will only ever recommend services, tours and operators that we have personally used and consider good value.

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WELCOME TO SCOTLAND

We have both lived in Scotland for around 6 years intermittently, and while we no longer live there, it still holds a firm place in our hearts. We visit Scotland 3-4 times a year and still fall in love with the country every time, even if it teases us with weather and midges! The stunning landscapes are breathtaking on a clear day, but the climate can be equally brutal as it is beautiful. No matter when you visit this magical country, come prepared for all weathers!



Isle of Skye

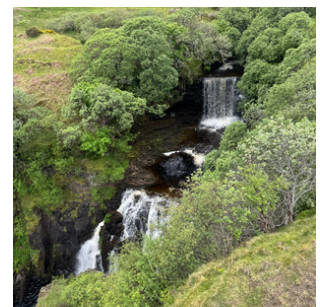
This mini-guide focuses on the Isle of Skye but, as mentioned above, we have a lot of experience and knowledge on visiting Scotland as a whole. If you want to find out more, please take a look at our blog [here](#) or keep an eye on our socials for more Scotland insights.

Cash or Card

We didn't need any cash on Skye - everywhere accepted (and often prefers) card payments. You can even pay for car parks by card.

Download maps

Signal is poor in hiking areas, so we recommend downloading GPS maps, either using an app like **Alltrails** (which is what we use) or **Walk Highlands** (website and app).



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TOP TIPS

GETTING THERE

Road - you can drive across the Skye bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh, which provides reliable access to the island and doesn't require any planning. It does occasionally shut in severe weather or storms.

Bus - There are buses that run from Glasgow and Fort William all the way to Skye via the bridge (from Glasgow, journey time is around 5 hours)

Boat - you can get the ferry to and from Mallaig on mainland Scotland or onwards to/from other Islands such as Raasay, Harris and North Uist. The ferry from Mallaig to Armadale (Skye) takes around 45 minutes. These need to be booked in advance as they sell out often weeks in advance - [book here](#).



WHEN TO VISIT

High season (when Skye will be busiest) is throughout the summer: June to September. We last visited in the first week of June and could not believe how busy it was already. This is also midge season too!

You can visit any time of year but in winter, weather is more likely to be poor and Skye is prone to high winds. Most campsites are closed during winter too. Day length is more limited which will impact your outdoor plans.

The weather is unpredictable in Scotland year-round, particularly on the Islands, so you can't guarantee "good" weather, even in summer. That said, my favourite time of year to visit Scotland is early Autumn - September/October or spring - April/May.

TOP TIPS

GETTING AROUND

Driving - We're definitely of the opinion that the best way to see the Isle of Skye (and much of Scotland in general), is with the freedom of a car/campervan. However, if you're not from the UK and most likely not used to driving on the left hand side or on narrow, windy country roads, consider whether you'd rather take a tour. Many of the roads on Skye are narrow, one track roads, with passing places, and we came across a lot of questionable driving - probably visitors who were terrified!

Public transport

There are buses that run around the island and stop at some of the tourist stops but you will be limited to the bus times and routes. Find more information [here](#).



TOURS

If you don't fancy the idea of driving yourself, there are many multi-day tours from Edinburgh and Glasgow, which typically include accommodation.

3 day Isle of Skye tour from Edinburgh: [Click here](#)

3 day Isle of Skye tour from Glasgow: [Click here](#)

* Use code **SPENDLESSTRAVELMORE5** for 5% discount *

FOOD TIPS

We usually camp when visiting Scotland, so often cook our own meals, but we do like to mix this up with sampling some of the local delicacies too. You have to try haggis if you visit Scotland - I recommend it atop a burger!

PRICES & TIPPING

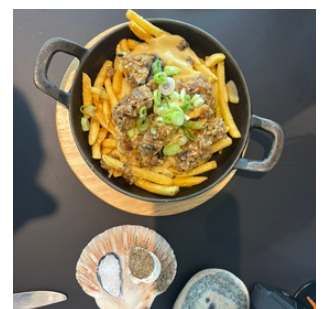
Food prices have increased in the UK in recent years. Expect to pay around £5 for a decent coffee, £15-£20 for a cafe lunch and a huge range on evening meal prices from £15 for a takeaway meal to £50 - £70 per person for a good dinner. This does vary massively and more expensive does not always mean better quality.

Tipping in the UK is changing. We would very rarely tip in a cafe/takeaway/coffee shop and it is absolutely optional for evening meals but generally Brits would round up by 5-10% in a restaurant. More recently, we see restaurants adding an "optional" service charge automatically which can be up to 15% (but it's a bit awkward to ask them to remove it, unless you were genuinely unhappy with the food or service).

MUST-TRY DISHES

Local food to try:

- Haggis - not as gross as it sounds, and actually very tasty on top of a burger, loaded fries or in a pie.
- Whisky - visit a distillery to learn more about it and sample a few different ones.
- Seafood - especially on the islands.
- Tablet - sweeter and more crumbly than fudge. Tablet flavoured ice-cream is particular favourite of mine.
- Irn Bru - the elixir of life to Scots. A delightful neon orange fizzy drink.
- Square sausage and tattie scones on a fry up breakfast.
- The famous deep fried Mars Bar. Maybe not on Skye, but try one somewhere in Scotland! Try it once, but you probably won't want more than one bite!
- The lesser known "Pizza crunch" is deep fried pizza - worth a try, tastier than you think.



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FOOD & DRINK

PIZZA IN THE SKYE

Takeaway pizza van which is based in the Skye Shinty Club car park. Shinty is a Scottish sport - look it up, and maybe even try to catch a match here. Fun fact, Jordan played this at university! The pizza was amazing, but you do have to book a slot on their [website](#) - we tried one day and it was fully booked, but managed to order the day after and it was definitely worth it! [Order here.](#)

CAFE CUIL

Make sure you find time for lunch or brunch here - award winning food and rightly so. It's open 10-4pm and not every weekday, so be sure to check online. Try the seasonal pancakes!



THE OYSTER SHED

A must if you like seafood - this is very close to Talisker and is a family run oyster farm. Here, you can buy fresh or cooked seafood. We had the lobster, soft shell crab and oysters - they were to die for! Closed on Sundays.

COFFEE ON SKYE

We were blown away by the number of really good quality coffee places on Skye. A mixture of roadside takeaway cabins with minimal outdoor seating and actual coffee shops, the quality was incredible. Here's our favourites:

- **Untethered Skye Co.** - a well placed stop en route to Old Man of Storr, with the added bonus of friendly highland cows.
- **Caora Dhubh** - opposite Talisker Distillery. Great coffee and views from the seating area.
- **Lean To Coffee** - near Broadford. Fantastic coffee and pastries. The toasties looked awesome too. Note, there are no toilets here (but there are public toilets in Broadford)
- **Birch**, Portree. While we didn't actually visit Birch, Lean To serves Birch's roast so the quality will be on par!

ACCOMMODATION



CAMPING

We stayed at [Sligachan campsite](#) and found it well located as it's quite central for visiting different areas of the island. No need to book for grass pitches - just turn up and find a spot, but booking is recommended for hard standing or electric hook-up pitches. We liked this flexibility, as we hadn't decided how many nights we would stay (we ended up staying 3 nights in our rooftop tent here).

They have an on-site taco van which is open every night - this was much appreciated the first night of our arrival. There's also a pub/restaurant right across the road. We had a couple of drinks here but didn't try the food.



OTHER CAMPSITE OPTIONS

[Glenbrittle Campsite](#) - South west of the island, near Cuillin Hills
[Kinloch Campsite](#) - West of the Island with sea views

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

If you don't want to camp, there are numerous options for hostels, hotels or guesthouses on the island. Book well in advance though - they fill up quickly! Most visitors will aim to stay in Portree, the main town on Skye, because it's location is ideal for exploring most areas of the island. Here's some examples:

Budget

[Portree Youth Hostel](#)
[Cowshed Bunkhouse, Uig](#)

Mid Range

[Bosville Hotel, Portree](#)
[Stonefield House, Portree](#)

Luxury

[Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree](#)
[Kinloch Lodge Hotel, Kinloch](#)

