

Highland MG Owners Club 31 July 2021. GLENELG/ARNISDALE

Route Information on this Seldom Visited REMOTE 'Back of Beyond' Linear Peninsula.

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FUEL and WC's: THIS AREA NOW THAT GLEN SHIEL FUEL STATION HAS just recently CLOSED IS PROBLEMATIC. For all route options we recommend from now you need at least 80/100 miles of fuel in your tanks. Once you leave here no fuel exists on the peninsula. The closest Fuel to the Ratagan Pass is at Inverinate (Inverinate Filling Station IV40 8HB) on the A87 a few miles back on the left towards Kyle, where you hopefully have filled up before meeting us at Kintail Lodge. If you return home via Skye, (option 1 below) – you must still then have at least 40 miles of fuel left after Glenelg, if you take the Kylerhea Ferry over the Narrows of Kylerhea; then Kyle after the Skye Bridge on the A87 has a fuel station. Otherwise, if you, after lunch (take our recommended option 2 or 3 below, staying and exploring this mainland peninsula) and then return back home via the Ratagan pass – and going home eastwards to Inverness it is only the CLUANIE INN IV63 7YW (157p/litre) BY LOCH CLUANIE ON THE A87 about 25 miles eastwards -.... Or.... much further towards Inverness fuel is then not available until Drumnadrochit on Loch Ness. Public Toilets – lack of -are also an issue around here!!...

Start: Kintail Lodge Hotel Glen Shiel. IV40 8HL. (OS Grid Ref NG 938197) www.kintailodgehotel.co.uk

The Glenelg Peninsula is largely single-track narrow very scenic roads with steep gradients and descents and occasional passing places. Please DO NOT CONVOY and when stopping to take photographs please park considerately without obstructing the road.

Take A87 to Shiel Bridge, turn RIGHT after one mile onto single track road direction: Letterfearn and Glenelg.

After approximately one mile take the LEFT fork up the Ratagan Pass, several hairpins climbing fairly rapidly up to a viewpoint (GR 904198) at 339 metres. If conditions allow it is well worth stopping at the viewpoint to look back eastwards, towards The Five Sisters of Kintail Mountain Ridge across Loch Duich.

Continue westwards down beautiful Glen More on this old Military Road built after Culloden Battle in 1746 to aid movement of British Army Battalions who were increasingly stationed at Glenelg/Bernera Barracks, Forts Augustus and William and once built Fort George near Inverness.

Follow the signs for Glenelg ignoring (for now) the right-hand fork signposted Galltair to the old Turntable Swing Ferry bear LEFT and after passing the ruined Bernera Military Barracks on your right (a short stroll after parking before the gates after lunch perhaps). Glenelg Inn (IV40 8JR) (www.glenelginn.com) is on your right-hand side after a right-hand bend in Glenelg Village and has a small car park but you may have to park on the roadside if full.

Four Tables in the name MOORE (4), BROCK, (4) JENNER (6) and TENNANT (2). (Kevin at Glenelg or his colleagues will meet you at the entrance, remember your face masks until seated!!)

AFTER LUNCH:

Three Possibilities/Options: (It depends on what time you want to get back home!!)

1. Return to Inverness either via the way you came over the Ratagan Pass to the A87, Invermoriston and Inverness for those in the east; or, if you have the time (reckon up to 2 hours); take the old swing ferry (takes six vehicles) to Kylerhea, a 5 minute crossing

(<https://skyeferry.co.uk>) £15.00 cars including up to 4 passengers; 10.00hrs-19.00hrs every 20 minutes, *there might be a queue and delay*; and ascend the long steep and winding Kyclerhea Glen/Bealach Udal to Broadford on Skye turning right onto the A87 and cross the Skye Road Bridge to Kyle of Lochalsh and home.

2. Leave the Glenelg Inn turning right passed the magnificent war memorial on your right and after 2 miles turn left signed GLENELG BROCHS (www.secretscotland.com) on a linear no-through-road down beautiful Glen Beag alongside the river on your right to the two large best-preserved DUNS/BROCHS on the Scottish Mainland- the first of which is on your left (parking very limited) and the second shortly thereafter on your left. Both are well worth walking around, a short but easy sometimes muddy climb is necessary to the second one since it sits above the road. After visiting the Brochs the road continues inland to a dead end and becomes a track to the remote mountains ahead. Allow approx. 45-60 minutes for this option.
3. But although taking our time say 60- 75 minutes (round trip) this is rarely visited and since you are here our recommendation is to drive to the end of this seldom visited remote and beautiful Glenelg Peninsula on this single-track road to its end at Corran. Driving high above the Sound of Sleat with magnificent views of Skye (weather dependent!) to your right (and left on your return!). Approx. 35 miles round trip, Glenelg-Corran-Glenelg.

On route to Arnisdale after approx. 6 miles you will pass by Upper Sandaig where in the early 1950's Scottish Aristocrat, Author and Adventurer - Gavin Maxwell lived at Lower Sandaig. If you ever return with time on your hands to this part of Scotland, we recommend you park near Upper Sandaig and spend 2-4 hours walking down and exploring around Sandaig islands where various memorials to Gavin Maxwell and his Otters can be located. (He affectionately called Lower Sandaig 'Camasfearna' in his 3 Otter Books the first of which published in 1955 was "Ring of Bright Water" etc). Maxwell was in the SBS in WWII, explored with Wilfred Thesiger a lot of Arabia, travelled the Atlas Mountains in Algeria, set up a Basking Shark Harpooning Operation 1947-1952 on the Island of Soay (which he bought the Island and used ex RAF/Navy fast WWII MTB's with Harpoon Guns in their bow) but which ultimately failed (his book "Harpoon at a Venture" is enthralling).

As you drive around Mam an Staing the road becomes increasingly "interesting" and reveals remote areas all around you -otherwise not easily seen particularly the vast trackless empty Knoydart to your right across Loch Hourn - descend down sharp gradients to Arnisdale Community of picturesque houses, many are holiday homes spread along the road alongside Camas Ban and as you pass Arnisdale House on a sharp 90 degree left hand bend this is "Skyfall" and had connections to Ian Fleming and his character James Bond. (In the 2012 Daniel Craig film that 'Skyfall' is electronically created in Glencoe and blown to pieces as well as Bond's Aston DB5 if you have seen the film when M (Judy Dench) dies.....

The road end is a pretty place to park up, catch your breath at Corran Township, a small visitor centre and possibly snack shop might be open but wasn't all during C19 restrictions, before thinking about your and our (long) drive home after visiting the Wild West...

Thanks for coming over 'our way' safe journeys home!