



Scotland Great Glen Way Walk & Barge Itinerary

June 12-23, 2019



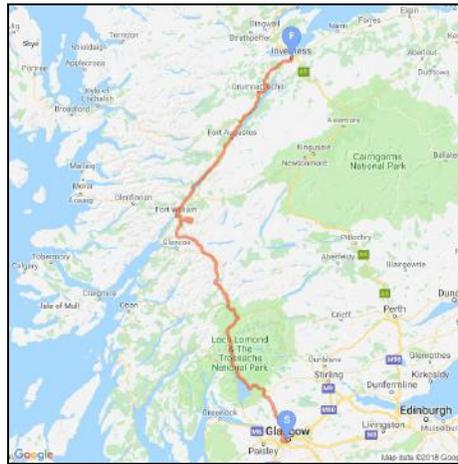
"Fingal of Caledonia" -- our floating accommodation

This 12-day adventure starts in Glasgow for some good Scottish fun, getting to know Glasgow via a food walking tour. Then it's off to Fort William to hike Ben Nevis, Scotland's tallest mountain at 4,406' elevation (optional).

Our 7-day, 79-mile walk along the Great Glen Way follows The Caledonian Canal, a ship canal built in the 1800s that links the east and west coasts of Scotland via several large inland lochs, including Loch Ness. The hiking track follows the waterway, sometimes right alongside it on historic tow paths and other times high above the lochs and canals on ancient roads and forest tracks.

The views along the Way are exquisite--majestic mountains, large expanses of open water, smaller atmospheric lochs and pretty canal sections. Each night we'll stay on a barge where the crew caters to our every need, providing local/cultural/historical information and chef-prepared meals. We'll end our adventure in Inverness and a visit to Culloden Battlefield and the Clava Cairns--both sites familiar to "Outlander" fans!

Trip Overview



Trip overview-visit Glasgow, then travel to Fort William and walk to Inverness

Day 1	Wednesday 6/12/2019	Arrive in Glasgow; 5:00 pm group meeting. Dinner together. Glasgow hotel.
Day 2	Thursday 6/13/2019	In Glasgow: morning walking food tour, afternoon bus to Ft. William. Dinner on your own. Fort William hotel.
Day 3	Friday 6/14/2019	In Ft William: (optional) Ben Nevis climb or other activities on your own. Dinner together. Fort William hotel.
Day 4	Saturday 6/15/2019	Join the barge. Walk Fort William to Gairloch [11 miles, mostly flat], meeting the barge and our guide about 1/2 way there. Visit a castle ruin and taste whisky along the way. Dinner together on the barge. Sleep on the barge.
Day 5	Sunday 6/16/2019	Walk Gairloch to Laggan Locks [13 miles, 873' gain, 860' loss]. Dinner together. Sleep on the barge.
Day 6	Monday 6/17/2019	Walk Laggan Locks to Ft Augustus [11 miles, 144' gain, 187' loss]. Dinner together. Sleep on the barge.
Day 7	Tuesday 6/18/2019	Walk Ft Augustus to Altsigh [10.5 miles, 797' gain, 761' loss]. Dinner together. Sleep on the barge.
Day 8	Wednesday 6/19/2019	Walk Altsigh to Drumnadrochit [11 miles, 1,129' gain, 1,194' loss]. Dinner together. Sleep on the barge.
Day 9	Thursday 6/20/2019	Walk Drumnadrochit to Dochgarroch [14 miles, 1,260' gain, 1,293' loss]. Dinner together. Sleep on the barge.
Day 10	Friday 6/21/2019	Walk Dochgarroch to Inverness [8.5 miles, mostly flat]. Free afternoon in Inverness. Dinner on your own. Inverness hotel.
Day 11	Saturday 6/22/2019	In Inverness: Bus to Culloden Battlefield; walk from there to Clava Cairns [1.5 miles, mostly flat], return by pre-arranged taxi. Farewell dinner together. Inverness hotel.
Day 12	Sunday 6/23/2019	Depart for home or onward travels.



