



The Great Glen Way

The Great Glen, as the name suggests, is the largest and most spectacular glen in Scotland. This classic geological fault line is millions of years old and divides the Northern and Southern Highlands. A continuous body of water runs east to west along the length of the Great Glen and consists of 3 main lochs linked by rivers and the Caledonian Canal. Walking past some of Scotland's most beautiful and famous lochs, this 79 mile (127 km) route is one of the best long distance trails in the Highlands.

The Great Glen Way was officially opened on 30th April 2002 by H.R.H. Prince Andrew, Earl of Inverness and quickly gained popularity as walkers discovered the beautiful scenery along the trail. The Great Glen Way begins in Fort William, beneath the slopes of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. You will then trek north-east through spectacular scenery and past Lochs Lochy, Oich and, of course, Ness, before finishing in the capital of the Highlands, Inverness.

The Great Glen Way is an excellent walk and gives you the opportunity to enjoy some of the best scenery and sights that Scotland has to offer. We hope you have a great and memorable walk and that our hand-picked accommodation adds to your experience on the Way.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Fort William

Fort William sits on Loch Linnhe with the majestic Ben Nevis, at 4409 feet/1344 metres, Britain's highest mountain, as its backdrop. The town takes its name from the fort that William Prince of Orange built in 1690. Fort William was successfully held by government troops during the Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745. However, the surrounding area saw great turmoil and today the town is the main centre for visitors to the Western Highlands. The scenic West Highland Railway runs from here to Mallaig. Just north of Fort William lies the original medieval Inverlochy Castle and Neptune's Staircase, the flight of eight locks near the southern end of the Caledonian Canal on the Great Glen Way.

ATM/Cash Points: Many banks & supermarkets with ATM/Cash Points.

Taxi:

Lochaber Taxis 01397 706 070 or 01397 703 334

Speeders Cabs 01397 704 000

Mhor Cabs 07479 266 932.

VisitScotland Fort William iCentre: 01397 701801.

Ben Nevis Visitor Centre: 01349 781400 or 01397 781401.

Other Services Include: Good selection of shops, chemists, newsagents, baker, post office, general stores. Morrisons & Tesco Superstores, McDonalds, public toilets, public telephones.

Car Hire: Easydrive. 01397 701616. www.easydrivescotland.co.uk.

Places to Eat:

Grog & Gruel 01397 705 078

The Geographer 01397 705 011

Garrison West 01397 701 873

Nevis Bank Inn & Browns Restaurant 01397 7057 21

Tavern 01397 703 600

The Ben Nevis Inn 01397 701 227

Crannog Seafood Restaurant on waterfront 01397 705 589

There are also many takeaways in Fort William.

Police Station National Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Spean Bridge

Spean Bridge is a village in the Great Glen north of Fort William and at the junction between the Great Glen route and Glen Spean. The Highlands of Scotland have many bridges constructed by the famous engineer Thomas Telford. The bridge over the River Spean in the village is also one of his and was built in 1819. However, this is not the bridge that gives Spean Bridge its name - it is named after, the now partly collapsed, High Bridge built by General Wade about 1.5 miles/2.5 km west of the village. The village is perhaps best known for its historical links with the Allied Commando Training during the Second World War. Thousands of troops came to Spean Bridge to train for war in the surrounding mountains and lochs based at Achnacarry Castle. A mile north of Spean Bridge on a prominent hillside by the A82 is the world-famous Commando Memorial, erected to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the men and women who served their countries.

ATM/Cash Point: Post Office in the Spar Shop has an ATM outside and the shop offers a 'cash-back' service for UK clients (open 0800 hrs-2000 hrs Monday to Saturday and 0900 hrs-2100 hrs on a Sunday).

Taxi: Al's Taxis 07733 896163. Lochaber Taxis 01397 701324.

Places to Eat:

Russell's 01397 7123 35 (within Smiddy House but closed to non-residents Sundays & Mondays)

Old Station Restaurant 01397 712 535 (Booking a table in advance is essential)

The Spean Bridge Hotel 01397 712 250.

Bridge Café 01397 712 957.

Old Pines 01397 712 324 (advance booking essential, the restaurant offers a transfer service which must be requested upon booking).

Other Services Include: Convenience store & post office.

