

“ The Smiddy ”, Isle of Lismore

Near Oban, Scotland PA34 5UL



An idyllic holiday cottage & retreat space

– long weekends, short breaks, holidays, or longer rentals -

Welcome to The Smiddy - a very pretty, detached stone cottage in a beautiful island setting, just 5 minutes from the pristine shores of Balnagowan Loch.

Beautifully renovated & simply furnished, with thoughtful home touches & essential comforts in mind, this warm & cosy cottage offers a wonderful hideaway on one of the West Coast's most accessible small inner Hebridean islands. Loved by those seeking a retreat from the pressures of daily life – artists, nature lovers, walkers, fishermen, writers, photographers, musicians & many simply seeking a quiet place to rest or reflect – this is a very special place to unwind. Just 5 minutes walk to the water, or 15 minutes to the seashore, The Smiddy is the perfect location for those wanting to discover Lismore's best-known beauty spots - as well as its secret, hidden gems.



Set in the historical heart of Lismore – ‘The Great Garden’ in Gaelic – 3 miles from either ferry point & a short walk to both the loch & the seashore, the cottage sits in 1 acre of private wild ground, surrounded by stunning natural & historic scenery. Originally ‘The Smiddy’ to the island's blacksmith & many working horses from the 1800s, The Smiddy ideally sleeps 2 but if you don't mind being very cosy, may squeeze 5 by arrangement.

“If you want to be snug, as well as having a true island experience, this is the place to stay”

2 hrs Glasgow, 3 hrs Edinburgh, 2.5 hrs Perth/Stirling, 30 mins Oban.

TEXT Tamsin McVean on 07734 845868 or email: tamsinmcvean@btinternet.com

THE SITTING ROOM

The cottage has two small reception rooms to relax in. Choose the delightfully cosy sitting-room with open-plan galley kitchen inside the main cottage, or stretch out next door in the warm conservatory, with stunning views across soft farmland & the path leading to Balnagowan Loch.

This traditionally snug sitting room is cosy, compact & furnished with an appreciation of honest rustic furniture, home comforts & simplicity of living in mind. Enhanced with a full double height ceiling, reaching up to exposed wooden beams, this cosy space is transformed into a more contemporary, light & open room. Enjoy a candlelit supper, or put your feet up in front of logs burning on the stove with true peace & quiet guaranteed, thanks to the cottage's thick stone walls & quiet setting.

The efficient multi-fuel stove, perfect for warmth & atmosphere, is supplemented with warm underfloor heating, rugs & beautiful rustic stone floors. Relax with a dram or glass of wine & browse through the small library of books, listen to music – or take a stroll out to the conservatory to enjoy a range of board, card games, jigsaws & puzzles, or Highland reels on the gramophone. The sitting room with its open plan space leading to the long galley kitchen, has a two-seater upholstered sofa, woollen throws for extra comfort, an armchair, small antique oak dining table with folding panels & chairs, & opens onto the longer galley kitchen area.



THE KITCHEN

The open-plan galley kitchen & is fully-equipped, compact & functional, providing everything needed to help you to prepare & enjoy your cooking – including an excellent selection of cook books to help make the most of the delicious local available produce.



As part of the open-plan design of the little sitting room, the kitchen sits snugly on the far side, further extending along the long back wall of the cottage in an L shape. It is fully stocked with a traditional wooden dresser, wood & polished stainless steel butchers trolley & ample wall-mounted shelving houses all crockery, cutlery, dishes, pots & pans, together with baking utensils. The kitchen has a Belling cooker with oven, grill & hob, large under-counter fridge with small freezer compartment, microwave, kettle, toaster & sensible storage for vegetables & other produce.

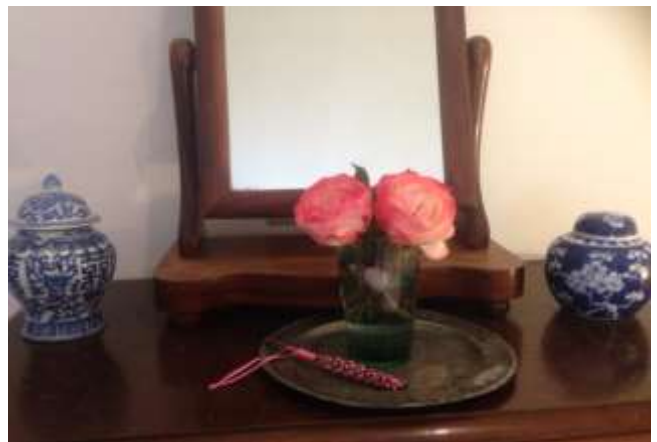


Lismore has a wealth of local freshly sourced produce – meat, game, vegetarian & seafood - so please ask if you would like a local fisherman or supplier to catch you fresh prawns, scallops or lobster, mussels & fresh fish.