Major Sites



Glasgow

Glasgow is a port city on the River Clyde in Scotland's western Lowlands. It's famed for its Victorian and art nouveau architecture, a rich legacy of the city's 18th–20th-century prosperity due to trade and shipbuilding. Glasgow is a great place for “foodies” with its many restaurants, along with places to taste and enjoy famous Scottish Whisky.

Fort William

Fort William is located in the Scottish Highlands, on the shores of Loch Linnhe. It's known as a gateway to Ben Nevis, the U.K.'s highest peak at 4,406'. Fort William is also the launching point for the Jacobite Steam Train, also known as the “Harry Potter” or “Hogwarts” train. Fans might enjoy a ride on the train, complete with High Tea service.



The Great Glen Way

The Great Glen Way is a long distance recreational path in the Highlands of Scotland. It follows the Great Glen, a natural fault line running from Fort William in the southwest to Inverness in the northeast, covering 79 miles and including several lochs including Loch Ness. The Way consists of towpaths, trails, forest tracks and a few stretches of tarmac. It runs alongside the Caledonian Canal, an engineered canal containing 29 locks, 4 aqueducts and 10 bridges.

Inverness

Inverness, from Scottish Gaelic meaning “mouth of the River Ness,” is regarded as the capital of the Scottish Highlands. Inverness lies near an important battle site, the 18th-century Battle of Culloden which took place on Culloden Moor (familiar to fans of “*Outlander*”). It is the northernmost city in the United Kingdom and lies within the Great Glen at its northeastern extremity where the River Ness enters the Moray Firth.



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

June 12,
2019
Wednesday

Arrive in Glasgow, Scotland

Today is designed to allow arrival in Glasgow (usually in the a.m.) and for you to explore Glasgow a bit on your own.

This evening we'll meet in the hotel lobby at 5:00 p.m. for a fun activity and planning meeting. Then we'll head out to discover some of Glasgow's famous food at our Welcome Dinner.

Meals included: Welcome Dinner and drink

Lodging: Holiday Inn Glasgow City Center--Theaterland, a smart central Glasgow hotel with an award-winning restaurant.



Reflections of Glasgow

Day 2

June 13
Thursday

In Glasgow

Glasgow is said to be the gastronomical capital of the United Kingdom. Enjoy a ½-day guided food- and beverage-tasting tour, with a wee bit of history thrown in.

This afternoon we'll travel by bus to Fort William, near the start of our walk. It's a long bus ride after eating and drinking our way through Glasgow--you might want your pillow so you can enjoy a good nap if you don't mind missing out on some amazing scenery.

Lunch and dinner are on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast

Lodging: Alexandra Hotel, providing traditional Scottish hospitality since 1876.



Haggis, neeps & tatties



Alexandra Hotel



Day 3

June 14
Friday

In Fort William; optional Ben Nevis climb

Today, those who are interested can take a day hike up Ben Nevis, the highest point in Scotland (4,406'). For those not going on the hike, enjoy a relaxing day exploring Fort William on your own.

Perhaps you'll take the Hogwarts train! This is the Jacobite Steam train made famous in the Harry Potter movies. If you want to take this train with its High Tea service, you'll need to book it months in advance as it is extremely popular with wizards and muggles alike.

Meals included: Breakfast and dinner
Lodging: Alexandra Hotel



Hiking up Ben Nevis



Jacobite steam train ("Harry Potter" train)

Day 4

June 15
Saturday

Walk Fort William to Gairlochy

[11 miles, 50m gain]

First things first! We'll locate the "official" starting point of the Great Glen Way walk for a group photo before heading out on our walk. We'll pause for a brief visit of Old Inverlochy Castle and a wee tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery, where we'll learn all about the production of its famous whisky. Then we'll head over to Corpach Sea Lock--the first of the 29 locks we'll pass on the Way.

After a relaxing lunch we'll meet the barge crew, stow our gear, and then walk a further 7 miles to Gairloch along the canal towpath. We'll pass by Moy Bridge, the last remaining hand-wound bridge in the glen. There's plenty of time to relax on the barge before our first gourmet dinner together with the crew.