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3 DAY ITINERARY

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DAY 1

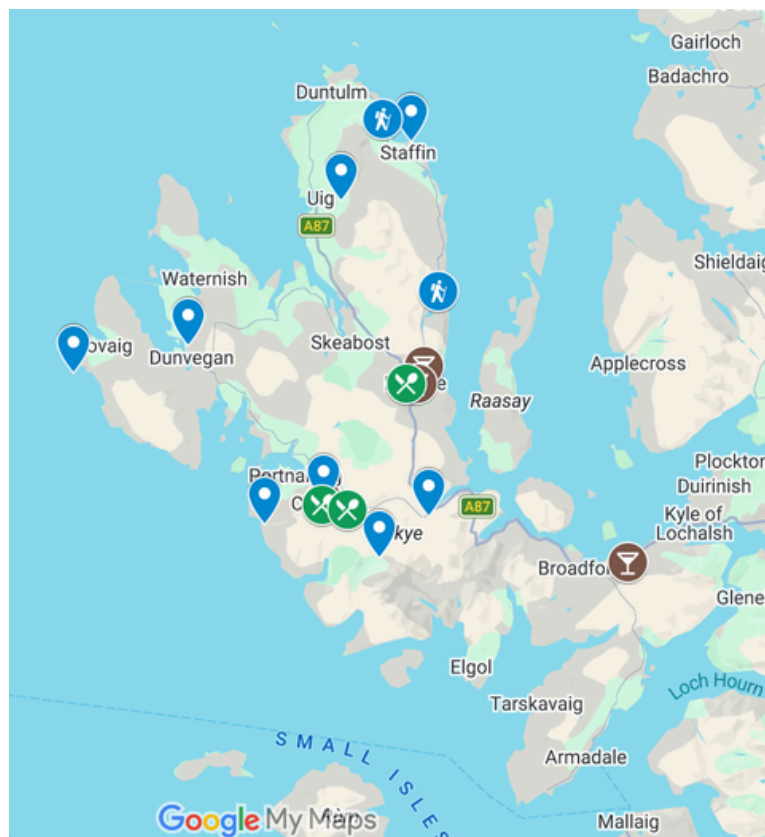
- Trotternish Loop
- Old Man of Storr, dinosaur footprints
- Coffee with highland cows
- Optional hikes at the Storr and Quiraing

DAY 2

- Talisker Distillery
- Fairy Pools
- Lunch at the Oyster Shed or Cafe Cuil

DAY 3

- Dunvegan Castle
- Neist Point Lighthouse
- Or take a longer hike through the Cuillins



Get our interactive Isle of Skye map [here](#).

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DAY 1 ISLE OF SKYE

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THE TROTTERNISH LOOP

While Skye may look compact, the windy single track coastal and rural roads mean that it takes longer to get to places than you might think. The most logical itinerary divides your days into each section of the island, grouping locations together.

PORTREE

Start from Portree - if you're not staying in the town, take a quick stop to see the **coloured houses on the harbour** - best seen from the top of the hill on Bosville Terrace.

Drive 5 minutes to **Untethered Skye Co.** for a coffee and to see some friendly Highland Cows - you can buy treats to feed them in the coffee shop.

OLD MAN OF STORR

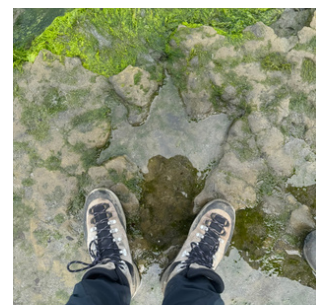
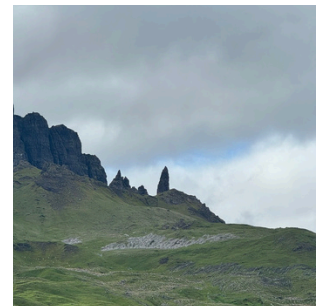
It's a 10 minute drive to Storr. You may want to stop en route at the **Brides Veil Waterfall** for a quick photo snap. The Old Man of Storr is notoriously shrouded in cloud - we have never managed to get a really clear view, even when we hiked up to it. It's £8 to park in the car park and can be pretty busy. The hike takes about 1.5 hours depending on your fitness level - it's an easy well marked path but is quite steep.

DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS AT AN CORRAN

Drive 20 minutes north to **An Corran beach** to see dinosaur footprints. Again, there are viewpoints along the way that you might want to stop in at, such as **Lealt falls** and **Mealtfalls** (but we didn't find them overly impressive).

We had a picnic at the beach for lunch, but there are some cafes along the way and one at the beach too. Here, you can spot **dinosaur footprints** along the rocks - it's best to aim for mid-low tide. If you're struggling - use [what3words](#) [location](#) [clerics.bracing.finishers](#) to find one.

You can also book the **Staffin Sea Sauna** here, if you fancy a cold dip in the sea and sauna session.



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DAY 1 ISLE OF SKYE

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DAY 1 CONTINUED

QUIRAING HIKE

Drive 10 minutes from An Corran to the Quiraing.

Optional hike here - start from the Flodigarry layby near Loch Langaig - free to park. This is a moderate 2-3 hour hike with incredible views of the Quiraing. No climbing or scrambling is required. The path can be tricky to spot in places so I would advise using a map - we use Alltrails and download the maps for offline use. Find the hike [here](#) on All Trails, or here on [Walk Highlands](#).



Most likely, if you've done the Old Man of Storr and Quiraing hike, you'll be ready to head back to Portree or your accommodation for dinner and call it a day. Save the Fairy Glen and the Skye Museum of Island life for another day.

