



Supprising adventurel dentification concentration

With hundreds of waymarked trails, experience the adrenaline rush of mountain biking in some of Scotland's most spectacular locations.

Follow us on Call us on 0300 067 6156 www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland



Scotlanc



WELCOME

Whether it's sailing across a loch, pedalling along a peaceful forest track, skiing down a snow-covered slope or viewing the countryside from the basket of a hot air balloon, Scotland has something for every age and ability level.

Add to that the stunning scenery and warm welcome, and you've got the perfect location for your outdoors adventures!



Cover: Cycling the Deeside Way near Ballater, Cairngorms National Park © Jakub Iwanicki



Scotland Alba

Published for and on behalf of: VisitScotland, Ocean Point One, 94 Ocean Drive, Edinburgh, EH6 6JH www.visitscotland.com

Published by: PSP Media Group Ltd.

PSP House, 50 High Craighall Road, Glasgow G4 9UD Tel: 0141 353 2222 to view our brands, experiences & events

to view our brands, experiences & events, visit: www.pspmediagroup.co.uk

Guide Journalist: Fiona Russell

Photography 0%itiScoland, Kenny Lam, Paul Tomkins, Jakub Iwanicki, Iain Sarjeant, Sleve McKenna, Iona Spence, Tim Winterburn, Calum Rogerson, Andrew McCandikih, Forestry Commission Picture Library, Lorne Gill/SNH, Tighnabruaich Sailing School, Galloway Activity Centre, Rum the Sights, Hillend Sid Centre, Cainform Mountain, Go Ape, Sim Bradley, vyshnie & Azman Tourism, Laggan Outdoor Activity Centre, sportscolland/Jelemonre Lodge, Highland Ting Burge Cartographics: Alwhoorth Mass & Interpretation Ltd. (Glinis Bartholonew Ltd

PSP/NisiScotland have published this guide in good faith to reflect information submitted by the proproteory.managers of the businesses liade who have paid for or approved their entries to be included. Although (PSP/NisiScotland tark care taken reasonable states to continn the information contained in this guide at the time of going to press. They carnot guarantee that the information is checked with the popertor/marage of the business prior to visiting busines to ensure that the accommodation, facilities, price and all other appects of the business pairs of visiting busines to ensure that the accommodation, facilities, price and all other appects of the business pairs of the guide and exclude all liability for loss or damage caused by any reliance placed on the information contained in this guide. PSP/NicScotland accomma carect any liability for loss caused by the harvary con reliance to a spin constraints of the guide and and the guide. PSP/NicScotland accommod there to accept any liability for loss caused by the harvary con reliance business prior to reliance place to the place and the reliance place on the information contained in big guide. PSP/NicScotland accommod there accept any liability for loss caused by the harvary to reliance business pairs and and there are place to the spin place business place to the guide. Development of the spin place business place to the scale accept whether accommod and the place business place to accept any liability to so accept any business place to accept any liability for loss caused by the there are accept any liability the place and the annurgets, or liquidation, or insolvency, or creation of trade of any company. Firm or individual contained in this guide. Supplice there are accept any liability there 2017.





Q Curling, Lake of Menteith, near Aberfoyle



Q Wakeboarding, Townhill Loch, National Waterski Centre, Dunfermline







A regional colour index to help guide you through this booklet

REGIONS

- **16** Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire
- 28 Argyll & The Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and The Trossachs
- **38** Ayrshire & The Isles of Arran and Cumbrae
- 44 Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders
- 50 Edinburgh & The Lothians

- 56 Greater Glasgow & The Clyde Valley
- 60 The Highlands and Moray Speyside
- 82 The Outer Hebrides, Orkney & Shetland
- 90 Perthshire, Dundee & Angus and the Kingdom of Fife



SPECIAL FEATURES

- 4 Scotland on two wheels
- 6 Active with a twist
- 8 Fun with the family
- **10** Island adventures
- **12** Addicted to adventure
- 14 Year of Young People 2018

SKI CENTRES

- 22 Glenshee Ski Centre
- 24 The Lecht Ski Centre
- 66 CairnGorm Mountain
- **68** Glencoe Mountain
- 70 Nevis Range Ski Centre

USEFUL INFORMATION

- 101 Enjoy Scotland's outdoors
- 102 Map of Scotland
- 106 Accommodation
- 111 Travel in and around Scotland
- 112 Advertisers' index



Enjoy an active break in Scotland on a bike - and see so much more.

ne of the best ways to actively explore Scotland is by bike. There are hundreds of miles of waymarked routes, traffic-free trails and quiet country roads, and many are accessible via a wide network of trains and ferries.

Will you ride for a few hours, a day or decide to head off for a week or two of cycling? Do you prefer cross-country trails, downhill challenges or road cycling? All this and more is on offer in a country that is small but perfectly packaged for cyclists.

Scotland is renowned as a top destination for mountain bikers with many trail centres offering great rider entertainment. The 7stanes centres across southern Scotland are very popular, as is Nevis Range in the Highlands with both cross-country and downhill options. The trail centres offer mountain biking for all, with routes graded from easy greens to challenging blacks. Road cyclists will enjoy over 2,000 miles of quiet and traffic-free routes developed and maintained by Sustrans, the charity that looks after the National Cycle Network.

Running 237 miles, Route 78, the Caledonia Way, connects Campbeltown with Inverness and has recently been upgraded. Others that might tempt you include the Edinburgh Loops and Links and a number of coastal routes known collectively as Scotland's sustainable shores.

The Scottish islands are popular for cycling, including a wonderful family-friendly 10-mile loop of Cumbrae and the new signposted Hebridean Way (NCN Route 780), in the Outer Hebrides, that extends 185 miles from the Isle of Vatersay in the south to the Butt of Lewis in the north.

A Five Ferries cycle tour offers 70 miles of cycling via the islands of Arran and Bute and along the

peninsulas of Kintyre and Cowal, which are full of stunning views. Many riders enjoy the idea of cycling coast to coast and over many days. Check out the 125-mile C2C Scotland, from the Solway Firth in Dumfries & Galloway to the Firth of Forth, near Edinburgh, and the 134-mile John Muir Way from Dunbar in East Lothian to Helensburgh in Argyll.

Another long-distance route that travels from southern Scotland to the Highlands is the Lochs & Glens NCN Route 7.

Multi-day cycle touring is increasingly popular. You can choose to carry your own kit in panniers or bike packs, or hire a luggage transfer company to move your kit between accommodations for an easier alternative.

By bike you can see more of Scotland at your own pace and return home fitter than when you left **xx**

COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE 5

Ś

Etape Loch Ness Highlands 29 April 2018 www.etapelochness.com

Highland Perthshire Cycling Festival Perthshire May 2018 www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

Etape Caledonia Perthshire May 2018 www.etapecaledonia.co.uk TweedLove Scottish Borders 25 May - 10 June 2018 www.tweedlove.com

UCI Mountain Bike World Cup Highlands 2-3 June 2018 www.fortwilliamworldcup.co.uk

Pedal for Scotland Glasgow/Edinburgh September 2018 www.pedalforscotland.org Etape Royale Aberdeenshire TBC www.etaperoyale.com

Tour o' the Borders Scottish Borders 2 September 2018 www.tourotheborders.com



ACTIVE WITH A TWIST

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

It's easy to combine an active holiday with a range of other interests.

re you fascinated by history and heritage, do you enjoy wildlife spotting, or maybe you love great food and drink? If so, you'll be delighted to discover a host of activities 'with a twist'.

A guided running tour of Edinburgh, Glasgow or Dundee is a great way to combine keeping fit and seeing many visitor attractions. Alternatively, swap two feet for two wheels and join a cycle tour to see the capital city's historical gems.

Further afield, a 55-mile signposted cycling route, the Four Abbeys, offers a bike tour in the Scottish Borders that traces the history of the abbeys of Kelso, Jedburgh, Melrose and Dryburgh. A bike is also a great way to tour the 19 historic sites along Scotland's Castle Trail in Aberdeenshire, or ride the 117-mile Fife Coastal Path, taking in wildlife and history along the way.

Swap two wheels for four hooves to travel on horseback

between a wealth of historic relics – you could try a Glenlivet ride, departing from Tomintoul in Moray Speyside.

Wildlife, including Scotland's iconic Big Five - red squirrel, red deer, harbour seal, otter and golden eagle - can be spotted if you know where to go. A guided four-wheel drive vehicle safari or a motorised boat tour might be your perfect choice for easy-going wildlife trips.

Sailing, canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding are all great crafts for getting to quiet and remote locations to see wildlife on the coast, rivers and lochs. You could book a guided wildlife trip or ask for a bespoke private tour to be arranged.

For something different, how about a camera stalking outing at various Scottish estates for a chance to snap photos of these majestic beasts?

Scotland's renowned natural larder is another focus for

active adventures. Pick two or three distilleries to ride to on Scotland's Malt Whisky Trail[™] in Moray Speyside, or head to the peaceful whisky island of Islay. On the River Spey, you can paddle a Canadian canoe between distilleries. A new Scotland Gin Trail is another option for cyclists who like their drinks with a dash of tonic.

Several companies offer Taste and Trails of Scotland tours travelling by mountain bike, train, boat or on foot. At various stops, you'll taste local foods.

Scotland's Seafood Trail, on the west coast, can be travelled by land or sea. Hire a kayaking guide or a chartered boat for a tasty adventure. Or, on the other side of the country, is the East of Scotland Seafood Trail.

Did you imagine there would be so much to see and do on an active break in Scotland? **xx**

"SCOTLAND'S SEAFOOD TRAIL, ON THE WEST COAST, CAN BE TRAVELLED BY LAND OR SEA."

Don't know your port from starboard? You've come to the right place. Mastering the waves is easy with a huge selection of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) approved establishments. See www.sailscotland.co.uk for more information.

10 -14



Old and young, timid or brave, there's a family activity for all.

here can hardly be a better time to visit Scotland with your family than in the Year of Young People 2018. Whether your young people are toddlers, teenagers or inbetween, parents will discover a huge variety of active adventures to suit all.

For great ideas of what to do with your family, take a look at the long menu of family pursuits offered by many outdoor activity providers.

You could choose to try a taster day that includes a number of short sessions in different sports, such as archery, canoeing and white water rafting, or ask a guide to tailor a bespoke adventure outing, such as a kayak trip, to suit.

One company, Nae Limits, has a dedicated programme for children aged five to 12. Kids can leave the parents behind and join the Wee Limits Adventure Academy to enjoy bushcraft, forest play, leadership skills, rafting and tree climbing.

Mountain biking is a good choice for families, especially if

you go to one of the trail centres, where there are a range of graded routes.

Recommendations include 7stanes Glentress in the Scottish Borders, 7stanes Kirroughtree and Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfries & Galloway and Comrie Croft in Perthshire.

Families will also enjoy another trail-based activity, pony trekking, or for fun amid Scotland's fabulous forests there are a number of tree-top adventure courses and zip wires to visit.

Scotland's many sheltered lochs are the perfect places for watersports such as dinghy sailing, stand-up paddling, windsurfing and even WOW (walk on water) balls.

Children will be thrilled by the chance to see wildlife in their natural setting on a Land Rover safari or a dusk wildlife watch. Can you spot Scotland's Big Five including red squirrel, red deer, harbour seal, otter and golden eagle? Of course, there will be families with daredevil children and Scotland is a great destination for activities such as full-on white water rafting trips, tubing, river sledging or river boarding. Other ideas include wakeboarding, wave-surfing, canyoning, aqualining, cliff jumping, coasteering and zorbs.

Did you know that as well as an adrenaline-charged bungee jump from the Titan Crane at Clydebank, it's possible to be thrilled by the "Big Swing", which swings participants over the Clyde at 70 mph? Minimum ages apply for both, so just check before you go.

Family fun can also be found in many Scottish cities and towns, including skateparks, indoor climbing centres, artificial ski slopes (and Scotland's only indoor ski slope - Snow Factor at Soar intu Braehead), an ice climbing facility, go-karting and paintballing.

There will never be a boring day during a family activity holiday in Scotland 🕱





Scotland's islands are perfect for get-away-from-it-all adventures – if you can decide where to go.

D otted along the long coastline of Scotland and set amid lochs and rivers, myriad Scottish islands await your arrival. The islands range from large to tiny and from singular to long chains. While some islands are populated and offer a vibrant community life filled with things to do, places to stay and to eat out, others are notable for being occupied only by wildlife, or a historical relic or two.

Your hardest decision will be choosing where to visit first – and how you will get there. Again, your options are varied. You can reach some islands by car, bike or on foot and via a bridge or causeway.

For further flung islands, the adventure might start with a ferry ride or a flight in a small plane. You might even choose to journey by kayak or even a chartered yacht.

For outdoor activities, there is yet more choice. On the larger islands, such as Arran, Mull and Skye, there are multiple activities in the one destination, such as sea kayaking at the coast, canyoning in a gorge, climbing to the summit of a mountain or mountain biking on remote flowing singletrack trails.

An unbeatable combination of wind and waves on islands including Tiree, Lewis and Harris, have made them a hotspot for surfing and kitesurfing. Surfing hotspots on the Isle of Lewis include Eoropie, Dalmore and Mangersta. On an inland loch on Tiree you can learn to windsurf, and Cumbrae has a dedicated national watersports centre where you can learn to windsurf and also sail.

The Outer Hebridean island chain, from Vatersay to Lewis, boasts a new National Cycle Network waymarked cycling trail – the Hebridean Way (route 780) – which is already proving popular with cycle tourers and bike packers. For further cycling adventures, you could enjoy a whisky or food trail on islands such as Islay, Jura, Harris and in the Shetland Islands. Sea kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding (SUPs) are great for accessing remote locations on the islands of Mull, Skye, Arran, Islay, Jura, the Summer Isles and the small isle of Seil (next to Easdale, the home of the annual World Stone Skimming Championships).

Keep your eyes peeled for sightings of dolphins, porpoise, seals and maybe minke whales. In Mull, why not try a whale watching trip in a RIB? You can even swim with basking sharks or seals off the Isle of Coll.

Historical attractions on Orkney, including the famous WWI German shipwrecks of Scapa Flow, attract divers from across the world. Neolithic history and many associated attractions are found both on Orkney and the island chain of Shetland further north.

Wherever you choose to visit, Scotland's islands combine a holiday atmosphere with a treasure trove of things to do mathematical

OFF TO THE ISLANDS





A fabulously diverse landscape offers the perfect playground for a host of high-adrenaline activities.

f you like your adventures to be fun, fast-paced and adrenaline-charged, Scotland is a dream destination. On land, in water and in the air, you'll discover a treasure trove of inventive, innovative and thrilling activities that will have you grinning – and coming back for more.

You could try spinning down a long hillside in an inflatable ball or zooming from tree to ground on an exhilarating zipwire. Challenging red and blackgraded mountain biking routes offer another way to descend the countryside, or how about plummeting towards the River Clyde from more than 160 ft on the Titan Crane near Glasgow?

Scotland is also a hotspot for climbers who come for a vast range of traditional, sport and mixed climbing routes. Some of the biggest challenges include a multi-pitch climb of the iconic Old Man of Hoy sea stack in Orkney or a full traverse of the vertigo-inducing Black Cuillin with an overnight bivy on the ridge, on the Isle of Skye. There are plenty more thrills in fast-flowing rivers, such as the Feshie, Findhorn, Garry, Moriston, Orchy and Tummel. The choice of transport for riding the rapids is surprisingly wide, including tubes, bugs, sledges, yaks and rafts.

For the most exciting guided expeditions, ask outdoors providers for trips on damrelease waters.

Large, naturally carved-out gorges, such as Inchree Falls, Bruar Falls, Dollar Glen, Bridge of Brown and Ben Nevis Canyon, are popular locations for canyoning expeditions. Canyoneers descend these water-filled gorges by jumping, climbing, abseiling and 'swim swirling' around.

Another activity, aqualining, combines the excitement of tightrope walking on a slackline above a water-filled gorge in Perthshire with the fun of jumping into deep-water pools.

On Scotland's long coast, both the mainland and the

islands, there are plenty of hotspots for watersports such as coasteering, surfing, sailing and sea kayaking. Stand-up paddleboarding and Canadian canoeing can be enjoyed in sheltered shoreline bays and on lochs, rivers and canals.

If you prefer air-time thrills, take to a kite surfboard, swoop like a bird on a paraglider or try the stomach churning activity of tandem sky diving. Or, for something a little more relaxing, how about a hot air balloon ride?

In winter, when the snow falls, the high-energy fun continues with many exciting runs and freestyle parks for skiers and snowboarders at Scotland's five main resorts. There are plenty of opportunities for off-piste ski touring and mountaineering too.

It's easy to see why Scotland is a favourite destination for thrill-seeking adventurers **xx**





Celebrating the very best of Scotland and its young people.

rom adrenaline filled adventure breaks, breathtaking road trips, buzzing music festivals, and family-friendly days out, Scotland hosts legendary activities and endless things to do for adventurous travellers, families, and young Scots alike during the Year of Young People 2018.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

In 2018, Scotland puts its young people in the spotlight, celebrating their talents, contributions, and creating new opportunities for them to shine. The year-long programme of events, activities and ideas will give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they're made of!

Explore the Highlands and Islands where you can take your pick of brilliant outdoor activities, from kayaking and gorge walking, to archery and horse riding – you'll never be lost for something to do! Uncover cycle routes in the forests of Glentress in the Scottish Borders for hours of fun and thrills. Or, events such as Tweedlove and the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, mean you can enjoy a getaway on two wheels!

Enjoy more family-friendly activities, events and festivals

than ever before throughout the year, including The Scottish Open, Ladies Scottish Open, Wigtown Book Festival, and Mhor Fest. Bring your friends and travel across the country, navigating an abundance of road trip routes, or follow some finely tuned itineraries for an unforgettable holiday.

