

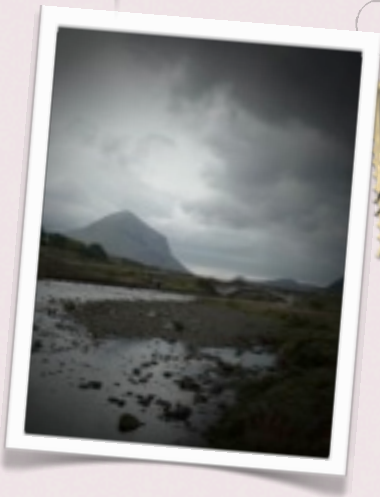
A Trip to Remember

2011 - SCOTLAND

8 May 2011

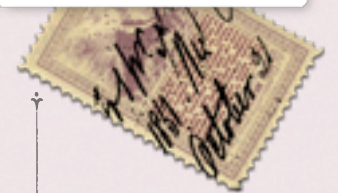
Skye

When its fine, it's very fine, but all too often, it isn't.





There are many old church ruins on Skye



SHEEP AND FISH

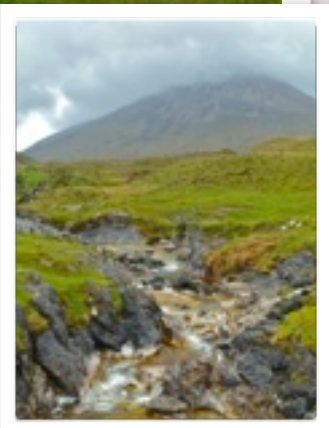
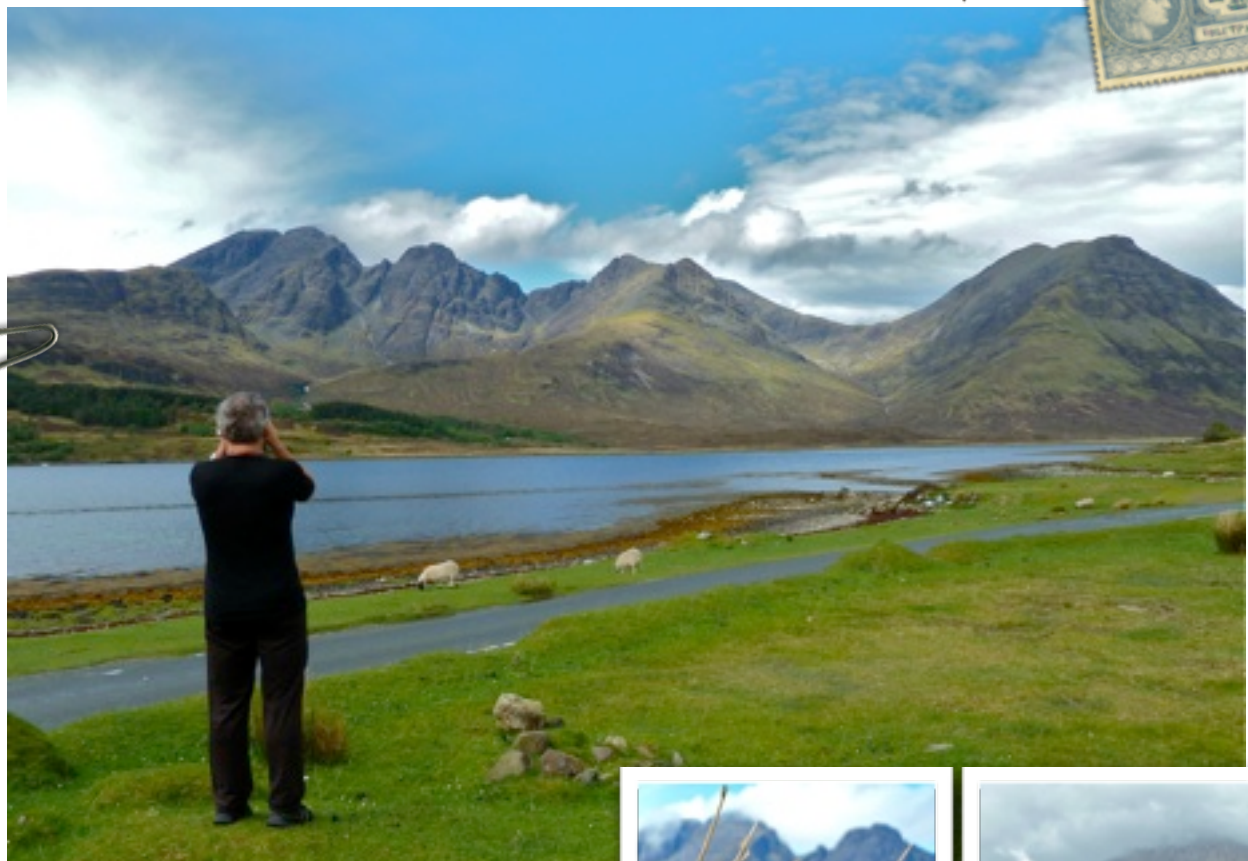
It seems to us that Skye is populated by lots of sheep but not very many inhabitants. Large human settlements are far and few between here although there are very small hamlets dotted around the very austere country side. In some sheltered coastal locations (usually off the beaten track) we have come across fishing trawlers. Not that lamb and fish are the only things available to eat here but apart from the one whisky distillery and a couple of craft and pottery places we are hard pressed to know what people do for a living. The answer must be tourism because every second dwelling is a B&B and every tenth commercial business is a hotel of some sort (or restaurant).

During the night the weather turned stormy and we woke to a dull rainy day. We have not had the opportunity to ride our bikes or even go for a reasonable walk for a couple of days because of the steep terrain and the inclement weather. We set off to “see the sights” and ended up driving along a winding, narrow road like we usually do. The brochure told us that the view we would

come across on this drive is “the most photographed mountain view in Europe”. Our drive was very pleasant but the driving rain meant there was mist in front of us instead of mountains. We did come across the ruins of a church with an interesting history so we stopped for some photos but the rain drove us back into the comfort of the van. At the end of the long road we turned around just as the clouds cleared and the Cuillin mountain range came into view. Absolutely stunning! Taking photographs was not easy because the scale and the breadth of the view made it difficult to get perspective. We spent a good hour simply admiring what was in front of us with no-one else around. The sheep grazing all around could not understand all the fuss - they get to experience this spectacle every day (when it does not rain that is).

We spent the rest of the day driving up a number of other tracks but the scenery was nothing compared to what we had seen. We are currently camped next to a loch in a caravan club site - very cheap with lots of hot water and a view to die for. More Skye tomorrow.

One does not have to dig too deeply to find that Skye’s austere and, at times, foreboding landscape, has been closely intertwined with its turbulent economic, political and religious past.



Ewe in a hurry? No bull !!

