

The Hidden Lochs And Rivers Of Skye And Lochalsh

A local angler said 'there's brown trout in every puddle here!'

Well, that's not guaranteed but the area does have the perfect wild trout loch for every angler.

A beginner might start at the easily accessible Storr Lochs, just north of the Island's capital, Portree with its well-stocked waters and facilities for disabled anglers.

For the more experienced angler seeking a challenge there are dozens of remote mountain lochs with rugged walk-ins. Absorb the full beauty of the area in complete solitude; escape the noise and speed of everyday life, settle by your own secret loch and be at one with the rod. A few of the Lochs also host Arctic Char providing a further challenge to the keen angler.

There are salmon and sea trout here, too; small rivers offering good returns in spate conditions.

Excellent shore angling is available at several prominent points around the coast with huge pollack, record-breaking skate and good mackerel runs. Check out the Tourist Board and local accommodation providers for operators offering sea-fishing trips.

And watch for our wildlife while you fish. Birdlife and insect life abound and you may be sharing the fishing with the local otter.

This leaflet brings together all the information you need to spend time opening up the secret world of Skye and Lochalsh fishing.

All lochs included in this leaflet hold stocks of native wild brown trout unless otherwise stated. The typical fish is of the size of a "breakfast brownie", up to around 1lb in weight.

Salmon farm escapees can be recognized by their stunted tails and worn fins.

Rights & Responsibilities Access Code

Welcome to the Great Scottish Outdoors

To get the most from your fishing please observe a few guidelines when accessing the lochs and rivers of the area.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for your own actions. If you are going away from a road take a map and compass and know how to use them. Let someone know where you'll be.

THE RIGHT to fish a water is separate from the right of access to it. In Scotland you don't need a rod licence but please always obtain a permit to fish, where this is required ~ this leaflet is here to help.

HELP landowners and crofters by:

- parking with care and without obstruction
- looking for routes avoiding grazing animals
- leaving gates as you find them. If necessary, climb at the hinged side.
- -not damaging walls or fences.

TAKE ALL LITTER HOME. Particular care should be taken to leave no waste fishing line, hooks, swivels and beads.

AVOID damage to banks and disturbance of wildlife particularly of otters which breed extensively in the area.

An Angler's best practice

FOLLOW the guidance on the permit.

ASSUME the method allowed is **FLY** only unless specifically stated otherwise.

CHECK CATCH and **RELEASE POLICY** for the water.

OBSERVE any restrictions on catch totals / size of fish.

MAKE A RETURN ~ most permits come with a catch return card. Please take time to complete this and send it to the owner. **THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT IN HELPING TO IMPROVE THE FISHING.**

TAKE CARE ~ when wading. Many of the lochs are in peaty depressions with soft edges.

WET your hands before handling fish to avoid causing skin lesions.

Scottish Sundays

It is illegal to fish for salmon on Sundays. This does not affect brown trout but please show sensitivity where closed fishing is observed on Sundays.

Maps:

All the lochs and rivers included in this brochure are marked on the Ordnance Survey Landranger series 1:50000. Sheet numbers are:

- 23 for North Skye
- 32 for South Skye
- 24 for Raasay and Plockton
- 33 for Lochalsh, Glenelg & Glen Shiel A more detailed idea of the nature of the walk-ins can be got from the Explorer series at 1:25000 scale.

Some of the Gaelic spellings on the OS maps have been corrected for this brochure: please refer to the grid references for confirmation of location.

North Skye

Portree Area

Permits: Portree Angling Association Secretary: Alastair Nicolson
Tel: 01478 612482 (email: nicoal41@hotmail.com)

And from: Jansport, Wentworth Street, Portree Tel: 01478
612559 Price: £8 per day gives access to all lochs for
bank fishing. Rivers £10 per day.

Storr Lochs Group

Bag limit is six fish, min. size 10"

Boats available 9am – 4.30pm @£15 and 5pm – dusk @ £10

Loch Fada -Grid Ref. NG 493494

Remarks: Fish from all banks but S. end shallow. Boat takes 2
rods.

Loch Leathan -Grid Ref. NG 505515

Remarks: Boat will take six rods plus a wheelchair (disabled
logo).

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 1 April to 30 September

Parking & Access: Parking by lochs off A855 Portree – Staffin Road.

Access rating 1.

Lealt

Loch Cuithir -Grid Ref. NG 475596

River Lealt (N. Bank) -Grid Ref. NG 520605

Remarks: Spate river for salmon & sea trout. Pool lies below

waterfall. £10 for half-day. Five fish limit.

Method: FLY ONLY on Loch. Fly/ Spinning/ legal bait on River.

Season: Loch: 15 March to 30 September.