Throughout the year look out for entertaining and vibrant events and festivals across the country. Experience traditional Scottish sounds at ObanLive in Argyll, HebCelt in the Outer Hebrides, and Fèis An Eilein on the Isle of Skye. Or head for the cities and soak up the atmosphere at the ever popular Edinburgh Festivals, Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Aberdeen International Youth Festival and more.

Events and festivals in Scotland are easily accessible by car, bus and train, so you'll never be far away from a toe-tapping, adrenaline-pumping shindig **xx**



So if you are young or young at heart, 2018 is the year to visit Scotland!

DON'T MISS

Explore the never-ending back roads, wide meandering country tracks and beautiful bends of the North Coast 500.

۲

Increase your heart rate with adrenaline filled beach and water sport activities with Blown Away at the glorious West Sands Beach in St Andrews.

Visit Dumfries & Galloway and reach new heights at Laggan Outdoor Activity Centre's Zip Line, an adventure for all the family.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION #YOYP2018

year of young people bliadhna na h-òigridh 2018

EXPLORE MORE AT VISITSCOTLAND.COM/YOYP2018









Countryside, coast and city come together in a region that boasts a surprising array of activity gems.

The city of Aberdeen is enviably located close to the coast and fabulous rolling countryside. This city, famed for its granite buildings, is the perfect place to start if you are looking for an active outdoors holiday.

Just a short walk from the city centre is a beautiful twomile beach lapped by the North Sea, where you can enjoy the novel experience of learning to "surf in the city". It's also possible to spot bottlenose dolphins, which are reputedly well fed and as a result some can be up to 12 ft in length. The best viewing spot is Torry Battery. The RSPB lead Dolphin Watch Aberdeen outings in the summer at the mouth of the harbour.

A glorious coastline stretches both north and south in this region and you'll discover many watersports hotspots. Outside of the city, more surfing opportunities are found on the shoreline of Banff and Buchan and close to the fishing village of Sandend.

Experienced kitesurfers flock to locations north of Aberdeen, including Bridge of Don, Balmedie, Fraserburgh, Pennan and Sandend. It's a great sport to watch from afar as the colourful kites rise and fall as they are controlled by the surfers.

If you prefer to get a little closer to the action – and the sea – you could join a guided coasteering outing, such as on the rocky shoreline at Cove, to the south east of Aberdeen, and further south at the town of Portlethen.

Sea kayaking also offers access to new places, such as between Peterhead and Cruden Bay, where paddlers will discover a coast where the rock is beautiful pink granite. It's also possible to enter a large collapsed sea cave, The Bullers of Buchan. Another day of kayaking could take you between Catterline and Stonehaven to see more caves, a tunnel and the amazing Fowlsheugh seabird cliffs.

Close by is another active gem, Stonehaven's Open Air Pool, which is heated and uses fully filtrated sea water. In the summer there's swimming for adults and children and wonderful midnight swim sessions.

Perhaps you are keen to venture into the countryside in this region. Walkers will be delighted by the diversity of options from wonderful beach walks at locations such as, St Cyrus, Balmedie, Newburgh, Rattray Head, Fraserburgh, Inverboyndie and Sandend, to the high rise Munros of Ben Avon and Lochnagar. For something in between, how about a hill climb to see an ancient fort, such as Dunnideer near Insch and Tap o' Noth, by Rhynie?

The many beautiful rivers in this region, including the Dee, Deveron, Don, Esk and Ythan, provide a playground

ABERDEEN & ABERDEENSHIRE

100

Angling is said to be the biggest participant sport in the world. For more information on fishing in Scotland go to www.visitscotland.com/fish

VISITSCOTLAND.COM





for a range of other activities such as fishing, high-adrenaline white water rafting or more leisurely wildlife canoe journeys.

Two atmospheric gorges in the Braemar area are the perfect place to try family-friendly gorge walking, while nearby crags at Ballater offer outdoor climbing for beginners.

Aberdeenshire is ideal for road cycling and mountain biking thanks to a wide network of quiet roads and off-the-beaten-track trails.

Check out the many routes of the National Cycle Network (NCN), including a scenic section of the long-distance coast-hugging North Sea Cycle Route.

You could even visit a castle or two on the signposted Castle Trail. There are 19 fascinating fortifications to see, including Crathes, Drum, Tolquhon and Fyvie. Did you know that this region is home to an impressive 300 castles?

The Deeside Way is a 66 km route that follows, in part, the line of the former Deeside Railway along the north bank of the River Dee from Aberdeen to Ballater.

Mountain bikers will enjoy a skills park and trails at Aboyne Bike Park, as well as Pitfichie Mountain Bike Trails near Alford for some great crosscountry routes. Kirkhill Forest is much loved for its red-graded (intermediate) loop.

The country trails of rural Aberdeenshire are also ideal for horseback adventures and many stables can guide pony and horse riding outings. Glen Tanar, a Natural Nature Reserve in the Cairngorms National Park, for example, has some superb riding opportunities. At The Lecht, a ski centre in the region, there is chairlift access for mountain bikers to the Red Fox and Blue Hare downhill trails. The Cairnwell chairlift at Glenshee Ski Centre also gives mountain bikers the chance to ride a bike track of some 3 km.

Alternatively, you can join Segway or quad bike tours to see more of the countryside or be guided on a four-wheeled safari tour through Balmoral Castle estate.

Many runners like to explore new places on foot. You could pick a trail from a map or book a private tour with Running the Highlands. The company is based near Banchory and can guide you on one of their favourite routes.

And, if you are in any doubt about the beauty of this region, you could travel skywards to see the landscape from above. There are a number of exhilarating





MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
Difficult
► Very Difficult
Extreme
○ Forest Trail

TARLAND TRAILS MTB Routes: ● 0.2 km (Pump Track) ■ 0.9 km ▲ 0.7 km ● 0.7 km Location: Drummy Woods, Tarland www.dmbins.com/wheretoride

DH FARM MTB Bike Park: 5 km Location: Portsoy, Banff www.dhfarm.cc/

ABOYNE BIKE PARK MTB Bike Park: 0.5 km Location: Aboyne www.dmbins.com/wheretoride

PITFICHIE MTB Routes: ▲6.4 km 0.6 km 0.15 km Location: Between Monymusk and Alford www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ pitfichie

LINN OF DEE CYCLE RIDE Cycle Route: Medium - 19 miles Starting Point: Braemar www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ linn-of-dee

THE FORMARTINE & BUCHAN WAY Cycle Route: 6 Easy - 40 miles Starting Point: Dyce Rail Station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ the-formartine-and-buchan-way

ABERDEEN TO INVERNESS (Route 1) Cycle Route: Medium - 150 miles Starting Point: Aberdeen Station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ aberdeen-to-inverness

INSCH CIRCULAR RIDE Cycle Route: 参**b** Easy - 11 miles Starting Point: Insch Train Station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ insch-circular-ride

THE DEESIDE WAY (Route 195) Cycle Route: 5 Medium - 41 miles Starting Point: Duthie Park, Aberdeen www.deesideway.org

TARVES TO TANGLANDFORD LOOP Cycle Route: から Easy - 17.5 miles Starting Point: Tarves Village Square www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ tarves-to-tanglandford-loop







The treetop adventure playground at Go Ape! Crathes Castle in Banchory is another great option. The course has swings, ladders, platforms, jumps and a superb 120 m skateboard zip wire. Back in the city, Transition Extreme is perfect for a rainy day with activities including climbing, BMXing, skateboarding and in-line skating.

Aberdeen Snowsports Centre also offers ski and snowboard tuition on a variety of artificial slopes. The Nordic & Outdoor Centre in Huntly is the only one of its kind in the country, providing cross-country skiing tuition for all ages and abilities.

Will you choose to visit coast, city or countryside first as you enjoy a wealth of active fun in this region?

> For more information on activities in Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire go to:

*

visitscotland.com/active



Magic is created at Glenshee amid a wonderful fairytale environment.

G lenshee, which means the "Glen of Fairies" in Gaelic, is a magical place to visit in all seasons and whatever your outdoors aspirations.

In the winter, when the snow falls, Glenshee offers the UK's most extensive skiing and snowboarding opportunities with 22 lifts serving 36 pisted runs. In total, the centre extends to 40 km of skiing in three valleys and on four mountains.

There are lots of skiing options to choose from, such as hiring equipment and joining a beginner-level class, booking a private lesson, getting into race training or simply exploring with friends and family.

For those who are more experienced there are blue runs and red runs to explore with a couple of challenging black runs.

The 2 km long Glas Maol run is a superb descent with great views. The wider Glenshee area is also popular for backcountry skiing. If there is sufficient snow there is also a transceiver park close to the road to practise backcountry skills in case of an emergency.

Once the snow has melted, the summer season brings walkers and mountain bikers to the centre. The Cairnwell Chairlift remains open for uplift and walkers can alight at the top of the chairlift and hike back down or you can ride the chairlift to the base again.

Riders can take their bikes on the chairlift for access to the bluegraded Glenshee Mountain Bike Track. The route extends to 3.2 km and offers a natural-feel ride of about 10 minutes.

In all seasons, this mountain area is home to a variety of wildlife. Keep your eyes peeled for Glenshee's famous wildlife, including red deer, mountain hares, buzzards, ptarmigan and snow bunting.

Glenshee is within easy reach of many towns and cities in Scotland, which means you can return again for more magical adventures ₩

INFO

È

Altitude: 2,132 - 3,504 ft (650 - 1,068 m)

Pisted runs: 40 km

Longest runs: 2 km (1.25 miles)

Max vertical descent: 1,500 ft (457 m)

No of lifts: 22
Uplift capacity: 16,110 per hour
Snowmaking: 🗸
Mountain cafés/restaurants: 🗸
Off piste skiing: ✓
Ski & snowboard hire: 🗸
Ski clothing hire:
Shop:
Artificial ski slope: X
Créche:
Ski guide:X
Sledging:
Rail Park:
Webcam:

Glenshee Ski Centre, Cairnwell by Braemar AB35 5XU Tel: 01339 741320 Email: info@ski-glenshee.co.uk www.ski-glenshee.co.uk www.ski-scotland.com

GLENSHEE SKI CENTRE 23





© VisitScotland. Map provided by Ashworth Maps & Interpretation Ltd. Height information sourced from Ordnance Survey mapping. © Crown Copyright.



Set amid a stunning landscape, The Lecht is a brilliant destination all year round.

ocated in the Cairngorms National Park and at an altitude of 2,090 ft (645 m), The Lecht Ski Centre is a place to enjoy both winter and summer pursuits.

The centre is accessed via Scotland's second highest road, the A939. In fact, The Lecht is part of a new Snow Roads Scenic Route via three mountain resorts and including the stunning high mountain road to Corgarff in Strathdon, which is famous for its unique castle.

In winter, a chairlift takes skiers up another 700 ft to an area that extends to 20 km of groomed slopes including 19 runs served by 12 lifts.

The modern complex hires ski equipment and has a ski school and a Penguin Kindergarten Park.

A "rotondo" carousel allows children, aged two to eight, to learn to ski or snowboard in a safe environment.

The next step up for beginner skiers are the five green-graded runs which have their own uplift with two magic carpets and one Poma lift.

More experienced skiers have many blue and red-graded runs to enjoy as well as a more extreme race piste. When conditions allow, The Lecht has a freestyle half-pipe and fun park.

In summer, outdoor enthusiasts come to The Lecht to walk and mountain bike. A three-man chairlift gives mountain bikers easy access to two trails, an easier blue-graded Blue Hare run and a more technical red-graded Red Fox.

Why not start your day in the skills park where you can practise your riding skills?

The centre has a Europeanstyle lodge where summer and winter visitors can relax, eat and drink before, in between or after their activities.

Whatever the season, The Lecht is a place to enjoy spending time on, high in the great outdoors **xx**

INFO

Altitude:

2,090 - 2,500 ft (640 - 823 m) **Pisted runs:** 20 km **Longest runs:** 2,953 ft (900 m) **Max vertical descent:** 700 ft (213 m)

No of lifts: 12	
Uplift capacity: 10,000 per hour	
Snowmaking: 🗸	
Mountain cafés/restaurants: 🗸	
Off piste skiing: 🗸	
Ski & snowboard hire: 🗸	
Ski clothing hire: 🗸	
Shop: 1	
Artificial ski slope: X	
Créche: X	
Tubing: X	
Sledging: 🗸	
Rail Park: 🗸	
Webcam: 🗸	

Lecht 2090, Ski & Multi-Activity Centre, Corgarff, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire AB36 8YP Tel: 01975 651440 Email: info@lecht.co.uk www.lecht.co.uk www.ski-scotland.com







The North East of Scotland has a lot to offer with castle, whisky and coastal trails, excellent golf courses, easy access to Royal Deeside and Balmoral Castle and much more besides. Families and groups welcome – bring your pet.

www.sruc.ac.uk/holidayletsaberdeen

Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn Aberdeen AB21 9YA T: 01224 711 012 Fax: 01224 711 298 E: accommodation@sruc.ac.uk



GLENSHEE SKI CENTRE CAIRNWELL, BRAEMAR, ABERDEENSHIRE AB35 5XU

22 Lifts & 38 Runs to suit all levels of skiers and boarders

FACILITES INLCUDE:

Equipment Hire, Snowsports School, Shop & 3 Mountain Cafés. Opening times are 8.30am – Spm (7 days a week during season) Chairlift and café open during summer June/September





Tel: 013397 41320 Fax: 013397 41665 Email: info@ski-glenshee.co.uk www.ski-glenshee.co.uk

• Adult, Junior and

- Adult, Junior and Premium skis
- Local business
- New equipment and excellent parking by roadside
- Fully qualified, efficient and highly experienced team



Open 7 days - 07.30 -18.00 T: 07561294310 **www.thecabinskihire.co.uk**



Sporting and Conference Venue

Knockburn Loch is set in the heart of Royal Deeside and offers the complete Conferencing experience with a first class venue for Team Building. A purpose built Loch was designed for Sporting Events and offers a whole host of watersports along with a network of off-road trails and a Cycle Track perfect for running and cycling.

The 65 acre site also provides a Scottish Championship level venue for Triathlon and Cyclocross and is the site of choice for The Beast Race!

What we offer

- A first class venue for Conference and Team Building events with catering options
- Purpose built facilities for Triathlon, Swimming, Sailing, Kayaking, SUP's, Running and Cycling
- Indoor Sports Academy, Outdoor Football Pitch and Beach Volleyball Court

New for 2018

- Team Building 1 or 2 day mix of bespoke activities with overnight stay in your own team built Wigwam
- Watersport equipment hire Kayak, Standup Paddleboard (SUP) and Wetsuits

E: info@knockburn.co.uk T: 01330 822234







at the centre of it all!

www.knockburn.co.uk



If you find it hard to make decisions, this could be a region to test you with so many amazing active options.

S tretching from the west coast with its long fjordlike sea lochs and myriad islands, to the east at the narrow source of the Firth of Forth and embracing both Lowland and Highland landscapes, this large region is home to a diverse mix of outdoor adventures.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

At its heart is the UK's largest area of freshwater, Loch Lomond, which also offers a centrepiece for the first of Scotland's two national parks, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs. The loch traverses the Highland Fault Line, dividing the rolling Lowlands from the more rugged Highlands.

Take a boat trip or paddle a serene stand-up paddleboard (SUP) on the loch to visit or view some of the 22 named islands. Speedboat tours depart Luss for a wide range of trips, such as visiting Inveruglas Island and Inversnaid Waterfall.

The surrounding views of hills and mountains are breathtaking,

too. For adventurers who prefer their watersports to be faster and wetter, how about water skiing, wakeboarding, wake surfing or a jet ski safari on Loch Lomond?

For gentler outings, why not hire a sailing boat, rowing boat, pedal boat, kayak or canoe? You can also have fun on a water trampoline.

Nearby Loch Ard provides sheltered waters for canoeing, SUPs, wild swimming and a fun inflatables activity with Go Country. You can even go cliff jumping if you fancy!

Loch Venachar is popular for dinghy sailing and with open water swimmers. Another loch, Katrine, allows visitors to step back in time to travel on the Sir Walter Scott steamship. Relax as you drift through beautiful Trossachs scenery.

For a more energetic outing, take bikes – hired at Trossachs Pier – on the Stronachlachar sailing, then ride 12 miles back on a traffic-free road.

This is a superb region for off-road cycling with mountain biking trails at Queen Elizabeth Forest Park near Aberfoyle, the town's purpose-built Bike Park and Carron Valley Mountain Bike Trails, Stirlingshire.

A new company, Ginger Squirrel Adventures, has created something different with guided mountain bike rides for children. They also aim to encourage more women to get on their bikes and off-road. How about trying the 20 km Ochils Hillfoots ride for starters?

Fat biking is another great way to explore on two wheels. Fat bikes have over-large tyres, which makes riding on rough terrain a lot easier.

You can hire fat bikes at Mugdock Country Cycle, in the park of the same name in Stirlingshire. You could try swapping two







wheels for four hooves and head off on a pony trek. There are plenty of stables in the region that can cater for all abilities.

Queen Elizabeth Forest is also home to the high-rise walkways, swings and two 400 m zip wires of Go Apel. For younger children, the aerial playground at TreeZone Loch Lomond Shores is ideal.

A number of new activities in the region showcase the enthusiasm of outdoor companies for discovering locations for fun activities. The Canyoning Company believes Alva Canyon, near Stirling, is "one of the best slot canyons in Scotland". The canyon requires numerous abseils, including a zipline into a smuggler's cave and a high-adrenaline waterfall, "corkscrew falls". An alternative to canyoning is gorge scrambling. New trips are organised by In Your Element, in a hidden gorge on the Luss Estate in the National Park. This mini adventure is designed for family groups and includes swimming, jumping into pools and sliding down waterfalls.

