

Travel to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye

Skye is a comparatively remote location, and travel plans require some care. The closest international airport to the Isle of Skye is **Glasgow Airport**.

If travelling from abroad or from anywhere south of Scotland, your travels to Skye will most likely be via Glasgow. In that case, on your arrival day (either June 18 for the Summer School, or June 22 for the Conference) it is essential to reach Glasgow very early afternoon in order to either catch the conference bus, leaving Glasgow airport at 14:00, or any of the public transport connections described below. For your return journey, besides the public transport options, there will be two conference buses, one leaving Skye on June 26 at 23:00, which will reach Glasgow airport June 27 before 5:00 (in order to connect with flights leaving Glasgow on June 27 morning) and another bus leaving Skye on June 27 at 8:00, reaching Glasgow airport around 14:00. See the separate webpage for more information on the conference bus.

Starting from Glasgow, there are two standard routes to reach **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig** on Skye by public transport.

The unforgettably scenic way to get there is the railway and ferry connection from Glasgow Queen Street via Fort William and Mallaig, to Armadale on Skye, which is just 2 miles south of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The rail journey crosses Rannoch, a remote area of the Scottish Highlands between Glasgow and Fort William, and the Glenfinnan Viaduct between Fort William and Mallaig - this is the bridge featured in the Harry Potter movies.

Alternatively, there is a direct bus connection from Glasgow to Kyle of Lochalsh on Skye, about 18 miles north of Sabhal mòr Ostaig. From here take a taxi. It is also possible to reach Kyle of Lochalsh by train from Inverness. Flying into Inverness is likely to be more expensive than flying into Glasgow, but for anyone wishing to hire a car, this is a good alternative to Glasgow, as it is significantly closer to Skye and avoids Glasgow traffic. Details on the above mentioned routes are as follows.

Glasgow Airport to Glasgow City centre: Queen Street railway station or Buchanan Bus Station: The Glasgow Shuttle service 500 runs between Glasgow Airport and the City Centre, serving Queen Street Railway Station and Buchanan Bus Station. This shuttle runs 24 hours a day with a frequency between 10 and 20 minutes. The journey takes about 30 minutes and the single trip fare is £6.50, an open return costs £9.00.

Glasgow Queen Street by rail to Mallaig and ferry to Armadale: on weekdays, there are two railway departures from Glasgow Queen Street to Mallaig (direct, via Fort William, just over 5 hours), with a connecting ferry from Mallaig to Armadale (about 30 minutes). Departures from Glasgow Queen Street are at 9:03 and at 12:21, with arrivals in Armadale at 15:45 and 18:30, respectively. From here walk 2 miles north along the main road - Sabhal Mòr Ostaig will be on your right side - or take a taxi. There is an infrequent bus service connecting with some ferry arrivals. Similarly for the return: there are two ferry departures from Armadale, at 8:30 and at 14:30, with connecting trains from Mallaig reaching Glasgow Queen Street at 15:30 and 21:19, respectively. The return rail fare between Glasgow and Mallaig is likely to be between £33 and £67, depending on the ticket type (valid on a specific train only, or on any train); these tickets can be bought in advance online from www.nationalrail.co.uk, for instance. Note that two single

railway journeys can be cheaper than a return journey. The ferry ticket to Armadale costs about £5 per single journey.

Glasgow Buchanan bus station/Glasgow Airport to Kyle of Lochalsh: Citylink bus 916 departs 7:00 from Glasgow Buchanan (no stop at Glasgow airport, reaching Kyle of Lochalsh at 12:07). The Citylink bus 915 leaves Glasgow Buchanan at 10:00 (with a stop at Glasgow Airport at 10:20, reaching Kyle of Lochalsh at 15:21) and at 15:00 (with a stop at Glasgow Airport at 15:20, reaching Kyle of Lochalsh at 20:32). *Note: this is the latest same day connection to Skye.* From Kyle of Lochalsh, take a taxi (about 18 miles). The Kyle Taxi company: 01599 534323.

The return Citylink bus 915 departs from Kyle of Lochalsh at 8:50 (reaching Glasgow Airport 13:42, Glasgow Buchanan at 14:04), and at 11:25 (reaching Glasgow Airport at 16:43, Glasgow Buchanan 17:05). The latest public transport connection from Skye to Glasgow the same day is the Citylink bus 916 leaving Kyle of Lochalsh at 16:29 (no stop at Glasgow Airport, arrival at Glasgow Buchanan 22:09).

Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh: There are four daily railway departures between Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh, journey time about 2h35, and prices for a return vary between £26 and £45. In addition, Citylink runs three daily buses between Inverness Bus Station Farraline Park and Kyle of Lochalsh, travel time just over 2 hours. As above, from Kyle of Lochalsh take a taxi.