



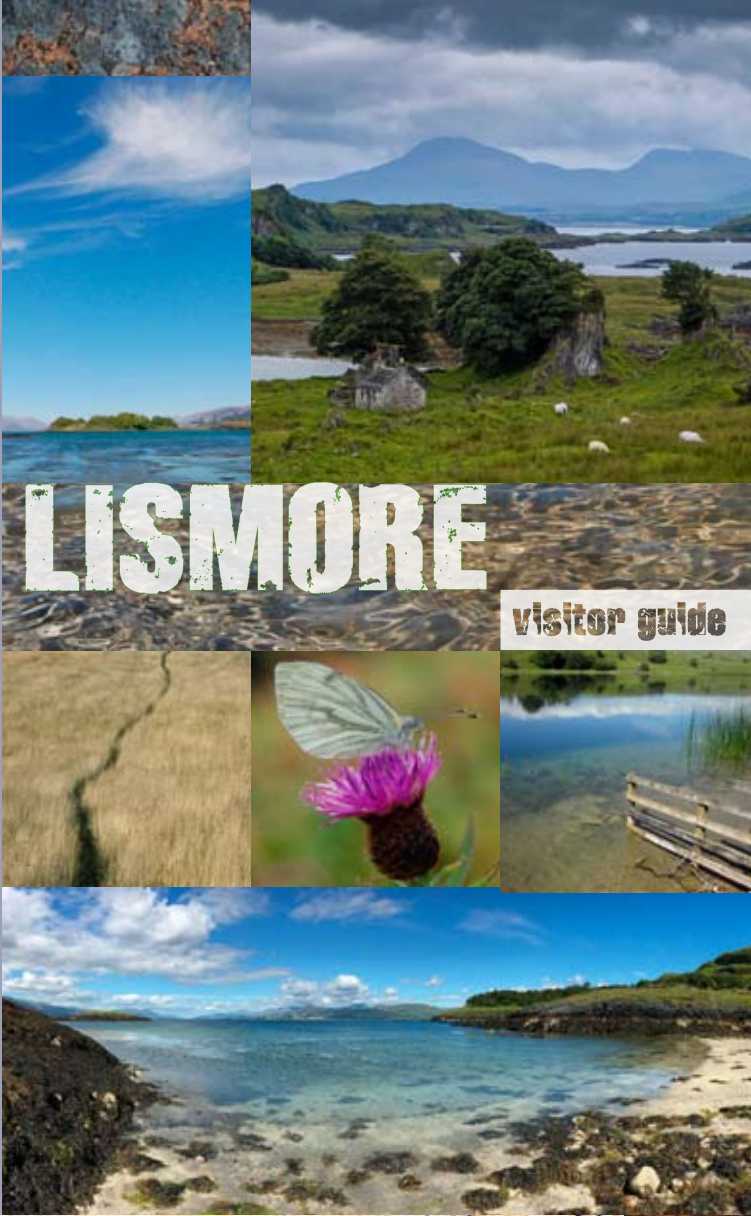
THE ISLE OF LISMORE IS A TEN MILE LONG GREEN GEM nestled along the lower reaches of Loch Linnhe at the western end of the Great Glen fault, with magnificent views across water to the surrounding mountainscapes. Connected to the mainland by two ferries – from Oban (vehicle) and Port Appin (passenger) – the 180-strong population have choices of occupation. The overall character is one of quiet, undulating agricultural and natural landscapes – ideal for cycling and walking visits.

**THIS SHELTERED CROSSROADS** of water-based transportation routes, was a significant place from earliest times, with many Bronze and Iron Age sites. By 100AD, two substantial brochs and many fortified houses (duns) had been built. Geography again determined Lismore as a centre

for 6th century Christian missionary work. Moluag’s Bay and the Cathedral Church dedicated to the Saint, are reminders of his importance. In the 13th century, the ruling MacDougalls were the patrons of the substantial Cathedral as well as two castles on Lismore’s western coastline. Changes in land ownership, agricultural improvement, crofter and cottar clearance, together with industrial developments in the form of lime burning, that had all begun in the 18th century, accelerated in the 19th. Coastal-built kilns – for easy access to shipping – mainly produced lime for building purposes. The 1841 census shows 1,148 souls, with a full range of tradespeople; the population thereafter declined steadily to around a hundred in the 1940s.

*Nowhere else on the Highland coast can you enjoy a view of the mountainous mainland to equal this one*

WH Murray



# LISMORE

visitor guide



**LISMORE IS UNUSUAL** in the Inner Hebrides in having retained a strong Gaelic language culture, with its own specific words and pronunciation within Argyll Gaelic – efforts have been made to record the culture and to encourage new speakers to learn and practise. Its daily use includes the young as well as older indigenous residents.

LANGUAGE AND LANDSCAPE		
GAELIC	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
eilean	ay-lan	island
rubha	roo-ah	point (of land)
camas	camas	bay, harbour
sgeir	scare	rock, cliff
baile	bah-le	village, township
clachan	clachan	village, churchyard
achadh	ach-ah	field
sloc	slochk	hollow

The Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr (Heritage Centre) was established to sustain this culture on the island, and contains a Gaelic library, and has hosted language learning courses. The traditional croft building exhibit is animated by recordings of this special tongue; and a traditional Gaelic ceilidh is held each Summer in the Public Hall.



Lios Mòr is most often interpreted as ‘Great Garden’ or ‘Great Enclosure’ – both of which are appropriate.

**LISMORE’S ALKALINE LIMESTONE SOILS** support profusions of wildflowers: in spring primroses, early-purple orchids; in summer yellow iris, grass-of-Parnassus (‘St Moluag’s flower’ – as illustrated in a church window), various orchids and the insect eating common butterwort.

