



Inverness Lodgings

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Lodgings in the City of Inverness, Site #10

When reading our Outlandish Extras **Scotland Lodging Tips** PDF you'll learn why Googling the type of accommodation you're looking for, or using TripAdvisor, is *not* a good idea when looking for lodgings within a major city. Our Lodging Tips also offer cost-saving (and headache-saving) booking tips common to all types of accommodation, anywhere in Scotland.

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/ScotlandLodgingTips.pdf>

Unlike Edinburgh and Glasgow, the City of Inverness is small enough that **TripAdvisor is a reasonable local lodging resource**. On the TripAdvisor "Inverness Hotels and Places to Stay" page below, you'll find links to 340 Inverness area hotels, B&Bs or Inns, and "Specialty Lodgings" — many of which are within the city. Narrow the search by selecting personal preferences in the left column.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotels-g186543-Inverness_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland-Hotels.html

Before heading to TripAdvisor, however, check out the Culloden House Hotel and our Inverness Hostel information, below.



[©1885 Ordnance Gazetteer] [©2016 Visit Scotland] Segments, enhanced.

The Culloden House Hotel

<https://www.cullodenhouse.co.uk>

If you are considering one or more lodging splurges during your Outlandish Scotland Journey, this hotel should be a strong contender. In fact, we highly recommend it. After all, Culloden House is a significant *Outlander* novel location—one you're sure to want to visit, even if you don't lodge here. Imagine how much more you'll enjoy this site if you actually stay here! For full information, see the **Culloden House Hotel (Site #13)** chapter.

Inverness Hostels

Booking a hostel within a major city can be a crap shoot, and Inverness is no exception to this rule. Good-looking hostels may harbor nasty stuff not disclosed on their websites. Not-so-nice-looking hostels may be just what they look like—nasty. *Or*, they may be gems in the rough.

Since we prefer staying in a hostel when visiting Inverness—it always seems to fall at the half-way point of our Scotland itineraries, and we want to do laundry—we've done our best to investigate them for you.

First, Inverness Hostels to Avoid

- **Eastgate Backpackers Hostel**

<http://www.eastgatebackpackers.com/>

This hostel had a “Poor/Terrible” reputation even before its interior was destroyed by a fire in April of 2013. It has not been repaired and reopened. We mention this hostel only because their website was still available in 2019. Though all of its functions were disabled, shady online hostel-reservation aggregates *may* offer bookings for this defunct hostel.

- **Highland Backpackers Inverness Hostel**

<https://hostelsscotlandltd.com/highland-backpackers-inverness/>

Located next door to the Rose Street Car Park, they offer free parking. Unfortunately, the vast majority of TripAdvisor reviews continue to rate this hostel as “Average/Poor/Terrible.” We suggest you steer clear.

- **Highlander Hostel Inverness City Centre**

Located in the block just east of the iCentre, this hostel is the closest to your first Inverness city destination. Their TripAdvisor reviews, however, are overwhelmingly bad, and several pix of truly horrific conditions have been posted.

- **Inverness Hostel**

<http://www.invernesshostel.co.uk/>

Also known as **Hillview House**, Merlewood Road, Inverness, IV2 4NL

This is a lovely-looking hostel, located in a pleasant and well groomed Inverness residential area, about a 30 minute walk from the iCentre. As of 2019, their bedbug infestation of 2016 (the reason they landed on our Avoid list) seems to have been eradicated, and their TripAdvisor reviews have improved. If you cannot book a hostel closer to the city centre, this one might not be a bad choice.

Below are the Three Inverness Hostels We Recommend

Hostel lodging tariffs per person per night vary, depending upon the dates of your stay. Of our three recommendations, the Inverness Youth Hostel—part of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association—is by far the least expensive throughout the year, especially for *private* hostel accommodation. Check the dates of your visit on their website to learn what they charge.



[©2018 Google Maps UK Street View] [©2016 Bazpackers Hostel] Segments, enhanced.

The Bazpackers Hostel

Located only one block south of Inverness Castle, this hostel occupies a Victorian town house built in 1826 and converted to a modern hostel in 1996. It consistently receives positive TripAdvisor reviews. https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g186543-d283202-Reviews-Bazpackers_Hostel-Inverness_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html

“We have 34 beds in a variety of rooms. All bedding is provided (sheets, duvet, pillow and sleep sheet) and changed daily. All bunks come with individual reading / nightlights. We only use ‘proper’ sprung mattresses, to give a great night’s sleep and these are changed regularly. ...

“We have two mixed dorms (6 bed rooms), a female only dorm (4 bed room) and a quad (4 bed room). Our private rooms consist of three doubles (double bed), two twins (2 single beds) and a self catering apartment (sleeps 4 in a shared room).”

<https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/property/bazpackers-hostel/>

PROs:

- Free Wifi is available throughout the hostel.
- Free linen and a pillow are provided with each bed booked. (There may be a towel fee.)
- Lockers in each dorm (must have your own lock).
- A laundry *service* is available at a cost of £6.50 per load. (Self-service laundry is not available.)
- **The Castle Tavern** pub and restaurant is attached to the hostel, on its north side.

<http://www.castletavern.net/>

CONs:

- No parking is available, not even street-side parking. The nearest pay-and-display car park is on Mitchells Lane, a 5 minute walk away. Car park coordinates: 57.474664, -4.223008. <http://www.theclubinverness.co.uk/>
The Rose Street Car Park is only a 15 minute walk away.
- A self-catering kitchen is only available if you book the hostel’s private apartment.
- The Bazpackers Hostel online presence is almost nonexistent. Even their website (www.bazpackershostel.co.uk/) doesn’t seem to function.
Happily, direct booking information for the Bazpackers Hostel is available at the **Visit Inverness Loch Ness** link above.
- With only 34 beds, only early-bookers get a bed.

