Memorable MG Routes

Places to visit – check opening times

Bone Caves south of Inchnadamph
The 4 km walk is up the beautiful limestone valley of the Allt nan Uamh (Burn of the Caves) to the famous Bone Caves, where the bones of bears, reindeer and wolves that once roamed this part of the country have been discovered. Good walking boots and waterproofs are essential. The walk takes around 2 hours.
https://www.inchnadamph.com/blog/inchnadamph-bone-caves
Map ref: NC 253 179 on the A837

Extraordinary geology of Assynt
With a major geological feature is the Moine Thrust with some of the oldest rocks in Europe and limestone too.
https://www.inchnadamph.com/blog/geology-of-assynt

Kylesku Bridge
It's a distinctively curved award-winning concrete box girder bridge in north-west Scotland that crosses the Loch a' Chàirn Bhàin in Sutherland. Opened in 1984, the bridge is 275 metres (902 feet) long with a 79 metre long main span. The bridge deck is at a height of 24 metres (78 feet).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kylesku_Bridge

Ardvreck Castle
On the A837 immediately south of its junction with the A894, north of Inchnadamph. Open site, free parking.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardvreck_Castle
Nearest postcode: IV27 4HL

Highland Stoneware factory
See their selection of attractive hand painted stoneware items.
Tel: 01571 844376
www.highlandstoneware.com
Postcode: IV27 4LP

Ullapool
Ullapool, founded in 1788, was designed by Thomas Telford with a clear grid layout. The harbour is still the edge of the town and is a fishing port, yachting haven and ferry port to Stornoway (on the Isle of Lewis) and there are shorter trips to see the bird and sea life by the Summer Isles. It's a welcoming place with plenty of shops, an excellent museum (in a former Telford church), a stoneware pottery, hotels - and most important a petrol filling station and tea shops. Do ensure your fuel tank is topped up.
www.ullapool.com/
www.bigreddirectory.com/lochbroom-filling-station-ullapool

Wild Assynt and the North

Assynt is a remote and wild landscape north of Ullapool in the North West Highlands with many spectacular views across wild moorland to remarkable mountains like Quinag, Canisp and Suilven (above). Viewed from different vantage points, groups of these mountains can seem mysterious and weirdly-shaped as they peer above the skyline. Always vast, this landscape can change - sometimes intimidating but then with a weather change it can take on a mantle of breathtaking beauty. The area has some of the oldest rocks in Europe like Gneiss, around 3,000 million years old, but there is also limestone, unusual for the Highlands.

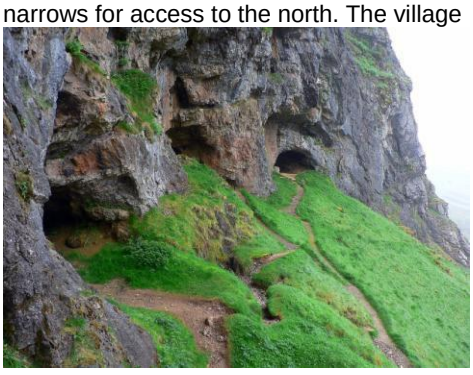
After 10 miles (16km) heading north on the long climb out of Ullapool on the A835, you have the option of a left turn to the west for **Achiltibuie** on a good single track road. It runs below Cul Beg and Stac Polliadh and has views of the Summer Isles just off the north side of the approach to Loch Broom. In earlier times the islands were used by local crofters as summer grazing for their sheep.

Stac Pollaidh is often anglicised to Stack Polly. As it is only just over 2,000 feet with ease of access from a road, it has become a popular mountain to climb and the views out to the Summer Isles are wonderful.

From **Ledmore junction** the route follows the A837 through one of the few areas in the Highlands where there are large areas of exposed Limestone. This has resulted in the presence of numerous cave systems including some of the largest underground networks in Scotland. The famous **Bone Caves**, 5 miles (8km) south of Inchnadamph, are well worth visiting (see below). The limestone is typically covered in a green, grassy sward with a rich flora that includes mountain avens, yellow saxifrage, and lady's mantle. This is good grazing land and the remains of many shielings — huts that were used by people tending their animals during the summer — can be seen along the valley up to the caves.

