



ISI

SWORDALE
HOUSE

Welcome Home

“Welcome to Swordale House, which we hope will feel like a home from home for you and everyone in your party. We also hope your stay leaves you with as many fond memories of the house and its surroundings as we have. Haste ye back.”

The Browne family

Local Walks

Lose yourself in the beauty of the Easter Ross landscape, whether you're after an all-day adventure or wish to while away a few hours enjoying some fresh Highland air. For a family ramble, simply open the front door: a short uphill stroll will reward you with spectacular views of the Cromarty Firth. The main car park for the trail to the iconic Fyrish monument is under ten minutes away, or head west to scale giant Ben Wyvis or any number of the rugged Munros beyond.

The ISI logo consists of the letters 'I', 'S', and 'I' in a stylized, serif font, stacked vertically. The 'S' is the largest and is positioned between two smaller 'I's.

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Leisure Pursuits

Roadies, mountain bikers and leisure cyclists alike are spoilt for choice in and around Evanton, thanks to a network of purpose-built paths, trails and quiet single track roads. Crystal clear lochs – try Loch Ussie or Loch Achilty – are perfect for a picnic, paddleboard or a cold water dip, and fly fishing at Loch Achonachie or in the River Alness (or Avern as it is known locally) is within easy reach. When it comes to beaches, there's well-loved Dornoch or Balintore to the north, or you could head east to Rosemarkie and spot the dolphins that crest the waters off the point. Golf fans don't have far to travel to the local clubs of Alness, Invergordon and Strathpeffer.

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Local Attractions

Evanton Woods (accessed from the top of Chapel Street) is great for children thanks to its natural playpark, 'secret trail' and network of paths. The whole family will also enjoy Dalmore Farm in Alness, which has a café, playpark and children's farm.

For a day of browsing independent shops and enjoying delicious food and drink, the idyllic Black Isle villages of Cromarty and Fortrose are within easy reach. For a different type of refreshment, take part in a tasting and tour at Glenmorangie Distillery. History buffs may be keen to visit Tarbat Discovery Centre on the Portmahomack peninsula to delve into its fascinating collection of Pictish finds.

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Local Food and Drink

For groceries, there's a large Co-op in Evanton and a selection of major supermarkets in the larger towns of Dingwall and Alness. There's a chest freezer in the breakfast room and a fridge in the kitchen for food storage. During the day, The Storehouse Restaurant and Highland Farm Café both sell a selection of speciality ingredients alongside their excellent food and drink offerings. For evening meals, try Rocpool Reserve in Inverness, Coul House in Contin or the Kinncraig House Hotel near Alness.



Amenities

Butcher

Dingwall has three: Fraser Brothers, George Cockburn & Son and John M Munro.

Fishmonger

Pro Fish has a well-stocked mobile van that stops in Evanton's main car park, beside the Co-op, from 3pm to 4pm every Wednesday.

Pharmacies

The Co-op in Evanton has basic supplies, and Dingwall and Alness both have staffed pharmacies.

Petrol stations

The closest places to refuel are Skiach Services (three miles away), Morrisons in Alness (seven miles away) and Tesco in Dingwall (eight miles away, open 24/7).

Takeaway restaurants

There's a Chinese takeaway in Evanton, and the nearby towns of Dingwall and Alness have Indian, Thai, fish and chips and pizza options. Note that there's often no delivery service to Evanton, so you may need to collect the food yourself.



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Protecting the Environment

At Sworddale House we endeavour to be as green as possible. We have installed a biomass boiler and planted over 80 acres of native species woodland to offset CO2.

Please help us by not leaving lights on unnecessarily, using the compost bin for food waste and recycling where possible.

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Our History

Sworddale House and its surrounding estate have a long and colourful history. Originally owned by John Dearg Munro, Sworddale House was sold to Major Randle Jackson in 1885, a would-be politician and local benefactor. Vocal in local matters, the wealthy Jackson was met with mixed reviews by crofters and workers in the area. He opened a School Soup Kitchen for the people of Kiltearn that ran until the 1940s.

Following his death, Jackson's wife Emily and subsequently their daughter, Annie, took over the running of the estate. Annie died in a mysterious shooting accident in 1928, witnessed solely by her husband, Richard Meinertzhagen, subject of the book 'Solider, Scientist and Spy' by Mark Cocker. Sworddale House is now cared for by us, the Browne family, who welcome you to explore it for yourself.

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Key Contacts

The owners: Sam Browne and Sian Llewellyn can be contacted anytime on 07909 111 361.

Doctor: Alness & Invergordon

Medical Practice, 01349 882229.

NHS 24: 111

In an emergency: 999



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Kind Requests

Thank you for looking after Sworddale House and its surroundings as carefully as you do your own home.

The house and grounds are yours to enjoy during your stay, but please be aware that certain items and rooms are not included in the let. These cupboards and chests of drawers contain personal family items and will either be locked or have red ribbon on them.

A no smoking policy applies throughout the property.



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Housekeeping

Heating

The heating has two controls. The first is halfway up the stairs in the hall you first arrived in. This controls from the door next to the fireplace in the entrance hall to the rear of the property, the dining room, snooker room and north wing bedrooms etc.

The front of the house is controlled from a panel concealed in a cupboard next to the Belfast sink in the breakfast room.



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Housekeeping

Bins and recycling

The recycling bin in the house is labelled. The contents should be emptied out of the bag into the blue bins at the bottom of the drive. Please don't put in any black bags as this prevents collection.

General waste should go into the labelled bin then into the green bins at the bottom of the drive. Please also feel free to use the compost bins in the courtyard for fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds and eggshells.

All glass bottles and jars go into the small black bin in the courtyard.



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Wood

Some briquettes and logs are provided for the fires. You can purchase logs, coal or briquettes from the Skiach petrol station (three miles away on the road to Alness) or from the nearby supermarkets. We can also fill up the fire baskets and scuttles for £15 - please contact Sam Browne and Sian Llewellyn on 07909 111 361 to arrange.

Missing and not working items, and breakages

If you find that anything is missing or not working properly, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can rectify it. If you have any breakages (ornaments, pans, glasses, etc.) please leave them on the hall table. In most cases we don't apply any charges, we just like to know what needs replaced.



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Housekeeping

Electricity and additional charges

The first 266 units of electricity (£50 with standing charge and VAT) are included in the rental, which usually more than covers a week's stay - though guests can go over if they are charging electric vehicles.

Please read the meter on arrival and take a photo (you'll find it in the breakfast room in the wall cabinet by the window), and then take another photo of the meter as you leave.

If you use more than 266 units, please leave a cash/cheque for the balance made payable to Landport Finance Co Ltd. Alternatively, a bank transfer is fine too. 1 unit is 17.28p, there is a 28p standing charge per day. Please note that all prices are then subject to VAT @ 5%.



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Housekeeping

Septic tank

As owners of this house we are responsible for the septic tank for the entire hamlet of Swordale. Please respect this by not flushing anything but the usual down the lavatory or drains, as this can cause problems not only for this house, but all the local properties. Further details about this are on the back of the door in the downstairs shower room.

Clocks

Due to the delicate nature of the clocks in the house, we'd prefer if you didn't touch them, even if they stop during your visit.



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Thank you - we wish you an amazing stay at Swordale House.