Bazpackers Hostel Address: 4 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AB

Coordinates: 57.475016, -4.225013



[©2018 Google Maps UK Street View] [©2016 Inverness Student Hotel] Segments, enhanced.

Inverness Student Hotel [Hostel]

This “hotel” is another hostel that consistently receives positive reviews on TripAdvisor.

2019 Update: Some poor reviews were posted this summer. Just, FYI.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g186543-d264056-Reviews-Inverness_Student_Hotel-Inverness_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html

Located only a few yards south of the Bazpackers Hostel and the Castle Tavern pub, the Student Hotel hostel also is situated within sight of Inverness Castle, and is only a 5 minute walk from the Inverness iCentre and Bridge Street.

The Student Hotel hostel has a total of 28 beds in four dorms. One is a female-only dorm with 6 beds. One is a male-only dorm with 6 beds. Two are mixed dorms—one with 6 beds, one with 10 beds.

<http://invernessstudenthotel.com/>

Dormitory Bed Tariffs for the Student Hotel Hostel (2019)

- January to end of February: £17 per night.
- March to end of June: £19.50 per night.
- July and August: £20.50 per night.
- September to end of December: £18.50 per night.

PROs:

- Free *off*-street parking.
- Free linen and “2 fluffy pillows” available per bed. Towel Hire: £1.50 per towel.
- Access to a free safe.
- Laundry *service* £5 per load. “We wash, dry and even fold your clothes!” (Self-service laundry is not available.)
- A fully equipped self-catering kitchen is available, as is the option of buying a continental style breakfast for £3.
- The Student Hotel hostel has a strong online presence. In addition to their website (link above), they are quick to respond to questions sent via their Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/invernessstudenthotel/>

CONs:

- Free WiFi, but only in communal areas.
- No private rooms are available.
- With only 28 beds, only early-bookers get a bed.

The Student Hotel Address: 8 Culduthel Road, Inverness IV2 4AB

Coordinates: 57.474246, -4.224750



[©2016 SYHA Inverness segments (enhanced)]

The Inverness Youth Hostel—a Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) Facility
<https://www.syha.org.uk/where-to-stay/highlands/inverness.aspx>

CD Miller thoroughly enjoyed her stay here in 2003. Housed in a large, utilitarian-looking building, this hostel consistently receives positive TripAdvisor reviews.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g186543-d656174-Reviews-Inverness_Youth_Hostel-Inverness_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html

There is ample free parking at the Inverness SYHA Hostel, and the Inverness iCentre—along with all the city centre attractions, pubs and restaurants—is only a 15 minute walk away. (When at the iCentre, ask about the nearest taxi rank in case you want a ride back to the hostel.)

This hostel has **163** beds. The dorms are 4-, 5-, or 6-bedded, with a wash basin in each and communal toilet/shower facilities. The **18** private, en suite rooms have 2, 3, 4, or 6 beds.

Inverness Youth Hostel has two accessible rooms—Family room 1 and Family room 2. Family room 1 has an accessible toilet and 6 beds; 2 bunk beds and 2 single beds. Family room 2 does not have an accessible toilet, and has one double bed. “The ground floor also has ramps so guests can access the self-catering kitchen. Please contact the youth hostel or the reservations team for more information.”

The reception desk is open from 7am to 11pm, with a Night Porter available by pre-arrangement for late check-in until 2am. Checkout is from 7am to 10am.

Free luggage storage is available for guests, both before check-in and after checkout.

A café with assorted coffees, teas and light snacks is open throughout the day, and they have an alcohol license! The fully equipped self-catering kitchen area is open from 6:00am to 11pm.

Additionally, a catered breakfast (and Packed Lunch pickup) is available daily, from 7:30am to 9am.

“We can provide Continental or Full Scottish Breakfasts, [as well as packed lunches]. To avoid disappointment we recommend reserving meals at the time of booking, or at least 4 weeks prior to arrival.”

- Continental Breakfast: Adult £5.95, Child (under 11) £4.50
- Cooked Full Scottish Breakfast: Adult £7.50, Child £5.50
- Packed Lunch: £6.50

The laundry room has 2 washing machines and 2 tumble-dryers. They are operated by tokens that can be purchased at reception. A washing token is £4. A drying token is £2 and it normally takes only one cycle to dry a load of clothes on high heat. Reception also has detergent available for £1.

PROs:

- Free parking—and lots of it.
- Lengthy reception hours with luggage storage before check-in and after checkout.
- Bed linen and pillow provided for free. Towel hire fee per person £3. (Towels are free for those who book a private room.)
- Secure lockers in each dorm.
- Communal computers are available for free.
- Complementary tea and coffee is available throughout the day.
- Prepared meals available—Continental, Cooked, and Packed Lunch.
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- With 163 beds, even last minute bookers are likely to find a bed here.

CONs:

- Free WiFi, but only in communal areas.
- With only 2 coin-operated washers and dryers, you *may* have to wait for a turn to do your laundry. Ask about the most popular laundry hours at reception, and schedule accordingly.

Inverness SYHA Hostel Address: Victoria Dr, Inverness IV2 3QB

Coordinates: 57.480302, -4.211039

More Hostels in Inverness

The link below offers information about a few other Inverness Hostels.

<https://www.thebrokebackpacker.com/best-hostels-in-inverness-scotland/>

(Note that our three recommendations are included.)