



# Welcome to the Outer Hebrides

## We Hope You Have a Great Stay on Our Islands

Although we have seen very few cases, the COVID pandemic has closed the islands for several months. Compared to other parts of Scotland, where lockdown has been relaxing gradually, we are only now cautiously re-opening. For many, this means adjusting quickly to changing circumstances. We ask for your understanding as we get things rolling. This year more than any other, you have a part to play in helping everything run smoothly by respecting local customs, the islands' environment, and the latest Scottish Government guidance while out and about:

**OPENINGS** Most, but not all, businesses will be open, sometimes with reduced hours. Please check before travelling, assume you need to book, and be prepared with a Plan B.

**SHOPS** Supermarkets in the larger centres will operate in a similar way to mainland outlets. Remember your face-mask. Many local shops have only recently opened. Some that lack the space for physical distancing are making deliveries instead. Please check before entering. Think about buying online from local businesses before, during, and after your stay. Some things will inevitably be out of stock, but that is part of island life.

**HYGIENE** Help avoid the risk of transmission by washing hands frequently, using sanitiser and trapping sneezes and coughs. In the unlikely event you do develop symptoms, report it promptly, self-isolate and order a test.

**PHYSICAL DISTANCING** Expect to maintain your distance more strictly than elsewhere – easy as you will have plenty of space. Keep your distance when out and about, in the community, in a shop queue, in a cafe or at the petrol pumps. If you arrive somewhere crowded, do not compound the problem, just return later.

**RESTAURANTS** These may not have all their regular staff so please be patient as they adjust to a new way of working. They may well have a restricted menu. Some places will only offer takeaway or meals for residents. But there are lots of scenic outdoor eating spots.

**TOILETS** We take them for granted, but this year, you need to plan ahead. Some public toilets in remote areas will not open. Play your part in keeping hygiene levels high. Even where you see bins, take ALL your litter home.

As ever though, the wildlife is still here to entertain you, the beaches are still here to relax you, the ancient monuments are still here to intrigue you. And the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is still there to guide you. Make the most of all of them. Thank you! Tapadh leibh!

If you have questions, please check with your accommodation provider, use the links below or call your nearest Welcome Point (details on our website)

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