I have always wanted to visit the islands of Scotland. I unfortunately never went to any during my NC500 trip that I went on with friends.

I may be starting dialysis soon. So spontaneously I booked a solo trip in a campervan to visit the Outer Hebrides in Scotland.

It involved hiring a 4th berth camper and completing 700miles.

From outskirts of Glasgow to Pitlochry campsite for 1 night.

Then I drove to Ullapool to get the Ferry to Lewis (Stornoway). I spotted a dolphin whilst having my lunch on the ferry and looking out the window to which I shouted for the whole deck to hear A DOLPHIN! I was a little bit shocked and excited.

I did feel some anxiety being on a trip by myself bearing in mind I had a stroke just over a year ago. I also have diabetes and osteoporosis so I was aware being alone could involve risks. To make my trip as smooth as possible I had dual sim in my phone meaning if I had difficult with signal, I had an additional service provider. I made sure I was staying at a campsite each night and wasn’t alone completely wild camping. I had a safety alarm I could sound if I needed to. I had my friends informed every step of the way, each time I left a location and when I arrived. I also had a sign inside the campervan of my details, health conditions, next of kin and medication list. As is the same information in my handbag.

These precautions gave me a peace of mind and allowed me to enjoy my surroundings. I believe looking after our health as transplant patients is always important and it is a priority to me. Despite there being things to consider, such as how tired I may be and my general energy levels, I still knew it was a trip I wanted to experience and that I wouldn’t allow my “what ifs” to cause me to miss out on a fun opportunity.

Arriving at Lewis I located my second pitch for the night. It was a bungalow that had land behind their garden for campers and 2 glamping pods with a building that inside had a kitchen and all possible necessities and a bathroom/shower. All this for only £10 per night. I lit my BBQ and made myself my dinner whilst looking out at the Norwegian sea. That night was very strong winds, and I didn’t sleep great. The next day I visited the Standing stones of Lewis and the Whale Arch all very impressive. I drove down to Harris where I had booked another campsite (all my campsites were pre booked some paid in advance some were pay on arrival).

I took a walk to the beach at the campsite. Which was beautiful. I also chose to empty my campervan loo (this wasn’t fun but with gloves and a mask on I got on with the job).

The next day I drove to an “honest box shed” it had home-made Butteries in it and other goodies. I bought a cheese buttery and a cinnamon buttery. At the port there was a converted bus into a takeaway joint. I got freshly made cod goujons and a coffee they were ridiculously good. I then got the Ferry to North uist from there I travelled down to the south as I was getting the ferry the next day early, so I wanted to be near-by the port. I was beginning to feel tired from my trip, so it was an early night for me.

The next day I had Ferry to isle or Barra. This was my fav Island of my trip. You can see the beach pictures from there. The beach was unreal!!! I have seen similar beaches in Australia and the Caribbean but the fact this wasn’t far from my home made it so much more impressive. I also visited the islands airport to watch a plane land on the beach and took a walk into a field where some cows and a bull took a liking to me.

The next day it was an early ferry from Barra to Oban where I then drove to Loch Lomond holiday park for my last evening where I did a lot of reflecting.

I literally had such a fun solo adventure. I hope to go back to Barra in the future probably by car as the island had lots of things I wanted to explore that I never had the time to.

If there is something, you want to do or see. Don’t wait! Get your note pad out and start planning ☺

Lisa Hertwig