River: 15 February – 15 October

Parking & Access: Park at quarry on N. side & follow track either to Loch or to shore.

Access rating 3

Mealt

Loch Mealt -Grid Ref. NG 505650

Remarks: Arctic Char only.

Kilmartin River -Grid Ref. NG 486660 – 491628

Remarks: Salmon, sea trout & brown trout. Lower reaches best.

Method: FLY ONLY on loch. Fly/ worm/ spinning on river.

Season: Loch: 15 March to 30 September

River: 15 February to 15 October

Parking & Access: Loch: park at Ellishadder. Track on west side of Loch. Access Rating 1.

River: park in Stenscholl. Access Rating 1.

Maligar Group

Loch Cleap -Grid Ref. NG 467662

Loch Dubhar-sgoth -Grid Ref. NG 457640

Remarks: Good early loch

Loch Corcasgil -Grid Ref. NG 452642

Remarks: Good early loch

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: Park at Maligar road end and walk in or via Glenconon and Uig Gap.

Access rating 3.

Brogaig Group

Loch Cleat -Grid Ref. NG 447672

Loch Leum na Luirginn -Grid Ref. NG 447676

Brogaig River -Grid Ref. NG 475685 – 459675

Remarks: Small spate river. Sea trout & salmon

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: Lochs: 15 March to 30 September.

River: 15 February to 15 October.

Parking & Access: Loch: park at Cemetery car park on Brogaig - Uig road. Access rating 2.

River: park in Brogaig. Access rating 1.

Flodigarry Group

Loch Fada -Grid Ref. NG 458696

Loch Droighinn -Grid Ref. NG 455712

Loch Langaig / Langan -Grid Ref. NG 467707

Loch Hasco -Grid Ref. NG 456701

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: Park on A855 by track to Loch Langaig.

Access rating 2.

Kilmaluag River -Grid Ref. NG 438749 – 440687

Remarks: Sea trout & salmon

Method: Fly/ worm/ spinning/ legal bait

Season: 15 February to 15 October

Parking & Access: From minor road off A855 at NG 435742.

Access rating 1.

Coastguard Loch -Grid Ref. NG 416742

Remarks: by Duntulm

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: Park with care by Loch. Access rating 1.

Loch Sneosdal -Grid Ref. NG 414692

Method:FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: Park with care at Heribusta and walk in.

Access rating 2.

Bracadale

Loch Connan -Grid Ref. NG 387430

Remarks: Fragile banks

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: Park at track-end on B885, Portree to Struan road. Buggy walk over hill in NW direction.

Access rating 2-3.

River Ose -Grid Ref. NG 313408-372443

Remarks: Sea trout and salmon possible. Good pools at mouth.

Best in spate.

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 February to 15 October

Parking & Access: Park at Ose Bridge on A863 Sligachan to Dunvegan road for lower reaches. Park at Balmeanach road end (NG 332436) and follow forestry track, taking first right into Glen Ullinish.

Access rating 1-2.

Uig Area

Permits: Gordon Mackenzie, Uig Filling Station. Tel: 01470 542420
(home 01470 542765)

Price: Loch: £8 per day; Rivers: £12 per day

Loch Mor -Grid Ref. NG 405603

Remarks: Good quality hill loch. Best May & June.

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 6 October

Parking & Access: Track from N. of caravan site by A856 at NG 391612.

Access rating 3.

River Rha -Grid Ref. NG 393640 – 412679

Remarks: Interesting little trout stream. Also salmon & sea trout

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March – 6 October (salmon to 15 Oct)

Parking & Access: park with care on Uig to Brogaig road.

Access rating 2.

River Conon -Grid Ref. NG 396638 – 441629

Remarks: Both banks. Brown trout (good), salmon, sea trout

Method: FLY preferred

Season: 15 March – 6 October (salmon to 15 Oct.)

Parking & Access: park with care at river bridge A855 at Uig. Access also from minor road in Glen Uig.

Access rating 1-2.

River Hinnisdal (N. Bank) -Grid Ref. NG 382575 – 470584

Remarks: Good spate river. Salmon, sea trout.

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March – 6 October (salmon to 15 Oct.)

Parking & Access: Park at Hinnisdal Bridge for lower river or minor road to Glenuachdroch.

Access rating 1.

Kingsburgh Estate

Permits: Peter & Berni Kinloch Tel: 01470 542458
Mitchell Partridge (ghillie) Tel: 01478 611649 /
07909 947849

Price: £20 per rod per day. £25 to cover all rivers in group.
Season: 10 February - 15 October

River Hinnisdal (S. Bank) -Grid Ref. NG 382575 – 470584

Remarks: Spate river best after rain and below A87. Salmon, sea trout & brown trout. Sea trout not affected by tide.

