

# Enjoying the Highlands in your motorhome or campervan

## A' mealtainn na Gàidhealtachd san dachaigh-mhotair no sa bhana-champachaidh agaibh

### Welcome!

We've been working hard providing additional facilities and services to prepare for your safe, and enjoyable visit, and are ready to give the motorhome and campervanning community the warmest of Highland welcomes.

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.

#MotorhomesInHighland

Photo of Hamish the Highland Cow by Robert McCubbin

### Support local businesses and communities

As with the rest of the UK there has been a significant impact on the Highland economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related restrictions.

#### You can help the local recovery by using 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. Book ahead wherever possible.

There are lots of campsites available in some of our most scenic spots and we encourage you to support them. Some will be busy at times, so plan ahead and book campsites in advance where possible.

Arnamurchan Campsite by The Highland Council

### The Access Code

Access rights **do not extend** to any motorised activities. Therefore, when you park your vehicle it is important not to cause any damage or create an obstruction by:

- not blocking an entrance to a field or building;
- not making it difficult for other people to use a road or track;
- having regard for the safety of others;
- trying not to damage the verge; and
- using a car park if one is nearby.

Follow the Highway Code and the guidance in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code:

The OFFICIAL

**HIGHWAY CODE**

[www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/parking-at-night.html](http://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/parking-at-night.html)

**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE**

[outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)



## Safe driving

Be courteous to other road users – motorhomes commonly travel more slowly than other vehicles so 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** on the left you see, to allow other motorists to pass;
- ✓ **Stay on the left.** If the Passing Place is on your right, wait on the road opposite the passing place to allow traffic to pass;
- ✓ Do stop to **allow overtaking;**
- ✓ Remember our emergency services 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.

## 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 visitors should remember that this is not a right and historically has relied upon the goodwill of landowners to permit overnight use.

- 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. Bear this in mind where any consumption of alcohol is concerned.
- If parking in laybys or car parks you must do so in line with the Road Traffic Act 1998 or any parking conditions displayed.
- In simple terms, 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.
- **Leave no trace.** Care for the environment and when outside your vehicle follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code - available at: [www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

## Overnight stays in campervans and motorhomes

Access rights do not include motor vehicles. If public or private land owners restrict or regulate parking on their land, **you must comply with this.**

## Waste disposal

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

- **Don't 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 in a short space of time. This can result in toilets becoming blocked and being unavailable for use.
- **Do use one of the publicly available motorhome waste facilities.** More are being added all the time so check the map and list to find one near you: [www.campa.org.uk/waste-disposal](http://www.campa.org.uk/waste-disposal)
- **Only use the specially designed motorhome waste disposal facilities.** Remember some chemicals are not septic-tank friendly preventing proper biological decomposition in other systems.
- **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:** [www.bit.ly/THC-RecyclingPoints](http://www.bit.ly/THC-RecyclingPoints)

Thank you and  
enjoy your visit