

Everything You Need To Know!

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Introduction

This Handbook

Welcome to Rowallan!

The purpose of this handbook is to give you easy access to the kind of information we think you could need during the course of your stay with us.

Hopefully you should find it easy to navigate and relatively informative, but please don't hesitate to let us know if there is anything more you feel we should add.

Online Links

Throughout this handbook we have included links to web pages that you may find useful.

If you are reading this booklet in paper format in the comfort of Rowallan, then alongside each link you'll see a Quick Response (QR) Code that looks something like this:



<https://www.whatisaqr.com/>

If you have a QR reader on your smartphone or tablet, then you can simply scan this code to jump straight to the web page that we've highlighted.

QR Reader applications are free and can be downloaded from your smartphone's App Store or Play Store.

Online Handbook

If you want to try out your QR Reader, you can scan this code to open the page on our website that contains an electronic version of this handbook. You might find it useful to have it to hand when you're not in Rowallan too!



<https://www.rowallanrogart.com/guest-area>

In Case of Emergency

Around The House

You'll find a **First Aid Kit** in the shelving at the back door.

You'll find **Fire Blankets** in the shelving at the back door and in the bookcase at the top of the stairs.

Power Cut

In the unlikely event of a power cut, you'll find an extensive range of candles and matches in a wooden crate at the top of the furthest away high cupboard in The Utility. Remember that the range cooker will continue working as it is fuelled by gas.

Doctor

The nearest doctor is in Golspie, eight miles away. You can call them on 01408 633221 or 01408 633444.



www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Services/Pages/GolspieMedicalPractice.aspx

Hospital

There is also a local hospital in Golspie. It doesn't have an Accident & Emergency unit, but it does have a Minor Injuries unit. You can call them on **01408 633157**.



<http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Services/Pages/LawsonMemorialHospital.aspx>

In the event of an acute medical emergency, please dial 999 to contact the emergency services.

Pharmacy

Mitchell's Chemist is the nearest pharmacy. It's in Golspie on the Main Street and you can call them on 01408 633 217. They also have a branch in Dornoch if that is more suitable for you.



<http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/Services/Pages/Golspie,MitchellsChemist.aspx>

Dentist

There are a number of local dentists but to access emergency dental care you should contact the NHS Dental Helpline on **0845 644 2271**. They will arrange an emergency appointment with a local dentist for you.

Vet

We are lucky to have an excellent veterinary service in Rogart, just over a mile away from Rowallan on the road towards Lairg. We hope you and your pet will have no need to contact them throughout your stay, but should the need arise, then you can call them on **01408 641352**.



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

The Owners

Should you need to contact us during your stay you can call **Eilidh** on **07427 629 702** or **Mairi** on **07793 290 962**. We will of course do everything we can to help you.

Access

Doors

The Keys

We've provided you with three sets of keys for each of the main doors to the house. They're hanging on the key rack at the back door, with the keys for each door labelled and colour coded for easy identification.

The Doors

The **back door** is a plain and simple lock. All you need to do is lift the handle up to turn the key.

The **front door** is also a plain lock, but it's unusual in that the position for inserting and removing the key is sideways! As with the back door, you'll need to lift the handle up to turn the key.

The **shop door** is a little quirky! We wanted to retain the original shop doors (and their giant key!) when we renovated the property, so rather than replace them, we simply added a modern door inside the old doorway. That modern door is identical to the back door – all you need to do is lift the handle up to turn the key. The old shop doors on the outside have a combination of sliding bolts, a chain and a very old-fashioned traditional lock, but there's nothing too complicated to work out. Just remember that if the old doors are locked, they can only be unlocked from the inside!

Leaving the House

We'd really appreciate it if you could make sure that all three doors to the house are locked whenever you leave Rowallan unattended. Break-ins and thefts are unheard of in Rogart, but we'd far rather you and your belongings were safe and sound rather than take any risks.

Windows

Each window in Rowallan has a locking mechanism. You'll find them locked on your arrival, but every window will have a key with a yellow keyring hanging from the frame around it, and you are more than welcome to unlock them and open and close them as you please.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in or around Rowallan. You are welcome to smoke outside, but we'd ask you to dispose of any cigarette ends considerately.

Our Four-Legged Friends

Expectations around the house

We absolutely love dogs and they are always more than welcome in our home. However, we also respect the fact that not every visitor feels the same, and we want Rowallan to be a lovely place to stay for everyone.

If you've brought your dog with you, we'd ask you to restrict them to the areas of the house that are not carpeted. The open plan living area, the back hallway and the utility are absolutely fine, but please don't take them into the rest of the house. Whilst you're upstairs overnight, there is ample space in the back hallway for your dog's crate or bed. Other than when you are upstairs overnight, please don't leave your dog unattended around the house.

We'd also really appreciate it if you'd keep them off the furniture, in order to make sure it is as clean and fresh for our next guests as you'd expect to find it yourself.

