



# R&K Photographic Ardnamurchan Peninsula Residential Workshop

## Sat 9<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019

by Rob & Karen Knight

### RESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP IN THE WEST SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

We are extremely excited to offer this amazing and unique photography workshop experience for the first time in 2019.

As you know at R&K Photographic we pride ourselves on offering something a little different to the run of the mill photography workshops out there and this one fits that bill to a tee.

We have carefully selected a location in the West Scottish Highlands that is both stunning as a landscape / seascape photography location, less photographed than the honey pot locations but importantly offering something very unique.....

Our accommodation in the tiny hamlet of Grigadale is an historic farmhouse with all amenities you could ever need, but with one amazing and truly unique offering..... It is set in 1,800 acres of its own private land!

Situated in 1800-acres of its own land which stretches from the ridge of hills behind it to the coast a mile to the west there is plenty to explore on our doorstep.

The land incorporates about two miles of coastline featuring two small sandy beaches,

two rocky bays, low-lying rocky shores and cliffs ranging from 250 to over 400 feet with magnificent views to the islands of Muck, Eigg, Rum, Canna and Skye to the north, to the west Coll and even the Outer Hebrides on a clear day, and to the south the Treshnish Isles and Mull.

The land also includes the most westerly point on the mainland, Corrachadh Mor, slightly to the west of Ardnamurchan Point and three lochs.

We are close to the famous Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, just a mile away, where we can treat ourselves to a snack in the friendly tearoom.

The lovely sandy beaches of Bay MacNeil, Portuairk and Sanna are very close by too, and we will have them all to ourselves!

Wildlife lovers and walkers will see deer, pine martins, otters and eagles as well as whales, dolphins and lots of sea birds.

What a fabulous holiday home and what a truly magical place!

EARLY BOOKING PRICE £600 (PER PERSON)



# Our Accommodation

*Our idyllic accommodation at Grigadale, with its own land of 1,800 acres including mountains, beaches, lochs and moors.*

5 miles from Kilchoan, This impressive and welcoming detached farmhouse is located at the far western end of the stunning Ardnamurchan Peninsula, the most westerly point of the British mainland.

The house itself is in a wonderfully scenic location with views of Loch Grigadale and the surrounding hills and a small distant view of the sea and the northern tip of Coll where the lighthouse can be seen flashing at night.

This is the only light to be seen, apart from the stars.

A driveway from the single track road to the lighthouse leads up to the house where the bright and comfortable accommodation is set over two floors.



The fitted kitchen is extremely well-equipped and leads through to a magnificent wood floored dining room where meals can be enjoyed together around the table.

The sitting room has a welcoming open fire and a door that gives access to the garden.

There are three bright and sunny bedrooms on the upper floor complemented by two bathrooms and the views from all windows are simply delightful!

## FACILITIES

- Off road parking
- Washing machine
- Dishwasher
- Broadband / WiFi

# Amenities

LPG central heating with open fire

Double electric oven and gas hob, microwave, fridge, freezer, washing machine, tumble dryer, dishwasher, TV with FreeSat, DVD, CD/radio, Smart radio, payphone, WiFi, selection of books, games and DVDs

Fuel and power inc.

Bed linen and towels inc.

Ample off road parking

Patio and enclosed private garden with furniture

No pets and no smoking

Shop and pub 5 miles

Coast and lighthouse 1 mile

Over two floors. Three bedrooms: 1 x double, 2 x twin. Bathroom with bath, walk-in shower, basin and WC. Shower room with shower, basin and WC. Ground floor basin and WC. Kitchen with breakfast bar. Utility. Dining room. Sitting room with open fire.



