



TIMBERBUSH
TOURS

Applecross – Inverness

We depart Inverness and begin our journey North, crossing over the Kessoch Bridge and traveling towards our first stop of the day, Rogie Falls. Here, we will have time for a beautiful walk through the pine trees and down to the falls, where you will be rewarded with magnificent views of the waterfall from the suspension bridge. If you're lucky, you may see salmon leaping from the water to swim upstream.

We continue westwards, passing Loch Na Croic and Loch Garve on your right, and pass through the small village of Achnasheen before we reach Lochcarron. The village features many white washed cottages on the shore of Loch Carron in the Wester Ross region of Scotland. The area has an abundance of wildlife and breathtaking scenery and is a central location for hillwalking and touring the West Coast and Highlands, including Torridon, Plockton and Skye. Enjoy a short while in Lochcarron for refreshments and views over the loch before we continue onwards.

Our next stop of the day is Achintraid, a remote crofting township situated at the eastern end of Loch Kishorn, a sea loch, in Strathcarron, Ross-shire. We pause here for photos of the area overlooking the River Kishorn, and then continue our tour onwards towards Bealach na Ba.

Bealach na Ba (Gaelic for *Pass of the Cattle*), links Applecross to mainland Scotland. It's a popular road with travellers, drivers and motorcyclists alike for its stunning scenery and hairpin bends, much like the great mountain passes in the Alps. The pass is the third highest road in Scotland at 626 metres (2054 ft) above sea level. We will pause here for a panoramic view over the Western Highlands. Look in a north-westerly direction and you will see Beinn Bhan, one of the famous mountains in the Strathcarron area.

We then reach the village of Applecross for our lunch stop. Hidden between the mainland mountains and the Isle of Skye, the Applecross peninsula is home to just a couple of hundred people and can be accessed by only two roads. This certainly makes it a remote spot and a haven for some who wish to escape the noise of modern-day life. The village is historically linked to St Maelrubha, who came to Scotland in 671AD from the Irish monastery of Bangor, County Down. He founded 'Aporcrosan' in



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672AD in what was then pictish territory and became the monastery's first Abbot. The remains of this first monastery can still be found alongside three extremely finely carved fragments in the present parish church building.

The area surrounding Applecross is believed to be one of the earliest settlements in Scotland. The coastal settlement of Sand, just to the north of Applecross, is a major archaeological site.

After lunch in Applecross, we carry on north, hugging the coastline past Lonbain and Kalnakil. Passing on the left we see Raasay and Rona Islands; two of the many islands dotted around the peninsula. Our next stop of the day is Cuaig Croft for a magnificent viewpoint across the Applecross peninsula. The stop is popular amongst hillwalkers, and you can reach the beach by foot at low tide.

After photos at Cuaig Croft, our journey takes us past Fearnmore and Fernbeg, with stunning views of Loch Torridon. The 15-mile-long sea loch was created by glaciers and boasts over 8 islets, some of which are tidal. Shildaig Island is owned by the National Trust for Scotland for its coverage of Scots Pine.

After Loch Torridon we pass through Ardheslaig, which overlooks Loch Shildaig on the right. We stop here for refreshments and photos of the breathtaking view. You will also be able to see Beinn Alligin from Upper Loch Torridon, which provides some magnificent scenery.

Heading East, we begin our journey home. We travel further along River Torridon and on to our final stop of the day, Kinlochewe. The village in Wester Ross is situated in the North West Highlands of Scotland. It lies near the head of Loch Maree in a magnificent valley and serves as a junction between the road to Ullapool to the North and the road heading west to Loch Torridon.

We return to Inverness passing Loch a'Chroisg, Achnasheen and Achanalt, and we bid farewell at Inverness city centre.