Also new on the Luss Estate, for fun-seekers aged 12 or more, is river sledging through rapids and mini waterfalls. The Forth & Clyde Canal skirts the south eastern edge of the region. The towpath is great for traffic-free cycling, while Lazer Tag and a water playpark, including inflatable "walk on water" balls, is found at The Falkirk Wheel.

Nearby is the Helix Park, where a lagoon is perfect for learning to

canoe and open water swim. Kids will love the splash play area and Adventure Zone.

When the coast beckons (and it will!), take a scenic drive or train journey west toward the two long peninsulas of Kintyre and Cowal.

Argyll and The Isles Tourism Co-operative (www.exploreargyll. co.uk) offers a wealth of information about things to do outdoors, as well as local people who are on hand to help visitors to find the best spots for mountain biking, cycling, wild swimming, diving, snorkelling or sailing.

On Kintyre, a bikes and all-terrain buggies hire centre in Carradale Forest makes cross-country trails accessible for all, including the disabled.

ARGYLL & THE ISLES, LOCH LOMOND, STIRLING AND THE TROSSACHS 31

94821 980 CBR 1234R

CBR

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

GBR 362

GBR 362



MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
Difficult
Extreme
Forest Trail

CARRON VALLEY

MTB Routes: ▲ 10 km ■ 1.5 km Location: Carron Valley, Stirlingshire www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ carron-valley

LOCH ARD MTB Routes: O3 - 16 km Location: Loch Ard Forest, outskirts of Aberfoyle

www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forestparks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/ loch-ard

FIRE TOWER TRAILS, LOCHGILPHEAD MTB Routes: A 14 km Location: Achnabreac Forest, Lochgilphead www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ achnabreac

LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK MTB Routes: Mixture of MTB & Road

routes for all abilities Location: Across the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/ visiting/cycling/menu-id-101.html

BESPOKE TRAILS, FALKIRK MTB Routes: ● 4.5 km ■ 6.1 km ▲ 10.3 km ● Skills area Location: Falkirk www.callendarestate.co.uk

ABERFOYLE MTB Routes: Skills area and pump track Location: Aberfoyle www.biketrossachs.org.uk

CALLANDER TO KILLIN (Route 7) Cycle route: Starting point: Callander www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ callander-to-killin

BUTE OF A ROUTE Cycle Route: 5 Medium - 32 miles Starting Point: Tighnabruaich www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/ route/a-bute-of-a-route

THE CALEDONIA WAY (Route 78) OBAN TO FORT WILLIAM Cycle Route: A Medium - 48 miles Starting Point: Oban www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ oban-to-fort-william

THE CALEDONIA WAY (Route 78) OBAN TO CAMPBELTOWN Cycle Route: 🚓 Challenge - 121 miles Starting Point: Oban www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ oban-to-campbeltown









The fast growing activity of offthe-beaten-track bikepacking combines well with local youth hostels. A new four-day West Island Trail has been designed by Bikepacking Scotland in partnership with SYHA.

The Scottish Sea Kayak Trail is another way to see the coast. Running from the Isle of Gigha to the Summer Isles north of Ullapool, the entire route takes several weeks to complete. So choose a shorter section such as the 'Lord of the Isles' trip from Oban to Mallaig, guided by Arisaig Sea Kayaking.

Argyll Voyageur Canoes also offer guided trips in 26 ft, 10-person Voyageur Canoes. As a team you can travel further and quicker on scenic Loch Goil. Look out for seabirds, eagles and grey seals. The west coast islands of Islay, Coll and Tiree are popular with surfers, kitesurfers and windsurfers thanks to stunning beaches and wind power.

For gentler waters, which are ideal for days of family bodyboarding, head to Kiloran Bay on the Isle of Colonsay.

Coll boasts another fantastic outdoors experience of swimming with basking sharks. If you prefer, you can go snorkelling in a lagoon with seals.

More wildlife thrills are found on the island of Mull, where tours on foot, by Land Rover and by boat, often reveal sightings of sea mammals and birds of prey.

Now what will you try first, second and third in this adventure haven? 🗱

Beinglas Farm Campsite

Inverarnan, Loch Lomond, G83 7DX

The site sits below Ben Glas, from which it takes its name, and the "Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall", and offers fine views from all parts of the site.

f ¥

 Lounge Bar & Restaurant · Camping Cabins
B&B Chalets · Shop · Outdoor Shelter - with Kitchen Area & Laundry



01301 704 281 | info@beinglascampsite.com www.beinglascampsite.co.uk



For More Information Please Contact, Ardmaddy, By Oban, Argyll, PA34 4QY T: 01852 300778 | E: jan@ardmaddy.com www.ardmaddycottages.co.uk

f



The Rob Roy is wonderfully situated in idyllic countryside at the gateway to Scotland's first National Park and provides the ideal base for visiting the Trossachs.



Aberfoyle | 01877 382 245 www.robroyhotel.co.uk



Situated on the site of the Battle of Bannockburn next to the Bannockburn Heritage Centre, on the outskirts of the historic city of Stirling, the King Robert is a friendly and excellent value family hotel.



Stirling | 01786 811 666 www.kingroberthotel.co.uk
STRATHYRE ADVENTURES Jack Black Adventure Guide

Experience Strathyre up close and personal with a leading Scottish Forest Ranger

- Micro Adventures Canoe Safari Bush Craft
- Twilight Walk and Bat Watch
 May Reading
 Navigation and Survival Skills



Tel: 07856 172825 jamesblack23@gmail.com

LAGNAKEIL HIGHLAND LODGES



UNRIVALLED LOCATION

- 1,2 & 3 bedroom self catering lodges
- Activities nearby for all levels of adventurer
- Mountain Biking, Kayaking, Cycling, Boat Trips, Watersports, Horse Riding
- 3 miles from picturesque Oban, full of great restaurants and bars





T: 01631 562746 www.lagnakeil.co.uk





PADDLE BOARD HIRE Local taster sessions in the Helensburgh area.

Or hire a board to take away on holiday. Inflatable boards will fit in the back of your car.



For prices and details check our website paddleboardingscotland.com



Come and see the incredible Basking Sharks in the worldwide hotspot for these gentle giants!

- Shark & Seal Swimming
- Highland Scuba Diving
- Sea Eagles, Puffin & Seabird Photography
- Whales & Dolphins
- 1/2 Day to Week Long Adventures

T: 07975 723140 E: info@baskingsharkscotland.co.uk baskingsharkscotland.co.uk



sailing and climbing from purpose built, luxurious 5 star self-catering cottages on the shores of Loch Sunart.

WWW.SUNARTADVENTURES.COM Dan@sunartadventures.com T: 0141 628 7625 M: 07712 184 390

Sunart Adventures, Glenborrodale, Acharacle, Argyll



HEBRIDEAN WILDLIFE CRUISES

Sail the Scottish Hebrides, from St Kilda to Arran, aboard the beautiful ex-tall ship St Hilda. Choose from one of our many, superb value, Hebridean wildlife cruises from April to October. Incredible scenery, rare wildlife, great range of activities, and delicious food.

> To find out more and book your cruise, visit www.sthildaseaadventures.co.uk ① 0774550988 ⊠ info@ sthildaseaadventures.co.uk

CRUISE LOCH LOMOND

RAMBLER • EXPLORER • CYCLE HIRE • RSPB



CRUISES WATERBUS BIKE & HIKE WILDLIFE

01301 702356 www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk



SEA KAYAK TRIPS





KILLIN OUTDOOR CENTRE IS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.45 PM YOU CAN FIND US AT: WWW KILLINOUTDOOR.CO.UK DREADNOUGHT PLACE, MAIN STREET - KILLIN - FK21 8UJ



www.kayakmajik.co.uk Call Dave on 07891861393 SCA/ISKGA Coach/Guide

Luxury Wood Lodges and Campsite also available



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

The beautiful coast, pretty islands and peaceful countryside are a haven for active visitors – and so close to the Central Belt.

A system is famous for the phrase "doon the watter". The holidaying tradition began in the early 1800s thanks to the advent of steamboats, which allowed people to travel from Glasgow down the River Clyde and Firth of Clyde to reach popular coastal havens, including Largs and Millport.

These days, access to this region is faster and easier thanks to a motorway, speedier trains, a network of ferries and even planes, yet the countryside, coast and islands remain wonderfully peaceful.

The "watter" is the focus for many outdoor activities in Ayrshire, including surfing, kitesurfing, stand-up paddleboarding, windsurfing, sailing, water skiing, canoeing and rowing.

The Isle of Cumbrae, a short ferry trip from the town of Largs, is the home of sportscotland's National Centre. Beginners can learn to dinghy sail, windsurf, kayak and much more. Cumbrae is also a fantastic location for a family cycling adventure. Hire bikes or take your own for free on the CalMac ferry and ride the lovely 10-mile route around the island. Keep a look out for the "Crocodile Rock".

The neighbouring island of Arran is also reached by ferry, from Ardrossan. The island, which is known as "Scotland in miniature" thanks to its Highlands and Lowlands landscapes, provides a great location for gorge walking and canyoning at the water-filled gorges of Glenashdale and Glen Sannox, sea kayaking in Brodick Bay, and also archery, climbing, abseiling and bushcraft.

On the mainland, Ayrshire's rivers can be travelled by canoe. You could choose to paddle the River Ayr, from the source at Glenbuck, in East Ayrshire, to the sea at Ayr in South Ayrshire. The River Doon is the place to enjoy an exciting guided rafting trip through natural rapids and man-made weirs.

In East Ayrshire, a refurbished open-air heated pool at New Cumnock is a lovely place for a swim. You could enjoy a full day of activities by travelling on to Newmilns Snow and Sports Centre for skiing and snowboarding on an artificial slope. Or why not try the Sir Chris Hoy cycleway from Hurlford to Galston?

Another gem is Eglinton Country Park, between Irvine and Kilwinning in North Ayrshire, for activities such as cycling, pony treks, orienteering and canicross, a sport for runners and their dogs.

In South Ayrshire, at Culzean Castle and Country Park, near Maybole, children can run wild in the Adventure Cove and Wild Woodland play areas. Further afield, Carrick Adventure knows

AYRSHIRE & THE ISLES OF ARRAN AND CUMBRAE 39



Q Sea Kayaking in Brodick Bay with Goatfell behind, Isle of Arran

12

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

Chlum



MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
 Difficult
 Extreme
 Forest Trail

ARRAN MOUNTAIN BIKING MTB Routes: 10/10/10 km 18/25/50 km 4 35 km Location: Isle of Arran - various routes www.arranbikeclub.com

RANKIN PARK, GREENOCK MTB Routes: 1 km skills area & pump track 1 km 0.5 km Location: Rankin Park, Greenock www.dmbins.com/riders/where-to-ride

KELBURN ESTATE, LARGS MTB Routes: ▲ 1/0.9 km Location: Kelburn Estate, Fairlie, Largs www.kelburnestate.com

AYRSHIRE COAST (Route 7) Cycle Route: 4 Easy - 19 miles Starting Point: Irvine www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ ayrshire-coast-cycleway

KILMARNOCK TO ARDROSSAN (Route 73) Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 18 miles Starting Point: Kilmarnock www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ route-73

IRVINE & KILWINNING NEW TOWN TRAIL Cycle Route: 5 **Easy** - 12 miles Starting Point: Irvine www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk/ walkirvinentt.htm

MAYBOLE SOUTH LOOP Cycle Route: 5 Hard - 36 miles Starting Point: Maybole village www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk/ cyclepathsmaybole.htm

GREAT CUMBRAE ISLAND LOOP Cycle Route: 4 Easy - 9 miles Starting Point: Ferry terminal, Great Cumbrae www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ great-cumbrae-island-loop

THE AYRSHIRE ALPS Cycle Route: 5 Hard - Selection of challenging hill roads www.ayrshirealps.org







AYRSHIRE & THE ISLES OF ARRAN AND CUMBRAE 41



all the hotspots for outdoors adventures, including gorge walking, canyoning, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking and coasteering.

Cycling, both on the road and on trails, is popular in the wider region thanks to quiet locations and easily accessed countryside.

Riders could choose to visit some historical highlights on a tour of the attractions associated with Scotland's famous poet, Robert Burns, who was born in Alloway. Scotland's first "road cycling park", the Ayrshire Alps, boasts some fine cycling hills in South Carrick, near Ayr.

The Isle of Arran is also popular with road cyclists who come to tick off the hilly challenge of a 56-mile around-island road that hugs the coast. The route is very cyclist-friendly, as there are special road-signs warning motorists that the road is heavily used by cyclists. Mountain bikers will enjoy trails at Brodick Castle, while a 50 km Arran End to Enduro route from Lochranza to Kildonan is recommended by Arran Bike Back.

On the mainland, there are more trails at Craufurdland Estate, near Kilmarnock, and Newmilns Bike Park, in East Ayrshire.

Another way to travel countryside tracks is on horseback. Stables and riding centres lead treks for riders of all ages and levels. Try Craigengillan Estate in Ayr and at Dean Castle Country Park in Kilmarnock, as well as a designated bridle route at Patna. Trump Turnberry Resort also offers beach riding.

With such easy access from central Scotland, active adventurers will no doubt return to this region time after time, just like the holidaymakers of the 19th century **xx**



Come and enjoy a fantastic trip suitable for all age groups!

For prices and details please contact: Mark McCrindle, 7 Harbour Street, Girvan, KA26 9AJ Telephone: 01465 713 219 Mobile: 07773 794 358or e-mail us at mccrindlem@aol.com

www.ailsacraig.org.uk











Undiscovered, Tranquil, Family, Explore



Muddy

Trials!

Flyfishing, Mountain Bike Trails, Fitness and Mud-Running Events, Outdoor & Teambuilding Activities Self-catering Luxury, and all in a beautiful natural estate

www.craufurdland.co.uk

HIF KIF
voutdoor pursuits
GET ACTIVE IN AYRSHIRE!

WATER







Families, groups and individuals welcome!

Craigengillan Estate, Dalmellington, Ayrshire KA6 7PZ **T: Bookings & Enquiries 01292 430 012** www.activeoutdoorpursuits.com

BC Motorhomes

MOTORHOME RENTAL



NO MINIMUM TERM ONBOARD WIFI UP TO DATE RENTAL FLEET AIRPORT PICK UP

Fully Equipped Motorhomes with all the essentials from cutlery to first aid kit

RIENDL

Heathfield Road, Ayr, Scotland, KA8 9HE / Tel: 01292 272 277 enquiries@bcmotorhomes.co.uk BOOK ONLINE - WWW.BCMOTORHOMES.CO.UK

RSONP



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Already a haven for outdoor adventures, a host of new activities has seen this tranquil region gaining even greater acclaim.

ell known for decades by keen mountain bikers, the south of Scotland has developed into a destination that boasts a wide variety of adventure activities.

Access to this peaceful part of Scotland is surprisingly straightforward, especially from the big Scottish cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh and from the north of England.

A great way to explore is by bike. In the Scottish Borders, there are plenty of quiet waymarked road cycling routes, such as the multiday Four Abbeys Way that links the historic abbeys of Jedburgh, Melrose, Dryburgh and Kelso.

Alternatively, further west the Lochs and Glens Route (National Cycle Route 7) winds its way from Gretna Green through Dumfries & Galloway, while the 112-mile Scottish Coast to Coast (C2C) route links Annan on the Solway Firth to South Queensferry on the Firth of Forth, near Edinburgh.

If you prefer the trails, why not check out a new bikepacking route? Bikepacking is a growing sporting trend that sees cyclists heading off the beaten track with all their overnight kit packed into special bikepacking bags.

The new Reiver Raid, in the picturesque Ale Valley, has been created by round-theworld cyclist and founder of Bikepacking Scotland, Markus Stitz.

The 2.5-day loop starts and finishes in Tweedbank, which is the final station for the Borders Railway. It's less than an hour on the train from Edinburgh, and takes in a mix of tracks and quiet roads as you follow in the footsteps of the infamous historic Border Reivers.

You might also like to explore the wider countryside on a 4x4 off-road vehicle driving experience near the market town of Hawick or at Abbey St Bathans, near Duns. An alternative is to join a horse ride or pony trek into the valleys of Newcastleton and Liddesdale, close to the border, or the Tweed Valley, near Peebles.

More off-road fun is found in the world-acclaimed 7stanes mountain biking centres spread across this region.

The Forestry Commission Scotland trail centre network, with numerous graded trails to suit all levels of riders, extends from the largest, 7stanes Glentress, near Peebles, to 7stanes Glentrool in Galloway Forest Park.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY AND THE SCOTTISH BORDERS 45







It also includes the downhill Mecca of Innerleithen, as well as Newcastleton, Ae, Mabie, Dalbeattie and Kirroughtree.

More off-road trails, especially suited to family groups, are found at Drumlanrig Castle near Thornhill, in Dumfries & Galloway.

The landscape of rolling hills, wide valleys, lochs and rivers is the perfect environment for a host of other adventure activities.

At picturesque Loch Ken, Galloway Activity Centre boasts an exhilarating 40 ft 3G giant swing that is the highest in Scotland. It's an inclusive activity for people of all ages and three at a time. While you are at Loch Ken, have fun whizzing down a 50 m water slide in a wetsuit.

The sheltered freshwater loch is also the perfect place to learn dinghy sailing, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, windsurfing and power boating.

Back on land, the centre has a 25 ft climbing wall exited by a freefall "Leap of Faith" or a zipwire. Families can also enjoy a friendly – or competitive – go at combat laser games, crate climbing and archery.

Further south at Gatehouse of Fleet, Scottish Thistle award

winner Laggan Outdoor offers daredevils the chance to ride a 820 m zip wire from high on a hill. It's one of the longest zip wires in Europe, and as it's a double line it allows two people to zip at the same time, alongside each other.

Another activity is water balling, which sees participants rolling downhill in a large inflatable sphere filled with water. Or how about grass sledging, dirt scooting, Segway tours or archery?