Equally, if you are interested in sourcing wild food for free, seasonal produce is available at different times of the year, both on the island & the surrounding mainland area of Port Appin. Produce is rich both on land & in the water if you know what to look for – berries, mushrooms, field salad & wild hedgerow leaves, fresh wild herbs such as wild sorrel, mint and thyme, & an abundance of delicious wild foods on the shores of Lismore. The Smiddy has a small collection of recipe & Wild Food books, with a particular interest in local Scottish seasonal produce. The island's excellent Lismore Stores is open 6 days a week, & delicious meals are also available at the island's Lios Beag Café & Heritage Centre just a few minutes walk from The Smiddy.

THE BEDROOM

A relaxing space to cosy-up in warmth & comfort, after exploring the big outdoors. Enjoy proper peace, quiet, & quality sleep in a luxury King-size bed with cast-iron traditional frame, a luxuriously all-weighted thick duvet, & soft duck and goose down pillows. Woollen blankets, extra throws & soft mattress topper are there for extra comfort. And with the warm underfloor heating, thick rugs underfoot, John Lewis luxury electric blanket for quick, additional heat if needed, you can be sure of your home comforts – without losing sight of staying in a traditional island cottage. All crisp, fresh bed linens, hairdryer, soaps, & thick, soft towels provided.



Additional Guests: Whilst ideally suited to sleeping 2 adults, extra guests are welcome to stay by arrangement for a small additional charge. If you don't mind your reception rooms having a double-use, the separate conservatory, with its outside adjacent entrance, may easily be transformed from an additional heated sitting room, into an ad-hoc functional second bedroom, with all-surround bamboo & wicker blinds. This sofa bed sleeps 2 sharing. With an alternative/ additional option of a luxury John Lewis single fold-out bed, this little cottage can even just about stretch to sleeping 5, if you don't mind being really cosy overnight & making use of every available space. With this arrangement, use the fold-out single bed either in the conservatory, or in the small sitting-room. Please note, this is a bit of a tight squeeze but can be managed if you don't mind a cosy space, & quickly moving aside furniture to fit, just overnight. Daytime use, & the rooms revert into a sitting room or living space once again.

THE BATHROOM / WET ROOM

The Bathroom

Stylish, fresh & simple modern 'wet room' inlaid with pretty blue & aquamarine coloured Mediterranean mosaic tiles.

There is a strong overhead power shower that gives a fantastic pressure, a sink with large mirror, WC, towel rails & wall-mounted cabinet.

All bath & hand towels are supplied.



THE CONSERVATORY:

A SITTING ROOM & ADDITIONAL BEDROOM

The cottage has a lovely south / west facing glass conservatory attached to the south gable end, with a separate entrance onto the stone patio & to the main doorway of the cottage. The cottage has no internal doorway to this space.

The conservatory has thick stone walls on its gable end with panelled glass windows throughout the remainder. It stays beautifully warm during summer & out of season spring & autumn months, with an additional heater if needed in colder weathers.



This is a lovely area to paint, read or write, play music, or simply watch island life quietly pass by.

Many longer staying guests enjoy using this area as a creative studio space – or just to enjoy relaxing with a drink in the evening & watching sunsets.

Perfect for playing musical instruments, painting, photographing or even working with textiles on the fold out wooden table. Or on rainy days, simply reading, listening to the soft patter of rain on the glass windows, & Lismore life go by.

As an additional bedroom, the 3-seater sofa may be folded out to convert the room into a second bedroom. This is best used in warmer months, but may be comfortably used in out of season weathers (heater & extra blankets provided).

White wicker veranda chairs, side table & larger dining table which may easily be folded away to create more space.

A picnic basket, games & books are on hand with a traditional wind-up gramophone & records – but please bring your own favourites if you have any at home. Small washing machine & a washing line/ pegs behind the conservatory.

Iron/ ironing board/ fold out drying rails provided.



THE PATIO, GARDEN & WILDLIFE



The Smiddy is fronted by a generous stone patio area with private off-road parking. A garden table, chairs, & a small 2-seater wooden bench is provided – perfect for sitting out for breakfast. A small store is at the north gable end of the cottage and may be used to shelter or store bicycles & fuel (wood & coal) that can be purchased to make your stay extra cosy.

