

Five days; four nights; thermals and heated grips. Not a recipe that makes your mouth water but when combined with fabulous roads and hardly any of those pesky four wheeled vehicles that often just get in the way it makes for a great holiday in the Highlands of Scotland touring The Isle of Skye.

On the way north we broke our journey at Lockerbie where we spent the night at the “Days Inn” just off the M74, (Roadchef Annandale Water, Motorway Service Area A74M, Lockerbie, DG11 1HD GB), we were surprised to find that the room overlooked a surprisingly picturesque lake at the rear of the building. After a good nights sleep we set off for the long leg of the trip to Skye.

Our route was simple, following the main roads from Lockerbie to Portree, the beauty of this is that it takes in the outskirts of Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Glen Coe and a rare view of the summit of Ben Nevis.

The A82 around the edge of Loch Lomond follows closely to the edge of the Loch; it is narrow, twisty and breath-taking in its beauty. Tree lined, (if not surrounded), and would be well worth riding in Spring, Summer or early Autumn.

On then into the glens with the stark grandeur of moorland heather and soaring mountains and as we rode through Glen Coe with clear blue sky and sunshine but we were very glad of our heated grips!

We had intended crossing to the island via the Skye Road Bridge but owing to a slight error in the setup of the sat nav we ended up in Mallaig where we opted to catch the ferry which only takes twenty to thirty minutes.

Skye is stunning! Dramatic coastlines, snow-capped mountains, secluded coves and picturesque lochs litter the island which has just as much variety of weather as it does types of roads.

We stayed in Portree at the Givendale Guest House. We were greeted on our arrival by Jurriaan Dykeman, (the owner) and shown to our room. The Givendale Guest House has a handful of rooms some en-suite, a guest lounge with TV, books and DVDs. The front of the house overlooks the loch and if you are lucky enough to see the sunrise you are in for a treat. Town is only a short walk with a number of good places to eat.

Our bikes “just got on with it”. The GSX1250FA ST is a true touring bike with power where you need it, comfort where you want it and one hundred per cent confidence that it will just keep going! The bikes have toured France to the Med and back, sailed on ferries, trundled on trains and grappled with gravel. Happy on the motorway and love the mountains. There is never a moment of doubt! They might lack the latest tech but you spend your money and choose the bike for what you want it to do.

