

Seaview is located in the small community of Grimshader, almost at the end of the village on a single track dead end road, on the map it is just below Stornoway on the East coast of Lewis. It is a re-build of the traditional stone croft house that had existed on the site for many generations. The house overlooks both Loch Grimshader (the sea one) and The Minch. The extensive moors around Seaview offer unlimited opportunities for peatland and hill walking, loch fishing and bird watching.

ACCOMMODATION

The two-storey house has been extensively rebuilt and improved to modern standards. Downstairs is a lounge, a large kitchen with dining area for six, a sunporch leading out to the decking overlooking the seaview; a bathroom and a ground floor bedroom. Upstairs are two bedrooms and shower room with shower and Saniflo toilet (see details of use in info folder at Seaview).

Outside there is off-road parking; picnic table and bench, decking and a fenced grassed garden.

Features (full inventory is in the kitchen with other details and instructions for appliances)

- * Bed linen and towels are provided, as well as a hair dryer.
- * Seaview is heated by storage heaters and oil combi boiler serving to supply hot water to all taps. There is an additional fan heater and a quartz heater and there is a stove in the living room with coal effect and fan heater.
- * Electricity and oil are fully inclusive in the costs, we would ask that you be responsible in usage and do not leave unused lighting and heating on.
- * Kitchen equipment: Electric hob and double oven, extractor fan, microwave, fridge/freezer, washing machine/dryer, electric kettle, toaster, food-mixer and processor, all cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils, iron, ironing board.

Lounge: Portable colour television, video, DVD, radio, CD and cassette player, books, games, jigsaws and music. Comfortable lounge furniture and an electric stove heater.

Dining area: Dining table with seating for six.

Sun porch: Table and folding director style chairs, can seat four comfortably & view of the sea.

Main bedroom: (downstairs) Double bed, bedside tables with lamps, wardrobe, drawer unit.

Second bedroom: Double bed, bedside tables with lamps, built in wardrobe, drawer unit.

Third bedroom: Twin beds, bedside tables with lamps, built in wardrobe, drawer unit.

Travel cot for infant (bedding for cot available) also changing platform to fit and a high chair.

Understairs cupboard and cupboard by kitchen: Dyson cleaner and various items including wellington boots, folding chairs, picnic bag, iron, ironing board, clothes airer, pegs, etc.

SHED

The keys for the lock are kept on a peg in the boiler cupboard. In the shed you will find a BBQ and fuel, also a couple of bikes for your use. In the future we hope to get fishing tackle and some golfing equipment.

HOUSEKEEPING

Seaview is equipped with a full range of cleaning materials, all bins are provided with liners and spares are also under the sink.

DAMAGES

All breakages and spillages should be reported to us immediately. If something is spilled on upholstery, bedding or carpets please let us know as soon as possible in order that we can avoid any lasting damage, there are a number of useful cleaning materials to deal with most spillages including baking soda and white vinegar and the Dyson cleaner uses Zorb powder that will deal with problems too (stored under stairs). (Please note our policy of a Damage Deposit).

RUBBISH

Rubbish should be placed in the black wheelie bin. Collections are every alternate Wednesdays (marked on calendar in the kitchen) and the bin needs to be wheeled up to the roadside on Tuesday evening please. (Recycling of paper, plastic and glass is practiced and large bins are in Stornoway for disposal of these items).

TELEPHONE

There is a phone at Seaview. We can give you the number for incoming calls and ask for you to make a payment if you use the phone, we get the usual breakdown bill so can advise you when we receive that.

INTERNET

There is a broadband connection which can be used. Please ask for details.

GROCERY SHOPPING

Stornoway is located 8 miles away, and has two supermarkets and dozens of shops. The Co-op and Somerfields have very good sized stores. They both stock everything that you would normally find in a mainland supermarket. There are also butchers and fish mongers providing high quality local produce.

PETS

Sorry, we do not allow pets.

SMOKING

Most of our guests appreciate a smoke-free house. We therefore do not allow smoking on the premises and would appreciate you respecting this request.

ACTIVITIES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

The Outer Hebrides have some of the best beaches in Britain, extensive tracts of open lands with a unique set of natural environments, and a rich history preserved in an exceptional concentration of archaeological monuments. A wealth of outdoor activities are available, and in mid summer there are 20 hours of daylight. Depending on the direction of the wind most beaches are used by surfers, wind-surfers and kite-boarders. With good roads, light traffic, and relatively gradual hills, Lewis is popular with cyclists. The peatlands form part of the most extensive moor in Europe, offering endless walking opportunities and hundreds of trout and salmon filled lochs. Hill walkers can begin locally or travel down the island to Harris for other higher summits which offer fantastic views of the islands.

For those with historical interests, Seaview is not far from the Callanish Stones, Dun Charlabhaigh Broch, Arnol Blackhouse Museum, and many other archaeological monuments and cultural sites of interest. The Museum in Stornoway provides excellent exhibitions on the Prehistoric, Early Christian, Viking and Mediaeval history of Lewis, as well as on the traditional life of the past few centuries. At Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a community of traditional houses is preserved and reconstructed as it was until the 1970s.

The coast, machair, grazing and moorlands of Lewis are home and nesting areas to a remarkable number of sea and shore birds. This coast is a major migratory departure point for Iceland and the Arctic regions, and the area is noted for accidental arrivals from America and Siberia. Whales, seals and occasionally otters can be seen in the coastal waters of Lewis.