Hazel and blackthorn form the native woodland on steep cliffs – remnants of earlier coastlines which rim

the island. Large ash and some planted beech occur on the less exposed eastern side. Rich arrays of fungal, amphibian and insect life indicate healthy ecosystems – in early autumn, hunt for the brightly coloured grassland waxcap fungi in natural pastures. Birds: you will often see eider ducks, snipe, ravens, buzzards and sparrowhawks; less often, sea eagles from Mull or Morvern. All year-round: tits, wagtails, meadow pipits and ringed plovers; and in summer: wheatears, swallows and cuckoos. Mammals: with luck – and quiet – you might see otters which frequent the shore. Hares were introduced in the 1990s; and red deer, having swum over from Morvern, hide in sheltered thickets.

## FERRY INFORMATION AND CONTACTS



**PORT APPIN – LISMORE**  
Passenger service (5mins)  
Regular hourly ferries, seasonal variations apply.  
For details check [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)



**OBAN – LISMORE**  
Vehicle service (55mins)  
Regular services, seasonal and tidal variations apply.  
For details check [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
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# What's what... and where



## Port Ramsay

Workers' cottages and anchorage

A delightful terrace of white-painted cottages built close by the shore around 1800. It has been home to fishermen, sailing smack owners and lime industry workers. Visiting yachts enjoy a sheltered anchorage within the bay and its islands.



## Castle Coeffin

13th C. castle/harbour



## Tirefour Broch

Pictish defensive fort

An excellent example of a two-thousand-year old double-walled circular broch (defensive structure), constructed of massive stones; an imposing presence, glowering over the length of the Lynn of Lorn and Eilean Dubh below.



## St Moluag's Cathedral

Ecclesiastical heart

At Clachan, the ancient 'heart' of the island and probably built on the site of St Moluag's 6th century cell. The choir/chancel element of the 13th century cathedral remains as the active local parish church.

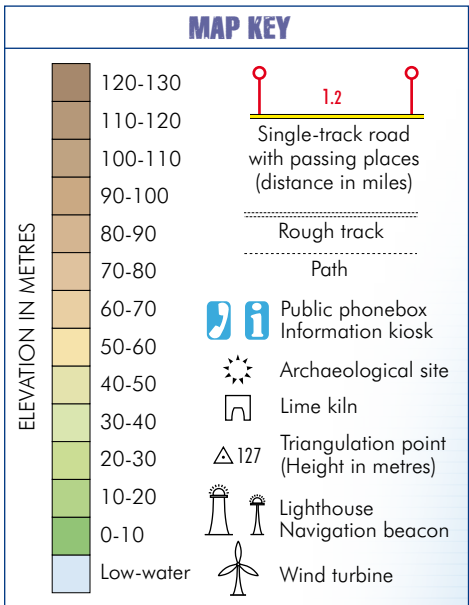


## Heritage Centre

Museum, crofter's cottage and café



A focus for Gaelic culture and Island history, the Museum tells the many-layered story of Lismore, celebrated in annual exhibitions on local topics. Heritage work is supported by an archive and library. It also has a gift shop, café and toilets.



## ARE WE THERE YET?

Point Ferry		Road distances calculated in miles	
3.1	Tirefour	3.5	2.2
5.8	Museum	4.5	2.3
7.1	Achnacroish	5.8	3.6
9.8	Achinduin Castle	8.9	6.7
	South end	6.2	7.1



## Lismore Stores

General store/Post Office

A central hub for post and news, and a key part of island infrastructure, Lismore Stores provides a wide range of groceries and hardware, and vital Post Office services.

sometimes known as the 'Bishop's Palace'. Set high on a promontory above a natural harbour, with views to Bernera, Morvern and Mull. The many artefacts found in the 1970s are displayed in the museum.



## Bàrr Mòr

Highest point

Lismore's highest point at 127m. At the summit are a Bronze Age kerb cairn and a cist (burial chamber). Views in all directions of mainland mountains, northwards to Ben Nevis and southwards to Jura. The peak can be climbed from all directions, some steeper than others and is on the ridge walk to the south end.



## Salen

Lime kiln and quarry



Historic 19th century industrial heritage site, backed by impressive limestone cliffs – the quarried stone was burnt in the lime kilns below, with immediate access to a harbour and pier. Sailing smacks shipped this dangerous cargo up and down the west coast.



## South End

Lighthouse view

Exposed to the prevailing south-westerly winds and almost surrounded by sea, with views to Oban harbour, Jura and Mull. The famous 1833 Robert Stevenson lighthouse stands on a separate islet, warning shipping of treacherous rocks and tidal rips. Probably the most well known part of Lismore for many, from passing ferry traffic.



## RULES OF THE ROAD

Roads can sometimes be busy – especially around ferry times. When vehicles approach:

- Walkers/cyclists ensure **all** in the party move **off the road**, to the **same side**
- Drivers pull in **left** at passing places; be prepared to reverse

Cyclists take extra care on steep hills and blind bends – vehicles may be approaching

## Outdoor Access Code

- Please beware of **livestock**, on roads and fields
- Do not approach **cattle**
- Keep **dogs** on the lead around livestock and coastal bird nesting sites
- Leave **gates** as you find them

For more information see [www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

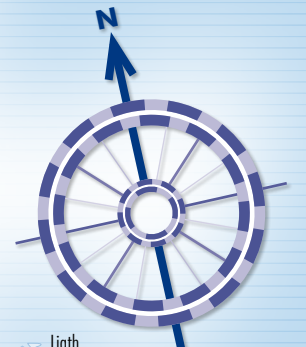
In an **emergency** phone 999 – **Always** be aware of your location



## Achinduin Castle

MacDougall stronghold

Lismore's second MacDougall castle from around 1300 and



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