

Wilderness Walking in Scotland

The Perthshire Highlands, Glen Coe and the Trossachs



Enjoy a selection of famous highland hikes on this 7-day small group walking itinerary. The tour begins in the Perthshire Highlands, where we spend the first three nights, with time to visit freshwater Loch Tay, Glen Lyon and the beautiful Mount Schiehallion. We then continue to the western coast of Scotland, going by sea in a rib boat from Oban to Loch Leven, where three days are spent exploring Glen Coe and the Trossachs.

This walking holiday is suitable for fit and experienced hikers. You will be walking at a good pace, and can expect to be out for 6-8 hours a day. You will not always be on a path and the terrain underfoot may be rough and boggy, including boulder fields and mountain tops. Some of the daily walks could involve a mountain ascent of over 2460ft / 750m high. Daily distances will be typically up to 13km but may be longer occasionally.

This scheduled group tour – requiring a minimum of only 2 persons to run – will be led by a highly experienced walking and wildlife guide.

Day 1 - Arrive Perthshire; Loch Tay hike (L, D)

Your highlands journey begins with a rendezvous in Perth. This ancient and historic city is 32 miles from Edinburgh and located beside the River Tay. After a welcome briefing and lunch, we head to Killin, at the west end of Loch Tay, for our first trek of the trip – a short but steep ascent of a peak which offers outstanding views across the loch. After descending back down into the glen, it's a short transfer to our comfortable Highland hotel.

Walk details: 5km/3 miles, 450m/1480 ft of ascent, approx. 2 hours









Day 2 - Hiking Glen Lyon (B, L, D)

Today we'll explore Glen Lyon, once described by Walter Scott as the "longest, loneliest and loveliest glen in Scotland". The steep-sided hills that flank the glen lend themselves to walking, with grassy trails that follow the contours of their summits. Our guide will choose a suitable trek based on the weather conditions and the preferences of the group; this might be an easy walk along the valley floor, or perhaps a hike to one of the summits.

This evening, an option for a whisky-tasting session at the hotel before dinner.

Typical walk details: 10km/6 miles, 750m/2460 ft of ascent, approx. 6 hours

Day 3 - Trek up Schiehallion Mountain (B, L, D)

On our final day in Perthshire, we'll aim to climb the iconic hill of Schiehallion, otherwise known as the 'fairy hill of Caledonia' (local legend holds that the caves beneath Schiehallion are home to fairies and other supernatural beings!), an achievable munro in a remarkably beautiful setting. Thanks to restoration and path building work by the John Muir Trust, a good walking track leads up the mountain via the east ridge to just below the summit at 1,083m. From the summit, the views on a clear day extend across the Highlands as far as Ben Nevis to the far west.



After descending, we'll return to the hotel for a pint of Schiehallion beer to celebrate!

Walk details: 10km/6 miles, 750m/2460 ft of ascent, approx. 6 hours









Day 4 - By sea to Glen Coe (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we depart for the port town of Oban on the west coast of Scotland, where we'll have a short while to explore before taking a RIB (zodiac) boat trip to Glen Coe. The RIB will call at some islands along the way, with a chance for us to go ashore to explore quiet beaches and bays. We then continue up Loch Linnhe, where we may see such wildlife as seals, porpoises or even wild dolphins, before arriving in Loch Leven and transferring the short distance to our hotel.

Walk details: 4km/2 miles, minimal elevation gain, approx. 2 hours

Day 5 - Wilderness and a Waterfall (B, L, D)

Our walk today starts from the village of Kinlochleven, as we follow a good trail through forest to reach the 'Grey Mare's Tail', a beautiful waterfall enclosed within the Moffat Valley. One of Scotland's highest waterfalls, the water here cascades for 60m over a hanging valley, presenting a wonderful spectacle. From the Grey Mare's Tail, the trail continues out of the woods and eventually reaches a remote loch surrounded by mountains and wild moorland. On the return, we'll enjoy stunning views down the length of Loch Leven to the Pap of Glen Coe.

Walk details: 13km/8 miles, 350m/1150 ft of ascent, approx. 5 hours



Day 6 - Hiking in Glen Coe (B, L, D)

Today we journey to Glen Coe, where we summit a rarely-climbed peak on the northern side of the glen, which offers some of the best views. We start up a faintly-marked trail, with the views







opening up as we gain height. From the summit, the views are simply sensational, especially as we look across the glen to the north face of Buachaille Etive Mor, the most iconic sight in Glen Coe. We shall stop for a drink on the way back to toast the end of our penultimate trek before heading to dinner.

Walk details: 11km/7 miles, 650m/2130 ft of ascent, approx. 5 hours



Day 7 - Rob Roy's Grave & Creag an Tuirc (B, L)

Today we start with a driven transfer out of Glen Coe taking us south to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. En route we call in at the tiny churchyard in Balquhidder and visit the grave of Rob Roy MacGregor. From Balquhidder, we continue on foot to Creag an Tuirc, a marvellous viewpoint which offers dramatic views down the length of Loch Voil. After walking back down we transfer by road (approx. 90 minutes) back to Perth, arriving late afternoon for the end of our week of walking in Highland Scotland.

Walk details: 3km/2 miles, 150m/490 ft of ascent, approx. 1.5 hours

Price Guide:

The cost to join this scheduled small group departure is £2,295 per person. For a full list of available departure dates, please refer to our <u>Wilderness Walking in Scotland overview page</u>.

This itinerary can also be organised on a private basis for groups of 2 or more. For more details, including rates, please <u>contact us</u>.

Includes:

- Qualified and highly experienced walking guide throughout
- Transport from and back to Perth
- Accommodation in 4* hotels on fullboard basis, with 3 nights in Perthshire and 3 nights in Glen Coe
- Meals as outlined in itinerary
- All activities as detailed in itinerary

Excludes:

- o Flights or rail travel to Scotland
- Drinks unless otherwise stated in itinerary
- Sundry travel expenses
- o Tips
- o Travel insurance
- Single room supplement is £630, subject to availability

Gane and Marshall acts as an appointed representative for Wilderness Scotland (ABTA #Y5844).



