



# Welcome to Durness Smoo Youth Hostel

**On the North Coast 500, surrounded by a wild and spectacular landscape, Durness Smoo is a relaxed and friendly base for exploring the local area.**

**The hostel is a refuge from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, from which you can venture out to explore moorland, mountains, sea cliffs, beaches and waterfalls.**

## Reception

- **Open 08.00-10.00 and 17.00-22.00**
- **Check-in from 17.00**
- **Checkout by 10.00**

The youth hostel is closed from 10.00-17.00, though daytime access may be arranged – please contact us in advance.

Late arrival is by pre-arrangement only.

## Rooms

Capacity 31:

- 1 four-bedded
- 1 five-bedded
- 1 ten-bedded
- 1 twelve-bedded

Rooms are separate from the main building. There are 2 showers, 2 washrooms and 5 toilets.

Due to the limited number of rooms at this hostel we're not always able to guarantee that males and females are allocated separate dorms. Rooms are generally classed as mixed gender.

## Catering

We provide 'Wee Breakfasts' and self-cater, pre-prepared evening meals.

## Self-catering

The kitchen has space for 6 people.

There are 3 hobs with 12 rings, 1 oven, 2 fridges, 1 freezer and a microwave.

A selection of pots is available to cater for individuals and groups and there's sufficient crockery and cutlery to suit staggered meal times for all guests.

## Facilities

The lounge (no TV) can seat 16 people.

Wi-Fi access is free.

The hostel has a small drying room.

## Security

All rooms have locks and there's a key code for the external doors.

## Shopping

A small shop in reception sells soft drinks, snacks, some grocery and toiletry items, as well as souvenirs and postcards.

We have an alcohol licence and sell local beers, Scottish cider, wine and single malt whisky.

There are shops within 15 minute walk.

## Directions

**Bus:** Late April to late September, Monday to Saturday, D&E Coaches leave Inverness at 08.50, arriving in Durness at 14.00.

During July and August the service also runs on Sundays. Buses will drop you off at the youth hostel on request.

**Rail:** Monday to Saturday, ScotRail services depart Inverness for Wick/Thurso at 07.14 and 10.39, connecting at Lairg with the Royal Mail post buses for onward travel to Durness.

**Car:** Durness Smoo Youth Hostel is at the side of the A838, 1 mile east of Durness Centre.

## Parking

The car park will hold 6 cars and guests are welcome to use the Smoo Cave car park nearby (15 spaces). Coaches should use the Smoo Cave car park.

Secure cycle storage for up to 10 bikes next to the main youth hostel building.

## Local activities

The far northwest of Scotland has many hidden secrets and it's worth taking time to explore. Visit nearby Smoo Cave, take the ferry and minibus to Cape Wrath or discover the artists at Balnakiel Craft Village.



Smoo, Durness, Lairg  
Sutherland IV27 4QA  
t: +44 (0)1971 511 264  
e: [durness@hostellingscotland.org.uk](mailto:durness@hostellingscotland.org.uk)



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For the more energetic there are miles of signposted footpaths. Explore the hills of Ben Hope, Foinavon or Cranstackie, among many others.

Take a walk to Faraid Head and see the puffins, then walk amongst some of the largest dunes in Great Britain.

Or just relax on one of the nearby sandy beaches, perhaps even spotting dolphins, otters or an eagle!

## Accessibility

Currently Durness Smoo is not suitable for people with impaired mobility. Please contact the youth hostel or the reservations team for more information.

## Booking

To reserve beds at Durness Smoo Youth Hostel, please contact the reservations team (Mon-Fri from 09.00-1700) on 0345 293 73 73.

e-mail

[reservations@hostellingscotland.org.uk](mailto:reservations@hostellingscotland.org.uk)

or book online

[www.hostellingscotland.org.uk](http://www.hostellingscotland.org.uk)

If you have a family celebration or social gathering coming up, a reunion, a club AGM, an international event or special interest group, you can use our RentaHostel service and get exclusive use of a fantastic property. Across the Highlands, Islands and Lowlands we have youth hostels set in stunning scenery which can be yours for a brief period of time. Wake up to a mountain, lochside or beachfront view, experience life in a remote eco-hostel or be close to city centre attractions. Ranging in size from sleeping 20 up to 170 people, RentaHostel offers great value for money.

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