At present, the 1 acre of uncultivated wild garden area is left to grass – home to an abundance of wildlife & wetlife, including flowers, butterflies, small moths, and a wide variety of birds. Summer guests may enjoy observing our resident swallows nesting and hatching their fledglings, with often two nesting periods lasting from summer through to late autumn months. A small burn runs to the north side of the cottage. Nature books including reference for butterflies, birds & flowers are provided to help make your stay more interesting. If you are staying for longer, & would like to have the option of audio books or a much larger reference & fiction reading collection, please do ask the owner as books / CDs / audio tapes / classical & other music may be lent for your stay.



The cottage is ideally placed for some of the island's key historical sites – including the fourteenth century St Moluag's Cathedral Church (200 yards to the left), thirteenth century Castle Coeffin (track opposite the Smiddy), the iron-age Pictish Broch & the Heritage Centre & Cafe & Library (7 mins walk to the right hand side) & Island Stores & Post Office (15 mins walk).

EXPLORING the BIG OUTDOORS ... FROM THE SMIDDY DOORSTEP:



Stunning walking, cycling & breathtaking scenery, right from the front door – explore secluded bays, fresh water lochs, wild coastal & hill-walking, local historic sites, rich birdlife, wetlands & woods. With only 5 minutes walk to Balnagowan pristine freshwater loch shores, or 15 minutes to Castle Coeffin bay or the stunning secret horse-shoe coves of the Port A'Charan coastline, this is the perfect location for those wanting to discover Lismore's best kept secret beauty spots. With wonderful swimming & picnics in the summer, & guaranteed peace & quiet, away from the more crowded tourist spots at all times of the year, The Smiddy is best-loved by those looking for the real Lismore.

All above photos taken on local walks straight from the Smiddy front door.

DOGS WELCOME



2 well-behaved dogs are welcome to stay at The Smiddy by request at £30 /dog.

Blankets, throws, bedding, bowls, chews can be provided on request.

Please be aware that Lismore is a farming community, with extra sensitivity to livestock during lambing times of March-end July.

REVIEWS

“If you want to be snug, as well as having a true island experience, this is the place to stay”

J. Moberley, Nov 2012

“We didn’t think that a weekend on Lismore could become anymore relaxing, until we discovered The Smiddy. This fabulous renovated old blacksmith forge has everything you need for your time on Lismore. A great fitted out kitchen, wood burning stove, lots of books and board games, big brass bed (be careful, you might not want to leave thanks to that luxury electric blanket!) and a cosy conservatory to while away the hours, listening to the birds and admiring the view. Tamsin was a great host, very welcoming and full of advice for walking route and places to see, she even prepared the fire for our arrival. We’ll definitely be back soon, though hopefully for longer.” C. Casey, Oct 2013

“What an amazingly restful place to stay. We had stunning weather and spent our time picnicking and swimming down at the loch, then coming back to watch the swallows as the sun went down. The cottage is so close to all the places you want to explore on Lismore you only have to step out the front door – but it also has all the secret spots on hand that only a local would know. Thanks Tamsin for sharing these with us. This place is a gem!”

E. & N. Heim, June 2012

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fresh garden produce including herbs, fruit and vegetables, free range eggs & homemade jams may be available from the owner during your stay. Please do ask if you have any special requests.

Outdoor activities – including bike riding, horseriding, seakayaking, mountain & hill walking, sea & loch fishing, boat trips & many other activities – may be enjoyed during your stay. A complete activities pack is included with your accommodation booking confirmation, together with other useful information. If you have a particular interest, please ask & I’ll do my best to put you in touch with someone that can arrange a trip or special outing for you.

Restaurants – There are early evening ferries to Port Appin with the award winning Airds Hotel for light lunches, afternoon teas & fine dining, or the more relaxed Pierhouse Hotel, which also offers bar meals alongside its excellent seafood restaurant. The cycle route also makes it possible to cycle to The Creagan Inn in Appin, or The Holly Tree, or Ballachulish Hotel – alternatively directions by car or taxi numbers may be provided. There is also the excellent Boat House restaurant across the loch at Kingairloch which is well worth a daytime visit.

Lismore Eating Out - Please check the Lismore website at www.isleoflismore.com as there are occasionally evening meals and events organised on the island at different times of the year – either at the Lismore Cafe and Heritage Centre, or in the Hall.

Baligarve Croft – by The Smiddy

Just a short walk of 200 yards down the quiet private track & sheltered by established trees & garden - is a beautiful 22 acre working croft with herb rich pasture, sustaining a small flock of breeding ewes, lambs in the springtime, horses/ ponies, hens, cats, pet dogs including a working collie. All the animals are used to company. The croft is particularly loved by children, so please ask if you, or a little one, would like to meet the animals.