Method: FLY ONLY. For salmon: catch & release unless farm escapes.

Parking & Access: Parking in lay-by 50m S. of river bridge.

Access rating 1 - 2.

River Romesdal -Grid Ref. NG 408534 - 474556

Remarks: Spate river best after rain. Salmon, sea trout & brown trout. Sea trout best at estuary but tide-dependent. Good salmon pools above road on S. side.

Method: FLY ONLY. For salmon: catch & release unless farm escapes.

Parking & Access: A87 parking in lay-by telephone box.

Access rating 2.

River Haultin (N. Bank) -Grid Ref. NG 418518- 486523

Remarks: Spate river best after rain. Salmon, sea trout & brown trout. Sea trout best at estuary but tide-dependent.

Method: FLY ONLY. For salmon: catch & release unless farm escapes. Parking & Access: Park on section of old road alongside A.87 by river bridge.

Access rating 1 – 2.

Creag an Locha -Grid Ref. NG 411558

Method: FLY ONLY. Catch & release.

Season: 15 March – 15 October

Parking & Access: Park on A87 at lay-by N. of Kingsburgh Quarry.

Access rating 3.

Shore Fishing Also Available

Shore fishing on: Loch Eyre & Loch Snizort Beag (between Rivers Haultin & Hinnisdal) from several access points. Please ask for details.

Skeabost Area

Permits: For more information contact Three Esses Ltd, The Hatchery, Skeabost Bridge Tel 01470 532297 or Reception, The Skeabost Country House Hotel Tel 01470 532202.

Price: £35 per rod per day. £20 per rod per half day.

River Snizort -Grid Ref. from NG 422428

downstream to mouth (both banks) – 8 miles.

Remarks: Brown trout throughout season. Salmon & sea trout run from late June. September & October best. Conditions best after rain

at high tide

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 February to 15 October

Parking & Access: For lower beats park in layby outside Hotel entrance. For upper beats park with care by Snizort Bridge on the minor road between Struan and Portree (NG 420442). Lower three beats may be wheelchair accessible. Upper beats – Access rating 2.

WARNING – please watch for overhead power cables in places.

Minginish Area

North West Skye

For details and access to loch fishing in this area please contact Commander W Peppe, secretary Drynoch & Borline Club. Tel: 01478 640218.

South Skye

Island of Raasay Area

Permits: from Raasay Stores, Inverarish. Also available Mrs A Gillies, Secretary Raasay Crofters Association

Tel: 01478 660284.

Price: £2 per rod per day / £5 per week / £10 per year.

Youth Hostel Group - Grid Ref. NG 554380 to 554385

A group of three roadside lochs, un-named on OS map

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: With care at roadside.

Access rating 1.

Dun Caan Group

Loch Storab - Grid Ref. NG 565386

Remarks: May & June are best

Loch na Mna - Grid Ref. NG 579387

Loch na Meilich - Grid Ref. NG 574398

Remarks: Excellent hill loch. May & June

And a number of other associated lochs, un-named on OS map

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: Parking area at Balmeanach and follow hill track.

Access rating 4.

Balachuirn Group

Loch Eadar da Bhaile - Grid Ref. NG 557407

Remarks: Weedy

Loch an Rathaid - Grid Ref. NG 555415

Remarks: Excellent. Best May & June.

Loch Groidean (smaller loch) - Grid Ref. NG 553415

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: With care on minor road to Balachuirn.

Access rating 3.

Brochel Group

Remarks: A variable group worth exploring

Loch an Uachdair - Grid Ref. NG 583470

Loch Beag - Grid Ref. NG 585473

Method: Fly / worm / spinning Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: With care on minor road at Brochel.

Access rating 2 to 3.

Torran Group

Loch Mallaichte - Grid Ref. NG 597494

And associated lochs un-named on OS map.

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: With care at road end. Track to Torran.

Access rating 3 to 4.

Eilean Fladda

Loch Mor and associated lochs - Grid Ref. NG 588512

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: With care at road end. Track to Torran. CARE!
Tidal causeway to Island.

Access rating 4.

IN ADDITION: Home Loch (Loch a' Mhuillinn) at NG 552367 is open fishing, permit free, but very wooded.

Fearann Eilean Iarmain Area

Permits: Weekdays during office hours: Estate Office, Isle Ornsay
Tel: 01471 833266

Weekends & outside office hours; Hotel Eilean Iarmain,
Isle Ornsay Tel: 01471 833332

Price: £7.50 per rod per day. £30 per week

Ord Group

Loch na Doireanach - Grid Ref. NG 638108

(N.E & NW banks only)

Ord river - Grid Ref. NG 615131 – 632121

Remarks: Brown trout & sea trout in spate

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March – 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care on minor road to Ord.

