



Welcome to Gask House Farm Cottages

A warm welcome to you and thank you choosing to stay with us.

Having escaped the glamour of London Gregor and Jill McNicol, with their two children Ross and Rachel, are now realising their ambition to cater for others looking to enjoy what the Highlands have to offer – beautiful scenery, culture and heritage and Scottish hospitality.

To make your stay more relaxing we've attempted to think of things you may need to know and have listed these below but if we've missed anything please feel free to come ask.

Address:

Gask House Farm Cottages
Balnafoich
Inverarnie
By Farr
Inverness -shire
IV2 6XG

Contact number:

House: 01808 521409
Mobile: 07970 027741

Emergencies

In an emergency you can either contact us using the house phone or mobile 07970 027741 or contact the services directly on 999.

In the case of fire

A fire blanket and extinguisher are available in the utility cupboard of each cottage. Should you find a fire please contact the fire brigade on 999 and leave the cottage. You should not attempt to tackle a fire yourself unless you think it is safe to do so. The assembly point is: on the lawn at the front of the house. If that is not reachable please wait in the paddock at the rear of the house. A working torch is available in the utility cupboard.

Nearest hospital with Accident and Emergency is:

Raigmore Hospital
Old Perth Road
Inverness
IV2 3UJ
Telephone: 01463 704000

Doctors

Cairn Medical Practice
Ardlarich
15 Culduthel Road
Inverness
IV2 4AG
Telephone: 01463 712233
Appointments: 01463 709709

Chemist

Tesco at Inshes Retail Park
Inverness Inshes

Inshes Retail Park
Inverness
IV2 3TW
Telephone: 0845 6779376

Police station:
Burnett Road Police Station
Inverness
IV1 1RL
Telephone: 0845 600 5703

Dentist:
Castle Heather Practice
Fairways Business Park
Castle Heather
Inverness
Postcode: IV2 6AA
Telephone: 01463 234598

Veterinary Services:
Andrew Rafferty
Veterinary Centre
Forest Rd
Grantown-On-Spey
Morayshire
PH26 3JJ
Telephone: 01479 872252

Travel
Air
Inverness Airport (INV)
Dalcross
Inverness
IV2 7JB
Telephone: 01667 464000

Train
Academy Street
Inverness
IV2 3PY
0845 601 5929

Bus
Just behind the station with buses bound for all over the Highlands and to major cities in Scotland.

Taxis
Inverness Taxis 01463 222222

Parking
Please park in the bays close to the house. If nearer access is required please come and knock on the black house door in the pend and we will show you through.

Smoking
The property is no smoking

The Farm and the Animals
The hens are fed each morning around 7.45am and the other animals only in the winter. The hens are Free Range in every sense of the word and don't be surprised if they follow you looking for extra scraps. If you'd like to give them suitable food please do so using the stones near the hen hut.

You'll also find Roger the Ram, sheep including this year's lambs – too many for names and the Highland Cows with their 3 bullocks.

If you have dogs please keep them on a lead near the hens as most dogs have a habit of chasing them. In the cottages we ask that you keep pets off the furniture and beds.

You can collect eggs yourself from their hut or from the trestle table in the pend – they make great omelettes!

Water on the property

Please be aware that the property has a small burn or stream running on right hand side as you walk up the drive and also a pond in the field directly in front of the house. Both are unfenced so we would ask that you ensure that any young children in your party are always accompanied in the grounds, for example when using the play area at the front of the house.

Inside your accommodation

We hope you find the cottages are furnished to a high quality with equipment provided including:

- LCD TV
- DVD
- iPod docking/radio station
- Free WiFi
- Dishwasher
- Washer/dryer
- Microwave
- Hair dryer
- Iron and ironing board
- Wood burning stove

Whilst we check all appliances each week if you find something not in order please let us know.

Appliances

You will find instructions for all appliances within this pack

Sanitary and septic tanks

We operate a septic tank throughout the property. Therefore please do not flush any items including cotton wool or earbuds down it. The system is only able to cope with soft tissues and can be easily blocked which would be uncomfortable for everyone on the property.

WiFi

Please access the internet using the 'Gask House Farm Cottages' connection

Password is: gaskhouse12

Heating and hot water

The cottages have under floor heating throughout so heating the floors can take time to warm up and cool down. We will do our utmost to have the cottage at a comfortable temperature when you arrive. Instructions are provided but it may be easier to knock at the door and we will adjust it. There is also a wood burning stove and the first basket of wood and kindling is on us. The hot water is heated by Solar panels on the roofs.

The distribution box can be found in the Utility cupboard. Water stop valves are attached to each separate appliance.

Clothes drying

We provide whirligigs for drying washing at the end of the cottages. You will find pegs in the kitchen cupboard under the sink. There is also a clothes horse in the utility cupboard of each cottage and a drying facility on the washer/dryer.

Storage

Whilst we are a rural and safe property if you would like to use lockable storage for cycles, golf clubs, ski equipment etc. then this is available in the farm buildings. Again please just ask.

Lighting the fire

Ensure the grate is set to open and load with rolls of newspaper topped off with kindling. Set the vent to open and light carefully with match and close door with handle. Once the fire is going well add larger pieces of wood. An ash bucket is provided for surplus ash and companion set. There is also a fireguard should you require. First basket free, £5 a basket thereafter.

Welcome pack

We aim to provide the basics such as tea, coffee, sugar, milk, butter, eggs, bread, biscuit/cake, homemade chutney/jam in your cottage on arrival. These are provided free of charge for your use.

