

2011 - SCOTLAND

7 May 2011



The Misty Isle

“Much of what is written about Skye’s early settlement is scholarly opinion or purely circumstantial”

SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE

We have tried to work out what makes this scenery so spectacular. Home also has beautiful seas and mountains. Scotland though, benefits from “layering” - the foreground - either a house or a shoreline - the middle ground - the first mountain ridge and, the background - the other 2 or 3 or even 4 more mountain ranges! Because of the depth, the colours are muted, kind of hazy. It helps that we are here in spring. The new foliage is a very soft, bright green. Even the moss is fabulous - a yellow-green that is currently spiked with bluebells.

LEAVING THE MAINLAND

First up this morning we walked from our wild camp site (on a hill overlooking a loch - our first go at free camping), down the hill to investigate the revegetation area beside the loch. It is fenced to keep out the deer (and rabbits) that apparently destroy the native trees before they can mature. We have seen a lot of high deer fencing in this part of the country. Deers are obviously causing a problem.

The area was very peaceful with silver birches and ash trees dominating. Moss abounded on the rocks and trees. Despite having binoculars at the ready, no “locals” revealed themselves. They probably could smell Australian’s from a mile off.



Muted colored plants thrusting up everywhere



Old stone bridge on the road from Ardnamurchan



Relaxing



On the road to Malliag (where we were to catch the ferry) we came across a majestic water viaduct - a great opportunity to stop and take some interesting photographs.

Later that morning we traveled across to the Isle of Skye by ferry. It was a short 30 minute trip. We immediately obeyed the guide book and took "the steep and twisting minor road that loops" over to the other side of the island. The road led us to a sensational spot beside the loch where we decided to stop and take out our outdoor chairs (for the first time). We sat and admired the rather wonderful expansive backdrop and read our literature AND then, out of the blue, I spied an otter at play in the water directly in front of us! Heather raced to get her binoculars and we both enjoyed watching the antics of this rather delightful creature for over half an hour. Another wish fulfilled - and a chance for Heather to remind Siggy that although binoculars can cause weight issues, having them for this sort of occasion, makes it all worth while.



Our view across to the distant mountains was quite awe inspiring

