

Scotland's Highlands



Greg Wood - August 2019

Being a new bee to London, one of our previous CAA member's Geoff Donkin, provided me with an intro point to get the lay of the land in the UK and Europe. The London Fly Fishing Fair run each year around March.

The London Fly Fishing Fair brings together the best of what the fly fishing world has to offer, all in the heart of London. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, or somewhere in between, this is the ideal place to get involved in the sport. Here you can buy equipment and find your next trip from destination all over the world.

I ventured out and organise a few days away Fly Fishing for a number of Australian friends here in London. The Fair provided me with this avenue to get the info required. Hence after talking to the people at the stand of the Scourie Hotel located in the North West of Scotland, it provided an excellent venue for eight of us, including wives, from London to give it a go. The team at the Scourie Hotel provided me with the right package to suit the fisher folk and provided us with a great venue to relax and unwind.

Where is Scourie you might ask, so did I.

Scourie is located approx 2.5 hours drive NW of Inverness, if you are inclined about 12 hours Drive from London.



The Scourie Hotel (scouriehotel.com)



The hotel does have rods, reels and lines for hire and stock a good selection of flies for sale for all their fishing. The most successful flies are the traditional Scottish Trout and Sea Trout flies, though some newer types of reservoir flies such as the *Muddler Minnow* can be useful for Salmon.



The accommodation package provided by the Scourie Hotel provides permits, fly rods and tackle for a nominal fee without the need to cart your fishing gear from one side of the globe to the other.



Permits/Licence

Licence type	Trout and coarse 2-rod	Trout and coarse 3-rod	Salmon and sea trout
1-day	£6	Not available	£12
8-day	£12	Not available	£27
12-month	£30	£45	£82
12-month - over 65 or disabled	£20	£30	£54
12-month - junior (13 to 16)	Free	Free	Free

In Scotland, you need a rod fishing licence for the Border Esk and its tributaries. You do not need a rod fishing licence elsewhere in Scotland, but [you need permission](#).

District Salmon Fishery Boards are able to issue licences for operations taking place within their districts but only in the case of salmon and sea trout. If other freshwater species are likely to be caught, including Brown trout, written permission issued by the Scottish Ministers is required. The only exception to this is within the area covered by the River Tweed Commission which issues licences under specific Tweed legislation within the statutory fishing season.



The Scourie Hotel package also provided Bed, Breakfast and Dinner. This really is the place to come for exciting trout and salmon fishing in Scotland. The Scourie Hotel has fishing available on around 300 lochs and lochans, split into 46 hotel-controlled beats. All of which, with the exception of Loch Stack, More and the River Dionard, are absolutely free to hotel residents staying 3 days or more. Scourie really is Scotland's Fishing Hotel.

Scourie Hotel has fly fishing available on around 300 lochs and lochans, split into 46 hotel-controlled beats.

The names of all hotel residents wishing to fish are put onto the fishing roster, known as the Board, in order of arrival at the hotel. Each evening, after dinner, the fishing is allocated according to the order on the Board. Guests are free to choose any beats not taken by those above them on the Board. Each day the name at the top of the Board moves to the bottom and everyone else moves up one place. Should you choose not to fish every day, your name will still progress up the Board. A gillie (guide) can also be organised at a daily cost to assist you in your fishing day.

All fishing on hotel controlled beats is by fly only, including dry fly, wet fly and dapping. Barbless Hooks must be used when fishing on Loch Stack & Loch More.

The walk into the Beats can be demanding with some offering boats to fish the Loch.

Access To Loch Stack is from the roadside as are some of the hotel brown trout lochs. It is fair to say that most of the better brown trout lochs involve a fair amount of



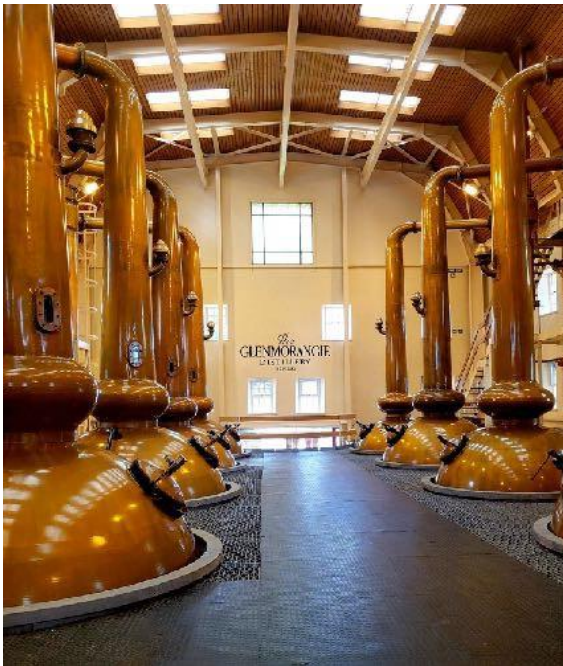
walking, although most of it is fairly easy and along established paths.

On average you could expect to walk from three to eight miles in the course of a day's fishing, although there are beats that will involve less walking and some which require more.



Neil is seen here proudly displaying his first trout in the Highlands. The colour of the Trout can be attributed to the amount of Peat that is in the Loch's.

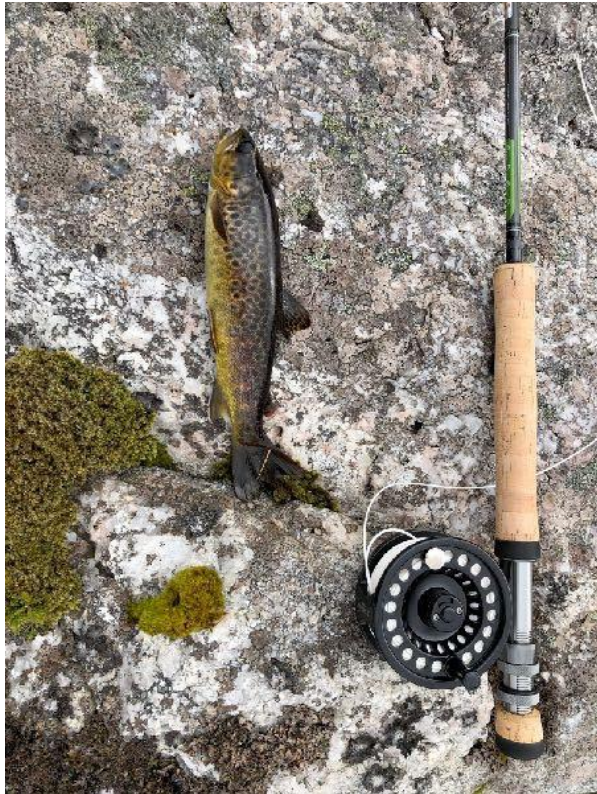
Peat is also used in the process of making Glenmorangie Whisky (now that's another story).



The scenery was fantastic, but unfortunately between the four of us, a total of 10 fish were caught over the 2 days but we were overawed with the scenery. Due to the sizing, these were returned to the Loch.

I was unfortunately less than fortunate to the size of one of my trout. It appears that my reputation is still with me, even on the other side of the world. Look closely.









The Aussie guy's, Neil, Greg, Leigh and Chris giving it a go in Scotland's Highlands.

After the two days of fishing, and after a fantastic stay at The Scourie Hotel, half of the group went back to London and Jane and myself joined Neil and Morag in the North Coast 500.

Now that's another story!!!