

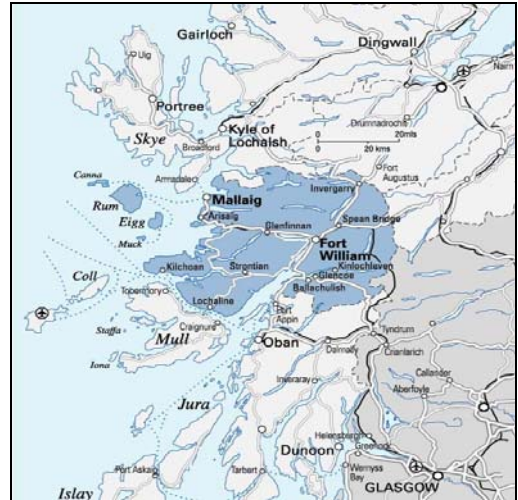
Lochaber

Tourism factsheet 2005

Introduction

Lochaber covers an area of more than 4,450 square km and, from the 2001 census, has a population of 18,740. The area's main industries include aluminium smelting, aquaculture and tourism. Key visitor attractions include Glencoe Visitor Centre, Nevis Range and Ice Factor, a world-class indoor climbing facility. The area attracts a relatively high proportion of visitors from England with overseas visitors making up a smaller proportion of the overall total than is found elsewhere in the Highlands.

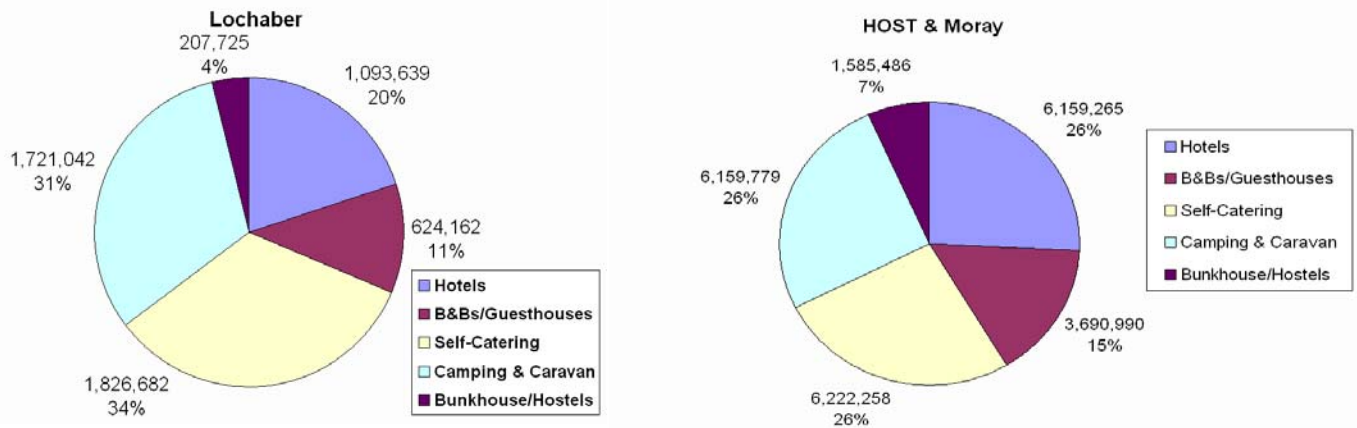
This tourism factsheet pulls together tourism information from a number of surveys for Lochaber, comparing it to information from the overall Highlands of Scotland (HOST) & Moray area. Information is included on the accommodation stock and occupancy rates in addition to the volume and value of tourism.



Accommodation availability and occupancy rates

The diagrams in figure 1 show the annual number of bedspaces along with percentage of overall bedspaces for each accommodation type in Lochaber and the overall HOST & Moray area in 2004.