Expectations out in the garden

You and your dog are more than welcome to make use of Rowallan's garden space. Whilst the garden itself is enclosed, most enterprising dogs will find a wall they can hop over somewhere, so please make sure you know where they are at all times.

It goes without saying that we'd appreciate it if you'd bag and bin any dog poop that your pup might leave behind!

Expectations further afield

There are some fantastic walks around Rowallan, which we'll cover later in this booklet, but please be aware that much of the ground in Rogart is made up of working crofts and farmland.

- Never let your dog off the lead around livestock, no matter how well you think you can control them
- Never let your dog distress farm animals, even if there is a fence between them
- Never take your dog into any enclosed fields – even if there is no livestock, you may be trampling crops

Heating

Central Heating

The central heating will be pre-set to come on twice a day. Should you need to boost this, you'll find the controls in the back hallway, opposite the shower room.

- You can boost the heating by pressing the **+1 HR** button on the left
- You can boost the hot water by pressing the **+1 HR** button on the right



Fires

There are three different kinds of fires in Rowallan!

- Wiking Stove in the open plan area – this gives out a tremendous heat and is fuelled only with logs
- Open fire in the parlour – this is a traditional open fire which takes both coal and logs
- Clearview Stove in the ben parlour – this is also fuelled only with logs

Full instructions on setting, lighting, maintaining, leaving and emptying each fire are provided in a frame beside each.

A fire guard is provided for the open fire in The Parlour. A large fireguard is also available for your use around the wood burning stoves should you so wish – it is kept behind the sofa in The Ben Parlour.

There's also an ash hoover in the cupboard in the old music room....much easier than the traditional method of carrying ash pans through the entire house, and also means you don't have to worry about making sure the ash is cold before putting it in the bin.

We'll leave you with a large basket of logs for each of the stoves and some coal for the open fire. The more air you let into the fire, the more fuel you'll burn through, so take a moment to read the instructions for each fire to make sure your supplies last as long as possible. If you need more throughout your stay you'll find that Sandy's Shop stocks everything you'll need.

Heaters

Rowallan's central heating doesn't extend upstairs, but you'll find that the heat from downstairs rises very well. However, should you find yourself in need of additional heat, we can help!

You'll find some small electric oil-filled radiators in the bedrooms which you're welcome to use if needs be.

There are electric heaters in the upstairs bathroom and WC. They're pre-set and all you need to do to switch them on is flick the switch on the landing outside the bathrooms.

- The switch at the top left turns on the heater in the main bathroom
- The switch at the bottom left turns on the heated towel rail in the main bathroom
- The switch at the top right turns on the heater in the small toilet

These heaters are powerful, but expensive to use, so we'd really appreciate it if you'd make sure you don't leave them on unnecessarily.

Additional Warmth

Throws

If you'd rather not light a fire, but would like some additional warmth, we've provided a basket of fleecy throws that you're more than welcome to use. Feel free to curl up under them on the sofas, or throw them over your duvets for extra warmth at night.

Hot Water Bottles

If you like a cosy bed at night, you'll find a range of hot water bottles in the utility. You'll find them in the top cupboard at the back of the utility, beside the wee window. If you're not used to hot water bottles, it's worth being aware that you should never fill them with boiling water from the kettle! Use hot water from the taps wherever possible. If you do need to use the kettle, splash some cold water into the bottle first before you add the boiled water.

Fan

In the summer months you may feel the heat rather than the cold. A large free-standing fan is available for you to use, should you so wish. You'll find it in the old music room, in the cupboard under the window sill.

Technology

Broadband

Rowallan is equipped with high-speed fibre broadband. It is an unlimited provision, but it is subject to a domestic fair use policy and we would ask that our guests respect that.

For guidance, fair usage allows for internet browsing, social networking and emailing. Extensive downloading of games and films, or the watching of streamed TV may result in the fair usage allowance being exceeded.

Should you need it for any reason, the broadband router is situated behind the mirror on the dresser at the top of the stairs.

Wi-Fi

Rowallan has full Wi-Fi throughout the house. As you may be aware, the open plan living area is an extension of the original house (albeit a one-hundred year old extension!) which means that there is a solid granite wall separating it from the rest of the house.

To be sure that you don't lose connectivity on either side of that wall, we've installed a Wi-Fi extender in the open plan living area. That means that you have two different Wi-Fi access points to which you can connect. We'd suggest connecting to them both when you arrive, and that way your connection will transfer seamlessly between the two as you wander through the house.

The passwords for each access point are detailed on the framed notices found on the breakfast bar in the kitchen and on the chest of drawers on the upstairs landing.

Televisions

There are two Freeview televisions in Rowallan – one in the open plan living area and the other in The Ben Parlour, at the other end of the house.

The hills around Rowallan mean that the television signal isn't always particularly strong, so we've invested in an internal aerial booster to ensure you have full access to all the television channels you'd expect. It's mains-powered and is attached to the main television in the open plan living area.