Whithaugh Park at Newcastleton is another popular place for families. Activities include abseiling, aerial adventures, archery, bushcraft, fencing,

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

111

Q •Crawick Multiverse, near Sanquhar, Dumfries & Galloway



- Great base for outdoor enthusiasts looking to explore
 Dumfries & Galloway and South Ayrshire
- Static caravan hire from £250 to £600 per week (contact park for prices for shorter stays)
- Touring & Camping pitches available from **£17** per night



01776 810462 Portpatrick, Stranraer, DG9 9AA e: castle.bay@btconnect.com www.castlebauholidaupark.co.uk



Lochside | Radstone | Carlton | Royal | Hetland

Find your Relaxing and Peaceful stay with the RAD Hotel Group.

 Picturesque Views · Beautiful Restaurants Ideal Locations · Spa Experience Conference and Corporate Family Friendly · Modern En Suite Bed Rooms Ample Parking Throughout · Free Wifi · Nearby Attractions

> Afternoon Tea | A La Carte Spa Treatments | Private Dining Function Suite | Luxury Lodges Weddings | Events

> > WWW.RADHOTELGROUP.COM





dyllically positioned on the shores of Luce Bay, Sands of Luce is the perfect destination for your adventure holiday! Our warm safe waters and vast sandy beach offer the perfect venue for a variety of fun and exciting activities. Our busy action packed summer activity program will keep the family busy and our luxury holiday accommodation or beach side pitches offer the perfect retreat to just unvind and truly relax.

Visit our website & book on-line today. E: info@sandsofluce.com T: 01776 830456 facebook.com/sandsofluce www.sandsofluce.com





MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
 Intermediate
 Difficult
 Very Difficult
 Extreme
 Forest Trail

7STANES AE MTB Routes: ●9 km ■ 13.5 km ▲ 24 km ■ 1.6/1 km Location: Ae www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

7STANES DALBEATTIE MTB Routes: ● 11.5 km ■ 14 km ▲ 25 km ◆ Location: Dalbeattie

www.7stanesmountainbiking.com 7STANES GLENTRESS MTB Routes: ● 4.5/3.5 km ■ 16 km ▲ 18 km ◆ 29 km ■ 1.4 km Location: Glentress Forest, near Peebles

www.7stanesmountainbiking.com 7STANES GLENTROOL MTB Routes: • 14/6 km • 9 km Location: Galloway

www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

7STANES INNERLEITHEN MTB Routes: ◆ ▲ 19 km ↓ 4.2 km Location: Between Peebles and Galashiels

www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

7STANES KIRROUGHTREE MTB Routes: ● 6 km ■ 10/14/2 km ▲ 17 km ◆ 14 km **Location:** Galloway Forest Park, Newton Stewart

www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

TSTANES MABLE MTB Routes: ●8 km ■ 10 km ▲ 19 km 3.8 km Forest road 23 km Location: Mabie Forest, South of Dumfries www.Tstanesmountainbiking.com

7STANES NEWCASTLETON MTB Routes: Forest road 8 km 9.7 km

▲ 23.4 km ■ Skills area Location: Newcastleton www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

DRUMLANRIG MTB Routes: ● 21 km ■ 9.2 km ▲ 15.5 km Location: Thornhill

www.drumlanrig.com

Cycle Route: 6 Hard - 53 miles Starting Point: Innerleithen www.cyclescottishborders.com/route/ megget-talla

NEWTON STEWART TO WIGTOWN (Route 73 S)

Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 8 miles Starting Point: Cree Bridge, Newton Stewart www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ newton-stewart-to-wigtown

PEEBLES TO INNERLEITHEN Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 6 miles Starting Point: Janet's Brae, Peebles www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ peebles-innerleithen





geocaching and gorge walking, as well as a 300 m zip wire.

The region's coast is a popular destination for surfers, including hotspots such as Coldingham Bay, near Eyemouth on the east coast, where there's a surf school, and Sandhead Beach near Stranraer in the west.

Sandy beaches combine with the natural power of wind for a thrilling activity called blo-karting. Two great places for this activity are Sandhead, with Galloway Activity Centre, or Southerness Beach on the Solway Firth.

To explore the Berwickshire coast at speed, join Eyemouth

RIB trips for a "Fast Blast". You'll visit cliffs and coves around Eyemouth and St Abbs National Nature Reserve, while spotting wildlife, including seabirds and seals.

Divers also flock to the shoreline in Berwickshire to explore an impressive 80 wreck dive sites.

You can also fly high in this region. A hot air balloon trip offers a unique view of the Scottish Borders landscape, including its towns, winding rivers and huge forests.

It's no wonder that more people are discovering this gem of an adventure destination **xx**



Urban and rural landscapes combine to offer an attractive outdoors playground for all.

t the heart of the region, Edinburgh boasts an array of world-acclaimed capital city attractions, yet it is only a short journey to reach a wide variety of countryside activities in the easily accessible Lothians.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Why not start your visit with a cycling tour? On two wheels – whether it's a bike hire or a guided bike tour – you can see so many more city gems, such as Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and park, the Scottish Parliament and Calton Hill.

Look for traffic-free cycle paths to link the attractions together, including the Water of Leith or Little France route. You can find more cycle route suggestions at www.innertubemap.com.

Another active way to tour the capital is on a guided running tour. Several companies lead runs, which can be arranged to suit different fitness levels.

Two historic sites in the city have themselves been revamped to create popular destinations for active fans. Climbers can ascend the walls and into the vaulted ceiling of a former church at Alien Rock One (and the neighbouring Alien Bloc, which offers bouldering), while a former stone quarry is the location for the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Ratho, the largest indoors climbing arena in the world.

In the capital you can also participate in the combat style activities of paintballing and laser tag, as well as giving the exhilarating sport of Xtreme Karting a try.

Away from the hustle and bustle of one of the world's most visited cities, the nearby countryside offers a greater sense of freedom, peace and beauty.

If you enjoy running in the city, you could join a new tour by Run the Sights called the "Roslin Rambler". The 7.5-mile route takes in rolling Midlothian countryside, as well as a variety of historic highlights, including castles and Rosslyn Chapel, which famously featured in Dan Brown's 2003 bestselling novel The Da Vinci Code.

Also in Midlothian, two country parks, Vogrie and Dalkeith, play host to a thrill-seeking activity called The Rolling

EDINBURGH & THE LOTHIANS 51



Q Kitesurfing on Longniddry Bents with Edinburgh in the background

3

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

10 - 10

-





Haggis, also known as a giant inflatable zorb. The hill rolling fun is organised by Zorb Edinburgh.

Vogrie has a number of other fun highlights including a play park, miniature railway and trails for walking, cycling and pony trekking.

While Fort Douglas in Dalkeith Country Park is a new attraction for youngsters with treehouses, suspension bridges, slides, climbing walls and secret tunnels.

More parkland can be found to the west of the capital. Kirknewton Estate is the ideal place to try a number of different activities such as archery, clay pigeon shooting, off-road driving and quad biking.

An alternative West Lothian country park for family-

friendly fun is Beecraigs, near Linlithgow, with a network of cycling trails and a permanent orienteering course. Polkemmet Country Park, near Whitburn, offers more options for orienteering, as well as cycling and horse riding.

This is a region with many parks to choose from. To the south of Edinburgh, the picturesque Pentland Hills await with the chance to explore 100 km of trails on foot, by mountain bike or on a pony trek, in the designated Regional Park.

Ginger Squirrel Adventures are keen to get families and children on their bikes and offer a 15 km family guided ride into the Pentlands, as well as children's cycling camps. Three more parks close to the Pentlands – Bonaly, Castlelaw and Hillend – each boast an orienteering course, where friends and families can enjoy a few hours of competitive fun.

A fast-paced alternative competition could be to race down Britain's biggest artificial ski slope on skis or a snowboard at Midlothian Snowsports Centre at Hillend.

Many visitors to this region are attracted to the eastern shores of East Lothian where the sandy beaches and shallow waters provide a wonderful watersports playground.

At Dunbar and Belhaven you can try surfing and bodyboarding, or for those with a desire for an adrenaline buzz, how about kitesurfing? Many sheltered bays, as well as tranquil rivers and canals in the wider region, are the perfect locations for the





Britain's longest dry ski slopes

Skiing

- Snowboarding
- Tubing
- Café
- Chairlift rides

Midlothian Snowsports Centre Hillend, Biggar Road, Edinburgh, EH10 7DU 0131 445 4433



WWW.HILLEND.ORG.UK



Scotland's young people are going to shine in 2018

Find out more at visitscotland.com/yoyp2018

#YOYP2018

VISITSCOTLAND.COM



07971 990361 WWW.C2CSURFSCHOOL.COM



www.runthesights.co.uk info@runthesights.co.uk T: 07548203139

MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
 Intermediate
 Difficult
 Very Difficult
 Extreme
 Forest Trail

BEECRAIGS COUNTRY PARK MTB Routes: ● 3.6 km ■ 5.3 km ▲ 3.6 km ● Skills area & pump track Location: Linlithgow www.westlothian.gov.uk/beecraigs

SKELF BIKE PARK MTB Routes: 1 km Pump track Location: Edinburgh www.theskelf.org.uk

EAST LOTHIAN BY BIKE Cycle Route: Medium - 18 miles Starting Point: Longniddry Railway Station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ east-lothian-by-bike

EDINBURGH TO FORTH ROAD BRIDGE (Route 1) Cycle Route: Starting Point: Haymarket station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ edinburgh-to-the-forth-road-bridge

JOHN MUIR TRAIL COAST TO COAST Cycle Route: 🏍 Hard - 134 miles Starting Point: Dunbar www.johnmuirway.org

EDINBURGH TO THE FALKIRK WHEEL (Route 745) Cycle Route: Medium - 30 miles Starting Point: Edinburgh Quay www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ union-canabary.uk/ncn/map/route/

HADDINGTON TO PENICUIK (Route 196) Cycle Route: The Easy - 26 miles Starting Point: Haddington www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ route-196

BRAID BURN LINK

Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 6.5 miles Starting Point: Innocent Cycle Path, Duddingston Road West www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/ themed-routes-0/urban-adventures/ edinburgh-loops-and-links

MIDLOTHIAN COUNTRY CIRCULAR Cycle Route: Starting Point: Rosewell www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/ midlothian-country-circular-p316031





increasingly popular sport of stand-up paddleboarding (SUP).

Alternatively, a sea kayak is a great way for the experienced to journey to the famous Bass Rock, off the coast near North Berwick, where an amazing 150,000 gannets reside during the summer months. For those who prefer to sit back and relax while exploring, a boat tour from the seaside town is a good option.

East Lothian is also home to John Muir Country Park, which has plenty of active fun including an adventure playpark. Nearby at Foxlake Adventures, children and adults can learn cable wakeboarding on a purposebuilt lake. Other pursuits at the centre include open water swimming, an overwater high ropes course and a new high-wire Dual Zip Trail Course.

But why stay at ground level when you can fly high above it? A tandem microlight flight from East Fortune, near North Berwick, or a hot air ballooning trip from several locations in Midlothian provide a fantastic bird's eye view of this picturesque citymeets-countryside outdoors region **xx**



Glasgow is Scotland's largest city, yet it offers easy access to countryside at all points of the compass.

amed for its warm welcome and cosmopolitan attractions, Glasgow is a great base for people who enjoy both city and rural activities.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

You could explore some of the city's main visitor attractions on a running tour. Run the Sights offers guided routes in Glasgow including intriguing tours named "Monuments, Murals & Markets" and "West End Wanderer".

The critically acclaimed XX Commonwealth Games 2014 created several fantastic legacies for active people, including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, where you can experience the thrills of riding on a fast-paced, steeply banked, indoor track. For offroad fun, Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails and the Cuningar Loop in the east of the city have routes for all to ride.

Strathclyde Country Park in Motherwell, near Glasgow, also attracted the Games crowds to see exciting triathlon events. The loch remains a popular venue for triathlon races and also offers sessions in sailing, kayaking and windsurfing, as well as bumper boats, pedalos, canoes, waterwalkerz and paddleboards.

Another popular place for watersports in the city is at Pinkston Basin, on the Forth & Clyde Canal. Surprisingly, it's only a 20 minute walk from the city centre and offers open water, river boarding and white water rafting. Next door, at Glasgow Wakepark, why not try cable wakeboarding? The canal is also popular for stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), canoeing and kayaking.

The famous River Clyde running through the heart of the city is paddled by kayakers, while for those with less water-based experience there are boat cruises and high-speed powerboat trips.

Rising more than 160 ft above the river at Clydebank is the Titan Crane, which was once an important tool of the shipping industry, and now allows daredevils the chance to plummet towards the water on a bungee jump or swing at speeds of up to 70 mph on a 'Big Swing'.

In Glasgow, you don't need to wait for the winter snow for skiing fun. There are artificial slopes at Bearsden and Bellahouston and a real snow slope at the indoor Snow Factor at Soar intu Braehead. You can try climbing indoor walls and an ice climbing taster session at Braehead, too.

Indoor climbing is also popular at Glasgow Climbing Centre, while the Climbing Academy is the place to go bouldering.

Skateboarders are well catered for, including popular Kelvingrove skatepark in the city's west end and one of the UK's largest skateparks at Dumbarton. To the north of Glasgow is Kirkintilloch skatepark, and there's a new skateboard and BMX biking park at Milngavie.

Head north east of Glasgow to the 1950s New Town of Cumbernauld, where Eden Leisure Village offers excitement

GREATER GLASGOW & THE CLYDE VALLEY 57





MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

	Green:	Easy
	Blue:	Intermediate
	Red:	Difficult
٠	Black:	Very Difficult
	Orange:	Extreme
0	White:	Forest Trail

CATHKIN BRAES MTB Routes: 5.5 km • • • • Location: Glasgow www.dmbins.com/wheretoride

WHITELEE MTB Routes: ■ 15 km ▲ 3 km ¶ Pump track Location: Whitelee Windfarm, Eaglesham Moor www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/whitelee

GLASGOW WATERWAYS LOOP Cycle Route: ♂[®] Easy - 6 miles Starting Point: Speirs Wharf, Port Dundas www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ glasgow-waterways-loop

BOWLING TO FALKIRK WHEEL (Route 754) Cycle Route: Medium - 31 miles Starting Point: Bowling Harbour www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ bowling-to-the-falkirk-wheel

LOCHWINNOCH LOOP LINE (Route 7) Cycle Route: 여행 Easy - 14 miles Starting Point: Paisley Canal Train Station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ lochwinnoch-loop-line

MUGDOCK COUNTRY PARK AND KIRKINTILLOCH LOOP Cycle Route: 5 Hard - 33 miles Starting Point: Kirkintilloch www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/ route/mugdock-country-park-andkirkintilloch-loop

CLYDE WALKWAY - GLASGOW TO UDDINGSTON (Route 75) Cycle Route: 45 Medium - 12 miles Starting Point: Glasgow www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ clyde-walkway-glasgow-to-uddingston





GREATER GLASGOW & THE CLYDE VALLEY 59



with two activities based on large inflatable bubbles (zorbs), zorb football and hill zorbing. Groups can try a mini Highland Games, with events including toss-thecaber, buck-the-bale and wangthe-welly!

To the south of Glasgow's city limits is Scotland's first New Town, East Kilbride, where Air Space Glasgow provides bouncing fun on giant indoor trampolines and a new inflatable obstacle course called Wipeout. The town is also home to James Hamilton Heritage Park where you can learn to windsurf and sail dinghies.

Another place for sailing, as well as open water swimming, is Bardowie Loch, near Balmore, to Glasgow's north.

Heading further west, Castle Semple Loch in the village of Lochwinnoch is the place to learn to sail or to try paddle sports. The sit-on kayaks are great for beginners. There are plenty of traffic-free cycling trails close to the loch too, and with an RSPB centre, it's great for spotting wildlife.

Glasgow is also a great base for Scotland's Adventure Coast of Argyll & The Isles, which is easily reached within an hour. There you will discover many more adventure activities, such as quad biking, fell running and watersports.

Another point of the compass is to head south east, to the Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, where cycling, walking and pony trekking are popular pursuits.

The city and countryside combine to offer many days of fun activities for all 🛚

For more information on activities in Greater Glasgow and The Clyde Valley go to: visitscotland.com/active





Discover an array of ways to play outdoors in a superb adventure landscape, including mountains, glens, lochs and sea.

hether you like your adventures to be adrenaline-fuelled or mild and relaxing, there is a location and activity to suit in this diverse natural adventure playground.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Why not start by taking in a few of the fabulous views from on high? Sit back for a 2 km funicular ride from the Day Lodge and Base Station at CairnGorm Mountain near Aviemore to the Ptarmigan Restaurant (the UK's highest) and Top Station higher up the slopes of Cairn Gorm. There are options for guided walks at the top.

A chairlift ride at Glencoe Mountain rises to 670 m for amazing vistas of Rannoch Moor and the iconic Stob Dearg, part of the Buachaille Etive Mor. The chairlift also gives access to downhill mountain biking trails.

Close to Fort William, the Nevis Range gondola (the only one of its kind in Britain) takes visitors to 655 m on Aonach Mor. From the top station in summer, you can ride a chairlift to a hidden valley to see along the Great Glen. If you are a technical mountain biker, the World Cup downhill (as used by the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup since 2002) and the Red Giant cross-country trails will impress. There are other mountain biking options for all riding abilities including trail centres at Balblair (near Bonar Bridge), Glenlivet (near Tomintoul), Highland Wildcat Trails (by Golspie) and Laggan Wolftrax, as well as the forest tracks set amongst ancient Caledonian pines at Rothiemurchus, near Aviemore.

This region is perfect for getting off the beaten track. Segways are a peaceful way to glide through the countryside looking for wildlife. Alternatively, how about tracking red deer on a camera stalking trip in Assynt, in the North Highlands and Fearann Eilean Larmain on Skye?

The Highlands are extremely popular with hillwalkers, with a vast selection of hill routes for all ages and abilities here. See the *VisitScotland Walk in Scotland Guide* for more information on walks all across the country.