Shops and provisions

The local shop is run by Isabel and David Rich and is 1 mile left out of the drive. Known as Isabel's it is useful for newspapers, bread milk, Frasers (one of Britain's best butchers) meat in the freezer, tinned foods, cards etc

Tesco's (as above) – we are about to have our 4th in Inverness! The newest is at Ness-side on the Dores Road coming out of Inverness. ASDA – right out of the drive and straight down. Left at the first roundabout you come to. Post Office is available at the Village Hall on Thursdays between 2.30pm and 4pm and also at Inshes Tesco. Nearest ATM at Inshes/Ness-side Tesco
Petrol at Inshes/Ness-side Tesco
Tesco will deliver your groceries – please visit www.tesco.com

Local produce

We would recommend:

For meat:

Duncan Frasers

22-24 Queensgate

Inverness

IV1 1DJ

Telephone: 01463 233066

www.duncanfraserbutcher.co.uk

As Duncan lives locally he may deliver a reasonable order for free. Please call in advance.

Jill makes cakes, with of course our own eggs, if you are having a celebration with us. Please knock at the door.

Help yourself to eggs and any vegetables we've succeeded in growing which are placed on the table in the pend or are growing in the raised beds. Please make a contribution to the Honesty box.

Where to eat out:

We would recommend:

The Storehouse by Evanton – 9.00am – 6.00pm

Dores Inn by Loch Ness – 01463 751203

Dairy at Daviot – 4 miles away

Zizzi's – Inverness – 01463 237 735

Rocpool – Inverness – 01463 717 274

Cafe 1 – Inverness – 01463 226 200

Castle Tavern for a drink by the castle

The Mustard Seed – Inverness – 01463 220220

The River Cafe – Inverness – 01463 714 884

The River – Inverness – 01463 714884

Check-in and Check-out

Check in is from 4.00pm on your day of arrival. We know our guests may have long journeys to get to us so if you are early the kettle will always be on. If you would like to call on the house phone 01808 521409 or mobile 07970 027741 when you are getting close we can provide directions, get the fire lit on cold days and ensure everything is ready for your arrival.

On the day of departure please vacate your cottage by 10.00am leaving your keys with us or posting them through the front door letter box.

Refuse

Please use the green bins by the parking bays. The blue bin is for paper, cardboards, tins and plastic refuse. Bottles and glass should be recycled at the village shop known as Isabel's or at Tesco.

What to do if you have:

An hour:

Walk up to the Gask Cairn and Clach an Airm (Gaelic for the 'Sharpening Stone') both believed to be meeting points of the Jacobites.

Visit the Clava Cairns near Culloden.

Drive via Loch Duntelchaig (Loch of the Snails in Gaelic) and Loch Ashie and view Loch Ness from the top – what a drive – what a view.

Half day:

Walk the Eskers at Littlemill on the road to the A9

Visit Culloden Battlefield – the last hand to hand battle fought on British soil, visit Fort George built to fortify the Highlands after Culloden

Visit Urquhart Castle and Loch Ness

Climb Stac Gorm and visit Loch Ruthven RSPB reserve

Walk along the Dores pebble beach and have lunch at the Dores Inn – booking recommended.

Full day:

Visit the North Highlands including Dunrobin Castle at Golspie – home of the Sutherlands
Follow on with a visit to the most northerly point of the mainland Dunnet Head, John o'Groats and the Castle and Gardens of Mey – the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's home in the far North.
Travel over to Ullapool and grab fish and chips watching the ferries, stop at Corrieshalloch Gorge on your way.
Go over to Gairloch, stop at Rogie Falls on the way and visit Inverewe Garden. Why not take a boat trip from the harbour and see some porpoises, seals and Basking sharks.
In the Winter months enjoy a day's skiing up the Cairngorm or take the funicular railway or a walk up it in the Summer.

For families:

Whin Park, Inverness – open all year and from Easter and throughout the summer there is a sit on train running that the kids just love plus lots of climbing frames and slides. Also boats for hire on the small boating lake. Watch out for the seagulls though if you take a picnic.

Nairn – enjoy the sandy beach, crazy golf and play area, good fish and chips in the town. Holidays like you remember as a child!

Landmark

Highland Wild life Park

Dingwall Auction Mart on Sale Day

If it's wet Playzone by Inshes Tesco will provide great entertainment and a coffee for the adults. Also has free WiFi.

Best Beaches:

Nearer to home Nairn and Rosemarkie. If you're happy to drive further Sinclair Bay, Balnakiel, Sandwood Bay, Gairloch and many more.

Wildlife:

Dolphins at Chanonry Point – check tide details as the best time is 2hours after low tide

Squirrels and deer – walk from the house into Tomfat Woods and you probably will see them if you're quiet

Seals by The Storehouse up the A9 just over the Cromarty Firth

Terns, herons, kittiwakes, Oyster catchers etc readily seen throughout the Highlands.

Walks:

The Eskers from Littlemill Car Park

Stac Gorm

Loch Bunachton – from the house

Mrs MacGregor's Lochan – gate climbing involved

Gask Cairn – from the house

Activities:

Fishing – Dunlichity Trout Farm

Golf – Fairways, Carrbridge, Torvaen Golf courses or Castle Stuart, Brora, Tain, Golspie , Royal Dornoch and Nairn for the more ambitious.

Paintball with Tazball

Ecoventures Dolphin cruises from Cromarty

Further information is available in the guides in your packs or at Daviot or Inverness Visitor Information Centres

Please help us improve by completing our guest survey. You can also leave comments in our Visitors book in the cottage, on our website at www.gaskhouse.co.uk , on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GaskHouseFarmCottages, on Twitter @ gaskhouse and on Tripadvisor.

We hope you enjoy your stay at Gask House farm. If you have any questions please just ask and we'll be happy to help if we can.

Thank you

Gregor, Jill, Ross and Rachel McNicol

Gask House Farm Cottages

www.gaskhouse.co.uk