That means that the television in the open plan living area must be switched on at the wall in order for the television in The Ben Parlour to work. If it is turned off at the wall, then you'll get nothing other than a grey sandstorm through at the other end of the house!

DVD

Both televisions have DVD players attached to them. There is a very random selection of DVDs in the bookcases in The Parlour which you are more than welcome to peruse!

Bluetooth Speakers

We do have an old-fashioned CD/Radio in The Parlour for anyone that still likes to carry their own CD collection, but for those of you who carry your music on electronic devices, you'll find two rugged Bluetooth speakers in the top left-hand cupboard in The Utility.

You're welcome to use them throughout your stay – all we ask is that you make sure the charging cables remain with the speakers at all times, and both the speakers and their charging cables are left in Rowallan when you leave.

The Kitchen

Towels

Both hand towels and dish towels will be waiting for you in the kitchen when you arrive. Should you need to change these during the course of your stay, you'll find spares of both in the shelving in the boiler cupboard at the back of The Utility.

Equipment

You'll find a full list of everything provided in the kitchen in our inventory, but here's a list of the key items you'll find in Rowallan.

- Range cooker
- American fridge freezer
- Integrated fridge
- Integrated dishwasher
- Integrated bins
- Microwave
- Four-slice toaster
- Kettle (with teapots and cafetieres)
- Slow cooker
- Steamer
- Food processor
- Hand blender
- Spiraliser
- Popcorn maker

Baking and Cooking

Again, you'll find a full list of everything provided in our inventory, but Rowallan is fully equipped for baking and cooking.

There is a wide range of baking trays, including a roasting tin, pizza tray, cake tins and flan dishes. You'll also find three frying pans and nine other pans, ranging from milk pans to soup pans. There are colanders, mixing bowls, and a full range of Denby serving dishes in which you can serve up your creations.

We've even left a range of spices along with salt and pepper, and a selection of recipe books to give you some ideas.

Crockery & Utensils

Rowallan has a full set of Denby crockery for you to use. There are sixteen sets of cutlery, glasses for every occasion, and a somewhat random selection of twenty mugs.

There is a huge range of utensils, including a knife block. In The Utility you'll also find a wide range of tupperware that you're more than welcome to use throughout your stay with us.

Inventory

If you'd like specific details of what you can find in our kitchen, you'll find a detailed breakdown in our inventory.

Laundry

Washing Machine

A large washing machine is provided in Rowallan. We'll leave the user manual out for you should you need to use it, but you should find it very intuitive.

To switch it on at the wall, switch on the middle switch of the three on the wall immediately above the machine.

Tumble Dryer

Rowallan is a great place for drying things in the fresh air, but if you need a quick fix, then there is a tumble dryer right beside the washing machine.

To switch it on at the wall, switch on the left-hand switch of the three on the wall immediately above the machine.

Washing Line

You'll find an outdoor washing line and a box of clothes pegs under the sink in The Utility. The washing line fixes to the back of the shed at the back door and extends to clip onto a pole in the back garden, but you'll find full instructions inside the box containing the line if you want to take advantage of it!

Pulley

If you'd rather dry your clothes inside, then you'll find the pulley in The Utility extremely useful.

Simply unwind the rope from the clip by the door and lower the pulley down gently. Hang your washing over it, and when you're finished simply pull the rope to raise the pulley again. Wind the rope around the clip at the door to fix it in place until you're ready to take your lovely dry washing back down.

Laundry Baskets

You'll find baskets for storing laundry to be washed and for transporting clean laundry to the line on the floor at the back of The Utility, tucked under the worktop.

There is also a laundry basket in the upstairs bathroom.

Useful Supplies

Hoovers and Floor Brushes

You'll find a portable Hoover hanging on the hooks at the back door. There is a charger on the shelf beneath it.

Should you need a more industrial Hoover, you'll find one in the cupboard under the stairs, in The Old Music Room. The floor Hoover is the red one. The black one is an ash Hoover for emptying the fires, so won't do much for the floors. 😊

You'll also find a floor brush, dustpan and brush, mop and bucket under the stairs should you need them.

Cleaning Supplies

We don't provide cleaning supplies in Rowallan, primarily because of the risk to children and animals.

However, we do stock our own cleaning materials in The Utility, and you're more than welcome to utilise anything in there during your stay if required. You'll find them all in the cupboard above the washing machine and tumble dryer.

Should you choose to use them, please be aware that there are no child locks on any of our cupboards, so we'd recommend that anything used is returned to that cupboard, out of reach of small hands, rather than stored in any of the low-level cupboards where they could pose a hazard.

Bedding

Bedding is provided for you on the beds when you arrive. However, should you need to change the bedding at any time throughout your stay, you'll find all our spare sets of bedding in the silver ottoman that is normally in The Wee Room, with spare sheets in the bottom drawer of the large chest in The Front room.

Towels

Towels are provided for every guest and laundry facilities are available in The Utility to wash and dry these during your stay if required.