Figure 1 – Annual bedspaces in Lochaber and the HOST & Moray area (2004)



Source: Volume and Value of Tourism in the HOST/Moray Areas 2004

The pie charts in Figure 1 show that in Lochaber, the majority of bedspaces are provided by self-catering (34%) compared to only 26% in the overall HOST & Moray area. In Lochaber there is also higher than average provision of bedspace by camping & caravanning (31%), compared to 26% in the HOST & Moray area. There is a lesser proportion of bedspace provided by hotel, bunkhouse/hostel and B&B/guesthouse accommodation in Lochaber compared to the HOST & Moray area.

Table 1 shows the occupancy rates in the Lochaber (LE) and HIE areas for different accommodation types in 2004.

Table 1 – Occupancy rates in Lochaber and HIE for different accommodation types (2004)

	Hotel				Self-catering		B&B and Guesthouse			
	Bed Occupancy %		Room Occupancy %		Unit Occupancy %		Bed Occupancy %		Room Occupancy %	
	LE	HIE	LE	HIE	LE	HIE	LE	HIE	LE	HIE
January	30	22	45	31	31	17	22	11	26	15
February	35	29	50	40	50	31	18	15	21	18
March	36	37	48	44	30	28	19	15	23	21
April	57	48	59	55	72	57	49	33	47	36
May	70	52	82	65	77	60	63	48	67	53
June	70	60	83	73	78	72	72	58	81	64
July	81	66	89	76	87	83	77	65	84	68
August	86	71	92	82	92	88	83	73	91	76
September	73	59	85	72	85	70	61	50	70	56
October	58	47	65	58	74	58	27	25	37	31
November	31	28	41	39	34	27	17	14	24	18
December	25	24	37	32	35	29	12	10	20	15

Source: Scottish Accommodation Occupancy Survey 2004

The information in Table 1 shows that the occupancy rates within hotel, self-catering and B&B/guesthouse accommodation are generally higher in Lochaber compared to HIE in 2004. August had the highest occupancy rates across all accommodation types for both Lochaber and HIE, peaking at 92% for hotel room and self-catering occupancy and 91% for B&B/guesthouse room occupancy in Lochaber. December witnessed the lowest occupancy rates in general in Lochaber, compared to January in general for the overall HIE area. Occupancy rates in Lochaber in January tend to be considerably higher than those in the HIE area.

Volume and value of tourism

Table 2 shows the volume of trips and expenditure by tourists in Lochaber in 2002/03.

Table 2: Volume of trips and expenditure in Lochaber (2002/03)

	Lochaber			
	Tourists staying overnight	Number of bednights	Average spend per capita	Total expenditure (£)
Hotels		604,262	78.93	47,694,365
B&Bs/Guest-houses		254,778	73.94	18,838,317
Self-Catering		1,191,663	59.78	71,237,637
Camping & Caravan		351,497	56.41	19,827,942
Bunkhouse/ Hostels		90,382	47.40	4,284,124
Staying with Friends/ Relatives		131,766	28.74	3,786,969
Timeshare/ Second Home		35,687	48.16	1,718,674
Other		85,099	44.27	3,767,341
<i>Sub-total</i>		<i>2,745,135</i>	<i>62.35</i>	<i>171,155,369</i>
Day trips by tourists		Number of trips	Average spend per capita	Total expenditure (£)
<i>Sub-total</i>		<i>155,756</i>	<i>14.14</i>	<i>2,202,659</i>
Total				173,358,027

Source: Volume and Value of Tourism in the HOST/Moray Areas (2004)

The information in Table 2 shows that the total number of bednights is 2,745,135 and the average spend per capita is £62.35 for 2002/03. The highest average spend per capita is incurred by tourists staying in hotel accommodation (£78.93) and the lowest when tourists are staying with friends/relatives (£28.74). Total expenditure by tourists staying overnight in Lochaber is estimated at £171,155,369 in 2002/03 or £173,358,027 if day trips by tourists staying overnight away from home are included.

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