

DIRECTIONS FOR FINDING SUMMER ISLES CROFT

If you're using a sat-nav just head for IV26 2YW - that will get you to the village of Polbain where the house is. Your sat-nav may recognise the name 'Summer Isles Croft' at that post code.

Here's the directions without a sat-nav (and how to find the house in Polbain):

The Coigach peninsula, where we are, is north west of Ullapool and if you're driving up from the south, as most folk do, you'll have to pass through Ullapool to get here. In Wester Ross terms Ullapool is a BIG place and is signposted from everywhere (it has nearly 2,000 residents after all!). If you're coming from Inverness (i.e. the main road from the south, and the nearest airport) it's the A835 you'll be on to reach Ullapool. Watch out for deer on the road - they can be a real hazard and have little road sense.

The road north-west out of Ullapool has the same road number as the road you came in on - the A835. Spend some time in Ullapool by all means but you don't have to enter the village proper to reach Coigach as the A835 avoids the centre. 10 miles north of Ullapool you'll reach the turn off to Coigach (big brown sign saying 'Achiltibuie and the Summer Isles') on your left. Then it's a single track road with passing places for 15 miles to reach Coigach. There's just one road turning off that 15 mile single track road, signposted for Lochinver - ignore it and carry on (but do take a trip up to Lochinver while you're here - it's worth it for the pie shop alone!). Again, watch out for deer on the single track road, particularly the first 3 - 4 miles of it. There's no mobile phone signal anywhere along the single track road until you reach Coigach.

Eventually you'll reach Coigach and arrive at a T-junction at Achnahaird (the big sandy beach), turn left and head towards the signposted villages of Achiltibuie and Polbain. After a couple of miles, now overlooking the sea again, and with Achiltibuie village half a mile ahead of you, you arrive at another road junction with Polbain signposted to the right. Take the Polbain road which goes down the hill, along the beach then up the hill on the other side. Polbain starts at the top of the hill. Summer Isles Croft is the 5th house on the right, just before the gallery with the whales on the wall. It's a sharp right turn up the short drive, across a cattle grid, to the house. After your long drive if you haven't done so you might have wished you'd stopped in the Ceilidh Place in Ullapool for a coffee on the way!

The house door will be open with the key on the chair inside the porch. Go in and relax - one of us will be along to meet you shortly.

It would be helpful if you could give us a rough idea of when you plan to arrive . and also phone when you leave Ullapool which is about 40 minutes away. Phone numbers are 01854 622302 or 07713 633969.

Be warned that Achiltibuie Stores (the community's main grocery and fuel shop) doesn't open on Sundays, although the new shop at the campsite two or three miles from the house does (but no fuel). Tesco's tentacles reach as far as Ullapool, but the village also has some good food shops such as Food for Thought (butcher and fishmonger), and West Coast Deli (as the name suggests) as well as good outdoor shops, bookshops, art gallery, etc.

If you're arriving from the north, you'll either be on the narrow, winding coast road from Lochinver in which case you'll turn right onto the single track Achiltibuie road some six miles from the T-junction at Achnahaird, mentioned above, or you'll be coming from Ledmore/Elphin on the A835 and you'll turn right onto the start of the same 15 mile single track road you would be on had you come from Ullapool . see above.

Bon voyage!