Switching to four hooves, you can join a pony trek at scenic locations including Gairloch, Glenshiel and Tomintoul. Families will enjoy climbing a little higher above the tracks on a fun Tree Adventure high ropes course at Nevis Range. Or, if you are near Aviemore, why not try the TreeZone aerial course or the Zip Trek Adventure Park? Two new activities



THE HIGHLANDS AND MORAY SPEYSIDE



61

VISITSCOTLAND.COM





nearby include rolling down hills in inflatable zorbs with Aviemore 2 Zorb and go-karting on a purpose-built track at Aviemore Kart Raceway.

If you are still full of energy there is a long menu of activities to sample at Craggan Outdoors at Grantown-on-Spey, such as bushcraft, archery, clay pigeon shooting, a zipwire and mini quads. Craggan – and Ace Adventures in Moray Speyside – also offers disc golf, where you score points for throwing a disc into baskets.

There are two exciting skate parks near Inverness, an open air facility in the city and a covered park at Muir of Ord.

Many lochs, rivers, gorges and waterfalls in the Highlands are the perfect base for watersports. Canyoning is one of the most thrilling pursuits as wetsuit-clad participants descend water-filled gorges by sliding, swimming, jumping and abseiling. Look for operators at Inchree Falls, near Fort William, and Bridge of Brown gorge in the Cairngorms.

Described by The Canyoning Company as "An Icon", the Ben Nevis Canyon is another great destination for canyoning, while Nathrach Canyon has jumps and slides leading to an impressive waterfall.

Gorge Scrambling, organised by Active Outdoor Pursuits in Aviemore, is similar to canyoning but is an easier-going adventure. Another gorge, close to the village of Kinlochleven, is home to an exhilarating via ferrata course, operated by Vertical Descents. Participants traverse a rock face on ladders and platforms while attached to a safety cable. Two new wire bridges have been added to allow you to walk out into the middle of the canyon to look down, if you dare, at Grey Mare's Waterfall.

Many adventure companies lead downstream journeys on white-water rivers, such as the Garry, Moriston, Orchy and the Findhorn. Choose from groupsized inflatable rafts, two-man fun yaks and solo river bugs. On the River Feshie at Aviemore, In Your Element guide "grown-up" river sledging sessions.

For something calmer, paddle the River Spey on a guided Canadian canoe trip or follow the waymarked Great Glen Canoe Trail from Fort William to Inverness. If you are a newcomer to paddling, Loch Morlich has Canadian canoeing sessions, while the flat-water canoeing on Loch an Eilein at Rothiemurchus is ideal for family groups. You can also try paddle-boarding on





MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

Easy
 Difficult
 ► Very Difficult
 Extreme
 ○ Forest Trail

HIGHLAND MTB E-GUIDE MTB Routes: 9 Trail Centres & 22 Natural MTB Routes (All gradings) Location: Across the Highlands www.highlandeguide.co.uk

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK Location: Cairngorms www.visitcairngorms.com/onabike

ABRIACHAN TRAILS MTB Routes: ● 3 km ■ 7 km ▲ 6 km Location: Abriachan, Inverness www.abriachan.org.uk

GLENLIVET MTB Routes: 9 km 22 km Location: Glenlivet Estate, Tomintoul www.glenlivetestate.co.uk

NEVIS RANGE - FORT WILLIAM MTB Routes: T km & 8.5/16.5/5.5 km & 2.8 km Location: Nevis Range in Fort William www.nevisrange.co.uk

HIGHLAND WILDCAT TRAILS MTB Routes: € 6.5 km ▲ 7.5 km ♦ 13.6 km Location: Golspie, Sutherland www.highlandwildcat.com

KYLE OF SUTHERLAND Balblair MTB Routes: 3 km ♦ 7.5km/11.5km Location: 10 miles west of where A9 crosses Dornoch Firth on the Dornoch bridge www.forestry.gov.uk/mtbscotland

LAGGAN WOLFTRAX MTB Routes: ●4.5 km ▲ 13.4 km ◆6.4 km 3.6 km Location: Strathmashie Forest, Laggan, Newtonmore www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ laggan-wolftrax

LEARNIE RED ROCK TRAILS MTB Routes: © 0.5 km 1.2/2.4/2.7 km 3.6 km 1.2 km Location: North west of Inverness www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ learnie-red-rocks

MORAY MONSTER TRAILS MTB Routes: ■4.1/5.3/8.8 km ▲ 8 km ♦ 2.3 km ↓ km Location: Between Fochabers and Craigellachie www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/ moray-monster-trails

MORAY CYCLE ROUTES Variety of cycle routes across Moray www.morayways.org.uk/

ELGIN EXPERIENCE Cycle Route: d[™] Easy - 13 miles Starting Point: Library, Cooper Park, Elgin www.morayways.org.uk/routedetails. asp?routeid=186

THE CALEDONIA WAY (Route 78) FORT WILLIAM TO INVERNESS Cycle Route: ${}^{\infty}$ B Hard - 66 miles Starting Point: Fort William train station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ fort-william-to-inverness



Q Surfing at Brims Ness, near Thurso, Caithness



THE HIGHLANDS AND MORAY SPEYSIDE 65



a sheltered section of the River Spey on the same estate.

The region's long coast boasts many hotspots for surfing, such as at Brimms Ness and Thurso East, while top sea kayaking destinations include the deep-sea lochs that flank the remote north-west peninsula of Knoydart. There is also the Scottish Sea Kayak Trail, which runs from the Isle of Gigha in Argyll to the Summer Isles near Ullapool.

Arisaig Sea Kayaking guides kayak expeditions to the "Small Isles" of Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna. If you have always longed to visit the remote St Kilda islands, Sea Kayak Plockton offers kayaking trips with a motorised boat, MV Cuma, as the mothership.

Coasteering on the isles of Skye and Raasay offer more opportunities to see the shore up close and to spot wildlife. Meanwhile, a relaxing boat cruise is another option for visiting islands for sightings of dolphins, porpoise, whales and basking sharks.

For further wildlife spotting opportunities head to one of nine hotspots highlighted on the new Snorkel Trail, (see www.scottishwildlifetrust. org.uk/things-to-do/snorkeltrails/), from the Bay of Clachtoll southwards to An Dun on the north west coast.

You could choose to combine water and land in a new activity called packrafting. A packraft is a small inflatable boat that is light enough to carry on your back. When you reach water, while walking, cycling or skiing, you inflate the raft and paddle. Back Country in Aviemore is the first company in Scotland to lead packrafting trips, with favourite destinations of Knoydart, Inverpolly and Loch Maree.

Once people discover the many outdoor wonders of the region, they return time and again 🛚



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Ride Scotland's only funicular railway for access to winter and summer activities.

airnGorm Mountain is the home of Scotland's only funicular railway. The mountain train takes visitors to the Top Station at a height of 1097 m. From here, the views are of a superb panorama taking in 6,000 square miles of Highlands landscape, including the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis.

The Top Station boasts the UK's highest restaurant, a viewing terrace, an exhibition, a shop and the highest postbox in Britain.

In winter, when the mountain is covered in snow, skiers and snowboarders can enjoy 20 runs extending to 30 km of pisted slopes. The longest run is 3.3 km and, when conditions allow, there is a freestyle park which includes a half pipe cutter, the only one in a Scottish ski centre.

A ski school provides lessons for all ages and includes Disability Snowsports UK tuition.

When summer arrives, CairnGorm Mountain is popular with walkers, road cyclists and wildlife fans. Visitors are not permitted to catch the funicular up and walk down, but it is possible to walk up and get the train back down.

There are also two other recommended walks. The Essential Summit Trail is a guided walk that takes visitors to the summit of CairnGorm at 1,245 m. It is the sixth highest mountain in Britain and offers more superb views.

On this 90-minute walk you will learn about the unique fauna and flora that survive in the elevated elements. These walks take place every day between May and October.

A Wilderness Day Hike is led by a countryside ranger to some of the wildest parts of the Cairngorms. This full-day guided walk starts at the Ranger Base in the Base Station. If the weather is fine, the walk will head onto the Cairngorm plateau.

Throughout the summer months CairnGorm Mountain also offer Yoga on the Mountain. Booking is essential.

CairnGorm Mountain lets you take your adventures to a higher level **xx**

INFO

Altitude:

2,150 - 3,600 ft (640 - 1,200 m) **Pisted runs:** 30 km **Longest runs:** 3.3 km **Max vertical descent:** 1,650 ft (500 m)



È

NO OF LITTS:	8
Uplift capacity: 4,300 per h	our
Snowmaking:	. 1
Mountain cafés/restaurants:	
Off piste skiing:	
Ski & snowboard hire:	
Ski clothing hire:	
Shop:	. 1
Artificial ski slope:	X
Créche:	X
Ski guide:	X
Sledging:	X
Rail Park:	
Webcam:	. 1
Onsite Accommodation:	. X

CairnGorm Mountain Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1RB Tel: 01479 861261 info@cairngormmountain.org www.cairngormmountain.org www.ski-scotland.com





2 Sheiling Mid Station

(3) Ptarmigan Station

- 2 Car Park T-Bar 3 Fiacaill Ridge Poma
- 5 Coire Cas T-Bar 6 M1 Poma

8 Polar Express Poma 9 Ptarmigan T-Bar

Day Lodge Poma

GLENCOE MOUNTAIN

The first of Scotland's ski resorts has developed into an attractive year-round activity centre.

G lencoe Mountain is acclaimed as Scotland's original ski centre and is located less than two hours from the central belt. The first lift was built in 1956 by a young pioneering Glasgow engineer Philip Rankin, who sadly passed away in March 2017 aged 99 years and 11 months. Today Glencoe Mountain has developed into a modern centre with eight lifts, serving 20 pisted runs.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Glencoe has a reputation for its challenging terrain, with pistes such as the Spring Run, acclaimed as one of the most difficult red routes in Scotland, and The Flypaper, which is one of the steepest black runs in Europe.

However, many skiers are surprised by the number of beginner-friendly runs too. There is even an intermediate blue run that travels from the top of the resort to the bottom that is great for families.

There is also plenty of family fun to be had at Glencoe's free sledging park.

For those with a passion for winter mountaineering and backcountry ski and snowboard touring, the centre offers avalanche awareness training and mountain safety sessions at the free-to-use transceiver park.

The artificial ski slopes remain open all summer for great fun tubing sessions and new for 2017 the resort has launched a treasure hunt which is great fun for adults and children of all ages.

Mountain bikers can travel with their bikes on the chairlift to reach a network of waymarked XC trails or for the more adventurous they can take on the infamous black and red-graded downhill routes.

The chairlift is also popular with walkers/climbers, and in northerly winds, with hang gliders and paragliders.

For a little less excitement you can just jump on the chairlift and enjoy the stunning views of the Glen Coe landscape, including the iconic Buachaille Etive Mor and wider Rannoch Moor.

With so much to do all-year-round perhaps the best option is to stay for a few days. There is a great choice of on-site accommodation, including microlodges, camping and campervan hook ups, and the panoramic log cabin café at the base station provides great home cooked food from early until late, 364 days a year **x**

INFO

Altitude:

1,000 - 3,636 ft (305 - 1,108 m) **Pisted runs:** 20 km **Longest runs:** 2.7 km **Max vertical descent:** 2,600 ft (792 m)



No of lifts: 8
Uplift capacity: 4,300 per hour
Snowmaking:
Mountain cafés/restaurants: 🗸
Off piste skiing: ✓
Ski & snowboard hire: 🗸
Ski clothing hire: 🗸
Shop:
Artificial ski slope: 🗸
Créche: X
Ski guide: 🗸
Sledging:
Rail Park: 🗸
Webcam:
Onsite Accommodation: 🗸

Glencoe Mountain Resort, Glencoe, Argyll PH49 4HZ Tel: 01855 851226 admin@glencoemountain.co.uk www.glencoemountain.com www.ski-scotland.com





© VisitScotland. Map provided by Ashworth Maps & Interpretation Ltd. Height information sourced from Ordnance Survey mapping, © Crown Copyright



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

A gondola whizzes active fans to a height of 650 m for a range of mountain adventures.

evis Range is located on the slopes of the UK's eighth tallest mountain, Aonach Mor, and offers a wide range of fast-paced activities, including skiing and snowboarding in winter and mountain biking and tree adventure in summer.

In winter, from the "top station", skiers and snowboarders have easy access to a range of beginnerfriendly green and blue-graded pistes.

Further up the mountain, and to a height of 1190 m (3900 ft), more experienced skiers can enjoy red and black-graded runs. More excitement can be had in the summit terrain park.

The mountain has a snowsports school for beginners, intermediates and experts, and snowsports equipment can be hired by those who haven't brought their own.

Skiers can also join guided back-country skiing sessions, ski mountaineering tours or learn vital winter skills on an avalanche awareness course. Other winter activities at Nevis Range include sledging and snowshoeing.

When summer comes, the mountain is popular with downhill

mountain bikers, and bikes can be hired for the day. The gondola is utilised by riders to reach the top of the challenging World Cup Downhill Track and the winding Red Giant XC trail.

The trail centre also has green and blue trails that are better suited to less experienced riders, and it is possible to bike from Fort William to Nevis Range on a traffic-free track. The Witch's Trails, in Leanachan Forest, also offer a selection of mountain biking trails for all abilities.

In recent years, expert paragliders and hang gliders have been welcomed at Nevis Range. The gondola offers a quick and effortless ride to a take-off altitude of 650 m from either the Sgurr Finnisg-aig or Meall Beag viewpoints.

Lower down the slopes is a Tree Adventure centre with lots of walkways, obstacles and zipwires that are suitable for all different age groups. There is also a tubing slide, ZoomTrax at the gondola top station, that drops 4.5 m in 40 m and is great for families.

You will discover it's easy to spend many days having fun at this resort 🗱

INFO

Atitude: 300 - 4,006 ft (91 - 1,221 m) Pisted runs: 20 km (pisted) 35 km (skiable) Longest runs: 2 km (1.25 miles) 4 km (not pisted) Max vertical descent: 1,800 ft (550 m)



No of lifts: Uplift capacity: 9,600 per hour Snowmaking: V Off piste skiing: 🗸 Ski & snowboard hire: Ski clothing hire: Shop: Artificial ski slope: Créche: X Ski guide: Sledging: (Bike hire only available during summer months) Terrain/Fun Park: Webcam: Nevis Range Ski Centre, Torlundy, Fort William, Inverness-shire PH33 6SQ Tel: 01397 705 825 Email: info@nevisrange.co.uk www.nevisrange.co.uk www.ski-scotland.com




© VisitScotland. Map provided by Ashworth Maps & Interpretation Ltd. Height information sourced from Ordnance Survey mapping. © Crown Copyright

a Lemming Ridge Druim nan Leamainn

- b Warrens Ruith Warren
- Flight Sgèith С
- d Nid Ridge Druim an Nid
- e Nid Wall Slios an Nid

Switch Cuag

- b Side Winder Toinneadair Cliathaich
 c Inside Edge An Oir a-staigh
- Cats Alley Cadha a' Chait Cat Track Slighe a' Chait d
- f Upper Traverse Tarsainn àrd
- а Summit Run Slighe a' Mhuillich h Snectre Fuath
 - Spider Damhan-allaidh
- d Link Ceangal
- Allt Snechda

c

a

- Easy Rider Am Marcaiche Socair
- The Fairway An Roan
- Far West Ceann an Iar Macpherson's Ruith a' Phearsanaich
- Yockies
- Alpha
- I Rabbit Run Slighe na Rabaid m Alpha Traverse Triall Alpha
- Home Run Slighe Dhachaigh n
- High Road An Rathad Ard
 Squiggle Sgropal

а Rob Roy's Return Tilleadh Rob Ruaidh

- b Blairs Rob Roy Rob Ruadh С
- d Lochy Lòchaidh
 - Ahhron
- f Glaistig

è.

- а Summit Gully Clais a' Mhuillich
- b Spikes Spicean Back track Slighe air ais
- Chancer Cealgair Yellow Belly Brù-bhuidhe
- A
- Winger Wall Thar a' Bhearraich
- Cascade Eas
- G&T Gully Clais G&T



Cruise Loch Ness

Sightseeing and thrill seeking for the whole family









Daily Cruises Sit back, relax and take it all in.

Fast RIB Trips

High speed action at its heart-racing best.

Departing from Fort Augustus throughout the day, call or check our website for up-to-date timetables.

www.cruiselochness.com info@cruiselochness.com +44 (0)1320 366277

FEARANN EILEAN IARMAIN

Wildlife Walks

Head off into the hills with our experienced game keepers and discover the diversity of wildlife in this most special Hebridean landscape. Let us lead you to hill, woodland, shore and moor to deepen your understanding of the environment and

the Gaelic culture that has shaped the legends, local history and place names. **Argocat Safaris**



Taking you off road and up to the lofty peaks, our popular Argocat safaris can be wild and exciting! We know you'll have a memorable adventure.

Photo Stalking

Experience the thrill of traditional Highland deer stalking with your camera.

Head out with our head stalker into the hills, spy for the deer, and stalk in close to take the opportunity of your own keepsake. An excursion of drama and excitement. As part of this



exhilarating day, you will get the chance to gain new outdoor skills and learn about the deer management while seeing red deer in their natural, wild habitat.

U14/1 833 200 Slàite An t-Eilean Saithean

scott@eileaniarmain.co.uk

Sleat, Isle of Skye IV43 8QR



A truly unique, snug and cosy private cottage in a magnificent setting just 15 meters from the sea shore. It has been specifically designed and equipped to the highest standards with just a couple very much in mind for that special stay.

