

CLASSIC DRIVER

The 'Beer Moth': Camping in the Cairngorms

Lead

It's all very 'Famous Five'. All you need is a good sense of fun and a few bottles of pop. Even Timothy the dog can have an adventure in the 1956 Commer Q4 converted into a mobile camper known as the 'Beer Moth'.

The one-bed, deluxe canvas tent on (very large) wheels comes from the creator of the Inshriach Yurt, another way of communing with nature in the grounds of Inshriach House. Inshriach House is set deep inside the Cairngorms National Park, four miles from Aviemore (with direct train links to the south) and 35 miles from Inverness Airport.

And if both the Yurt and Beer Moth are occupied, Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available in the House.

Bring your rods, as any rental of Inshriach includes single-bank fishing on three miles of the River Spey.





The Beer Moth (no, we don't have an explanation of the name... assuming it to be a play on 'behemoth') started life as a 1956 Commer Q4 fire engine, and was rescued from the Manston Fire Museum in Kent by its current owner, Inshriach House's Walter Micklethwait.

The addition of an oak parquet floor rescued from a Tudor mansion and a fire escape for a staircase made the living area more habitable, and warmth is provided by a wood-burning stove resting on slate salvaged from a snooker table. The brass double-bed is in the Victorian style.



While nights (a two-night stay in August would cost you £160.00) are cosy, sides down and the embers of the fire keeping you warm, as the sun rises the canvas can be rolled up for the most glorious views of rolling Scottish countryside.

Unfortunately, you have to be one of the Famous Five in spirit only: the Beer Moth is not suitable for children. Timothy would be most welcome, though.

Photos: Canopy & Stars

Gallery

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