MORE ABOUT THE AREA



Stunning Landscapes



*Join us on a photographic workshop experience not to be missed!*



Glorious Lochs & Coast

FAST FACTS

Early Booking  
£600

Saving £75 on the regular price once released for open booking on [www.rkphotographic.com](http://www.rkphotographic.com)

Deposit on Booking  
£100

Nonrefundable booking to secure your place, balance due 3 months prior to the workshop start date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-Mail: [learning@rkphotographic.com](mailto:learning@rkphotographic.com)

Tel: 07920 751618

## Ardnamurchan Peninsula

*Beautiful, wild, unspoiled, and historic Scotland.*

Ardnamurchan, Moidart, Morvern, Sunart and Ardgour form the area in and around the most westerly peninsula of the British Mainland. Jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean and with views from every shore of islands, castles, lochs and wilderness this offers you an amazing part of the West Coast of Scotland.

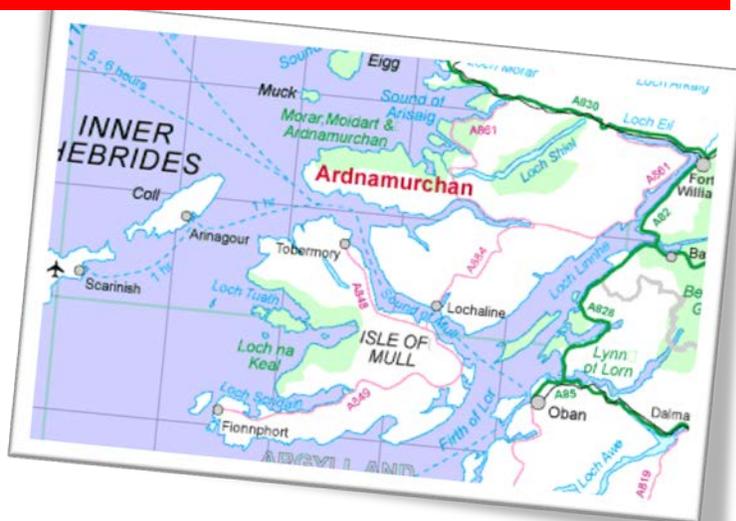
With sweeping white sands and crystal clear seas, ancient woodlands and mountains, not to mention the wildlife, jaw dropping scenery and Celtic legends, a visit to the most picturesque land in Scotland will be unforgettable. Once visited - it will be forever in your heart!

Morvern flanks one side of Loch Sunart and the sound of Mull and Moidart to the east of the peninsula has Loch Shiel as one boundary and the sea as its other. Within these regions are the villages of Acharacle, Salen, Strontian, Ardgour, Lochaline, Kilchoan and Glenuig - each with their own charm and attractions..

With some of the best scenery on the West Coast of Scotland. From open seas to secluded native woodlands the variety is matched only by the quality recognised by the nature reserves and other designated sites in the area.



# A Brief History



## ARDNAMURCHAN

While the origins of the word Ardnamurchan are disputed, the name probably refers to the peninsula's western point: 'Point of the Great Seas' and 'Height of the Great Headland' are two suggested translations. It is a wild, spectacular landscape of open hills, inaccessible, rocky cliffs and stunning white-sand beaches. This craggy beauty comes from its geology: it is formed from one of Britain's last volcanoes, which erupted some 60 million years ago. This was then so deeply eroded by glaciers that the central area of West Ardnamurchan has the volcano's internal structures laid out for all to see.

Visitors have been coming to West Ardnamurchan since Mesolithic times, some ten thousand years ago, soon after the glaciers retreated. These ancient people left shell middens and the flakes of flint they used as tools. The Neolithic farmers who succeeded them cleared the forests for fields and built chambered cairns, examples of which can be seen at Greadal Fhinn in Ormsaigmore, Camas nan Geall, and at Swordle Farm. Bronze Age remains have been found exposed from the machair at Sanna, and there is ample evidence of Iron Age settlement.

After St Columba founded his monastery on Iona in the 6th century, his travels brought him to West Ardnamurchan. He is said to have landed at Camas nan Geall, where a fresh spring on the hillside is named after him, while a cave on the north coast, near Swordle, was his place of retreat. At the time the peninsula was inhabited by Picts, but it was steadily colonized by Scots who came from Ireland. They created the Kingdom of Dalriada, and brought their language, Gaelic.