SKYE MUSEUM & FAIRY GLEN

If you didn't do the hikes, you may have time to continue around the Trotternish loop to see the Fairy Glen and/or the museum, completing the circuit before arriving back in Portree.

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DAY 2 ISLE OF SKYE

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FAIRY POOLS AND WHISKY

Start your day with dipping your face into the water at **Sligachan Old Bridge** - legend says that the fairies will bless you with eternal beauty if you hold your face in the water for 7 seconds.

TALISKER DISTILLERY

Drive to Talisker distillery and get a coffee from **Caora Dhubh** just opposite - the views are lovely and there are a number of brave birds who'll come for your cake crumbs. Take the **whisky tour at Talisker** (you will need to book in advance, especially if rain is forecast! You can book [here](#).) and drive to the beautiful Talisker Bay (if you get a clear day - we did not!).

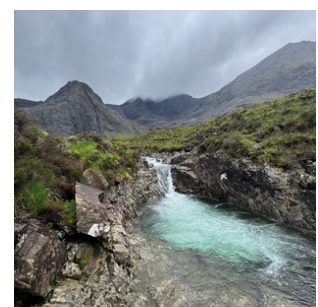
PIT STOP FOR LUNCH

Have lunch at the **Oyster Shed** or **Cafe Cuil** (we actually went to both, on different days - which I would recommend!).

FAIRY POOLS

Drive 15 minutes to the Fairy Pools. You can park in the main carpark for £6 and walk along the path along the pools and back, you'll probably spend 1-2 hours here. Go right to the end/top to see the most picturesque pools and take a dip if you dare - the water is freezing!

Alternatively, there is a free car park before you get to the main one, but it will add a steep uphill walk after you've been to the pools. You can also incorporate the fairy pools into a longer loop walk - [see here for details](#).



DAY 3 ISLE OF SKYE

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A BIG HIKE OR CASTLES

If you're not into hiking, or the weather isn't on your side, then you can head to **Dunvegan Castle** and on to **Neist Point** to see the picturesque clifftop lighthouse.



HIKING IN THE CUILLIN HILLS

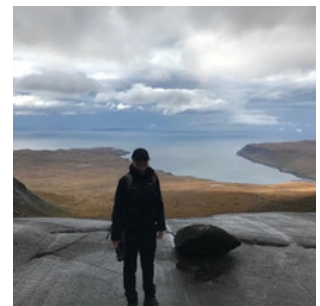
On our first visit to Skye several years ago, we were a bit worried about hiking - lots of people had warned us not to mess with the Cuillin Hills or munros on Skye unless you're a serious climber.

We instead found the **Coire Lagan hike**, which was challenging enough but definitely suited to us - hikers but not climbers. This is probably one of my favourite ever hikes (despite the horizontal rain at one point!) - I would highly recommend it as a moderate 3 hour hike on Skye. At the peak, you're rewarded with a tiny secluded loch surrounded by the huge mountains. Find it [here on AllTrails](#) and [here on Walk Highlands](#).

Alternatively, for a full day hike, if you fancy the challenge of a munro without climbing or technical equipment, **Bla Bheinn, Sgurr na Banachdich or Bruach na Frithe** are said to be the "easiest" munros on Skye ("easiest" meaning no technical climbing, but still rated as difficult and may require some scrambling). Remember, always come prepared for all weathers.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Alter the itinerary to suit your preferences, and take the weather into account - it can change very quickly on Skye. We have combined the Coire Lagan hike with a visit to the fairy pools in the same day in the past.



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BUDGET BREAKDOWN

HOW MUCH DOES A TRIP TO THE ISLE OF SKYE ACTUALLY COST ?

Below are the exact costs from our trip in June 2026. We camped (with our rooftop tent) and we live in Yorkshire, England, so we don't have to account for flights or car/campervan hire. We actually incorporated this into a slightly longer trip, and stayed near Loch Lomond too, but here we have just included the costs for Skye.

Item	Details	Cost	Cost for a couple	Cost per person
Fuel	Yorkshire → Scotland and back	£250	£250	£125
Accommodation	Sligachan Campsite – 3 nights	£75	£75	£37.50
Activities	Parking Old Man of Storr	£8	£58	£29
	Parking Fairy Pools	£6		
	Talisker Distillery tour	£44		
Food	Groceries	£52	£250	£125
	Eating out: Cafe Cuil, Pizza in the Skye, Gasta, Oyster Shed, Albertos Tacos	£145		
	Coffee (+cake): Caora Dhubh, Lean To, Untethered Skye,	£53		
	Total:		£633	£316.50

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Follow, subscribe and share for more travel and budgeting tips! Other destinations include Kyrgyzstan, Japan, Vietnam, Svalbard, South America, with many more coming soon.

