

**Enjoying the  
Highlands in  
your motorhome  
or campervan**

**A' mealtainn na  
Gàidhealtachd san  
dachaidh-mhotair  
no sa bhana-  
champachaidh agaibh**



Motorhome photo by Highland Council



# Welcome

This guidance has been produced to help you enjoy the Highlands responsibly - protecting the environment and keeping it clean, tidy and safe for both visitors and residents. Motorhome and campervan holidays are on the rise, to support the demand, The Highland Council and others are increasing additional facilities and services across Highland. We wish to welcome you to the Highlands and hope you have a safe and enjoyable journey.

## **Support local businesses and communities**

Please support The Highlands 'Loves Local' campaign by thinking local first and help support local businesses. Wherever possible – buy groceries in local shops, have a coffee and cake in a cafe or enjoy an evening meal in a local pub or restaurant. There are campsites available in some scenic spots and we encourage you to support them. Some will be busy in peak season, plan ahead and book campsites in advance.





# Highland Campervan & Motorhome Scheme

Join the Highland Campervan and Motorhome Scheme and help contribute towards sustainable tourism in the Highlands:

- Stay at one of the Highland Council's designated overnight car parks.
- Take advantage of showering and changing facilities in any of High Life Highland's leisure centres.
- Give back to local community eco projects through the Highland Nature Restoration Fund.
- Know that your money will be invested into improving sites and facilities further to help ensure the Highlands continues to be a destination of choice.

Membership is open to all rental customers and owners who are intending to stay with us at one of our convenient overnight locations.

Membership costs £40 and lasts for 7 days from the start date selected at the time of purchase.

For further information and details about joining the Campervan and Motorhome Scheme, please visit: [www.highland.gov.uk/motorhome](http://www.highland.gov.uk/motorhome)

Highland Campervan and Motorhome Scheme  
email: [sustainable.tourism@highland.gov.uk](mailto:sustainable.tourism@highland.gov.uk)



**Click the topics below find out more!**



Campervan by DegrootStock for Envato

# The Access Code

Access rights **do not extend to any motorised activities**. Scottish access rights include things like walking, cycling, swimming and watching wildlife and whilst doing these you must follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:

The Code is based on three key principles:

- **Respect the interests of others**
  - Respect people's privacy, especially at night and keep clear of land management operations.
- **Care for the environment** - Don't disturb wildlife, take your litter away, avoid fires or damaging verges when parking – you should always “leave no trace”.
- **Take responsibility for your own actions** - Scottish access rights allow you to go on to most land and inland water to enjoy the outdoors – as long as you behave responsibly.



# Safe Driving

Be courteous to other road users – motorhomes commonly travel slower than other vehicles, please check your mirrors regularly and let the traffic behind you pass. Many of our roads are single track roads where a different driving etiquette is required:

- **Use the first available Passing Place** you see.
- **Stay on the left** - if the Passing Place is on your right, indicate left and wait opposite to allow traffic to pass.
- Do stop to **allow overtaking**.
- Remember our emergency services can use personal vehicles to attend a call - if you see a vehicle flashing headlights behind or towards you, it may be a doctor, firefighter, mountain rescuer or coastguard attending an emergency so **let them pass**.
- **Do not park in a passing place** - it is illegal and you may get a fixed penalty notice.

**Find out more about staying safe driving around Scotland:**



# Overnight parking

Stopping overnight in a motorhome outside a formal site is **not wild camping** as permitted by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code as it takes place in a **motor vehicle**. Roadside parking does take place but there is a legal distinction between parking which can take place in laybys or car parks and camping which is **not permitted** in these locations.

- If parking in laybys or car parks you must do so in line with the Road Traffic Act 1998 - vehicles may use a designated formal lay-by to rest, including overnight in a motorhome **as long as the activity is contained within the vehicle** – i.e. no awnings, tables, chairs, cooking etc outside the vehicle.
- If parking in laybys or car parks you must also **comply with any parking conditions** displayed including payment of any charges and must be prepared to move your vehicle if necessary. If a layby is already in use, please do not use it.
- **Avoid parking on the verge** as this causes damage to both road edges and vegetation.



- If parking off-road overnight, you should have **the permission of the landowner**. If it is not clear then park elsewhere.
- **Ensure you do not block access or entrances** and be prepared to move your vehicle if necessary.
- **Respect people's privacy**, especially at night and stay safe by following the Highway Code guidance on parking at night:
- **If using a rooftop tent** - this is considered a motorised vehicle not a tent as far as traffic legislation and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code are concerned so all the above advice still applies.



Rooftop tent photo by Highland Council



# Waste disposal

Please ensure you dispose of your waste in the correct manner by following this advice:

- **Do use one of the publicly available motorhome waste facilities.** Many already exist and more are being added, check the map and list to find one near you at:
- **Do not use public toilets for “black waste”** - in rural areas these often operate with small scale sewage treatment or septic tank systems that cannot cope with multiple toilet cassettes being emptied. This can result in toilets becoming blocked and being unavailable for use.
- Remember some chemicals are not septic-tank friendly preventing proper biological decomposition, **only use the specially designed waste disposal points.**



Ullapool Campsite photo by Highland Council





- **Dispose of litter appropriately.** If you see an overflowing bin, please don't add to it or leave waste next to it - take it home or on to your next stop.
- You can also assist by **using recycling points** – there are over 200 in Highland. Find one near you on the Council website:

