



Welcome to Aultbeithe, Dalbeg, Isle of Lewis

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Welcome to Aultbeithe, our stunning, luxury self-catering cottage on the west coast of Lewis. Aultbeithe (pronounced awlt-bay, the Gaelic for Birch Burn) is located at the end of a half-mile single-track road, overlooking Loch Dalbeg and 100 metres from a wonderful sandy beach.

Aultbeithe is equipped to the highest standard. This is reflected in the 5-star rating that we gained from VisitScotland. Two bedrooms, one king-size and one twin, sleep four in comfort. The spacious open-plan living, kitchen-dining area has stunning views over the loch and lets out onto raised decking in front of the house.

Aultbeithe is just 25 minutes from Stornoway, close to the Westside Coastal Walk and set amidst some of the most amazing countryside and archaeological sites in the world. 10 miles to the south are the standing stones of Callanish second only to Stonehenge. 3 miles to the south is Dun Carloway, an Iron Age broch (or fort), and the restored Black House village of Gearrannan. Closer still is the beautiful beach at Dalmore, surrounded by towering cliffs and stacs. The area around Aultbeithe is one of Special Scientific Interest and is home to a wealth of wildlife. 2 miles to the north is a restored Norse Mill and a little further again are the Black House Museum at Arnol, James Smith's Photographic Gallery, the Morven Art Gallery (where you will find some of our artwork on display) and the pottery at Borgh. Further afield again are the Iron Age Wheel House at Bosta and the wonderful beaches at Uig.

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The spacious living accommodation is situated on a single floor. The open plan living-dining-kitchen area is almost 60 square metres in size. So there is more than enough room for four people to enjoy the space without bumping into each other! Laminate floors make this a very practical living area and an enormous Afghan rug takes centre stage. The kitchen is located at one end of the living area so whoever is cooking need not miss out on what everyone else is up to. Large patio doors offer breathtaking views over the loch and access to raised decking – what better place from which to watch the sun set! A utility room and separate loo round off the accommodation at this end of the house. There is a high level of equipment throughout – so you should have everything you need to ensure a wonderful holiday. This includes a great home cinema system, an iPod, a docking station and a PC with hi-speed broadband. Two bedrooms, the family bathroom, and a storeroom occupy the other end of the house. The master bedroom has a king-size bed and great views over the loch. The second bedroom is a twin, again overlooking Loch Dalbeg. The storeroom provides a place for you to store your cases and anything else you want to get out of the way during your stay. The spacious family bathroom has a bath and a power shower. A pressurised water system and solar heating panels ensure that there is more than enough hot water for four people. There is calor-gas-fuelled central heating throughout, augmented by a stove in the living area. The entire house has been decorated to reflect Aultbeithe's location right next to the sea.

We have tried to provide everything you could conceivably need for your holiday: linen; towels, including beach towels; local Ordnance Survey maps; picnic gear; and binoculars – to name a few. There is a range of art on the walls – some of which is available to purchase.

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There is an enormous variety of bird life, literally on the doorstep. There are mallards, geese, oyster catchers and tufted duck on and by the loch throughout the year. Hooper Swans and redwing visit in the winter months. You might even see the solitary cormorant that takes up vigil on one of the stones by the loch's edge. Hooded crows, buzzards and golden eagles are in evidence all the time. A wren nests in the front garden and robins, wagtails and wheatears visit regularly. The geese and mallard are very tame and, if you visit in May, you might be lucky enough to be around when the goslings and ducklings hatch. The occasional rare species has also turned up - for example, a European Bee Eater appeared in May 2008.

The loch, and its margin, is an Area of Special Scientific Interest. As a result of its proximity to the sea, it has a very different eco-system to other lochs in the area. You can watch little brown trout rising to the surface, sometimes leaping completely out of the water - which explains the presence of otters.

We could go on – but you've probably got the drift by now! Whether you're a couple looking for a luxury break, a family in search of a memorable holiday, or a group of friends looking for the ideal place to get together, we are confident that 'Aultbeithe' will exceed your expectations. Once you've been hooked, you will want to return year after year. We hope you enjoy your stay. Lesley & Alisdair Wiseman.

Open-plan Living Area



The living area is a light, bright and incredibly comfortable space. Blinds allow you to control light levels and thick curtains keep the outside outside, when the need arises. There is more than enough seating for four people - and the two armchairs are light enough to carry into any position. The house is centrally heated throughout and there is a gas stove to quickly bring the temperature up when the nights start to draw in. Washed oak laminate floors run throughout this area, making it lovely to look at and yet very practical as well. A huge Afghan rug occupies the centre of the room.

A 32-inch LCD television provides crystal clear viewing. This is linked to a compact home cinema system which plays CD's, DVD's and is connected to an iPod docking station. An 80GB iPod means that there is music to suit most tastes - but you can bring your own iPod if you would prefer. There is a desk in the far corner of the living space if you have to keep tabs on what's going on in the real world while you are on holiday. There is a PC and wireless hi-speed broadband - so you can download e-mails and browse the internet anywhere in the house.

Open-plan Living Area



You have a full Sky package with Sky+ to record programmes while you are enjoying the great outdoors. There is also a selection of DVD's. So you won't be short of something to watch if the weather is inclement.

The dining area comfortably seats four people. It has dimmer-switched lighting directly above the table to create just the right atmosphere for an intimate dinner; equally, you can turn it all the way up to do a jigsaw or look at a map to plan your next adventure. There are two bookcases with a selection of fiction and reference books about the islands, wildlife and flowers.

The most amazing thing about the living area, however, is the large, sliding, glazed door that lets out onto the decking at the front of the house. In the summer, you can leave the door open and bring the outside inside. In the winter, you can snuggle up with the stove on and enjoy the fantastic views without having to get wrapped up. Size: 7.07m x 6.84m (23' 2" x 22' 5").

Kitchen, Utility Room, Porch & Loo



The kitchen has been cleverly designed to connect it to the living area and yet enable it to feel separate at the same time. So, anyone working in the kitchen need not feel cut off from whatever fun is going on elsewhere. It is equipped to the highest level and the design echoes Aultbeithe's position right next to the sea. The worktops are machined from a beautiful sand-coloured quartz. There is a 70:30 frost-free fridge-freezer, a dishwasher, an electric hob, oven and extractor, a microwave, sharp knives, and pretty well everything else you will need to cook anything from haut cuisine to beans on toast! Size: 3.38m x 2.60m (11' 1" x 8' 4").



The utility room is to one side of the kitchen and lets out to the rear of the house and the picnic area. There is a washing machine and tumble drier as well as additional cupboards and hooks on the wall to hang any outdoor clothing that gets wet. Size: 2.05m x 1.84m (6' 9" x 6' 0")

A separate loo also lets off the main living area. Finally, there is a porch that leads from the front door to the open-plan living area. And there's a door in between, operating as an airlock, to ensure that any cold winds don't become unwelcome guests.

Aqua Room



The Aqua Room is a comfortable, king-size bedroom with great views, through a picture window, over Loch Dalbeg - fresh in the summer and cosy in the winter. The furniture is solid oak. A double wardrobe and a six-drawer chest provide ample room for storage.

There is a big mirror over the dressing table - so you can even enjoy the views when your back is turned! There is a thick carpet underfoot and a solid wall between the bedroom and the living area - so you need never worry about any noise carrying through. Size: 3.55m x 3.45m (11' 8" x 11' 4").

Blue Room



The Blue Room has equally great views over Loch Dalbeg. Again, the furniture is solid oak. A double wardrobe and a four-drawer chest provide all the storage you should require for your stay.

And if there is a need for additional storage, there is a storeroom right across the corridor, where you will find a variety of additional items that will help you make the most of your stay in Aultbeithe.

As with the Aqua Room, there is a hair dryer, a torch and hot water bottles in the chest. Size: 3.45m x 3.45m (11'4" x 11' 4").

Views from Aultbeithe



All the living accommodation has been designed to provide stunning views out over Loch Dalbeg, with the exception of the open-plan living area which has a view towards the sea as well. Aultbeithe is south-facing as so gets the sun at the front of the house at pretty well any time during the day, especially in summer. And, in winter, the hills at the far end of the loch are low enough that the sun does not cast a shadow on the house. So you can open the curtains each morning and enjoy wonderful views from the Aqua Room, the Blue Room and the living area. Step out onto the deck and the panorama is truly breathtaking, no matter what the weather is doing.

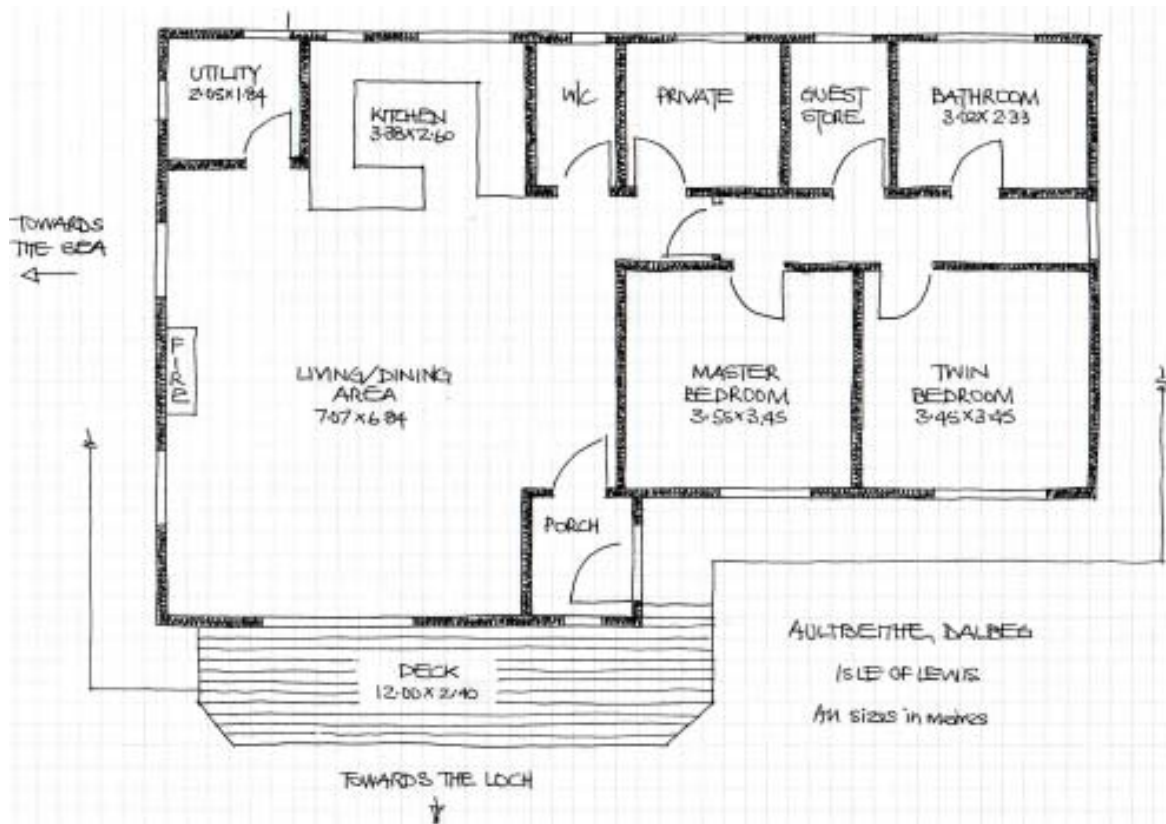
Bathroom



The bathroom is large and luxurious. The house has been fitted with a pressurised water system - so you get a power shower without having to use any additional electricity. And 70% of the annual usage of hot water is provided by the solar heat exchange unit on the roof.

There is a separate shower, for a quick splash, and an oversized bath for a long, sumptuous soak. Thick white towels are provided and a stainless steel towel rail airs them when not in use. Scottish toiletries are also provided. Size: 3.02m x 2.33m (9' 11" x 7' 8").

Aultbeithe Floorplan



Loch Dalbeg



Loch Dalbeg, and the margin and machair surrounding it, is an area of Special Scientific Interest. It is one of best examples of what is called a mesotrophic loch in the Western Isles - this is a habitat that is more fertile than is commonly the case, partly due to the wind-blown shell sand that counteracts the natural acidity of the peaty loch water. It therefore supports a much more diverse eco-system. There is something to see during every part of the year. Of special interest are the geese and mallards that are permanent residents, the illusive otters, and the water lilies that carpet the loch in June and July. And there are two great ruins at the sea end of the loch.

Traigh Dalbeg



The beach at Dalbeg is a wonder all to itself. It has everything you could ever want of a beach, all packed into a beautiful secluded little bay. There is a stone stac and low cliffs to the left and steeper cliffs and a natural stone arch to the right. The headland is called Lion Rock - look carefully at the right time of day and you will see Leo snoozing quietly. There are stones at the top and sides of the beach and the sand is nearly white. A small burn connects Loch Dalbeg with the sea. The bay is safe for swimming, although care should always be taken. And don't be fooled by the photograph - this can be a truly wild place when there is a strong Atlantic south-westerly.