Two centuries later the Vikings pulled their longships onto Ardnamurchan's beaches, named many of the coastal features, and buried a chief in a secluded bay – the only Viking boat burial on mainland Scotland was excavated at Swordle Farm in 2010 by the Ardnamurchan Transitions Project. The Norsemen settled, intermarried with the local population, and were united under the great leader Somerled in the Kingdom of the Isles.

From the fourteenth century the area became the stronghold of Clan MacLain, a sept of Clan MacDonal. Their chiefs held Mingary Castle near Kilchoan, a fortress which controlled the Sound of Mull, and they became major players in the politics of the Lordship of the Isles. Yet by the end of the 17th century the clan was totally destroyed, its people hunted and slaughtered, the survivors scattered. Ardnamurchan then became part of the extensive estates of the Dukes of Argyll.

By the beginning of the 18th century the people of West Ardnamurchan lived in small, communally-

run villages, each with an area of intensively-worked arable land surrounded by large areas of 'common grazings'. After the area had been sold to private landlords, some of these 'clachans' were, in a drive for 'improvement', cleared to make way for sheep farms. The displaced inhabitants either emigrated, to Scotland's growing industrial centres or abroad to Canada, the US and New Zealand, or were reorganized into crofting communities. The abandoned lazy-beds and the broken walls of the cleared villages – Bourblaige, Corrievullin, Skinnid – are there to be found. Many of today's residents still follow the crofting way of life, their small farms organized into self-regulating townships such as Kilchoan, Portuairk, and Kilmory. Most of the land outwith these communities remains in the hands of the privately owned Ardnamurchan Estate.

The sparse population – there are about 250 permanent residents on West Ardnamurchan – and the remote location have ensured that much of the area remains a wilderness with unrivalled wildlife. Sea and golden eagles, Scottish wildcat, pine marten, and large herds of red deer are to be found; for those keen to see and photograph them, wildlife safaris are available. Ardnamurchan's seas have minke whales, basking sharks, orcas, dolphins, seals and sea otters. The lighthouse at Ardnamurchan Point, an ideal place to watch the seas, stands at the most westerly point on the British mainland. Whale and dolphin-watching boat trips to places like Staffa are available, boats can be hired, sailing and kayaking are popular sports based at the Kilchoan slipway, and there is good fishing – for wild brown trout in the lochans as well as sea fishing.

Under Scottish law, everyone has a right to roam responsibly across open land. On West Ardnamurchan, the lack of fences, the grandeur of the scenery, the generosity of landowners such as the crofting townships and the Estate, mean that visitors can walk freely across some 150 km<sup>2</sup> of mountains, valleys and moorland. The best-known beaches are at Sanna, where protected bays make ideal places for families, but many beaches are much more remote and can only be reached by walking. Rock-climbing on the steep outcrops of volcanic rock is an increasingly popular sport, while for hikers mountains like Ben Hiant and Meall nan Con offer spectacular views. The crystal-clear Atlantic air is wonderful for photography and for those who enjoy the night skies: this area is far enough north to see the aurora borealis.

Cottages and caravans are available for rent, there are hotels, guest houses and B&Bs, camp sites for tents and motor homes, cafés and restaurants, and two visitors' centres. A single-track road, the B8007, connects the area to civilisation, while a vehicle ferry runs between Kilchoan and Tobermory on Mull. A visit to Tobermory offers an opportunity to watch sea life and makes a pleasant day out.

Kilchoan is the largest settlement on West Ardnamurchan, boasting two churches, a primary

school, a pub/hotel, a well-stocked shop, a very active Learning Centre where visitors are welcomed, fire and coastguard stations, a telephone exchange, and a Community Centre which has a medical facility, tourist information and a football pitch. By comparison, the other villages of West Ardnamurchan are small, the smallest having a population of one.

As those who have visited West Ardnamurchan well know, there is only one warning: come to West Ardnamurchan, and you will want to come again, and again....

written for the ATA by Jonathan Haylett -  
<http://kilchoan.blogspot.co.uk/>

