

A holiday home away from home

Times have changed when it comes to finding a cottage or apartment for a break in the foothills of the Highlands

While there's no doubting the appeal of a place in the sun, it seems these eco-friendly and budget-conscious times are prompting more of us to consider second investments close to home.

Recent months saw an increase in domestic holidays, with companies such as Travelodge and Lastminute.com reporting an increase in UK bookings from British-based travellers.

And VisitScotland launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging Scots to take their breaks at home, with a special adventure sports pass designed to encourage more people to experience the excitement of Scotland's land and water. So it's not surprising this new economic mood has also put the spotlight firmly on the holiday or second home market.

The combination of dramatic scenery and opportunities for adrenalin-boosting activities does not equate to basic accommodation.

Many of these new developments take the traditional idea of a holiday home to a new level, a much more stylish pad than a simple but'n'ben.

Tigh na Loan is being built on the western edge of Fearnan, a picturesque village in a beautiful and historic corner of Perthshire, over-

looking Loch Tay, with prices from £248,670 for a two-bedroomed house (www.tighnaLoan.co.uk).

A joint venture by Hadden Homes and Highmore Homes, this development will have a café, bar/restaurant and several shops. These high specification homes, each with their own balcony and open-plan living areas, have an outstanding location, with the surrounding countryside ideal for all kinds of outdoor sports, such as golf, fishing, walking, horse-riding and water sports.

For those buyers who might not be able to stretch to such an investment, Mains of Taymouth say they are offering a fresh slant on the timeshare concept at their estate in Kenmore, in this same attractive corner of Perthshire (www.mainsoftaymouth.co.uk).

The company has launched a range of contemporary apartments for a holiday or short break, with two-bedroomed properties comfortably sleeping six. A one-off purchase for £8700 secures a guaranteed holiday week until 2063, and a number of the apartments may also be released for freehold sale.

Once again the creation of this development is being driven by the visitor demand of this popular holiday area.



The stylish open-plan interior of one of the holiday homes at Tigh na Loan, above, is the perfect place to relax after a day in the great outdoors. Meanwhile at Mains of Taymouth, right, purchase secures a guaranteed holiday week for the next 55 years