If you require additional towels you will find our supply of them in the large chest of drawers on the upstairs landing, and you are welcome to use those if needs be. You'll find hand towels in the top drawer, bath towels in the middle drawer and bath sheets in the bottom drawer.

Hair Dryers

There are two hair dryers in Rowallan that you are more than welcome to use. One is in the top right-hand drawer of the large chest of drawers in The Front Room. The other is in the top drawer of the small chest of drawers to the right of the door in The Twin Room.

Baby & Toddler Supplies

We have a stair gate, a high chair and an old-fashioned wooden cot that we will happily make available to you during your stay should you so wish.

If you have small children in your party, we can also supply plastic crockery, tumblers and cutlery for you. Please just let us know if you'd like us to leave those out for you.

A large fireguard is also available for you to use should you so wish. You'll find it behind the sofa in The Ben Parlour.

The Garden

Parking

You'll never be short of parking here. Rowallan can easily accommodate six cars, and more if you're happy to shuffle around to get cars in and out! Parking starts at the front of The Old Shop and runs up the side of the building to the garage.

Perimeter walls and fences

Rowallan has a lovely garden space, which is a real sun trap in the summer and very sheltered in the autumn and winter. The perimeter is primarily made up of low drystone walls and hedging, so you should be aware that when there are less leaves on the hedges, industrious children and animals could climb through the hedges and over the walls, so whilst the garden is fully enclosed, it is not impenetrable!

The walls and gates are the originals. Some walls are cemented across the top, but others are loose stone, so we would ask you to refrain from climbing on walls for your own safety.

At the side of the garage there is a false fence blocking access to a small drain. It is designed for easy removal to clear the drain of leaves and will not withstand any weight.

Sheds

There are a number of sheds around Rowallan. We are more than happy to make one of those available to you for storage of any bicycles or fishing equipment that you may choose to bring with you. The shed will be secured with a combination padlock so you can come and go as you please.

Please be aware that we are simply allowing you use of space within one of our sheds. It will not be empty, although there will be ample space in there for your equipment, and you will be using it at your own risk.

Table & Chairs

There is a garden table with a parasol and set of four chairs in the shed, which you are more than welcome to use should you so wish.

Restrictions

You're welcome to use the garden as if it were your own. The only thing we'd ask is that you refrain from lighting paper lanterns or setting off fireworks in the garden, both of which can cause distress and damage to nearby wildlife and livestock.

Practical Information

Bins

Inside the house

You'll find the kitchen bins in an integrated unit to the right of the sink. There are three bins, all individually labelled. One is for glass recycling, one is for paper/cardboard recycling and the other is for general waste. A sign in the kitchen gives you guidance on what can and can't be recycled.

You'll find some bin bags on the small shelf inside that unit. There is also a general waste bin inside the door of the utility and small waste bins in each of the toilets / bathrooms.

Outside the house

There are two bins outside the house – a black one and a blue one. The black one is for general waste, and the blue one is for your recycling.

Collection days

Bins are generally collected on Tuesdays, although this is subject to variation over Christmas and New Year. We will arrange for someone to move the appropriate bin out to the roadside prior to collection.

Drinking Water

We're very lucky to have lovely clear water in Rogart - all our taps will give you perfect drinking water!

Outside Tap

There is an outside tap to the right of the back door, underneath the window of The Utility.

The flow of water to the tap is always turned off, but should you wish to use it you'll find a red lever on the outgoing pipe underneath the sink in The Utility. Turn that to run in the same direction as the pipe and the outside tap will work for you.

Plumbing

Rowallan's plumbing system is as old as the house itself, and goes to a septic tank too, so please take special care in ensuring no material other than toilet paper is flushed down the toilets. There are signs to remind you by each toilet.

Fuse Box

Should you need to locate it, the fuse box is in the main corridor in the back hallway, on the wall facing you as you come in the back door.

Candles

You'll find an extensive range of candles in a wooden crate at the top of the furthest away high cupboard in The Utility.

First Aid

You'll find a First Aid Kit in the shelving at the back door.

Fire Blankets

You'll find Fire Blankets in the shelving at the back door and in the bookcase at the top of the stairs.

Public Transport

Trains

Rowallan is a five-minute walk from Rogart's train station. You can even see the station platform from the house! Rogart's almost in the middle of the Far North line that runs between Inverness and Thurso/Wick. There are some fantastic day trips to be had if you fancy a break from driving too.



<https://www.scotrail.co.uk/scotland-by-rail/great-scenic-rail-journeys/far-north-line-inverness-thurso-wick>

If you're arriving at Rowallan by train, the easiest way to get there is to walk up the hill from the platform to the main road (around 200 metres). At the crossroads, turn left and you'll see Rowallan on your right just another 400 metres or so along the road.

Buses

Local bus company D&E Coaches run a service between Lairg and Helmsdale which passes through Rogart three times a day. Times vary seasonally, so please always check their latest timetable before you plan any journey by bus.