Lewis has become a centre of artistic activity. Paintings, photography, ceramics and other arts are exhibited and sold in several local galleries and artists' studios. An Lanntair (the new art centre) in Stornoway generally has an interesting exhibition of art from the Western Isles, as well as a bookshop, café and cinema/theatre. Other stores in Stornoway stock a wide selection of books of local interest and by native authors, as well as local music from traditional to contemporary and beyond. The tourist information shop is worth a visit to pick up information on everything that is going on, the staff are always happy to advise and have a chat.

Stornoway provides most of the facilities of a mid-size town, including a golf club adjacent to the wooded grounds of Lews Castle, one of the few patches of woodland on the island. Information leaflets on activities and places of interest will be found at Seaview, together with local maps.

Stornoway also has a very modern sports centre ideal for any bad weather days. The Go Karting track is also worth a family visit, usually open in the evenings as it is run by the local car club volunteers.

WHEN TO HOLIDAY ON LEWIS

Seaview is the ideal all-year-round accommodation. We are nowhere near a main road so it is very quiet. You don't have to see anyone or even listen to the news. You can chill out away from it all or go for walks out for the bracing air and among the wonderful views.

The Gulf Stream flows along the coast of Lewis, maintaining a relatively even climate throughout the year. Most visitors choose the summer months from May to September to vacation in the Hebrides - especially those visitors wishing to swim and play on the lovely beaches. Don't forget we get longer days of light and during the mid summer weeks, virtually no dark nights. Other seasons also have their attractions, for example, the high waves of autumn and winter attract surfers from around the world.

Winters are milder than in many other regions of Scotland, and winter snow is rare except on the higher hills. Although rain is more frequent during the months from December to February, outdoor activities such as coastal and moorland walking can be enjoyed. The low sun of the winter months casts a marvellous light on the landscape.

Winter brings two natural phenomena for which the Outer Hebrides are famous. This is the season of powerful Atlantic storms that build huge waves along the western coast of Lewis, exciting and awesome to watch from the safety of shore. It is also the season of Northern Lights, the ghostly swirls of colour that glow during the long winter nights of the high latitudes. Far from the street lighting of any city, on clear nights the sky over Grimshader is brilliant whether or not the Northern Lights are present. We have a reasonable quality reflector telescope for viewing.

HOW TO GET HERE

By Ferry: Caladonian-MacBrayne operates at least two ferries a day, Monday to Saturday, between Stornoway and Ullapool. Ferries also travel between Uig (Skye) and Tarbert in Harris, as well as between North Uist and Leverburgh at the southern end of Harris. See www.calmac.co.uk for ferry schedules, fares and information. You are advised to book as early as you can for these ferries, particularly in the high summer months.

By Air: There are a number of flights per day into Stornoway Airport from Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen Airports. See www.escapetotheedge.co.uk for links to schedules, fares and information.

Local Car Rental: Arnol Motors, Arnol, Tel: 01851 710548, Email: arnolmotors@aol.com

Lewis Car Rentals, 52 Bayhead Street, Stornoway, Tel: 01851 703760

Mackinnon Self Drive, 18 Inaclete Road, Stornoway. Also has office at Stornoway Airport. Tel: 01851 702984

Stornoway Car Hire, Stornoway Airport, Tel: 01851 702658

Most will meet you at the airport or ferry port.

Bikes can be hired from Alex Dan's Cycle Centre in Kenneth Street, Stornoway. Tel: 01851 704025.

There are several taxi services including ones operated by
Central Cabs, tel 01851 706 900.
Quick Car, tel 01851 701 234.
Radiocabs, tel 01851 702092.

RESEARCH WEB SITES

Type in Outer Hebrides or Western Isles to bring up a selection of sites in most search engines.

www.isle-of-lewis.org

www.virtualhebrides.com

www.outdoorhebrides.com

www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/areawest

are a few good ones.

GETTING TO SEAVIEW

Arriving from Stornoway - you take the A859 south. About 3 miles out of Stornoway there is a left turn signed to Leurbost, Ranish and Grimshader.

Follow this single track road for about 2 miles until you come to a sign for Grimshader on the right side of the road, on the left is one to Leurbost and Ranish, take the left turn. Proceed through the village, again a slow pace is best as there are children and animals around. Keep going! Past the telephone and post box, round a left hand bend where a couple of white painted houses are at a 90° right hand bend, up a short hill and there you see the sea and the roof of Seaview.

Pull into the drive slowly as the stones are loose. The gate needs to be kept closed as sheep may wander in, although they will keep the grass mowed, they do leave a mess!

Arriving from Tarbert or Leverburgh - you take the A859 to Stornoway, after going through Leurbost (there is a petrol station on left) you will turn right at the next turn signed to Leurbost, Ranish and Grimshader, it's just after you go by a disused garage on your right.

Follow this single track road for about 2 miles until you come to a sign for Grimshader on the right side of the road, on the left is one to Leurbost and Ranish, take the left turn. Proceed through the village, again a slow pace is best as there are children and animals around. Keep going! Past the telephone and post box, round a left hand bend where a couple of white painted houses are at a 90° right hand bend, up a short hill and there you see the sea and the roof of Seaview.

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See our pdf file brochure for other information.

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