The perfect place to unwind, relax and recharge. The cottage is located in a breathtakingly beautiful part of the romantic Isle of Skye, which makes it an ideal base for your Skye adventure.

www.ptarmigancottage.co.uk



COMING END OF 2017: New build cottage blending together a traditional croft style house with modern interior. Designed and built to the highest standards using local craftsmen, this place is like no other. The two person infinity roll top bath in the bedroom is just one example of what you will find in this unique holiday cottage....

www.dark-skye-cottage.co.uk

www.ptarmigancottage.co.uk

Email: info@ptarmigancottage.co.uk · Tel: 07933 824 921 or 01471 822744 Ptarmigan House, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9AQ



Luxury on Loch Ness Highland Club Direct



The perfect destination for an action packed holiday!

M: +44 (0)7584 033968 www.highlandclubdirect.com Reservations: Mon-Sun 8am-9pm

Caim Hotel

Adventures in the Cairngorm National Park

The Cairngorms are a playground for kayaking, mountain biking, walking, climbing, skiing and many more outdoor activities. The Cairn Hotel is a multi award winning, authentic Highland Inn, offering comfortable accommodation, excellent seasonal menus, and a great range of real ales and malt whiskies. We offer B&B from only £35pp and will be happy to tailor make a package.

OUR PACKAGES INCLUDE:

 Mountain biking • Guided summer or winter walking/climbing • Skiing • Quad biking • Family Adventure • And much more...

F S C Available on the App Store

nevisrance.co.uk







Main Road, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire T: +44(0)1479 841 212 E: info@cairnhotel.co.uk www.cairnhotel.co.uk

Nevis Range Fort William MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE



High ropes courses Winter snowsports Restaurant and bar at 650m Mountain walks to viewpoints Mountain bike trails Summer Ceilidhs



01397 705825

The Two Byres /An Dà Bhàthach

A modern, eco-friendly, 5-star self-catering house sleeping 6, equipped to the highest standards. On the Waternish peninsula, offering panoramic views from the Cuillin mountain peaks to the Outer Hebrides.

SC prices from £975 pw



Upper Halistra, Hallin, Waternish IV55 8GN info@thetwobyres.co.uk

www.thetwobyres.co.uk

SELECTION OF SELF CATERING ACCOMMODATION IN SPECTACULAR NATIONAL PARK LOCATIONS





Lagganlia's 5 woodland lodges and 12 camp huts located near Aviemore in Cairngorm National Park lodges sleep up to 18, camp huts sleep up to 2

COMING SOON

New location at Loch Eck, please contact Benmore for enquiries





Bernice's remote farm house and cottage located near Dunoon in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park house sleeps up to 18, cottage sleeps up to 6

catered and adventure options available to groups

info@lagganlia.com 01540 651 265 info@benmorecentre.co.uk 01369 706 337 experienceoutdoors.org.uk





Modern luxury self-catering lodges in Fort William available for long and short term lets from only £200!

Local Outdoor Activities:

- Skiing & Mountain Biking @ Nevis Ski Range (10 minute drive)
- Hillwalking & Climbing
 @ Ben Nevis
 (20 minute Drive)
 Watersports

Contact Malcolm on **07599 288248** email **Frank@lochaberlodges.com** Banavie, Fort William PH33 7PD

WWW.LOCHABERLODGES.COM

TRIPADVISOR CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2013 – 2017



Avielochan Cottages

Situated by a small loch, Avielochan Cottages provide comfortable self-catering holiday accommodation with spectacular views of the Cairngorms. Avielochan is a special place in the Cairngorms National Park where you will experience peace and tranquility amidst some of the best scenery in the Scottish Highlands.





Relax and enjoy the rural location whilst being within easy reach of shops, restaurants, sports and leisure facilities at the nearby towns and villages.

Email: info@avielochancottages.co.uk Call directly 01479 810846 or 07702 0272260 www.avielochancottages.co.uk

Loch Ness Lodge Hotel

££9(■

The Hotel is a privately owned 3 Star rated hotel situated in Drumnadrochit, close to one of the most famous stretches of water in the world'Loch Ness. The hotel dates back to 1740 and is set in acres of woodland. The hotel is open during the summer and autumn months and its charming location boasts beautiful views of both the village and the surrounding striking woodland area, where it's not unusual to spot a famous Highland red deer or a bird of prey soaring above. A perfect base for activity holidays for all ages.

WALKING THE GREAT GLEN WAY?

The Hotel is perfectly placed on The Great Glen Way and we welcome walkers - come and spend the night, or simply rest your weary legs while having a meal in our restaurant or a dram by the open fire in our whisky bar!

CLOSE TO THE HOTEL IS NESSIELAND BY LOCH NESS - HOME OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER!

Visit our informative and entertaining Loch Ness Presentation and discover the facts behind the mystery and legend of Loch Ness, alongside a cinema, cafe, and fabulous giftshop. It's a great day out for all the family! See for yourself the overwhelming evidence of Nessie's existence in the depths of Loch Ness. The Nessieland Adventure Playground and indoor giant Nessie models will delight younger visitors as they learn about Loch Ness, the Loch Ness Monster and the history of the legend of Loch Ness.



Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire IV63 6TU T: +44 (0) 1456 450342 | E: info@lochness-hotel.com www.lochness-hotel.com



The Junction is a new Cafe Bistro on Shore Street, Applecross in the Scottish West Highlands.

Fresh, friendly and welcoming, open for breakfast, lunch and late into the evening for pizzas or simply a drink at the bar from a wide range of Malt Whiskies & other delights.

Boasts the best coffee in Applecross. This can be enjoyed throughout the day with a meal or a choice from The Junction's selection of delicious cakes and baked goods. Relax & survey the stunning views of Applecross Bay from a table at the village's newest addition, The Junction,



Shore St, Applecross, Strathcarron IV54 8LR T: 01520 744228

Applecross Campsite

A little piece of heaven



- 10 serviced hard standing pitches (for motor homes and caravans)
- 9 Electric grass pitches
- Large tent areas
- Facilities for waste disposal
- Free hot showers and toilet facilities
- Shaver points, free hairdrver
- Washing machine and dish washing facilities
- Public telephone
- Free WiFi ٠
- Sockets for charging device batteries

Applecross Campsite, Strathcarron, Ross-shire, IV54 8ND

Glen Nevis

www.g Caravan & **Camping Park**

en-nevis.co.uk Restaurant & Bar

偷

Self-Catering Accommodation

Ä

a

Walk. Cycle. Explore. Relax.

The great outdoors all in one place.

Perfectly situated between the foot of Ben Nevis and the final leg of the West Highland Way, the beautiful and historic Glen Nevis has something for everyone.

Glen Nevis Holidays STAY IN THE HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS

e: holidays@glen-nevis.co.uk a: Glen Nevis, Fort William, PH33 6SX







Almost a botanical garden with stunning views, in a rural setting, beside the loch. Just five miles from Fort William but well placed for day trips to Oban, Skye, Loch Ness etc. Luxurious four star Alpine Chalets, well equipped Holiday Caravans, heated toilet block for tourers and campers. Licensed shop, private shore with free trout fishing, drying room.

> Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NL Tel: 01397 772 376

www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk

West Highland Taxis

Fort William, Kinlochleven & Glencoe

01855 831 495 www.westhighlandtaxis.com

A taxi service for Lochaber "The Outdoor Capital of the UK"



8 seater Mercedes Vito and Renault Trafic and 6 seater Ford Galaxy available for group activities and contract hire

> Contact: 01855 831 495 jamie@westhighlandtaxis.com

CALEDONIAN DISCOVERY Activity Cruises

Explore the Caledonian canal and the Great Glen from our comfortable barge. Options on our 4 or 6 day holidays include

> Gyeling Walking Relaxing Canceing

Guides provided Unpack only once Freshly cooked meals En-suite accommodation

WWW.CALEDONIAN-DISCOVERY.CO.UK Tel. 01397 772 167



www.silverglades.co.uk · 0800 614 836



Self-catering log cabins, chalets and apartments in Aviemore on the banks of the River Spey. Well equipped with kitchens and living areas. Many have outdoor space and are pet friendly. Less than 1 km to the village centre. Great local pub next door. Visitors can enjoy a multitude of outdoor pursuits in both summer and winter. Off street parking, Short breaks available. A great base for exploring and enjoying the Highlands.

Dalfaber Road, Aviemore PH22 1PX T: 01479 810 000 E: info@pinebankchalets.co.uk www.pinebankchalets.co.uk





Family-run hotel with breathtaking views of Loch Linnhe and the Ardgour Mountains. All rooms en suite. Á la carte menu available in lounge bar.



Fort William Inverness-shire PH33 6ED u tel: 01397 702 614 welcome@westend-hotel.co.uk www.westend-hotel.co.uk



Lochs, rivers, wildlife tours, fishing, walks and cycle rides are all on the doorstep of Achnacarry Steading Apartments. Nearby is Fort William, the outdoor capital of the UK and the area offers a wide range of activities for all, from exhilarating walks to the top of Ben Nevis, winter sports or mountain biking at nearby Aonach Mor/Nevis Range, walking the Great Glen or West Highland Way. The apartments are situated amongst the most breathtaking scenery and are available for holidays and short breaks all year round.

Call us on 01397 712 313

Achnacarry Estate, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire PH34 4EJ enquiries@achnacarry.com

www.achnacarry.com



Walking, climbing, cycling, fishing, skiing, kayaking, quad biking, white water rafting, canyoning... You name it, it's all nearby

Highland self-catering for two on the banks of the River Spean in cosy one bedroomed lodges

The ideal hideaway for two at any time of year

www.burnbanklodges.co.uk Tel: 01397 712520





Quality self-catering properties in Aviemore and the surrounding villages within the Cairngorms National Park

Properties sleep 2 - 14 • Hot tubs / saunas Access to leisure facilities • Short breaks



01479 811 463 info@highlandholidayhomes.com www.highlandholidayhomes.com Visit the Moray Firth Dolphins...

...On the RIB, for a fast, adrenaline fuelled trip along the Moray coast ...or on the Cruiser, for a calmer, family friendly experience.

We hope to introduce you to our pod of resident dolphins plus any other marine life along the way.

DOLPHIN SPIRIT

To book your trip ක 07544 800620 www.dolphinspirit.co.uk

f 🖌 🔾 颜



This stone cottage on the banks of the beautiful River Bogie is set amongst beautiful gardens extending to around half an acre. Extensively upgraded by the owners, it is a charming family home with all modern comforts yet still a cosy country cottage. This immaculate cottage is a few minutes walk from the centre of Huntly.





Bleachfield Street, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4QX t: 01224 573300 • m: 07770 664402 e: LIFraser@aol.com





White sandy beaches, rocky headlands and a wildly beautiful interior give the islands an other-worldly atmosphere.

A rriving on a Scottish island, whether journeying by sea or air, always feels so much more than an ordinary adventure – and the Outer Isles offer the chance for adventure like no others.

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

The Outer Hebridean islands are located at the western edge of Europe amid the North Atlantic just off Scotland's west coast. The famous white sandy beaches, including vast Luskentyre and Huisinish on the Isle of Harris and Vatersay on Barra, as well as crystal-clear turquoise seas, have given the island chain the nickname the "Hawaii of Britain".

This 130-mile long and picturesque archipelago is an obvious attraction for active visitors with opportunities to learn a variety of watersports.

Surfing is popular for both beginners and more experienced surfers. Hotspots include Bragar, Eoropaidh, Dail Mor, Shawbost and Mangersta on the western shores of Lewis, as well as quiet beaches on the southern island of Barra.

With wind and waves in plentiful supply, the islands are also perfect for kitesurfing, especially at spectacular Uig Sands on the Isle of Lewis and the more sheltered waters around Vatersay Island.

SurfLewis is the first company on the island to introduce coasteering. The two-hour adventure for small groups, sees participants in wetsuits traversing the coast near Tolsta by wading through rock pools, scrambling on rocks, jumping, swimming in mini lagoons and exploring caves.

Barra Surf and Coastal Adventures also guide coasteering outings on the wilder west coast, where you can explore water gullies, caves and beautiful rock formations with jumps and short swims.

This southern Hebridean company has launched thrilling seal snorkelling trips too, with fantastic opportunities to have close encounters with notoriously inquisitive Atlantic grey and common seals.

Scotland's newest Snorkel Trail is found on Harris, where there are six hotspots highlighted for seeing sealife below the water.

Another way to immerse yourself in the natural wonders of the Hebridean shoreline is by sea kayak or the more novice-friendly sit-on kayak. Paddlers might be lucky enough to spot an array of sea birds as well as dolphins, basking sharks and even whales.

Another memorable experience is paddling over the cockle beach

THE OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND 83

Serious surfers love the Orkney winter swells, which can reach up to 15 m or 50 ft!

VISITSCOTLAND.COM





 Traigh Mhòr – at Barra that also serves as the island's unique beach airport. This trip is done on evenings when the airport is closed!

The huge Harris beach of Scarista is ideal for another sport, windkarting. At low tide you'll often spot people whizzing across the sand on what looks like a small yacht on wheels. You can give this a go with the Harris Outdoor Centre.

Inland in the Outer Hebrides there is a surprisingly diverse landscape to explore. By road bike you could ride a total of 10 islands, linked together by causeways and short ferry rides, on the 185-mile waymarked Hebridean Way from Vatersay in the south to the Butt of Lewis in the north. Battery powered Segways provide a peaceful form of transport, especially if you enjoy spotting wildife, in the grounds of Lews Castle, Stornoway, or further afield in nearby countryside.

The Outer Hebrides provide a stepping stone to another unique Scottish archipelago, the stunningly located St Kilda islands.

Board a cruise boat or yacht to visit these remarkable National Trust for Scotland owned-islands, which are famed for their cliffs and sea stacks that also create the most important seabird breeding station in north-west Europe.

Further north, the Orkney islands offer more adventures

for outdoors fans. Visitors can combine a number of activities with a treasure trove of historical and archaeological discoveries.

On Orkney Mainland, a kayak tour explores the Churchill Barriers and several islands in the sheltered waters of Scapa Flow. The barriers were built in the 1940s as naval defences and are now road causeway links between the southern islands.

The clear waters of Scapa Flow, a 50-square mile lagoon, that hides sunken battleships, merchant trawlers and a scuttled fleet of WWI German warships, are widely regarded as one of the world's best diving spots. Ideal if you want to join a snorkeling outing.

Some of Orkney's ancient history can be discovered on

THE OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND 85





MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

diate
icult
ail

ORKNEY - PREHISTORY LOOP RIDE (Route 1) Cycle Route 3th Medium - 40 miles Starting Point: Finstown, Orkney www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ orkney-prehistory-loop-ride

ORKNEY - SOUTH RONALDSAY Cycle Route 6the Easy - 9 miles Starting Point: Burwick, South Ronaldsay www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/ orkney-south-ronaldsay-cycleroute-p316621

ORKNEY - NORTH WEST MAINLAND Cycle Route: Medium - 24 miles Starting Point: Birsay, Orkney www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/ orkney-north-west-mainland-cycleroute-p316661

TOP AND TAILING THE SHETLANDS (Route 1) Cycle Route: 56 Hard - 109 miles Starting Point: Sumburgh Head, Shetland www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ top-and-tailing-the-shetlands

SHETLAND - BRAE TO HILLSWICK Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 11 miles Starting Point: Brae, Shetland www.shetland.org/things/outdoor/ cycling/brae-hillswick

SHETLAND - SCALLOWAY TO WALLS Cycle Route: 6the Medium - 23 miles Starting Point: Scalloway, Shetland www.shetland.org/things/outdoor/ cycling/scalloway-walls

THE HEBRIDEAN WAY (Route 780) (6 stages) Cycle Route: 5 Mard - 185 miles Starting Point: Isle of Vatersay www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/seeand-do/activities/hebridean-way





 ${f Q}\,$ Off Churchill Barrier No3, connecting Glimps Holm and Burray, Orkney

THE OUTER HEBRIDES, ORKNEY & SHETLAND 87



two wheels, pedaling between the fascinating archaeological locations of the UNESCO Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.

This incorporates the ancient settlement of Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar stone circle, the Standing Stones of Stenness and a chambered tomb at Maeshowe.

Don't forget to visit the Ness of Brodgar excavations, whilst visiting the Ring of Brodgar too – some of the recent finds here are quite remarkable.

Orkney is also popular with climbers, who come to cross off routes on coastal crags and cliffs, as well as the iconic 137 m tall sea stack, the Old Man of Hoy.

Further north still, the islands of Shetland provide a destination for history and wildlife lovers. The islands are home to 6,000 special archaeological sites including the Old Scatness dig and Jarlshof.

Impressive seabird colonies and bird rarities are also found on Shetland.

For an unforgettable trip, take an evening boat to the island of Mousa to see and hear many thousands of storm petrels nesting in the only complete broch in the world.

Coasteering and kayaking are popular sports in many locations around the Shetland Isles, from secluded bays to rugged sections of cliffs and rocks. The unique geological landscape of the islands has also created an array of rock climbing and abseiling routes.

If you are looking for an active adventure break in a beautiful and wildlife rich destination, the Outer Isles are highly recommended **xx**







PERTHSHIRE, DUNDEE & ANGUS AND THE KINGDOM OF FIFE

With so much fun to be had in this region, you'll feel like a child in a pick-and-mix activity shop.

where the provided spin down a hillside, jump from a cliff or plummet from a bridge. For those who like their activities a little calmer, why not float on a tranquil loch or Segway through the countryside?

Whatever your age, energy levels and aspirations for adventure, this region is the place for discovering your perfect activity in the hills, gorges, canyons, at the coast and on lochs and rivers.

A great place to start is with high expectations. Experience the freefalling exhilaration of a tandem skydive at St Andrews in Fife or at Errol in Perthshire. Glamis Castle in Angus is the launch pad for hot air ballooning, which can also be done in Auchterarder, Balado and Bridge of Earn.

Thrilling water-based sports are popular in Perthshire. The fasterflowing Tummel and Garry rivers can be navigated on all kinds of inflatable crafts, such as river bugs, sledges, tubes, two-person fun yaks and group rafts. More action is to be found with river boarding, which utilises boogie boards and swimming fins, to voyage through swirling rapids.