Loch is a steep climb. Access rating 4.

River – mostly easy. Access rating 2.

Drumfearn

Loch an lasgaich - Grid Ref. NG 673142

Remarks: East banks are best. Good size fish

Method: Fly preferred

Season: 15 March – 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care at Drumfearn.

Access rating 3.

Eilean Iarmain Group

Loch Bharabhaig - Grid Ref. NG 684098

Remarks: Wooded giving good feeding

Loch na Dubhraichean - Grid Ref. NG 675105

Remarks: also holds arctic char

Method: FLY ONLY

Season: 15 March – 5 October

Parking & Access: for both lochs park by Loch na Dubhraichean. Dubhraichean is access rating 2. Loch Bharabhaig is a stiff twenty minute walk south, rated 4.

Heast Group -(challenging group on limestone)

Loch an Eilein - Grid Ref. NG 640186

Remarks: a very good loch

Loch an Starsaich - Grid Ref. NG 646190

Loch Buidhe - Grid Ref. NG 639193

Remarks: N. shore is best, but weedy early.

Loch Lonachan - Grid Ref. NG 627192

Remarks: also holds arctic char (S.E. bank only)

Method: Fly / worm / spinning / legal bait

Season: 15 March – 5 October

Parking & Access: For Lonachan park by Boreraig path from by Cill Chriosd on A881. For others park by cattle grid at Heast and follow streams up.

Access rating 3.

Sculumus Group - The Black Lochs

Loch Airigh na Saorach - Grid Ref. NG 682202

Remarks: small fish but sea trout possible throughout season

Lochain Dubha - Grid Ref. NG 675206

Remarks: small fish but sea trout possible throughout season

Loch an Droma Bhain - Grid Ref. NG 667200

Lochain Teanna - Grid Ref. NG 683219

Loch Cruinn - Grid Ref. NG 680217

Lochain a' Mhullaich - Grid Ref. NG 690209

Method: Fly/ worm/spinning/ legal bait

Season: 15 March – 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care at NG 680208 on A851.

Access rating 1-2 .

Clan Donald Trust Lands Area

Permits: None required but please observe best practice guidelines. Further information from Armadale Castle office 01471 844305

Aird of Sleat

Loch Aruisg - Grid Ref. NG 574009

Loch Horaveg - Grid Ref. NG 578016

Loch an t-Selich - Grid Ref. NG 578033

Loch Lamascaig - Grid Ref. NG 582038

Loch Sgurr na Caorach - Grid Ref. NG 589033

Method: Fly/ worm/ spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care at Aird road end. All Lochs are remote from the road over rough ground.

Access rating 4.

Gleann Meadhonach

Most of the area is designated SSSI. Please take care not to disturb wildlife. Also care with adder population.

Allt a Ghlinne - Grid Ref. NG 591054 – 578053

Remarks: salmon and sea trout

Loch a' Ghlinne - Grid Ref. NG 596054

Loch Ic Iain - Grid Ref. NG 601070

Remarks: boggy

Loch Nigheann Fhionnlaidh - Grid Ref. NG 583066

Method: Fly preferred

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care on minor road to Tarskavaig. Track down Gleann Meadonach from viewpoint at NG 623068. All Lochs are remote from the road over rough ground.

Access rating 4.

Tarskavaig Group

Loch Dhughail - Grid Ref. NG 614082

Loch nan Uamh - Grid Ref. NG 633083

Loch nan Breac Dubha - Grid Ref. NG 631089

Loch Ard - Grid Ref. NG 640091

Loch nan Clach - Grid Ref. NG 617095

Loch an Tuim - Grid Ref. NG 624096

Loch Mhic Charmhiceil - Grid Ref. NG 645099

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 5 October

Parking & Access: Park with care along minor road to Tarskavaig.

Loch Dhughail is easy access, rated 1.

All other lochs are remote from the road over rough ground. Access rating 4.

Plockton Area

Permits: None required

Loch Achaidh na h'Inich - Grid Ref. NG 814308

Loch Lundie - Grid Ref. NG 806317

Method: Fly / worm / spinning

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: In parking areas of Strathellen Wood.

Access rating 1.

Cluanie, Glenmoriston Area

Permits: At present none required. Check at Cluanie Inn on A87 at the head of Glen Shiel.

Loch Cluanie - Grid Ref. NH 076114

Remarks: Brown trout & pike

Method: Fly/ spinning/ worm

Season: 15 March to 30 September

Parking & Access: With care on various loch-side parking areas.

Access rating 1.

Glenelg & Arnisdale, Lochalsh

For details of fishing in this area please contact Colin MacDonald,
Secretary. Glenelg & Arnisdale Fishing Club Tel: 01599 522719.