<http://www.decoaches.co.uk/timetables/?search=rogart>

Taxis

There are a number of local taxi companies. None are based in Rogart, but there are some in Lairg, Golspie, Brora, Dornoch and Tain that will happily come to Rogart to collect you if needs be. Some established numbers are:

- Charlie's Taxis (Golspie) 01408 633763 or 07900 061 947
- Mackay's Taxis (Dornoch) 01862 810162
- Fraser's Private Hire (Brora) 07944 672406
- Northern Sights (Lairg) 01549 402399
- Heather's Taxi (Tain) 07570 460357

Eating Out

Evening Meals

There are a number of lovely places to eat out in the surrounding villages, but you will never go wrong with Rogart's own **Pittentrail Inn**.

The fact that it's only 500 yards along the road from Rowallan makes it the perfect option if you don't feel like cooking yourselves! You'll always be assured of a warm welcome from Hector and his team of local staff, and the homemade food is fantastic.

Lunches & Brunches

Again, there are all sorts of lovely restaurants and coffee shops in the nearby villages, but Lairg has two particularly wonderful hidden gems.



The Pier is a fantastic family-run restaurant which produces fantastic homemade food in a beautiful loch-side setting. There is even a local crafts area for you to enjoy whilst you're there.

<http://www.pier-cafe.co.uk/>



Mac & Wild is something different – Andy is a local lad who owns two London restaurants and has now brought his business home with this fantastic restaurant within the Falls Of Shin tourist attraction. As well as the food and the falls, Mac & Wild offer workshops and immersive experiences throughout the year.

<https://www.macandwild.com/falls-of-shin>

Coffee Time

You'll get fantastic coffees and home-made baking at **The Pier** (mentioned above) but if you're a chocolate fan, then this might be more up your street! Durness' favourite **Cocoa Mountain** now has a branch in Dornoch, just eleven miles away.



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

Takeaway Options

There are a number of nearby takeaways that will deliver to Rogart. Here is a selection for you to choose from.



The Trawler Fish & Chip shop is in Golspie. You can call 01408 633869 to place an order.

<http://www.trawlerfishandchips.co.uk/index.php>



Sid's Spice is an Indian takeaway in Brora. You can call 01408 621467 or 01408 622178 to place an order.

<http://sidspace.com/index.html>

Red Dragon Chinese Takeaway is also in Brora. They don't have an online menu at the moment, but you can call them on 01408 622490.

Local Shopping Facilities

Sandy's Shop

Sandy has been running the local shop, now a Spar store, and Post Office since 1964. It's around five hundred yards along the road to your left, across from the Pittentrail Inn in the centre of the village, and you're guaranteed a warm welcome!

The shop stocks anything you're likely to need during your stay, including fresh local eggs and other farm produce. You'll also find coal and firewood readily available for purchase.

Alastair's Garage

Within a stone's throw of Rowallan you'll find Alastair's Garage. As well as all the service you'd expect from a local garage, they have a small shop within the building serving juice, sweets and snacks. Always handy in an emergency!

Small Supermarkets

If you're happy with a smaller supermarket, then the closest you'll find is the **Co-Op** in **Golspie**. It's situated on the Main Street and it's generally open from 7am to 10pm each day.



<https://finder.coop.co.uk/food/store/KW10-6RA/main-street>

Larger Supermarkets

For larger supermarkets you'll find the best selection in **Tain**.

There is a **Tesco** on Shore Road (IV19 1EH). It sells fuel as well as goods, and is generally open from 8am to 10pm each day.



<https://www.openingtimesin.uk/tesco-tain>

There is an **Asda** on Knockbreck Road (IV19 1NZ). It is open from 7am to 11pm each day, and also has self-service fuel pumps which are available 24 hours.



<https://storelocator.asda.com/store/tain>

You'll also find a **Lidl** store as you drive into Tain on Morangie Road (IV19 1PY). It's open from 8am to 8pm every day.



<https://www.lidl.co.uk/en/Store-Finder-4186.htm>

Right beside Lidl you'll find a fantastic **Home Bargains** store. It's also on Morangie Road (IV19 1PY) and it is open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 7pm on a Saturday and 9am to 6pm on a Sunday.



<https://storelocator.homebargains.co.uk/store/A423/Morangie+Road,+Tain>

Gifts & Hardware

If you're looking to purchase some gifts to take home with you, or the kids want to spend their holiday money, then look no further than Lindsays of Golspie. They've got a fantastic array of gifts, cards, gift wrap, toys, accessories, jewellery and, of course, hardware spread across two different shops. It's well worth a visit.



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

Local Banking Facilities

Bank of Scotland

The nearest Bank Of Scotland is in Tain, around fifteen miles away. You'll find them on Tower Street (IV19 1DY) and their opening hours are generally 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Please check their website to be sure these haven't changed before making the journey, or call them on **01862 892 057**.