The goal of another activity called aqualining is to stay above the water. A slackline over Calvine Gorge, north of Blair Atholl, challenges participants to put their balance to the ultimate test to cross 10 ft above the water.

Other gorges, such as Keltney Burn, Acharn Canyon and the treelined Falls of Bruar, Blair Atholl, all in Perthshire, as well as Reekie Linn in Glen Isla, in neighbouring Angus, are hotspots for canyoning. Canyoneers wear wetsuits, life jackets and helmets for an exciting journey descending cliffs and waterfalls by sliding, abseiling, jumping and swimming.









A wooded gorge that drops to the River Garry at the Pass of Killiecrankie, near Pitlochry, is the place for a daring bridge bungee, plunging jumpers 40 m at speeds of up 50 mph. For further thrills, try a new activity in the same gorge on a harnessed bridge swing called Highland Swing.

Thrill-seekers can also go spinning down a hillside in an inflatable zorb (or sphere) at Dunkeld in Perthshire, or "zip" through the air at a tree-top adventure park in a glen near Crieff.

Off-road vehicles provide more fun, including quad biking, child-friendly mini quad-pods and Segways in the countryside around Crieff. You can even drive a tank at Auchterhouse, near Dundee.

In the Year of Young People 2018, why not book your mini

adventurers into a day at the Wee Limits Adventure Academy? Nae Limits has partnered with the National Trust for Scotland to create adventure days for kids that include forest play, leadership skills, rafting, tree climbing and bushcraft.

However, your choice of outdoor activities does not need to be all about adrenaline. A gentler style of river journey can be enjoyed on stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) and in family-friendly Canadian canoes. In Angus, the picturesque Esk or Isla rivers and Forfar Loch offer sheltered waters.

Outdoor Explore and Perthshire Wildlife have teamed up to offer guided Canoe Beaver Safaris in several locations, including White Loch in Blairgowrie and on the rivers Isla and Ericht. Imagine the wonder of spotting beavers in the wild. History fans can canoe to an island in Clunie Loch, also near Blairgowrie, to spot remnants of an old castle once used by one of the first kings of Scotland. The island is in fact a man-made crannog. On Loch Tay, another large crannog is famed as the ancient burial place of Queen Sybilla, wife of Alexander King of Scots.

On the River Tay, Beyond Adventure offers a fascinating insight into hydrology and wildlife during canoe safaris at dawn and dusk. More wildlife spotting opportunities can be discovered on canoe trips on the rivers Tummel and Garry.

The Angus coast is a favourite location for sea kayakers with the bays of Lunan, Montrose and Carnoustie providing the perfect setting for wildlife spotting. On the Firth of Tay, kayak trips leave Broughty Ferry for Tentsmuir

Q Loch Brandy, Glen Clova



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

MOUNTAIN BIKE & CYCLE TRAILS

Guide to Mountain Bike Routes

	Green:	Easy
	Blue:	Intermediate
	Red:	Difficult
٠	Black:	Very Difficult
	Orange:	Extreme
\bigcirc	White:	Forest Trail

COMRIE CROFT TRAILS

MTB Routes: ■ 4 km ▲ 8 km ◆ 5.3km Skills area & pump track Location: Between Crieff and Comrie, Perthshire www.comriecroftbikes.co.uk

HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE MTB Routes: ● 30 km ■ 110 km ▲ 68 km Location: Across Perthshire www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

WADE'S BRIDGE TO RIVER LYON MTB Routes: • 6 km Location: Aberfeldy www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

LOCH ORDIE CIRCUIT MTB Routes: 16 km Location: Dunkeld www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

CARIE TRAIL, LOCH RANNOCH MTB Routes: 14 km Location: Carie Car Park, 3 miles west of Kinloch Rannoch www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

GLEN TILT MTB Routes: 13 km Location: Glen Tilt Car Park, Blair Atholl www.highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk

ANGUS MTB Routes: ● 23 km ■ 68.5 km ▲ 36.5 km ♦ 24.5 km Location: Across Angus www.dmbins.com/tayside-fife

FIFE MTB Routes: ● 12 km ■ 23 km ▲ 16 km Location: Across Fife www.dmbins.com/tayside-fife

ALYTH BIKE PARK MTB Routes: 0.6 km 400 m skills area and 200 m pump track Location: Alyth Hill, Alyth www.dmbins.com/tayside-fife

LOCH LEVEN HERITAGE TRAIL Cycle Route: 5 Easy - 13 miles Starting Point: The pier, Kinross www.lochlevenheritagetrail.co.uk

DUNDEE TO ARBROATH (Route1) Cycle Route: 🔊 Easy - 21 miles Starting Point: Dundee train station www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/ dundee-to-arbroath









Forest National Nature Reserve to see seals, and it is also possible to spot dolphins in the area too.

Still by the sea, stunning West Sands beach at St Andrews in Fife is popular for power kiting, kitesurfing and land yachting. You can try these wind-powered sports or watch with awe as others pull off tricks. Also on the Fife coast, Elie Chain Walk allows you to safely traverse cliffs above the sea.

If you like to explore by bike, there is a vast network of peaceful country roads, traffic-free paths and mountain biking routes across the region. In Perthshire, Bike Trax, at Highland Safaris in Dull, is the place to hone mountain biking skills before taking on the swooping fun of nearby Comrie Croft trails.

Fife's Lochore Meadows Country Park has a new network of off-road trails and a jump park. How about a pony trek once you are all pedalled out? Nearby, a new and innovative circuit for road cyclists has been built. The 1.6 km traffic-free Fife Cycling Circuit is for individual riders, clubs and events.

In Angus, a wilderness ride for experienced mountain bikers called Capel Mounth starts from Glen Doll Forestry Commission car park, while you'll find graded MTB trails in Templeton Woods in Dundee and in the grounds of historic Glamis Castle.

For a city route with a difference you could swap two wheels for your running shoes. Run the Sights Dundee leads runners on city tours via tourist attractions. The City Centre Smasher takes you to sights such as the City Square, The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum, and the Tay Bridges, while a Discovering Dundee tour includes contrasting scenes of both old and new Dundee. Also in Dundee, at the waterfront a new wakeboarding park, Foxlake Dundee, has opened.

Whatever you choose in the pick-and-mix store, you're sure to create many memories 🛤



Take a drive on the wild side at our challenging highland site near Perth!

THE DRIVING EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!



Drive off road in the wilds of Perthshire. 450 acres of spectacular terrain. Land Rover Defenders (4x4), Honda 250 fourtrax Ouads, ATV (4x2) and more.



Tel: 01738 851 185 Mob:07590 435 733 angus@perthshireoffroad.co.uk

www.perthshireoffroad.co.uk

RE CENTRE

SCOTLAND'S



Loch Rannoch Highland Resort

The highlands are a region synonymous with drama and romance, with its sprawling unbridled landscape. The Loch Rannoch Highland Resort incorporates itself within soaring Munros and beautiful mountain ranges, sat on the banks of the jewel blue of Loch Rannoch surrounded by emerald forests. Our lodges blend tastefully within this incredible location. We offer self catering lodges that cater up to 8 persons.



The Avenue, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire, PH16 5PR www.lochrannochhighlandclub.com admin@lochrannochhighlandclub.com +44(0) 1796 471850

Choose from **Segways**, including **Segways**, **Aloft! tree top adventures** and **quad biking**.

A

OVER 30 ACTIVITIES AT ACTION GLEN SIMPLY BY QUOTING

ULTIMATE · DAYS @CRIEFFI-IYDRO

F FACEBOOK.COM/ACTIONGLEN // 01764 651671 // INFO@ACTIONGLEN.COM



Those little bleeders will have you scratching a merry dance given half the chance. But Smidge has the power to wrong foot (and wrong nose) them. It contains a dastardly ingredient that throws midges and mosquitoes off your scent. Now you know what to pack to avoid the flap.

The UK's No. 1 Midge Repellent

REPELS MIDGES, MOSQUITOES, TICKS AND HORSE FLIES 8 HOUR **WATER-RESISTANT**

SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN AS EFFECTIVE AS DEET

www.smidgeup.com



www.contours.co.uk info@contours.co.uk 01629 821900



• Luxury Accommodation • Water sports Hire • The Hot Box & Al Fresco Bar

01887 830216

W: www.taymouthmarina.com E: info@taymouthmarina.com Kenmore, Perthshire, PH15 2HW Milton of Fonab is a quiet, family run, Caravan Park on the south side of Pitlochry next to the River Tummel in a stunning location amidst the gentle Perthshire hills. We have a range of beautiful, modern, static caravan Holiday Homes and pitches for touring caravans and camper vans all with electricity. We also have a few spaces for small tents.



TELEPHONE 01796 472882





Activity and Leisure Groups.

Fishing · Shooting · Golf · Cycling

Exclusive use for:

Family gatherings · Celebrations · Activity groups

Bed and Breakfast, Reids Lounge & Residents Bar • 5 rooms/14 beds • Private lounge and bar seating 30

PERFECT FOR GROUPS CALL 01350 727216 FOR PRICES

Station Road, Birnam, DUNKELD PH8 0DS merryburnbirnam@gmail.com OR www.merryburn.co.uk



Facilities and benefits include (from Nov 17): • Safe and secure cycle storage • Drying room • Left luggage facility for those who want to go off for a few days cycling • Variety of road cycle routes from short to long (see website for details)

Mountain biking at Perth, Aberfeldy & Dunked all accessible from the hotel

T: 01738 252 466 • E: info@perthlodge.co.uk

perthlodge.co.uk





F cecretly refurbished lodges, can be let individually or together for larger groups. Situated in the whitewater capital of the UK, the lodges are a great base for experiencing whitewater sports such as gorge walking & mountain biking. F: 07796 470547 E: drumcroy@gmail.com

Drumcroy Logdes, Mains of Murthly, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2AE



Outdoor Education Centre

Mountain Biking

Mountain Sports

Paddle Sports

Sailing

a 01592 583388

info.outdoored@fife.gov.uk

Sifedirect.org.uk/outdooreducation facebook.com/outdooreducationfife



- Huge network of trails -

87.6

www.progressionbikesscotland.com



Hires & Launching

Fife₿



you'll be needing A bike service, not

With youth hostels located in some of Scotland's most beautiful scenic areas, SYHA Hostelling Scotland is the perfect choice for anyone with an adventurous spirit looking to discover the real Scotland.

Book your accommodation today at www.syha.org.uk or call our reservations team on: 0345 293 7373 for the best price guaranteed!

100



SYHA Hostelling Scotland



@syhahostelling





Scottish Youth Hostels Association (also known as SYHA or Hostelling Scotland) is a registered Scottish charity No. SC013138 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, No. SC310841. Registered Office 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling, FK8 2JA.





Thanks...

to Scotland's progressive access rights to most land and inland water, you are welcome to enjoy a whole host of activities – from wildlife watching to walking, camping, mountain biking, horse riding , paragliding, kayaking and swimming – as long as you follow some basic advice.

Simply:

Take responsibility for your own actions;

Respect the interests of other people;

Care for the environment.

See the Scottish Outdoor Access Code for further information, especially if you're camping or have a dog with you.

Remember - Scotland's access legislation is different to the rest of the UK.



SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE

KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO outdooraccess-scotland.com 장승규 Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba All of nature for all of Scotland Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad





YOU'LL BE SURPRISED WHERE OUR SEARCH FOR **OUALITY TAKES US.**

Loch Insh Outdoor Centre, Kincraig, The Cairngorms National Park, **3** star Visitor Attraction

Quite simply, it takes us the length and breadth of Scotland to visit thousands of different properties every year and grade them on the things we know matter to you. Things like the overall quality on offer and warmth of welcome to help you make a more informed choice. VisitScotland Quality Assurance - Quality you can trust.

*	An acceptable standard
**	A good, all round standard
***	Very good standard, with attention to detail in every area
****	Excellent – superb food where provided and friendly, professional service
*****	An exceptional standard where quality, hospitality and

service are hard to fault



Taste Our Best

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy great quality Scottish food and drink, prepared with care and delivered with passion, is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme.





Green Tourism-because we care Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze D, Silver DD or Gold DPD

www.green-tourism.com

We want you to feel welcome

Find establishments that pay particular attention to your specific needs

Serviced accommodation establishments awarded gold stars have consistently achieved the highest levels of excellence within their star grading.

THE SIGN OF QUALITY





For any feedback or comments you may have on quality assured properties please email us on qa@visitscotland.com.





Whitewater kayaking on the River Etive, Glencoe



If you're looking for the true spirit of Scotland, start your search at one of our VisitScotland iCentres. We'll point you in the direction of the best the country has to offer, whether you need advice on where to go and what to do, or even if you're looking to book accommodation or tickets for all kinds of events, activities and transport. Come and talk to our knowledgeable and friendly staff. You never know, we might just let you in on a few local secrets. Check out where to find us and when we're open at visitscotland.com/iCentre

VISITSCOTLAND.COM



KNOW THE CODE **BEFORE YOU GO**

BALLATER



**** TOURING PARK

SC prices TBC

Ballater Caravan Park

The caravan park caters for camper vans, caravans, motorhomes and camping. Surrounded by hills and delightful scenery the park is perfect for cycling & mountain biking in the region. Great base for snowsport enthusiasts with ski centres at Lecht & Glenshee both within close proximity. Free Wi-Fi.



T: 013397 55727 E: info@ballatercaravanpark.com Anderson Road, Ballater AB35 5QW www.ballatercaravanpark.com





SC prices from £9.75

Braemar Caravan Park

Braemar Caravan Park welcomes Caravans. Motorhomes and Tents and six new, unique Camping 'Fog' Pods. Operated by Invercauld Estate, custodians of over 200 square miles of spectacular landscapes in the Cairngorms National Park, a fantastic area for walking, cycling, fishing, golf, snow sports, visiting castles and more. Invercauld Estate also has 2 holiday homes near Braemar, each sleeping 8 and 12 people.

T: 01339 741373 E: info@braemarcaravanpark.co.uk Glenshee Road, Braemar AB35 5YQ www.braemarcaravanpark.co.uk

BALLATER



SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £2,100 pw

The Inver Lodge

Nestling in the spectacular Dee Valley at Crathie, Inver Lodge has been equipped to provide comfortable self-catering accommodation for larger parties, offering 11 en suite bedrooms accommodating 21 people. The surrounding landscape is ideal for all manner of outdoor activities including walking & mountain biking.

T: 01381 610496 (Bookings) M: 07711 889713 (Chris) E: c.snell@btconnect.com Crathie, Ballater AB35 5XN www.inver-lodge.com



The Ship Inn

Historic inn (1771) situated at the edge of Stonehaven's picturesque harbour, Excellent home-cooked food (fresh seafood is a speciality) served in panoramic restaurant, cosy bar or open-air terrace overlooking the harbour. With real ales and over 100 malt whiskies. Luxury bedrooms with harbour views



T· 01569 762617 E: enquiries@shipinnstonehaven.com 5 Shorehead, Stonehaven AB39 2JY www.shipinnstonehaven.com

BALLATER



**** GUEST HOUSE

B&B prices from £40 pppn (2 sharing)

Netherley Guest House

A warm welcome awaits you at this newly refurbished 4-star boutique guest house, directly opposite the village green in Ballater with a selection of double, twin and family rooms. Relaxing and friendly, all rooms are en suite with free Wi-Fi, TV, tea/ coffee facilities and separate residents' lounge. Full Scottish breakfast included.



- T· 01339 755792
- E: info@netherleyguesthouseballater.com
- 2 Netherley Place, Ballater AB35 5QE
- www.netherleyguesthouseballater.co.uk





**** BACKPACKERS

Prices from £20 pppn

Bute Backpackers Independent Hotel

Bute Backpackers offers quality value and comfort to all travellers and groups, if you are walking, cycling or just taking it easy, our fully trained staff will help make your stay on our magical island a long lasting memory.



T: 01700 501876 M: 0774 679 4935 E: butebackpackers@hotmail.com 36 Argyle Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AX www.butebackpackers.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION 107

GLENDARUEL



★★★★ SMALL HOLIDAY PARK

Options from £10 - £75 pn

Glendaruel Caravan & Camping Park

Situated on the Cowal Way and close to Argyll's Secret Coast, the Park is the perfect base to enjoy fantastic cycling and walking routes. Water sports on the Kyles of Bute close by. Onsite accommodation includes Caravan Holiday Homes for hire, Camping Bothies, Camping and Touring Pitches. Brand new facilities including Drying Room.



T: 01369 820 267 E: mail@glendaruelcaravanpark.com Glendaruel, Argyll PA22 3AB www.glendaruelcaravanpark.com

KILLIN



Prices from £50 pppn

Bridge of Lochay Hotel

A traditional Scottish inn owned and run by Amanda Clark and Bob Stevenson. Here you will find a genuine friendly Scottish welcome, comfortable rooms, good food and a good selection of Scottish ales and fine wines. A perfect base for exploring the joys of our surrounding Breadalbane countryside.



T: 01567 820272 E: reservations@bridgeoflochay.co.uk Aberfeldy Road, Killin FK21 8TS www.bridgeoflochay.co.uk



** SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £250 pw

Burnside

Only 3 miles from the ferry, this comfortable, modern bungalow on the lovely Isle of Mull has a clear view across Loch Don. Excellent for walking, great opportunities to watch birds and wildlife and Duart Castle, trips to Iona and other islands, various Iocal crafts and the Isle of Mull theatre - and more - are all on your doorstep!



T: 02089 473 181 E: racarew-hunt@tiscali.co.uk Lochdon, Isle of Mull PA64 6AP www.visitscotland.com/info/ accommodation/burnside-lochdon-p208641



Tralee Bay Holidays

This 5 star park offers high quality lodges, caravans and glamping pods, all with access to a large sandy beach, boat slipway and fly fishing. This 27 acre park is ideal for families and their pets and those seeking peace and quiet. 15 mins from Oban South and 25 mins from Glen Coe North.