TAMSIN McVEAN TRADITIONAL ACUPUNCTURE & WELL BODY CLINICS

Integrative Alternative Medicine & Complementary Therapy

MBAcC, MSc (AcuPDIP), ITHMA, BTEC, BAuk

Royal Society of Medicine. British Acupuncture Council. Bowen Institute UK.

Make time to enjoy a treatment during your stay. Or ask about The Relaxation Therapy Breaks available at The Smiddy – relax, rejuvenate & restore your health. All in the comfort of your holiday cottage or the Lismore Garden Clinic



Alongside looking after your stay at The Smiddy, Tamsin is a highly recommended multi-disciplinary Alternative Medicine & Complementary practitioner. Treatments integrate specialist integrated muscular-skeletal & Pain Clinics, Relaxation & Rehabilitation as well as Perinatal treatments for Mother & Baby. Appointments blend an advanced fusion skillset of Eastern & Western massages within a single treatment window. Private appointments are available in your holiday accommodation, at the Lismore Garden Room at Baligarve Croft, or in a variety of mainland clinics in Oban & Highlands area.

Please call in confidence if you would like to treat yourself or someone you know on their holiday – or simply if you would like more information. Gift vouchers are available.

All enquiries welcome at: tamsin@wellbodyargyll.co.uk

Tel: 01631 760329 or Text: 07734 845 868

Tamsin McVean Traditional Chinese Acupuncture & Medicine,
Remedial & Swedish Massages, Organic Clinical Aromatherapy
Well Body & Pain Release Clinics

Why not enjoy a Relaxation Therapy Break at The Smiddy

Appointments at The Lismore Garden Room Clinic, or in Oban or Duror



Integrated Alternative Medicine, Complementary Health & Relaxation on Lismore, & in Oban, Lorn & Highlands

Treatments or integrated therapies include:

**Clinical & Organic Aromatherapy Swedish/ Therapeutic Massages Reflexology / Acupressure
Remedial & Deep Tissue Massage TriggerPoint, Neuromuscular, Myofascial Release
Traditional Chinese Acupuncture Bowen Therapy Cranial Release Reiki & TouchHealing**

Specialist Well Body Clinics (& GP referrals):

Muscular-Skeletal, Remedial & Sports* Pain Clinic * Headaches & Migraine *

*** Chronic Health Conditions * Terminal Illness & Palliative Care * Dental/ GP Referrals***

*** Sleep & Relaxation * Perinatal Mother & Baby * Women's Health ***

*Memberships with: The British Acupuncture Council (MBAcC); The Royal Society of Medicine (RSM);
The International Institute of Herbal Medicine & Aromatherapy (ITHMA);
The International Federation of Professional Aromatherapists (MIFPA);
The Bowen Therapy Academy (BOWTECH)*

*NHR 100% Organic & Soil Association Organic Gold Accredited Essential Aromatherapy Oils
Previously The National Childbirth Trust, NHS/Private & Primary Care Trusts.
Practising for 20 years. Fully insured. Recognised by private healthcare providers.*

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THE SMIDDY –TARIFF 2015

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WEEKLY TARIFF	OVERNIGHT & SHORT STAY TARIFF
Jan/Feb £375	Single night stays £130
March £400	Short stays (min 2 nights) £120
Easter week £475	Mid-week (Mon-Thurs, 4 nights) £90
April/ May/June £450	SPECIAL EVENTS: price per night
July/Aug £475	Christmas Eve, Day & Boxing Day £150 pn
Sept/Oct £450	'Twixmas' (min 2 nights) £140 pn
Nov/ Dec £400	Hogmanay & New Years Day £160 pn
Christmas week £550	MONTHLY TARIFF is available on request
Hogmanay/ New Year £550	

"If atmosphere, home comforts & a truly perfect situation right in the living heart of the island, are important to you on your holiday, this cottage is priceless. I wished I'd booked for the whole month" J Darlingworth

"A little piece of heaven – I didn't really understand what it means relax, until I stayed here. Tamsin's complementary treatments were also out of this world. I'd definitely recommend staying here & enjoying both" W Davies

Relaxation Therapy Weeks are also available at The Smiddy -

Why not treat yourself or someone special?

All enquiries welcome at tamsinmcvean@btinternet.com or Tel:01631 760329

For all stays,

* All linens & towels included; a small charge for electricity calculated by your meter usage is payable at the end of your stay; short or long stay wood/ coal boxes are available to order; all prices above based on 1 couple sharing; dogs welcomed at £30/ dog with chews/ bowls/ bedding & blankets if required. Please get in touch if you'd like to stay. All enquiries welcome.