<https://www.bankofscotland.co.uk/branchfinder/search.asp>

Clydesdale Bank

The nearest Clydesdale Bank is in Brora, around fourteen miles away. You'll find them on Victoria Road (KW9 6QN) and their opening hours are generally 09:15 to 16:30, closing for lunch between 12:30 and 13:30. Please check their website to be sure these haven't changed before making the journey, or call them on **0800 345 7365**.



<https://secure.cbonline.co.uk/personal/online-locator/>

Royal Bank of Scotland

Unfortunately all our local Royal Bank of Scotland branches have been closed down, but there is a mobile service that travels around the Highlands. It stops in Golspie, Lairg, Dornoch and Bonar Bridge, all of which are within a ten-mile radius of Rowallan, throughout the week.



<https://locator-rbs.co.uk/results>

TSB

The nearest TSB is in Tain, around fifteen miles away. You'll find them at 29 High Street (IV19 1AE) and their opening hours are generally 09:15 to 16:30, closing for lunch between 12:30 and 13:30. Please check their website to be sure these haven't changed before making the journey, or call them on **01862 245999**.



<https://www.tsb.co.uk/branch-locator/>

Walks & Wildlife

Walks

There are some lovely walks from Rowallan. Two of our favourite hill walks from the house are below:

A favourite is the Drianach – the hill you see in front of you when you look out the front of the house. Leave Rowallan and walk along to your left until you reach the crossroads before the shop. Turn right at the crossroads and walk past the station on your right, over the river and past the farm on your left. Where the road turns sharply to the left you'll find a forestry track going up to your right. The track winds up the hill for a couple of miles – it's not too steep, the track is wide and solid, and you'll get some amazing views of the village from the top. You can let your dogs off the lead once you're through the forestry gate.

Another is the hill right behind the house. If you can fight your way through the whin bushes, you'll get to the top of the first hill very quickly, giving you lovely views down onto the house and the rest of the village. Behind that there is another hill, and if you've got the energy to climb to the top of it, you'll have a wonderful 360-degree view of the entire parish of Rogart. You can see for miles, right down to Golspie and over the back to the old village of Rogart, now known as Little Rogart.

There are two road loops you can do too, both of which are probably 4-5 miles and make lovely running/cycling routes.

The first is the Dalmore loop – turn right when you leave Rowallan and walk out of the village until you see the railway crossing on your left. Take that road across the railway and follow it round to the right until it loops back up onto the main road again. You can walk back along there to Rowallan.

The second is the Little Rogart loop. This time you turn left when you leave Rowallan and carry on to the crossroads. Turn left and walk up the hill for around two miles – you'll pass St Callans church on your right, and then you'll drop down a hill past the cemetery. Take the next road on your left, just as you come out of the dip, and follow it round for another couple of miles. That will take you round the back of Rogart and down onto the main road to Lairg at Pitfure Church. Turn left and follow the road back along to Rowallan.

The Walk Highlands website is a fantastic resource for finding all sorts of walks and climbs. We'd thoroughly recommend it for anybody interested in walking in and around the area.



<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/sutherland/dornoch.shtml>

Wildlife

There's an eclectic range of wildlife in Sutherland, but in Rogart there are a few things you're guaranteed to spot.

Around a mile outside Rogart, on the road towards Golspie and the A9, we have a herd of **wild goats**. They're quite regularly spotted around the roadside between the old granite quarry and Morvich Farm. They have no fear and will happily expect you to stop and wait whilst they wander across the road in front of you. On the plus side, they'll also happily pose for any photographs you might want to take!

The hills around are full of **deer**. They're much less brazen than the goats and you're most likely to spot them at night, but if you keep your eyes peeled there are plenty to be found.

The trees around Rogart are prime nesting areas for **buzzards**. Rarely a day goes by when you don't see these wonderful birds hunting in the fields by Rowallan. Watch out for them perched on telegraph poles. You'll probably see some **red kite** too – they're generally slightly larger than buzzards, but their markings are very similar. If you're interested, the main distinction between the two is their tail - the buzzard has a fanned tail, whilst the red kite has a forked tail.

Beaches

Local Beaches

Dornoch Beach is the best local beach by far. It's a huge expanse of sand with endless dunes to play in, fantastic rocks to clamber over and jump off and it even has a little playpark behind it.

Embo Beach, just off the low road to Dornoch, is also lovely if you want to go off the beaten track a little. It can be busy in the summer as there is a large caravan park nearby, but there is more than enough beach to find peace and quiet for yourself! The low road is worth the drive in itself. You're guaranteed to spot seals and heron in the short stretch of road that runs along the shoreline.

Beaches that are worth a journey!

If you want a beach day trip, you will find a never-ending list of spectacular beaches on the West Coast.

Achmelvich Beach is probably the most picturesque beach in the Highlands. A stunning beach of white sand, you'll find it three miles north west of Lochinver, but on a summers day it is more than worth the journey.