Police Station Non-Emergency Number: 101. (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

South Laggan & Invergarry

You will be walking through land owned by the Camerons of Lochiel. Nearby is Clunes where Bonnie Prince Charlie hid in a cave for two weeks after his escape from Culloden. South Laggan saw the Clan Battle of the Shirts in 1544 (Gaelic: Blar na Léine, also the Battle of Kinloch-Lochy). The Clan Donald and their allies Clan Cameron fought the Clan Fraser and men from Clan Grant. Legend has it that the day was so hot that both sides threw off their plaids, fighting in their shirts. However, Blar na Léine is merely a corruption of Blar na Leana, 'the Field of the Swampy Meadow.' From here the route leads you into Laggan Avenue, a lovely canal side path through a fine variety of tall trees established by Thomas Telford.

Places to Eat in South Laggan:

Eagle Barge 07789 858 567 / www.eaglebargeinn.weebly.com / Email:

eaglebarge@btinternet.com

Forest Lodge B&B (advanced booking essential)

Places to Eat in Invergarry:

Invergarry Hotel 01809 501 206.

Other Services Include: Filling station with shop on A82 Northbound.

Taxi: Als Taxis 07733 896163. Lochaber Taxis 01397 701324 (Fort William)

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Fort Augustus

Fort Augustus is named after King George II's younger son, Prince William Augustus the Duke of Cumberland. He is also known as 'Butcher Cumberland' for the way he suppressed and destroyed the highlanders and their clan system in the aftermath of the final 'clan' defeat at Culloden in April 1746. Augustus made his headquarters in the fort named after him 25 years earlier. Very little remains of the original fort, parts of which were incorporated into the Benedictine Abbey built in 1876. The monks left in 1998 when they were unable to sustain their community and the abbey. The original Gaelic name of the village was Cille Chumein (the church of Chumein). Running through the village is the River Oich and the impressive Caledonian Canal and lock system, built by Thomas Telford in the early 1800's. Next to the locks is the Caledonian Canal Heritage Centre which gives an insight into the history of the canal. Also in the village is the Clansman Centre where you can learn about clan life 500 years ago.

ATM/Cash Point: Bank of Scotland Branch Tues & Thurs (1000 hrs to 1400 hrs), Cash point in Glen Service Station on Main Street.

Places to Eat:

The Bothy 01320 366 710

Lock Inn 01320 366 302

Lovat Arms Brasserie 01456 490 000

Boat House 01320 366 682

Other Services Include: A good selection of gift shops and convenience stores.

Post Office: In Great Glen Way Trading Centre

Taxi: Closest is Drumnadrochit: Loch Ness Travel 01456 450550 & mobile 07711 429616. Drumnadrochit Private Hire 01456 450617 & mobile 07721 055944.

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Invermoriston

Invermoriston dates back to circa 1600 and in the 1640's a sawmill was in operation processing the surrounding forests for export by boat. The military roads were built along the Great Glen in the 1700's and passed to the east side of Loch Ness, leaving Invermoriston heavily dependant on water transport. The first roads were built by Thomas Telford in 1813. The village grew slowly through the nineteenth century and by the 1890's the Loch Ness steamers called regularly at the pier half a mile to the south, these boats have long since ceased to sail the loch. This small village is steeped in Jacobite romance, like the legendary Seven Men of Moriston and rebel hero Roderick MacKenzie, killed in 1745 by English Soldiers who mistook him for Bonnie Prince Charlie. The village's most popular attraction is the old Telford Bridge which crosses the spectacular River Moriston falls. This bridge was part of the main road between Drumnadrochit and Fort Augustus. A new bridge was built in the 1930's and still carries a stream of traffic today.

Places to Eat:

Glenmoriston Arms Hotel 01320 351 206

Glen Rowan Café 01320 351 208 (Tuesday—Saturday 0900 hrs—1600 hrs & Sunday 1000 hrs—1600 hrs. **Booking in advance is essential for both.**

Clog & Craft Shop: 01479 841486 & 01320 351318. www.lochnessleather.co.uk

Taxi:

Loch Ness Travel 01456 450 550 & 07711 429 616

Drumnadrochit Private Hire 01456 450 617 & 07721 055 944.

