



## The Southern Highlands

Walking Holiday in Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park

### Dates 2018:

a) 28. May

b) 08. September (Women's Hiking Tour)

- 6 Guided Walking Days
- 5 Nights Bed & Breakfast
- 6 x Picnic Lunch
- 3 Boat Trips
- Minibus Travel from Glasgow

**Price £895 (Single Supp available, please ask)**

### Trip Summary

#### Embracing Diverse Landscapes

This hiking trip in Scotland's first National Park embraces diverse landscapes of Scottish scenic splendour: the queen of all Scottish lakes, romantic Loch Lomond with its many forested little islands is surrounded by the beacon of its namesake mountain Ben Lomond and the peaks of the Arrochar Alps, lush forests, green valleys and the fjord - like sea lochs of Argyll.

**Beautiful views, waterfalls, mysterious ruins**, wild roaming goats and deer accompany you on your journey; refreshing streams and lovely beaches may entice you for a dip and, because water is so much part of the scenery, we include a boat ride or two along the way, some island exploration, a sailing on a Victorian steamer and a scenic cycle ride along the shore of Loch Katrine.

**Ideal for walking at an easy level** these versatile terrains provide an excellent introduction to walking in Scotland and the Scottish Highlands.

**Sightseeing most days en route** to the starting points of your walks will give you a sense of the surrounding area without spending much of your time on a bus.  
Your Accommodation - local hospitality at its best

### **Accommodation**

During your holiday you are based in the tiny hamlet of Balmaha on the picturesque eastern shore of Loch Lomond where our guests stay in comfortable bed & breakfast guesthouses.

### **Your walking group - small is beautiful**

Our groups are of a personable size of no more than 8 persons and accompanied throughout by an experienced and knowledgeable guide to make your time with us in Scotland interesting and enjoyable.

### **Your walking day - taking it easy**

Generally, a day includes 4 - 5 hours walking, a relaxing lunch break and delicious picnic and, occasionally, we will celebrate our walking day in one of the old Scottish pubs we will be passing on the way home.

### **Evening Meals**

Across from your guesthouse in Balmaha you find the cosy Oak Tree Inn for delicious food, local ale and maybe you like to try a 'wee dram' of whisky, too!

### **Scottish Wildlife, History & Nature**

On the way, you can find out as much as you would like about wild goats with spectacular horns, how the Vikings carried their boats over mountains, stories of local clans and their warfare or the history behind the coppiced oak forests along the shores of Loch Lomond and the people who lived here not so long ago.

### **Level of fitness**

This holiday is designed for people with a good basic level of fitness and mobility. But please note that paths may be muddy and are, at times, a little rough and uneven.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1 - From Glasgow to the Foothills of Ben Lomond**

We meet in Glasgow and offer 2 pick up locations to choose from:

- a) Outside the main entrance of the Radisson Blue Hotel in Argyl Street at 10:30 am or
- b) 10:45 am at Glasgow Airport Pick up Point.

Following arrival at Loch Lomond around 1 pm we begin a versatile walk along the shores of Loch Lomond and Scotland's most famous long distance trail, the West Highland Way. At Rowardennan, we detour a little and continue up the gentle hillside at the foot of the lake's big mountain, Ben Lomond (974m) to the remains of an ancient settlement, Ardess, which reveals traces of a remarkably industrious and industrial past.

A super introduction to Highland landscapes and not too taxing for a first day's hike.

**4 hrs walk, 5 km + 2 km, undulating, 60m alt**

## **Day 2 - The Trossachs, Loch Katrine & Shores of Loch Lomond**

The lush and dense Trossachs forests, dotted with picturesque lakes, were the home of Scotland's famous Rob Roy who roamed the area to rob from the rich and provide for the poor. Loch Katrine, the biggest of the Trossachs lakes, is set amidst rugged hills and features as the romantic backdrop in Walter Scott's 19th century legends and poems. The day begins with a drive through this beautiful area to Loch Katrine where you board the 19th century steamship "Sir Walter Scott". Following the 45 minutes sailing to the northern end of the lake is a brief journey to Loch Lomond. After lunch we spend the afternoon walking along the shore enjoying magnificent views across the water to the peaks of the southern Highland mountains.

**4 hrs walk, 8 km, undulating**

## **Day 3 - The Arrochar Alps - Craggy Peaks and Glaciated Valleys**

Highland scenery at its best: we drive along the high road and the bonny banks of this largest of freshwater stretches in Britain enjoying wide views across to the grandiose heights of Ben Lomond, the most southerly of the 'Munros'.

Straight from the sea rise the bizarre and domineering formations of the Arrochar Alps to the west of Loch Lomond. Unconquerable as they seem it is a delight on relatively good paths to hike amongst this mass of rock and experience a whole array of different landscapes with spectacular views across the wide estuary of the Clyde and wild mountains to the west.

An invigorating and satisfying walk covering a height of 500m. You will want to come back for those peaks next time!

In the afternoon, a visit to the picturesque small Highland town Inveraray introduces you to some Scottish history and Clan politics.

To offer you a true Scottish dining experience we stop at the famous Loch Fyne Oyster Bar for dinner on the way back to Balmaha.

**4 - 5 hrs walk, 6 km, 500m**

## **Day 4 - Primrose Hill in the Trossachs & Loch Katrine's shores**

We hike a superb trail high in the woods on the north side of this lake made famous by Walter Scott in his ballad 'Lady of the Lake' enjoying beautiful views across the water as far as the Arrochar Alps beyond Loch Katrine.

**Drive 30 mins each way, 4 hrs walk, 11 km, 300m ascent.**

## **Day 5 - Waterfalls, Wild Goats and Kilts in Glen Falloch**

This delightful and gentle walk along an old cattle drovers' path takes us past the great Ben Glass waterfall to the rugged hills of Loch Lomond's northern end. Wild goats are roaming these lovely forests of birch -, oak - and hazel trees and ruins of old settlements point to a lively history of the area. There are grand views, particularly when Loch Lomond appears like a discovery. Once at the shore of the loch we signal the ferryman who is to rescue us back to civilization. You benefit from a drive along the complete length of Loch Lomond's western shore and you have the opportunity to enjoy a pint or a wee dram in one of Scotland's oldest and most popular pubs, the Drovers' Inn. Here the sight of a Highlander dressed in a kilt is guaranteed!

**Walking 4 hrs walk, 8 km, undulating**

## **Day 6 - West Highland Way & Inchcailloch Island**

This is a wonderfully relaxing and varied hike. A gentle elevation with ever changing views over the hills and the wide, expansive landscapes changing from the Lowlands to the Highlands. The peak of Conic Hill marks a spectacular geological fault line and offers panoramic views as far as the coast, the Isle of Arran and the Highland mountains. After picnic lunch we take a short boat ride from Balmaha across to the romantic island of Inchcailloch where we walk its magic woods and come across ancient history of local clans and hermit saints - and great views over the loch.

**Walking 3 hrs walk, 6km, 361 m alt + 1 hr walk, 2km, 87m alt**

Departure and transfer to Glasgow Airport/ Train Station for 17.00 hrs.

WALK WILD SCOTLAND

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