Meals included: Breakfast and dinner
Lodging: Caledonian Discovery barge
"Fingal of Caledonia"

A converted barge that accommodates 12 persons in twin cabins, with a crew of 4. All meals are served on board the barge (packed lunches provided for walking days). The barge moves through the lochs and canals and meets us after each day's walk.



The "official" start of the Great Glen Way in Fort William



Walking the towpath of the Caledonian Canal



Day 5June 16
Sunday**Walk Gairlochy to Laggan Lakes**

[13 miles, 140m gain]

Today's walk is alongside the shore of Loch Lochy, on a mixture of woodland paths and land rover tracks. A short detour takes us through the "dark mile," a site of special scientific interest due to the extensive mosses and lichens that adorn the trees. The path follows a minor road before reaching a fine section of path beside the loch, before more road walking but in beautiful surroundings. There follows a long section of forestry tracks just above the loch.

There is an option to cycle part of the track today for those who are interested. Mountain bikes are carried on the barge for our use.

Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner

Lodging: "Fingal of Caledonia" barge



Bridge and waterfall along the "dark mile"



Walk or Bike?

Day 6June 17
Monday**Walk Laggan Locks to Fort Augustus**

[11 miles, <20m gain]

The area between Laggan Locks to Fort Augustus, alongside Loch Oich, includes a mixture of canal tow paths and shore-side woodland paths. Two beautiful sections of the Caledonian Canal sandwich the lovely walk along the wild side of Loch Oich with its magnificent natural woodlands.

The cycling option continues today for those who want to take a break from walking.

Fort Augustus is a good place to stock up on any needed supplies, gifts/souvenirs, or to visit a local pub.

Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner

Lodging: "Fingal of Caledonia" barge



Wooded path along lovely Loch Oich



Loch Ness monster in Ft. Augustus?

Day 7

June 18

Tuesday

Walk Fort Augustus to Altsigh

[10.5 miles, 400m gain]

Today's walk is high above Loch Ness over incredible open moors. Yes, our calf muscles will ache a bit more but the magnificent views across Loch Ness will be worth it! We'll walk along land rover tracks most of the way. Along the way, we'll see Telford Bridge at Invermoriston, built by Thomas Telford and completed in 1813.

Keep your eyes peeled for Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. I'm sure she's out there somewhere!

After enjoying our packed lunch, we'll continue through forested track to Altsigh, where we'll board our tender and shuttle to the barge waiting for us out in Loch Ness.

Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner

Lodging: "Fingal of Caledonia" barge



High above Loch Ness



Dinner aboard the "Fingal"

Day 8

June 19

Wednesday

Walk Altsigh to Drumnadrochit

[11 miles, 400m gain]

This morning we'll shuttle back to Altsigh by tender, then walk alongside Loch Ness on land rover tracks, woodland paths, local footpaths and a 3-mile stretch of tarmac road. In case we didn't see her yesterday, we'll have another chance at a glimpse of Nessie.

It'll be a spectacular day with more awesome views along the length of Loch Ness and some beautiful old native pine forest thrown in for good measure.

Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner

Lodging: "Fingal of Caledonia" barge



"Fingal" through the fog on Loch Ness



Lunch and pottery



Day 9

June 20
Thursday

Walk Drumnadrochit to Dochgarroch

[14 miles, 350m gain]

Today's path begins by some beautiful ancient oak trees and slowly climbs into the forest. We'll pass through the site of Abraichan, a community-owned woodland project that houses a re-recreated bronze-age hut. Then it's high over the moors again for fabulous views down to Loch Ness. We'll cut down a local farm track to the village of Dochgarroch and our waiting barge.

Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner
Lodging: "Fingal of Caledonia" barge



When there's a playground, play on it



High over Loch Ness again

Day 10

June 21
Friday

Walk Dochgarroch to Inverness

[8.5 miles <20m gain]

Our final stage into Inverness is all along the towpath of the Caledonian Canal. We'll meet up with the barge to enjoy our last lunch, collect our gear, and say our goodbyes to the crew before heading off into town and the "official" end of the Great Glen Way at Inverness Castle.

Enjoy the afternoon to explore Inverness on your own, perhaps taking in the Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew (1866–69) or Leakey's Bookshop, enjoying some shopping and tea on the High Street, or just walking along River Ness.