<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/lochinver/achmelvich/index.html>

Sandwood Bay is really only somewhere you'd visit if you don't mind a good walk to stretch your legs after your drive. However, the effort you put into the walk is more than rewarded by the beautiful beach at the end of it, made all the more impressive by the giant sandstone sea stack, Am Buachaille at the end of it.



<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/sutherland/sandwood-bay.shtml>

Farr Bay is a family favourite of ours. One of two gorgeous beaches in Bettyhill, Farr Bay is an absolute haven of peace and tranquillity. If you make it to Bettyhill, a short drive along the road to Strathy will give you stunning views of Orkney too!



<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/farr-bay-p314201>

Sports & Leisure

Leisure Centre

Sutherland Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre is just eight miles along the road in Golspie. It boasts a 25-metre pool, a fully-equipped gym and a range of fitness classes. You can call them on **01408 633437**.



<https://www.highlifehighland.com/golspie/>

Golf Courses

Sutherland is a rich tapestry of golf courses. From the world-class Royal Dornoch to the beautiful links courses lining the coast, there's something for everyone.

Golspie's links course in particular is a hidden gem, but the link below will give you information on all our local courses so you can choose for yourself.



<https://golfhighland.com/>

Wildcat Trails

For the mountain bikers amongst you, you won't get better than the Wildcat Trails in Golspie. Featuring the longest descent in the UK from the summit of Ben Bhraggie down to sea level, as well as the longest technical single track climb, it's a must for anyone who enjoys their bike time. It's also a lovely walk for those without a bike too – there are separate walking tracks up the hill if you prefer to go on foot!



<http://www.highlandwildcat.com/overview.php>

Playparks

Rogart

There is a small wooden play area just behind the Pittentrail Inn. It consists of a slide and a climbing area for kids to scramble on.

It's at the side of a football pitch, and if you walk up the side of the pitch to the other end you'll find swings too.

Golspie

There is a large playpark in Golspie. As you drive into the village the road sweeps round to the right, and you'll see it on your right-hand side. It's a traditional park with swings, roundabouts and slides.....and loads of space for wee tots to run around!

Lairg

The **Ferrycroft Visitor Centre** in Lairg has an excellent playpark. It has a zipline, swings, climbing frame and monkey bars. There's a woodland walk, and if you visit during opening hours you can also get a hot coffee! There are educational activities for children inside too.

Shin Falls

As well as being home to the **Mac & Wild** restaurant, Shin Falls has a fantastic play area for kids. With forest trails and mini golf as well as the refurbished play area, it's worth the 14-mile journey, especially in the summer months when you can also watch the salmon leaping up the falls.



<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/falls-of-shin-visitor-attraction-p1905721>

Bonar Bridge

The Hub in Bonar Bridge is where you'll find the nearest soft play area for younger kids. It's a 20-mile journey through Lairg, but when you get there you'll find a modern community area hosting soft play alongside a gym and a cafe offering a range of healthy menu options.



<https://www.heartofsutherland.co.uk/location/kyle-of-sutherland-hub>

Local Interest

Cinema

The nearest cinema is the Vue Cinema in Inverness.

However, Rogart has its own version! Once a month, on a Saturday night, a family-friendly film is played in the local hall, with refreshments provided. Keep an eye out for notices on the counter in Sandy's Shop and signs outside the hall itself (which is just on the left as you leave the village heading towards Golspie and the A9) to see if there is something on during your stay.

Markets

Between May and September, on the second Wednesday of each month, you'll find **Dornoch Community Market**. It's held on the green in front of the cathedral in the centre of town, with plenty parking on the road alongside. There are around thirty different local suppliers in attendance, and the market runs from 9:30am to 1pm. You'll find everything from locally grown produce to crafts and cosmetics, and there are also bacon rolls, tea and coffee on offer.

Further afield you'll find **Dingwall Farmers' Market**. That's held on the second Saturday of each month on the pedestrian precinct in the centre of town.

The biggest market is **Inverness Farmers' Market**. That runs from February to December, when it becomes a pre-Christmas market. It's held on the first Saturday of each month and features prominent local businesses supplying vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy, bread and cakes.

Churches

There are three churches in Rogart.

The **Church of Scotland** is in the beautiful St Callans Church. Turn left when you leave Rowallan, then at the crossroads (just before you reach Sandy's shop and Hector's pub) turn left up the hill at the crossroads. Follow the road for about two miles or so, and you'll see St Callans on your right, on the crest of the hill.

The **Free Church of Scotland** is a lovely welcoming community. Turn right when you leave Rowallan and follow the road for about two miles. You'll see Pitfure Church on your right – that's now a private home, but if you turn right up the road immediately beside it, you'll find the Free Church about 300 metres up the hill, on your left.

The **Free Presbyterian Church** is situated just past Pitfure Church. Turn right when you leave Rowallan and follow the road for about two miles. You'll see Pitfure Church on your right and about 500 metres further along the road you'll see another small white church on the right hand side of the main road. That's the Free Presbyterian Church.

