

APPLECROSS PENINSULA

A haven from the havoc and clutter of modern life, Applecross Peninsula is a rugged land of dramatic peaks and startling views. It is the perfect place to connect with nature – and find inner peace.



OUR EXPERTS REVEAL THE BEST WILD PLACES TO VISIT THIS MONTH

Applecross Peninsula Wester Ross, Scotland



AS ITS NAME suggests, this place isn't actually an island, but it might as well be as it is isolated from the mainland by a mountainous barrier known as the Bealach na Ba over which snakes the highest mountain road in Britain. Applecross is actually a translation of the Gaelic word for 'sanctuary', and this applies to the wildlife as well as the idyllic village itself, perched on the shores of the bay.

The village is a great launch pad for exploration of the coast and the hills that surround it. It is important not to ignore the deep channel between Applecross village and the islands of Raasay and Rona a few kilometres away. The water off the tip of Rona is the deepest off inshore Britain, and is home to several whale and dolphin species, as

well as patrolling basking sharks. The peninsula is a perfect blend of rolling glens, dense pine forests, a rugged coastline, and deep blue ocean. **Monty Halls**

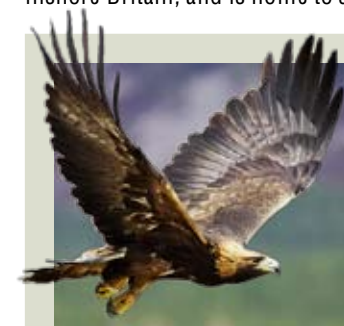


Beachcomber Cottage featuring Monty's experiences living in a croft begins Sunday 1 March at 8pm and runs for 5 weeks.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Websites www.applecrosstrust.org.uk, www.gp.applecross.info/activities.htm

Best pub It's a draw! The Applecross Inn www.applecross.uk.com/inn/index.htm, or the Potting Shed www.eatinthewalledgarden.co.uk



1 GOLDEN EAGLE

Frequently seen on the top of the Bealach na Ba, soaring on the thermals or working steadily along the ridges in the updraft from the valley. In late summer, look out for flight training, with parents and offspring flying together over the main ridges.

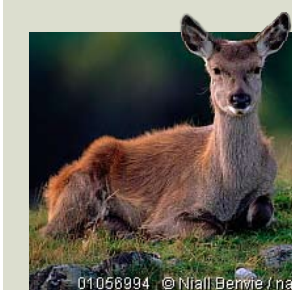


2 PINE MARTEN

An elusive predator, the pine marten has an Achilles heel – a sweet tooth. The dense pine plantations behind the village have several resident martens. Smear some jam on a rock at dusk in early spring, wait quietly, and you may get lucky.

6 SOAY SHEEP

One of Britain's oldest sheep breeds, unsullied by inbreeding with other species. Thought to have been brought here by the Vikings, they retain their wild characteristics, and to see them roaming the hills is an ancient scene.



3 RED DEER

It is extremely difficult not to see red deer in Applecross! They can be seen in any season but the best time to encounter them is late summer, when the stags feed heavily on the lower slopes around Sand Bay to prepare for the rut.

5 OTTER

The poster boy of Scottish wildlife, the otter can be encountered year round at almost any point along the coast of the peninsula. The best sites are the series of rugged inlets north of Sand Bay, with the ideal times to see them being dusk and dawn.



4 COMMON SEAL

There are several colonies in the vicinity of Applecross. A small colony is ever present at the southern end of the large island just outside the entrance of Ard Dubh harbour. Should you be able to charter a local boat, there is a large colony in a beautiful cove at the north-western tip of Rona.