At Inchnadamph there is a hotel popular with fishing enthusiasts and a geology study centre and hostel at the foot of a beautiful glen leading to the quartzite white capped tops of Conival and Ben More Assynt. Just beyond Inchnadamph there is a junction – to the right the A894 road to Kylesku and the north and straight on to the fishing port of Lochinver, on the A895.

Kylesku is a small, remote fishing hamlet where Loch Glencoul and Loch Gleann Dubh join to form a narrow sea passage. Until 1984 a ferry provided an essential crossing of the narrows for access to the north. The village



Memorable MG Routes

Tea shops, pubs & hotels

Summer Isles Hotel
A wonderful setting overlooking the Summer Isles and beyond to the Hebrides. A light lunch specialising in the best of west coast shellfish.
Tel: 01854 622282
www.summerisleshotel.com/
Postcode: IV26 2YG

Kylesku Hotel
An old coaching inn dating from 1680 by the former ferry slipway on the shores of the loch is an independently run small hotel with a warm welcome. The views from the hotel overlooking the loch are stunning with local wildlife - an abundance of seals, birds and even local otters.
Tel: 01971 502231
https://www.highlandcoasthotels.com/kylesku-hotel
Postcode: IV27 4HW

Lochinver Larder
Restaurant in the village of Lochinver on the river Inver estuary won the Radio 4 Best Food Producer 2004 award.
Tel: 01571 844356
www.lochinverlarder.co.uk/
Postcode: IV27 4JY

Tea by the Sea - Ullapool
Run by an entertaining, larger than life Australian lady with homemade specialities like custard tarts and rock cakes, this tea shop is an enjoyable visit on Shore Street by the harbour wall.
Tel: 0843 258 9858
https://www.v8register.net/DD/180515-tea-by-the-sea-leaflet.pdf
Postcode: IV26 2UJ

Dundonnell Hotel
Comfortable accommodation and a bar with supplies of a splendid locally brewed beer. Petrol available too.
Tel: 01854 633204
https://www.dundonnellhotel.co.uk/
Postcode: IV23 2QR

Route data
Circular route from Ullapool is 120 miles (192km) excluding the coastal tour. Approximate driving time is 3.5 hrs. Full route details and information available at www.v8register.net/mmgr/mmgr.htm

stretches back along the road from the slipway that used to be the southern end of the ferry crossing. Now by-passed by the main road carried over the bridge, the Kylesku Hotel overlooks the slipway. Nearby are Eas a' Chual Aluinn, Britain's highest waterfall and the Kerrachar Gardens. Just south of Kylesku is Unapool with the Memories of Childhood Museum which has exhibitions, a tearoom and a craft shop. The **Kylesku Bridge** is a distinctively curved award-winning concrete box girder bridge that crosses the narrows at high level. The bridge is your route for further touring to the north via the A838 to Durness and Tongue at the top of mainland Scotland. Returning to the junction on the A837, head north to Lochinver.

Ardvreck Castle, a ruined castle dating from the 16th century, stands on a rocky promontory jutting out into Loch Assynt. The ruins are just north of Inchnadamph and can be reached by driving along the A837 which follows the north shore of Loch Assynt from the village of Inchnadamph. Care should be taken when walking around the site as falling masonry is a possible danger.

Lochinver is the second largest fishing port in Scotland, frequented by European fishermen mainly from Spain and France. The quiet village is welcoming nonetheless with the Lochinver Larder a good place for refreshment. There is a circular route on narrow roads via Stoer and Drumbeg along the coast round to Kylesku which has views over Eddrachillis Bay and north to the distant village of Scourie.

The **Highland Stoneware pottery at Lochinver** is well worth a visit. Since 1974 it has built an international reputation for quality and innovation. Each piece is handmade and individually hand painted by a dedicated team of craftspeople in Lochinver, so no two pieces are the same. They have another pottery and shop in Ullapool.

Retrace the route to the busy fishing town of **Ullapool** with its shops, an excellent museum, hotels, B&Bs and a petrol station. The small "**Tea by the Sea**" café on the seafront is an enjoyable visit.

The **return route** to Inverness from Ullapool is up the long hill on the A835 to Braemore Junction. From there the next sight is the remote Aultguish Inn below the Glasgarnoch dam. The route goes on to Garve and Inverness for the A9 south.