Service times vary between the winter and summer months. All three churches have signs outside them confirming the current service times, so we'd recommend a quick reconnaissance mission to check them beforehand.

Castles

Dunrobin Castle is an absolutely stunning castle just outside Golspie, right on the shoreline. As well as being able to tour around the castle itself, the gardens are spectacular. They've also got their own falconry, made up of injured birds of prey personally rescued and rehabilitated by the falconer himself. The castle is only open from the start of April to the end of October each year, but if you're staying in Rowallan during those months, it is well worth a visit.



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

Distilleries

Brora is home to the Clynelish Distillery, which produces a smoky single malt from the nearby Clynelilton Burn. Distillery tours are available, and they are generally free over the winter months.



<https://www.malts.com/en-row/distilleries/clynelish/>

In Tain you'll find the famous Glenmorangie distillery which has been in operation since 1843. It's well worth a visit!



<https://www.glenmorangie.com/en-us>

If you fancy something a little different, on your way to Tain, nip into Dornoch to the Dornoch Castle Hotel. It has recently opened its own distillery, and whilst it waits for its whisky to mature, it's been distilling its own local gin.



<https://www.thompsonbrodistillers.com/#>

If you turn right when you come off the Dornoch bridge and head for Edderton rather than going left to Tain, you'll find the lovely wee Balblair distillery. Alternatively, if you follow the A9 a little further south you'll find the Dalmore distillery at Alness too.

Potteries

There are a number of local potteries in the area. If you're looking for a piece of the Highlands to take home with you, you're bound to find something you like in one of them!

Tain Pottery is just fifteen miles away from Rowallan.



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

Just down the coast from Tain you'll find the delightful seaboard villages. Fearn is home to **Anta**, a fantastic pottery that also hosts a coffee shop and a fantastic range of handmade homeware, fashion and gifts.



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

Highland Stoneware is in both Lochinver and Ullapool, but Lindsays in Golspie, just eight miles away, are stockists for them, if you'd prefer not to make the journey across to the west coast.



<https://www.highlandstoneware.com/>

Events

There are a wide range of random local events that you may find interesting, including local fairs and gala weeks. They generally occur throughout the summer months. If any are scheduled during your stay, we'll let you know!

Any Problems?

Breakages

Accidents happen – we all know that. All we ask is that you let us know of any breakages or damages that occur during your stay as soon as possible so that we have the opportunity to arrange replacements before our next guests arrive.

Any issues?

If there is anything that you are unhappy or concerned about during your stay, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're committed to your stay being a happy one, and if there are any problems then we'd really appreciate the opportunity to correct that for you as soon as we possibly can.

You can call **Mairi on 07793 290 962** or you can call **Eilidh on 07427 629 702**. Alternatively you can email us at rowallanivy@gmail.com.

Leaving Rowallan

Your Departure Day

All we ask on your date of departure is that you do your best to leave Rowallan as you found it.

Guestbook

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to fill in our guestbook before you go!

Food

Please don't leave any food in Rowallan. Take what you can with you, and if you need to leave perishable items behind, please put them in a bin bag and leave them in the outside bin.

Bins

We'd really appreciate it if you could empty any rubbish that may be in the indoor bins into the outdoor bins.

Towels

Just leave your used towels hanging on the towel rails around the house.

Bedding

If you have the time, it would be great if you'd remove the duvet covers, pillowcases and sheets from any beds that you have used during your stay. Just leave them at the foot of the bed.

Shed

Don't forget to pack up anything you may have stored in the shed!

Lights

Please make sure all lights are off before you leave the house.

Heating

If you have needed to adjust the heating controls for any reason, please switch them back to the automatic settings before you leave.

Windows

For security purposes, please ensure that all windows are closed securely before you leave. If you could lock them and place the keys back on their hooks at the side of the window, that would be great!

Doors

You'll leave the house by the back door, so please ensure that the doors in The Front Hall and The Old Shop are locked and the keys returned to their hooks in The Back Hall....with the exception of the giant shop door key – just leave it in the lock where you found it, we're very fond of that one! 😊

Keys

When you leave there should be three keys for each door hanging on the rack in The Back Hall. Take one of the keys for the back door and lock the door behind you when you leave. Just pop the key in the key safe on the side of the shed.

Travel Safely!

Most importantly, please have a very safe journey back home! Thank you for staying with us, and hopefully we'll see you again sometime soon!

- Guestbook signed
- All food cleared out of cupboards, fridges and freezer
- All bins emptied into the outside bins
- All towels hanging on towel rails
- All beds stripped
- All your own belongings packed up from the house
- All your own belongings packed up from the shed
- All windows closed
- All windows locked and keys returned to hooks
- Door locked in The Old Shop
- Front door locked
- Three keys hanging up for The Old Shop door
- Three keys hanging up for The Front Door
- Two keys hanging up for The Back Door
- Third key for The Back Door stowed in key safe after locking up

SAFE JOURNEY! We hope you've enjoyed your stay in Rowallan! 😊