

Wee Bee Bothy

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT WEE BEE BOTHY SKYE

It's a beautifully scenic journey to Wee Bee Bothy, whatever route you take - I hope your travel is enjoyable and hassle free.

You may like to stop en route for a break or pick up supplies before you arrive, so here are some suggestions: If you are coming along the A82>A87 from Inverness, you will of course pass two of the most famous castles in the Highlands; Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness (at Drumnadrochit) and Eilean Donan Castle on Loch Duich (at Dornie). Both have excellent visitor centres, cafes and amazing photo opportunities.

If you are coming on the A82>A87 from the south west (through Glencoe and via Fort William), you will turn left onto the A87 at the head of Loch Cluanie. At the end of the loch, beneath the famous Five Sisters mountain range, is the well known and historical Cluanie Inn. It has recently been completely refurbished and extended by a lovely family from India, who bought it when they fell in love with the Highlands. It's a wonderfully cosy place to stop and dine (full meals or just a tea/coffee) and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Just past Eilean Donan Castle is a left turn to Ardelve, where you will find beautiful bread and other gourmet treats at Manuela's Wee Bakery. People love the quirky buildings she has created - like a Fairy Village! Manuela is closed over winter. More details on her Facebook page. Just a bit further on from Ardelve is Balmacara and Beth's Delicatessen. Take a right turn off the A87 (signposted 'The Square') and follow the road up to the peaceful grassy area. She stocks a good selection of gourmet and homemade foods. Soon you arrive into the port hub of Kyle of Lochalsh, from where people used to take the ferry boat to Skye until the bridge was built in 1992. In Kyle just past the fuel station on the left you'll spot a small timber building which houses a brand new business; End Of the Line Distillery, a local gin and coffee shop, full of charm and atmosphere. Just past this is a turn to the left - and on the right, you'll see Strom, a delightful shop stocking a great range of contemporary, design led, high quality Scottish crafts of all kinds - don't miss it! Find Strom on Facebook/Instagram for more info. On the same road in Kyle, next to the pharmacy, is Lochalsh Butchers. With over 30 years experience, they pride themselves on knowing the provenance of everything they sell, from the exact field to plate and stock a huge range, all local and super fresh. This is also the place for venison and haggis if you haven't tried it! They will be very helpful in guiding you. You can even order ahead at: lochalshbutchers.com Also in Kyle of Lochalsh, if you would like fresh fish/seafood (for which our area is justly famed), pop into The Fisherman's Kitchen (Old Slipway road, just down to the right from Strom, on the seafront, small timber building with red tin roof). They also sell ready made/takeaway fish dishes, plus soups and salads. For opening hours, find them on Facebook under 'Buth Bheag's Fishermans Kitchen, seafood shop and takeaway'. If you are looking for a traditional supermarket at this point, the Co Op in Kyle is signposted up to the left, but you can also pick up groceries/fresh food at the larger, brand new Co Op in Broadford, on the island. Once over the bridge, you will be near Kyleakin (another very old, traditional port). Most visitors will be taking the third roundabout exit to continue their way north onto Skye. Just on the left here is another fantastic fish/seafood supplier, the deceptively tiny Skye Bridge Seafoods. Pop in here for a friendly welcome and great local produce. They are also on Facebook. Now you are on the famous Isle of Skye! Enjoy the views as you continue on the A87 to Broadford, the second biggest town on Skye after Portree. Just before you take the A851 left hand turn to the Sleat Peninsula (and Wee Bee Bothy) is a fantastic bottle shop called The Misty Bottle (look for the old fashioned red telephone box). Full of character and packed with every drink you could want, including all kinds of local specialities! Over 100 Scottish gins, whisky galore, beers and great gifts. They do relaxed guided tastings too, so you can discover new favourites. Check opening times at themistybottle.co.uk.

On the A851 and heading south to Wee Bee Bothy, in around 10 minutes (past Isle Ornsay) you will see signs for An Crubh ('An Kroov') on the right (opening hours usually 9.30am to 5.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am to 4pm Sun). Our beautiful new community centre, it stocks a great range of food, essentials, alcohol and local gifts and yummy fresh bread and pastries are baked daily on the premises! There are also tasty fresh food and drinks at the cafe, including breakfast/brunch on weekends (Thurs to Sun, 11am - 3.30pm) and you can preorder takeaway meals. There is also a post office within the shop. The website is www.ancrubh.com. As you pass the Armadale Store with also petrol/diesel (closed sundays) on your left you then take the first right signpost Ardvasar and Aird. Continue along this road past the Inn at Ardvasar, a fantastic place to eat during the summer season the bar is open all year, and past the entrance to Tormore Forest, Wee Bee is the next house on the right after about a 1.1/2 miles.

If you are coming to Skye via the ferry from Mallaig to Armadale www.calmac.co.uk, you will be just 5 minutes drive from Wee Bee Bothy. There is a fantastic brand new local community shop, Armadale Stores (just on the right as you arrive off the ferry). They stock fresh homemade bread and a whole host of local specialities as well as mainstream supplies. There is also a Post Office. Armadale Stores is on Facebook. In Mallaig, before you board the ferry (near the ferry terminal, on the shore) is The Bakehouse & Crannog, a highly popular place for good coffee, fresh baked bread, pizza, pastries and other goodies. Check their Facebook page for opening hours (and to make sure they haven't run out!). There is also a Co Op supermarket on Station Road, to buy a wide range of supplies. Fresh fish/seafood (and takeaways) are available at Jaffy's Fish & Chips Deli and Takeaway Shop (also on Station Road). I do hope this information enhances your travel plans en route to Wee Bee. Further help is included in the comprehensive folder at the house. As you come off the ferry take the first left before you turn the corner signposted Ardvasar and Aird and follow the directions as above.

Regards

Kathryn and John Rawlinson