Garden



At the front of the house, raised decking lets out from patio doors offering spectacular views over the rock garden towards Loch Dalbeg and the beach and hills on beyond - a perfect place from which to watch the birds on the loch during the day and the sun set in the evening. On the sea side of the house, there is an extensive picnic area with a permanent picnic bench and a shed for storing bicycles. The parking space is on the other side of the house. A small barbecue is provided – you will need to bring your own charcoal. The garden is fenced all around with gates to side and front for access to the parking space and beach. The beach is less than 100 metres away.

General information

- The house telephone number is +44 (0) 18 51 71 0 3 47
- The house telephone runs on an honesty box basis.
- Cleaning materials are provided.
- Washing up liquid, dishwasher tablets, soap powder and bin liners are provided to get you started.
- All towels are provided, including beach towels and tea towels.
- All linen is provided – it will get changed once a week if you are staying longer.
- All the beds have hypoallergenic, man-made duvets.
- There are hairdryers, mirrors and hangers in all the bedrooms.
- Binoculars and local maps are provided for your use during your stay.
- Smoking and pets are not permitted.
- We request that you do not use outdoor footwear on carpeted areas - disposable slippers are provided.
- Vodafone is the only mobile phone network that works pretty well throughout the islands – however, there is currently no mobile reception in the immediate vicinity of the house.
- You should know that strong religious beliefs are one of the features that make life in the Hebrides so different from mainland Britain – in some areas, shops, petrol stations, visitor attractions and restaurants are closed on Sunday and there are no scheduled bus services.
- You can find a host of additional information about history, walking, wildlife, outdoor pursuits, golfing, cycling, culture and fishing at www.visithebrides.com.

Travelling to Aultbeithe

By car: Aultbeithe is situated 20 miles west of Stornoway off the A858, Google Earth coordinates 58°18'46.92"N 6°44'03.94"W.

By air: The nearest airport is just outside Stornoway, approximately 45 minutes drive from Aultbeithe. Several airlines offer routes from the Scottish mainland to Stornoway Airport:

- Highland Airways fly between Stornoway and Inverness – www.highlandairways.co.uk or tel: +44 (0) 84 54 50 22 45
- Flybe fly between Stornoway and Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh – www.flybe.com or tel: +44 (0) 0871 700 0535
- Eastern Airways fly from Aberdeen – www.easternairways.com

All these mainland airports offer a wide range of flights all over the United Kingdom and beyond.

By ferry: Caledonian MacBrayne run a number of ferry routes both between the Western Isles and to the Scottish mainland. You can choose to travel to Ullapool and take the ferry to Stornoway or go over the Skye Bridge to Uig and take the ferry to Tarbert – www.calmac.co.uk +44 (0) 8000 66 5000. It is wise to book your ferries early, especially if you are travelling during high season, as they are often fully booked during this period.

By bus: Regular bus services connect with ferry arrival and departures times. The main operators from Central Scotland are Scottish Citylink



Coaches, for all connections call +44 (0) 8705 50 50 50 or check times online at www.citylink.co.uk. For timetables and information on getting around the islands by bus phone Stornoway Bus Station on +44 (0)1 851 704 327.

Car Hire: Arnol Car Hire (tel: +44 (0) 18 51 71 05 48) is based just outside Stornoway and can deliver cars to the airport or to the ferry terminal in Stornoway – www.arnolmotors.com.

Aultbeithe Pricing 2010-2011



Prices are quoted on a per-week basis, where the week runs from 4.00 p.m. Saturday to 10.00 a.m. the following Saturday.

High season: May to September + Easter, Christmas & New Year.....	£1195 per week in 2010 (£1295 per week in 2011)
Mid season: April & October.....	£1050 per week in 2010 (£1100 per week in 2011)
Low Season: Rest of the year.....	£895 per week in 2010 (£950 per week in 2011)

Paying for your stay: once you have contacted us, we will let you know about the availability of Caberfeidh and we make a provisional booking which we will hold for seven days. We will ask you to complete the booking form and return it to us with your deposit of 25% of the total rental. On receipt of your deposit, we will send you a confirmation of your booking and any information that will help you make the most of your stay.

The balance of your rental, and a returnable security deposit of £100 to cover damage and excess cleaning, should be paid eight weeks prior to arrival. Payment may be made by cheque – please make cheques payable to Hebrides Holiday Cottages. Please get in touch if you would prefer to pay using telephone banking. Holidays booked within eight weeks of arrival should be paid in full at the time of booking. See the Terms and Conditions attached regarding cancellations.

