

Road-trip *restaurants*

Pairing seasonal, local produce with stylish interiors, these rural dining rooms are worthy of a weekend away

INVER

It will come as no surprise that seafood is Inver's speciality, such is its winning proximity to Loch Fyne. This diminutive dining room, decked out in vintage Ercol furniture, has inspired many a Highland jaunt – and for good reason. Here, nature's bounty takes centre stage, both on the inventive menu concocted by Noma alumni Pam Brunton and via the pretty shuttered windows that frame the Scottish scenery (inverrestaurant.co.uk).

TRY Crab, sourced straight from the loch, served with hot brown butter and sourdough. There's a tasting menu, too.

STAY Bed down in one of four charming Scandinavian-style bothies, constructed in 2018, with art and textiles by local artisans. From £205 per night for two adults, including breakfast.

SEE Local attractions are gloriously few and far between. Plan a walk via the atmospheric ruins of Old Castle Lachlan, just along the shore.



Clockwise, from left Local crab is on the menu at Inver, which serves inventive Scottish fare; the restaurant sits on the banks of the beautiful Loch Fyne; the former school now refined restaurant, The Clockspire



THE CLOCKSPIRE

This 19th-century former school in Somerset's Milborne Port was sensationally converted last year by London-based firm Studio Indigo, which reinstated the historic floor plan and created a mezzanine level to admire the vaulted ceiling. Opened in the autumn, the restaurant is named after the clock tower that locals were adamant should also be restored. Interiors are refined, with polished concrete floors and sprays of dried flowers (theclockspire.com).

TRY The delicate pea and elderflower tart with courgette and English pecorino. There's also a dedicated vegan menu.

STAY Papilio Creek is a cosy self-catering cottage with an option to book in-situ spa treatments. Sleeps four, £1,150 per short break (uniquehomestays.com).

SEE Arts space Messums Wiltshire. Clock the similarly spectacular ceiling, and recreation of sculptor Elisabeth Frink's studio, until 18 October (messumswiltshire.com).