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Drumnadrochit

Drumnadrochit lies on the West shore of Loch Ness at the head of Glen Urquhart and is the main centre for Monster Watching! The first sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was made by Saint Columba in the sixth century and millions of people have visited the Loch since then with the same ambition. There are two exhibitions in the village devoted to the monster. The centre of Drumnadrochit is very attractive with a village green and a splendid miniature model of Urquhart Castle made from hedges and plants. The actual castle is situated south of the town on the banks of Loch Ness and remains an impressive stronghold despite its ruinous state. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart's remains include a tower house that commands splendid views of the famous loch and Great Glen. The castle's history and that of the noble families, Durward, Macdonald and Grant, is told in the exhibition in the visitor centre.

ATM/Cash Point: Scot-Mid Convenience Store.

Places To Eat:

Loch Ness Inn 01456 450 991

Fiddlers Restaurant & Fishbox 01456 450 678

Benleva Hotel 01456 450 080

Please Note: Advance booking for all stages essential but particularly in Drumnadrochit.

Other Services Include: good selection of gift shops and convenience stores including Drumnadrochit village store, Post Office & tea room 01456 450 800 (see Facebook for opening hours).

Taxi:

Loch Ness Travel 01456 450 550 & 07711 429 616

Drumnadrochit Private Hire 01456 450 617 & 07721 055 944.

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Inverness

Inverness, Capital of the Highlands, became Scotland's fifth city at the millennium. It lies at the north end of the Great Glen where the River Ness flows into the Moray Firth. The origins of Inverness lie on its western edge at the now wooded crag of Craig Phadrig. A fortress atop this crag was a capital of the Pictish kings from as early as the 400's. A settlement was established by sixth century AD with the first royal charter being granted in the thirteenth century. In 1727 Fort George was built in the town, a large fortress capable of housing 400 troops. Fort George surrendered to the Jacobites when they took Inverness in February 1746 before their eventual defeat at nearby Culloden in April that year. After the garrison had surrendered the Jacobites laid explosives that completely destroyed Fort George. The red stone Inverness Castle you see today was built in the 1830s to house courts and administrative buildings. The Castle marks the end of the Great Glen Way.

ATM/Cash Point: Bank of Scotland, RBS, Clydesdale, Santander and Multiple ATM/Cash Points throughout the city.

Places to Eat: Wide range of pubs, restaurants and bars including Rocpool 01463 717 274, Mustard Seed 01463 220 220, River House 01463 222 033 (closed Sundays & Mondays) & Urquhart's Restaurant 01463 233 373 (closed Monday and Tuesday).

Advanced booking essential.

Other Services Include: Excellent range of shops and stores & Post Office.

VisitScotland Inverness iCentre: 01463 252 401

Taxi:

Inverness Taxis 01463 222 222

Capital Taxis 01463 808 080

Police Non-Emergency Number: 101 (Overseas Clients: 0044 1786 289070).

Travel Information

Fort William and Inverness are well serviced by both bus and rail. Traveline Scotland can help you plan journeys—see website below.

Company	Tel. Number	Website.
National Rail Enquiries.	03457 484950	www.nationalrail.co.uk
ScotRail	0344 811 0141	www.scotrail.co.uk
Virgin – West Coast Rail	0871 977 4222	www.virgintrains.co.uk
Citylink Bus/Coach Service.	0871 266 3333	www.citylink.co.uk
Citylink General Enquiries.	0141-352-4444	
Traveline – Scotland	0871 200 2233	www.travelinescotland.com
Strathclyde Transport	0141 332 6811	www.spt.co.uk
Glasgow Airport	0344 481 5555	www.glasgowairport.com
Edinburgh Airport	0844 448 8833	www.edinburghairport.com
Edinburgh Trams		www.edinburghtrams.com
Inverness Airport	01667 464000	www.invernessairport.co.uk
Tourist Information – Visit Scotland		www.visitscotland.com
Post Office	0345 722 3344	www.postoffice.co.uk
BBC Weather		www.bbc.co.uk/weather
Met Office Weather Forecast		www.metoffice.gov.uk

Emergency Telephone. For Police, Ambulance or Fire & Rescue Services call 999 (free from call boxes). Police Non-Emergency Number: 101. Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070.