Aultbeithe Terms & Conditions

1. Bookings normally run on a Saturday-to-Saturday basis. Aultbeithe will be ready for occupation by 4.00 pm on the first day of your stay. You should vacate Aultbeithe by 10.00 am on the final day of your stay.
2. Aultbeithe is let on condition that it is returned at the end of the period of occupation in the same condition that it was found on arrival. We reserve the right to make a charge for extra cleaning if this proves necessary. A £100 security deposit is payable 8 weeks before the first day of your rental - this will be refunded in full when the property is left as it was found.
3. The price includes: electricity; calor gas; linen; towels; welcome pack; and use of the full Sky TV package.
4. The number of people occupying Aultbeithe should not exceed four.
5. Pets are not permitted in or on the property.
6. Aultbeithe is a non-smoking environment.
7. An inventory of key items is supplied and you should check this at the start of your stay. Any discrepancies should be reported at this stage. The persons renting Aultbeithe are responsible for the contents of the house and will be liable to replace any items missing or damaged.
8. You should let us know in advance your estimated time of arrival. If you find that you are late or lost, please telephone and we will do what we can to assist.
9. Bookings are made in good faith with the belief that the house will be available to you on the date stated on the booking form. If, for any reason, due to circumstances outside our control, the house is not available, we are unable to guarantee provision of alternative accommodation. In the event of this happening, the deposit and the balance will be refunded in full and you will have no further claim against the proprietor.
10. The basic weekly rental prices are as specified in the brochure. A non-refundable deposit of 25% of the applicable weekly rental is payable at the time of booking and the balance must be paid eight weeks before the first day of your stay.
11. If you are required to cancel a reservation for any reason, we must be notified immediately by telephone or e-mail and the cancellation must be confirmed in writing within 5 days. In the event of a cancellation, we will make every effort to re-let the property. If we are successful, you will be reimbursed 75% of the total rental. If we are unsuccessful, cancellation costs will be made as follows: more than 8 weeks prior to booking commencing – your deposit will be forfeited; less than 8 weeks prior to booking commencing – you are liable to the full rental. We strongly recommend that you take out Holiday Insurance to cover this eventuality.
12. We recommend that you ensure that your Holiday Insurance covers loss or damage to your personal property which you leave at your own risk.
13. The proprietors will not be responsible for any loss or damage or any injury to persons not caused through the fault of the proprietor.
14. All prices are quoted on a per-week basis where the week is Saturday 4.00 pm. to Saturday 10.00 am.
15. Please make your cheque payable to Hebrides Holiday Cottages and send it to Mrs Lesley Wiseman, Caberfeidh, Seilebost, Isle of Harris, HS3 3HP - telephone +44 (0) 1 859 550 338.

Aultbeithe Booking Form



Full name.....

Address.....

Home phone..... Mobile phone.....

E-mail..... Number in party: Adults.....Children.....

Please reserve Aultbeithe for me from (start date).....to (end date).....

Aultbeithe is available from 4:00pm on the first day of your rental. Estimated time of arrival after 4:00pm.....

Any special requirements.....

How did you hear about us?.....

I enclose a deposit of..... representing 25% of the total rental. I understand that the balance of the rental (75%), and a returnable security deposit of £100, must be paid in full 8 weeks prior to arrival. I agree to abide by the terms and conditions attached. I will leave the property clean and tidy and I will report any breakages or losses prior to departure. I understand that Aultbeithe is a non-smoking house and that no pets are allowed.

Signature..... Date.....

Please make your cheque payable to Hebrides Holiday Cottages and send it to Mrs Lesley Wiseman, Caberfeidh, Seilebost, Isle of Harris, HS3 3HP.

Hebridean Art & St Kilda Art



One of the things that makes Hebrides Holiday Cottages special is the range of art that you will see throughout the houses. If you look closely, you will see that some of the art has been painted by us. We both draw our inspiration from the wild land and seascapes of The Outer Hebrides. Lesley works from a mix of memory and imagination to create both abstract and representational images. Unusually, she works on silk which has a life of its own and delivers a vibrancy of colour that other media cannot match. Alisdair paints what he sees, combining finely detailed pencil drawing with watercolour wash – everything is in focus!

If you would like to see more of our work, you can visit the Seallam! Visitor Centre at Northton in Harris, the Morven Gallery in Barvas on Lewis, and An Lanntair, the cultural centre in Stornoway. Alternatively, you can check out the Hebrides Art website (www.hebridesart.co.uk) and the St Kilda Art website (www.stkildaart.co.uk), pick something you like and have it delivered directly to your home. We hope you enjoy living in your own personal gallery!

Lesley & Alisdair Wiseman.