T: 01631 720255 E: tralee@easynet.co.uk Benderloch, Oban PA37 1QR www.tralee.com

LOCHGILPHEAD



SELF-CATERING SC prices £345 - £760

Castle Sween Bay Cottages & Holiday Homes

Self-catering cottages on Ellary Estate, enjoying a peaceful and secluded location on the shores of Loch Caolisport. Holiday homes at Castle Sween enjoy views over Loch Sween, and are a short walk to the quiet bar/restaurant, beach, castle, shop & gym. Boat mooring available at both locations. Dogs & children welcome. Brochures available - please enquire.

T: 01880 770232 E: info@ellary.com Ellary Estate, Achahoish, Lochgilphead PA31 8PA www.ellary.com

STIRLING



HOTEL and **** GUEST ACCOMMODATION

Prices from £18 pppn

Stirling Venues

Stirling Venues offers a unique collection of hotel and self-catering accommodation set within the stunning 330-acre grounds of the University of Stirling. With excellent onsite facilities including pool, gym, cinema and shops, choose from the 100-bedroom Stirling Court Hotel as well as 4-star guest accommodation, chalets and apartments.



T: 01786 466000 E: stirlingvenues@stir.ac.uk University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA www.stirlingvenues.com



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO outdooraccess-scotland.com

TAYNUILT



**** to ***** SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £460 pw

Tighandaraich Lodges

Spectacularly situated in the west of Scotland over looking a beautiful winding river and onto a breathtaking mountain, you'd be hard pressed to find a more picturesque location in the British Isles than Tigh an Daraich. Welcoming lovers of the great outdoors to discover some of Scotland's most attractive countryside.



T: 01866 822693 E: info@tighandaraich.co.uk Bridge of Awe, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1HR www.tighandaraich.co.uk

GALLOWAY



★★★ SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £450 pv

Rose Haugh

Six miles from Castle Douglas, this lovely self-catering is perfect for walking, cycling, watersports, fishing, great gardens or wildlife watching. Explore Galloway's hills and forests and the Solway coast. Several small towns nearby for shopping or eating out. Sleeps 6 in comfort, 8 at a stretch, but rents are reduced for smaller numbers.



T: 01644 450677 E: ann@rosehaugh.plus.com Laurieston, Castle Douglas DG7 2PW www.rose-haugh.co.uk

DUMFRIES



*** HOTEL

Prices from £42.50 pp sharing

Best Western Station Hotel

Enjoy a warm welcome and great service in this lovely traditional Victorian Railway hotel. Rooms, equipped with Freeview TV, free Wi-Fi, and our comfortable beds will ensure a restful night's sleep, while breakfast has an impressive array of regional produce that will set you up for another day of activities.



T: 01387 254316 E: info@stationhotel.co.uk 49 Lovers Walk, Dumfries DG1 1LT www.stationhoteldumfries.co.uk



B&B prices from £35 prpn

The Black Horse Hotel

The Black Horse is a family-run hotel situated in Newton Stewart, the Gateway to the Galloway Hills. With the world-famous 7Stanes mountain biking trails located close by as well as several outdoor activity centres offering kayaking, mountain biking and water skiing, there's plenty to see and do.



T: 01671 403302 E: theblackhorsehotelns@gmail.com 66 Queen Street, Newton Stewart DG8 6JL www.blackhorsenewtonstewart.co.uk

GALASHIELS



★★★ B&B and SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £32 pppn

Jean Muir Student Village

Modern and comfortable accommodation for individuals, families and groups is provided at Heriot Watt University's Scottish Borders Campus. Ringed by the rolling countryside of this historic region.



T: 01896 892274 E: jeanmuirevents@hw.ac.uk Heriot Watt University Residences, Galashiels TD1 3JZ

www.facebook.com/TheJeanMuirStudentVillage

ARISAIG



SELF-CATERING SC prices from £380 pw

Kilmartin Guesthouse

Kilmartin Guesthouse has comfortable self-catering cottages, holiday caravans and touring pitches providing all mod cons in the wonderful and wild environment of Arisaig close to the sea. Kilmartin Holiday Cottages, Bed and Breakfast, and holiday cotravans, Kinloid, Arisaig, Inverness-shire.

T: 01687 450366 E: stay@arisaigaccommodation.co.uk Kinloid Farm, Arisaig, Inverness PH39 4NS www.arisaigaccommodation.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION 109

AVIEMORE



★★★ to ★★★★ SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £220 pw

Cairngorm Highland Bungalows

Luxuriously furnished and equipped bungalows ranging from 2-4 bedrooms sleeping 2-8. All have Sky TV, free Wi-Fi, cooker, washer/drier, fridge and microwave. Some have open fires. All have mountain views. Leisure club, skiing, golf, pets welcome. Walking distance of Aviemore. Short breaks available.



T: 01479 810653 E: linda.murray2812@gmail.com 29 Grampian View, Aviemore PH22 1TF www.cairngorm-bungalows.co.uk



*** HOTEL B&B prices from £55

The Angus Hotel

Blairgowrie's premier leisure hotel is one of only four in Perthshire with a modern fully equipped leisure club and indoor pool. Set in the pretty county town of Blairgowrie, the hotel is perfectly situated for outdoor activities like snowsports at Glenshee and mountain biking in Dunkeld and Pitlochry.



T: 01250 872455 E: reservations@theangushotel.com Wellmeadow Blairgowrie PH10 6NH www.theangushotel.com

ULLAPOOL



SC prices from £1225 pw

The Old Tweed Mill

A unique Northwest Highlands self-catering holiday home near Ullapool. Set on its own beach, with stunning views across Loch Broom. Sleeps 12, non-smoking, pets welcome, 4 double rooms (all with en suite), 2 twin bedded, large games room, utility room, ample parking and Wi-Fi.



T: 01707 256789 E: enquiries@oldtweedmill.com Ullapool IV26 2TB www.oldtweedmill.com



Kennacoil

Glamping pods and recently refurbished cottages. Nestled in the stunning Perthshire hills, Kennacoil is close to many outdoor activities, from peaceful walks to adrenalin-fuelled adventures! The Hermitage walk is nearby and we are an easy drive to white water rafting, and even bungee jumping!

T: 01350 723333 E: enquiries@kennacoil.co.uk Kennacoil House, Dunkeld, Perthshire PH8 0BP www.kennacoil.co.uk



★★★ SELF-CATERING

SC prices from £170 (for 2 nights)

Bamff Ecotourism

Bamff is a small estate located on the Cateran Trail. We are in an ideal location for those walking the trail as well as those looking to ski at Glenshee or mountain bike along the Alyth Bike Track. We have a range of self-catering accommodation and can accommodate small and medium groups.



T: 01828 633605 E: bamff.farms@gmail.com Bamff Estate, Alyth, Perthshire PH11 8LF www.bamff.co.uk





SELF-CATERING SC prices from £709 pw

Drumfork Estate

Drumfork Estate offers dog friendly accommodation for 6 and 8 guests in three newly renovated cottages, with private hot tubs. Nestled in the perfect location for outside adventures whether that is hillwalking, skiing in Glenshee or golfing, it also provides an ideal place to relax and enjoy the idyllic surroundings.

T: 0333 210 1055 E: info@solidluxury.co.uk Drumfork Estate, Blacklunans, Glenshee PH10 7JY www.solidluxury.co.uk

Loch Lo/(\ond Leisure

BOAT TOURS • BOAT HIRE • WATERSPORTS • OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



f S m freephone: **O333 577 0715** www.lochlomond-scotland.com



CONQUER THE ISLES

Take on some of Scotland's best outdoor activities in stunning settings, with ferries to the west coast islands from as little as £2.20 per person, Book now at calmac.co.uk/active



Caledonian MacBrayne Hebridean & Clyde Ferries



Getting to Scotland

Direct flights into Scotland operate all year round and fly from many major European cities, Canada, the United States of America and Dubai. Flying to Scotland from the UK and Ireland couldn't be simpler, with flight times to Edinburgh and Glasgow around one hour from London and Dublin. Aberdeen, Inverness and Dundee can also be reached in under two hours.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Aberdeen T: 0844 481 6666

www.aberdeenairport.com

Edinburgh T: 0844 448 8833

www.edinburghairport.com

Glasgow T: 0844 481 5555 www.glasgowairport.com

Glasgow Prestwick T: 0871 223 0700

www.glasgowprestwick.com

Highlands and Islands Airports T: 01667 462445 www.hial.co.uk

BY RAIL

There is a fast, efficient, cross-border railway service from England and Wales to Scotland with regular services throughout the day. There are also direct services from London King's Cross to Scotland and good links from other main English cities such as Birmingham and Manchester.

First TransPennine Services www.tpexpress.co.uk

National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk

East Coast Main Line Company Ltd. www.virgintrainseastcoast.com

Virgin Trains www.virgintrains.co.uk

Sleeper Services

ScotRail's Caledonian Sleepers are the overnight train services operating between London Euston and Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Fort William every night, except Saturday.

ScotRail www.scotrail.co.uk

BY SEA

There are frequent ferry services from the continent to the north of England, which is within easy reach of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries & Galloway.

DFDS Seaways www.dfdsseaways.co.uk

P&O Irish Sea Larne - Cairmryan: 2 hours (runs March -October) 1 hour 45 minutes by Superferry (runs all year) T: 0800 130 0030

www.poferries.com

Stena Line Belfast - Cairnryan: 2 hours 15 minutes T: 08447 707 070 www.stenaline.co.uk

BY COACH

Eurolines is Europe's express coach network serving over 500 destinations throughout Europe and Ireland. T: 08717 818 177 www.eurolines.co.uk

www.eurolines.co.uk

National Express operates express coach services from all over the UK to Scotland. T:0871 781 8181 www.nationalexpress.com

Getting around Scotland

BY AIR

There is an excellent internal air network connecting the islands and several regional airports to the main airports of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Inverness.

Flybe T: 0371 700 2000 www.flybe.com

Direct Flight T: 01234 757 766

www.directflight.co.uk

Eastern Airways T: 08703 669 100 www.easternairways.com

BY RAIL

ScotRail T: 0344 811 0141

BY COACH

Scottish Citylink is the largest operator, linking over 200 towns and cities across the country. Scottish Citylink T: 0871 266 3333

www.citylink.co.uk

POST BUS

Carries fare paying passengers with the mail in rural areas where there is no other form of transport. T: 03457 740 740 www.rovalmail.com

BY TRAM

Edinburgh Trams operates a 8.7 mile tram route between Edinburgh Airport and York Place in the city centre. T: 0131 555 6363 www.edinburghtrams.com

BUS STATION INFORMATION

Edinburgh Bus Station is a 2-minute walk from the main Waverley Railway Station and 8 miles from Edinburgh Airport. In Glasgow, Buchanan Street Bus Station is 5-minutes' walk from the main city rail termini of Queen St and Central stations. Glasgow Airport is 8 miles away.

BY CAR

CAR HIRE There are many companies which offer competitive car hire rates, among which are:

Alamo Rent-A-Car

www.alamo.co.uk Arnold Clark www.arnoldclarkrental.com Avis www.avis.co.uk Budget www.budget.co.uk easyCar

www.easycar.com Enterprise Rent-A-Car

www.enterprise.co.uk Europcar www.europcar.co.uk Hertz

www.hertz.co.uk Sixt Rent a Car www.sixt.co.uk

BY FERRY

Scotland has 130 inhabited islands, so ferries are important. The islands can be divided into four main groups - the Inner Hebrides, the Outer Hebrides, the islands of the Clyde Estuary, all off the west coast, and Orkney and Shetland to the north.

Caledonian MacBrayne www.calmac.co.uk

Northlink Ferries www.northlinkferries.co.uk

John O' Groats Ferries www.jogferry.co.uk

Pentland Ferries www.pentlandferries.co.uk

Orkney Ferries Ltd

www.orkneyferries.co.uk

Argyll Ferries www.argyllferries.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Traveline Scotland T: 0871 200 2233 www.travelinescotland.com

Traffic Scotland T: 0800 028 1414 www.trafficscotland.org



ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire

Ballater Caravan Park	106
Braemar Carvan Park	106
Cabin Ski Hire Glenshee	
Contours Walking Holidays	97
Craibstone Estate	
Forestry Commission	
Scotland	IFC*
Glenshee Ski Centre	
Inver Lodge	106
Knockburn Sports Loch	
Lochter Activity Centre	
Moorfield House Hotel	
Netherley Guest House	106
Scottish Youth	
Hostels Association	100
Ship Inn Stonehaven	106
Smidge	
0	

Argyll & The Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and The Trossachs

AIUITIduuy Casile
Holiday Cottages
Basking Shark Scotland
Beinglas Farm Campsite
Benmore Outdoor
Centre Argyll
Bridge of Lochay Hotel107
Burnside107
Bute Backpackers106
CalMac Ferries
Castle Sween Bay Cottages
& Holiday Homes
Contours Walking Holidays
Cruise Loch Lomond
Falkirk Community Trust IBC*
Forestry Commission ScotlandIFC*
Glendaruel Caravan
& Camping Park107
Jetski Safari
Kayak Majik
Killin Outdoor Centre
and Shop
King Robert Hotel
Lagnakeil Highland Lodges
Loch Lomond Leisure110
PaddleBoardingScotland.com36
Portnellan Farm
Rob Roy Hotel
Scottish Youth
Hostels Association100
Smidge
St Hilda Sea Adventures

* Denotes inside and outside covers

Ayrshire & The Isles of Arran and Cumbrae

Active Outdoor Pursuits	43
Ailsa Craig Boat Trips	42
BC Motorhomes	43
CalMac Ferries	110
Contours Walking Holidays	97
Craufurdland Estate	42
Forestry Commission	
Scotland	IFC*
Scottish Youth	
Hostels Association	100
Smidge	97

Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders

Best Western Station Hotel	108
Black Horse Hotel	108
Castle Bay Caravan Park	
Contours Walking Holidays	97
Forestry Commission	
Scotland	IFC*
Jean Muir Student Village	108
RAD Hotel Group	
Rose Haugh	108
Sands of Luce Holiday Park	48
Scottish Youth	
Hostels Association	100
Smidge	97

Edinburgh & The Lothians

Coast to Coast Surf School54
Contours Walking Holidays97
East Lothian CouncilOBC*
Forestry Commission ScotlandIFC*
Hillend
Run the Sights
Scottish Youth Hostels Association100 Smidge97

Greater Glasgow & The Clyde Valley

Contours Walking Holidays97
Forestry Commission
ScotlandIFC*
Scottish Youth
Hostels Association100

The Highlands and Moray Speyside

Achnacarry Steading	
Apartments	
Active Outdoor Pursuits	
Ancala Cafe & Bunkhouse	
Applecross Campsite	77
Avielochan Cottages	
Bleachfield Cottage	
Burnbank Lodges	
Cairn Hotel	74
Cairngorm Highland Bungalows	
Caledonian Discovery	78
CalMac Ferries	
Contours Walking Holidays	
Cruise Loch Ness	
Dolphin Spirit	
Fearann Eilean Iarmain	73
Forestry Commission Scotland	
Glen Affric Holiday Park	
Glen Nevis Holidays	
Glenlivet Estate	
Highland Club Direct	
Highland Holiday Homes	
John O'Groats Ferries (wildlife cruises)	81
The Junction Cafe	
Kilmartin Guesthouse	108
Lagganlia Centre for Outdoor Learning	
Outdoor Learning	75
Linnhe Lochside Holidays	
Loch Ness Inn	
Loch Ness Lodge Hotel	
Lochaber Lodges	
Lossiemouth Camper Van Hire	
Lovat Loch Ness	
Nevis Range	
Old Tweed Mill	
Pine Bank Chalets	
Ptarmigan Cottage	
Scottish Cycling Holidays	80
Scottish Youth Hostels Association	100
Silverglades Self Catering Holiday Homes	70
Smidge	07 07
Snowgoose	91
Mountain Centre	80
The Two Byres	
West End Hotel	

Outer Hebrides, Orkney & Shetland

An Airigh	
Barra Bike Hire	
Barra Surf	
& Coastal Adventures	
CalMac Ferries	110
Contours Walking Holidays	97
Forestry Commission	
Scotland	IFC*
Gatliff Hebridean	
Hostels Trust	
Hebrides House	
Island Cruising	88
Scottish Youth	
Hostels Association	100
Seatrek Isle of Lewis	
Smidge	97
SurfLewis	
Uist Sea Tours	

Perthshire, Dundee & Angus and the Kingdom of Fife

Angus Hotel	109
Bamff Ecotourism	109
Beyond Adventure	99
Blair Castle	98
Contours Walking Holidays	97
Crieff Hydro Outdoor	
Activity Centre	96
Drumcroy Lodges	98
Drumfork Estate	109
Forestry Commission	
Scotland	
Kennacoil	
Loch Rannoch Highland Club .	96
Lochore Meadows	
Country Park	99
The Lodge At Perth	00
Racecourse	
Merryburn Hotel	
Milton of Fonab Caravan Park .	
Perthshire Off Road	
Progression Bikes Scotland	
Sandford Country Cottages	99
Scottish Youth	
Hostels Association	
Smidge	
Splash White Water Rafting	
Taymouth Marina	97

VISIT THE KELPIES

TANK IN THE

Join our fantastic 30-minute Kelpies guided tour and see the world's largest equine sculptures up close. Go inside to marvel at the complexity and the engineering which created these fantastic pieces of art.

Find us just off the M9, Junction 5, Falkirk, FK27ZT

Book Online Now! www.thehelix.co.uk or call 01324 590600



- 0 @Helixfalkirk
- @TheKelpiesatTheHelix
- @HelixFalkirk
 - #HelixDayOut #TheKelpies

east lothian

OBLUE FIN ART

Edinburgh's Coast & Countryside



visiteastlothian.org