



How will you travel?

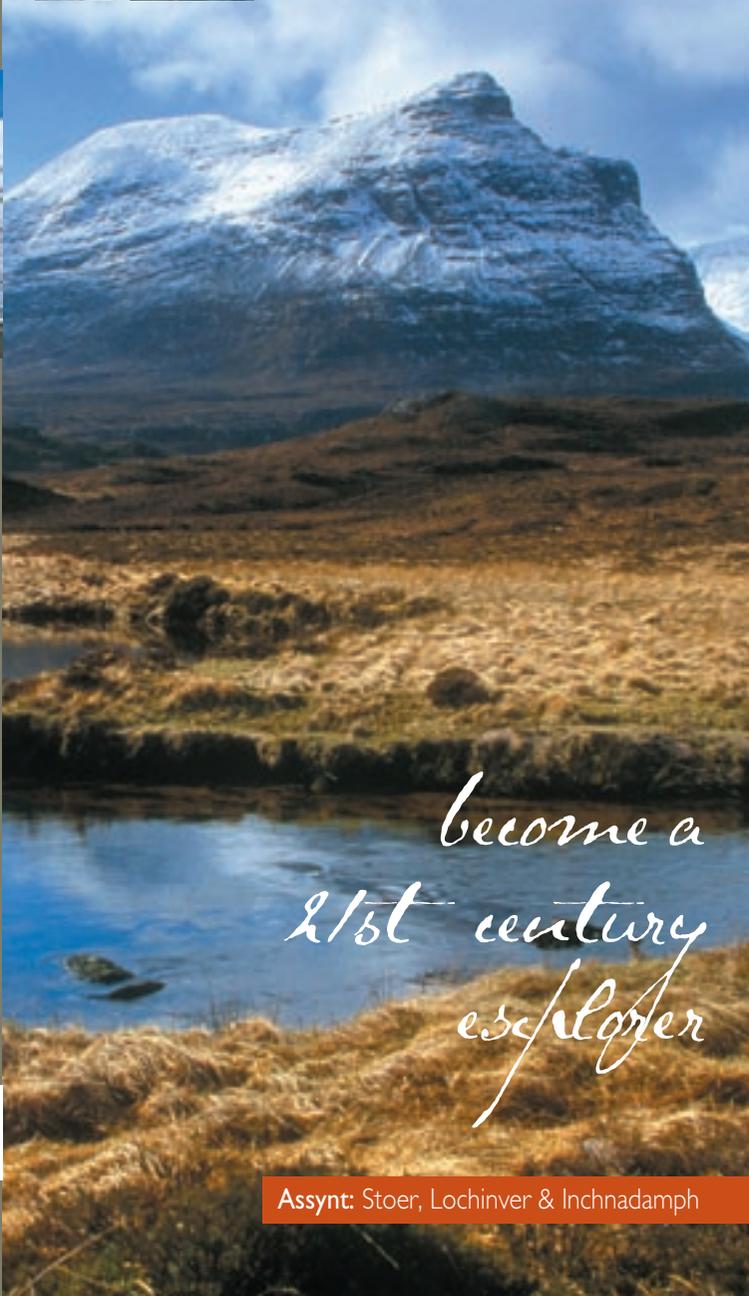
A journey to the Geopark takes you right to the heart of one of the last great wilderness areas in northern Europe. Charter a boat or paddle a kayak, travel by car, cycle, camper van or on foot. Don't forget that some natural attractions can only be accessed on foot or by sea. Things to do around the Geopark:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ adventure holidays ☞ beach holidays ☞ bird watching ☞ cycling & mountain biking ☞ deer and game hunting ☞ diving ☞ galleries and museums ☞ geology trips ☞ guided walks ☞ golf ☞ hill walking ☞ indoor leisure centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ mountaineering ☞ orienteering ☞ rock climbing ☞ sailing and boat trips ☞ scrambling ☞ sea, river and loch fishing ☞ sightseeing ☞ traditional music festivals ☞ visitor centres ☞ wildlife watching ☞ woodland walks
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European Geoparks Network North West Highlands Geopark is part of a global network of territories defined by their outstanding geological features, forward-thinking local communities and unique natural and cultural heritage. www.europeangeoparks.org



North West Highlands
GEOPARK
Iar-Thuath na Gàidhealtachd



*become a
21st century
explorer*

An unexpected discovery

While surveying the geology around the limestone crags of Creag nan Uamh, two 19th century geologists found much more than they bargained for. Animal bones of species long extinct in Scotland were discovered inside the caves. Later, many more animal species were uncovered along with human remains dating back more than 4,500 years. Together with the geology of the area, these remains offer vital clues to understanding prehistory in the Geopark. Some of the species found in the Bone Caves: arctic fox, arctic or collared lemming, brown bear, northern lynx, ox, polar bear, reindeer, wolf, red grouse, teal and tufted duck.





To help you get around, North West Highlands Geopark is divided into four areas.

Some of the must see attractions in and around Stoer, Lochinver and Inchnadamph:



Little Assynt An all-abilities path takes you to the shores of Loch Leìtir Easaidh and Loch Innse Fraoich. Enjoy views to Quinag and fresh water angling from boats specially adapted for people with mobility impairments. Facilities at both lochs include an easily accessible compost toilet, a shelter and picnic area.

Canisp and Suilven These Torridonian sandstone mountains dominate the landscape. Sit back and enjoy the spectacular view or take to the slopes as a walker, rock-climber, scrambler or hill runner.

Ben More Assynt and Conival As you travel through the Geopark, you can't fail to be awed by these mountains. Both are classed as Munros (height of 915m or above) with Ben More Assynt connected to Conival by a high ridge. Please make sure that you are well-equipped and have all the information you need on routes and weather conditions before setting out on a mountain climb or walk.

Old Man of Stoer Follow the path from the lighthouse car park along cliffs populated by seabirds to view this pinnacle of sandstone rock standing just off the coast.

Clashnessie, Clachtoll and Achmelvich beaches Ideal for a family day out, these sandy beaches are peaceful, unspoilt and surrounded by marvellous rock formations. Visit the Clachtoll salmon bothy as well as the remains of a 1st century broch.



Ancient settlements...

Thriving present day communities...

Clean sandy beaches...

Stunning mountain landscapes...

Encompassing 2000 sq km of dramatic scenery and revealing traces of human activity going back thousands of years, North West Highlands Geopark provides a unique window onto the evolution of life and landscape.

Assynt Visitor Centre An ideal place to start exploring and also the base for the local Highland Council Countryside Ranger. Ask about guided walks, events, entertainment and children's activities. Pick up information on geology, archaeology, local history, wildlife and trails around the Geopark. Special on-site activities for children including a touch table and telescope.

Inchnadamph National Nature Reserve and the Bone Caves With caves, tunnels and underground streams, Inchnadamph promises exciting discoveries for explorers. Walk along a dry riverbed at Traligill and visit the Bone Caves where archaeologists found human remains dating back 4500 years along with the bones of animals long extinct in Scotland.

Loch Assynt, Ardvreck Castle and Inchnadamph Church Ancient stronghold of the MacLeod clan of Assynt, Ardvreck Castle stands on the shores of Loch Assynt with the mountain Quinag rising 808m to the north. Discover the fascinating history of the area from archive material in the old Inchnadamph Church.

People of the rocks

Rock was fundamental to the people who roamed the mountains and coasts of the Geopark. Explore cave shelters and the remains of dwellings and forts built entirely of stone. Find out about specialised tools used for hunting and skinning animals. Ponder the mysteries of stone burial chambers and territory marker stones.