Dinner is on your own tonight. Perhaps you'll find a pub with some local music!

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch
Lodging: Glen Mohr Hotel, in the center of Inverness on the banks of the River Ness.



Daily briefing by our Skipper



Beautiful "Fingal" passes by as we walk our last section of towpath



Day 11June 22
Saturday**In Inverness**

[1.4 miles, <20m gain]

After a leisurely breakfast at our riverside hotel we'll jump on a local bus and head out to Culloden Moor, the location of famous Culloden Battlefield where the Jacobite rebellion was crushed (and from where Bonny Prince Charlie escaped to Skye). We'll have a private tour of the museum and grounds.

After lunch in the Visitor's Center cafe (and perhaps some last-minute souvenir shopping) we'll walk to nearby Clava Cairns (the "real" Craigh na Dun for all you "Outlander" fans--the standing stones here inspired Diana Galbaldon to create the stones of Craigh na Dun). The stone circles and burial chambers at Clava Cairns date back 4,000 years to the Bronze Age. Our private transport will whisk us back to Inverness.

Once back in Inverness, we'll meet up for our final Farewell Dinner together.

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

Lodging: Glen Mhor Hotel



Culloden Moor, site of the final Jacobite rebellion



Standing stones and burial mound at Clava Cairns

Day 12June 23
Sunday**Depart for home or onward travel**

After our final breakfast together, we bid our fond farewells and go our separate ways to home or other onward travel.

It's been a fabulous adventure!

Meals included: Breakfast



I'd go on this trip just to see men in kilts!

What's Included

- 5 nights' hotel (Glasgow, Fort William and Inverness; twin share room)
- 6 nights' stay on the barge (twin share cabin)
- 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 9 dinners
- ½-day food walking tour in Glasgow
- Whisky tour/tasting at Ben Nevis Distillery
- All local transportation
- Luggage transfers as needed
- Tips for the food tour guide and the barge crew
- Entrance fee to Culloden Battlefield
- Global Rescue coverage through CMC (*NOTE: this is **NOT** trip interruption /cancellation/medical insurance*
See more information [here](#) about Global Rescue.)

What's NOT Included

- *Suggested* trip interruption /cancellation/medical insurance
- 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- RT airfare to/from Scotland (~\$1000)
- All airport transfers
- Beverages aside from coffee/tea served with meals
- Alcoholic beverages
- Pharmacy/medical costs
- Activities/sights/attractions while visiting Scotland on your own
- Souvenirs, gifts, etc.
- Tips for local hotel maids

Trip Cost and Payment Information

CMC Members: \$3,885

Non Member: \$4,274

Single Supplement (if applicable): N/A

Deposit: \$1,150, due upon registration

Final payment due by: January 31, 2019

Maximum # participants: 11 + leader

Minimum # participants: 8 + leader



CMC Deposit and Cancellation Policy:

1. Non-refundable Deposit: A non-refundable deposit is required to register for all trips.
2. All requests for cancellation must be submitted in writing to the trip leader.
3. Cancellations 90 or more prior to departure: All money paid in will be refunded less the non-refundable deposit.
4. Cancellation on Day 30 or more prior to departure:
 - a. If a qualified, wait-listed, person is available to take a vacated slot and pays all money due, all payments made by the canceling party will be refunded less the nonrefundable deposit.
 - b. If no one is available to take a vacated slot, 50% of paid money will be refunded, less the nonrefundable deposit.
5. Cancellation on Day 29 or fewer days prior to departure: No refund will be made.

The Colorado Mountain Club will make every effort to carry out this trip. However, if the trip is canceled by the CMC, all money collected from participants, including any “non-refundable deposit” shall be returned. Participant will not be reimbursed for any other purchase made for the trip or other expenses that the participant may have paid in association with this trip, which includes equipment purchase, airline cancellation penalties or medical inoculations.

Travel Information

Participants need to arrive in Glasgow, Scotland no later than Wednesday, June 12 2019.
Departures from Inverness, Scotland should be planned after breakfast on Sunday, June 23 2019.

Trip Leader

Kris Ashton

kris@aimhigh.net

720.733.6750

