

4 Night Scottish Highlands Gentle Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Gentle guided walking

Destination: 📍 Scottish Islands

Trip code: GLC04-BEW01

Trip Walking Grade: ul 1, 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 80kg CO2



Holiday Overview

Glen Coe is arguably one of the most celebrated glens in the world with its volcanic origins, and its dramatic landscapes offering breathtaking scenery – magnificent peaks, ridges and stunning seascapes. This easier variation of our best-selling Guided Walking holidays is the perfect way to enjoy a gentle exploration of the Scottish Highlands. Easy walks of 3–4 miles with up to 400 feet of ascent are available, although if you'd like to do something a bit more demanding walks up some of the lower hills are also included in the programme. Our medium option walks are 6 to 8 miles with up to 1000 feet of ascent whilst harder options are 8 to 10 miles with up to 2,600 feet of ascent.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the Scottish Highlands at a relaxed pace
- Riding the Nevis gondola for fabulous mountain views
- Visiting towns and villages packed with history
- Discovering walking routes with your experienced HF Holidays Leader
- Staying in the comfort of our country house

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of three guided walks (each walking day) from April to mid-October, and two from the end of October to March.
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This trip is graded Activity Level 1, 2 and 3.

Our best-selling guided walking holidays run throughout the year - with their daily choice of up to three walks, these breaks are ideal for anyone who enjoys exploring the countryside on foot. Perhaps choose an Easier walk, then build up to something more challenging as your holiday progresses.

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Day 1 Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2 Ballachulish

Option 1 - St John's Church and Gleann a Chaolais

Distance: 5.5 miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

Starting at St John's Church on the south side of Loch Leven, we'll take a forest road that rises gently through the trees covering the lower slopes of Beinn a Bheithir – the mountain that can be seen from the windows of Alltshellach. We'll gain sufficient height for views up to the peak of Sgorr Dhonuill before descending into Gleann a Chaolais. Leaving the forest, we'll pass the new community owned hydro-electric scheme. From the Ballachulish Bridge look eastwards for over Loch Leven to see the first peak of the Aonach Eagach ridge in the distance and the Pap of Glencoe to its left. The woodlands of "Hospital Lochan" are at its base.

Option 2 - Leitir Mhor and the Murder Cairn

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 500 feet (140m)

This walk visits several locations associated with the infamous Appin Murder – the 1752 assassination of Clan Campbell tacksman, Colin Roy Campbell, possibly in retaliation for his role in supporting the failed 1745 Jacobite rebellion. We'll walk up the lane towards Leitir Mhor and along a path to the murder cairn which marks the spot where Campbell was killed. Following the former Connel to Ballachulish railway line, we'll enjoy views over Loch Linnhe and, with luck, catch sight of seabirds, seals, or otters. Leaving the cycleway, we'll continue to Ballachulish Bridge and visit the memorial to James of the Glen – the man wrongly accused and executed for the murder of Colin Roy Campbell.

Option 3 - Cuil Bay and Duror

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 450 feet (140m)

Starting from the seaside at Cuil Bay, we'll have time to enjoy the views over Loch Linnhe to the Isle of Mull. Look out over the rocky shores and sea lochs that characterise Western Scotland, before an easy walk through the former crofting area of Cuil brings us to Duror. Walking north on the cycleway through fields and woodland to Kentallen Bay. Here, the cycleway heads uphill to a viewpoint with information boards on the special geology of the area. Descending to Kentallen village, we'll rejoin the old railway line and pass by Leitir Mhor to Gleann a Chaolais. We'll return to Alltshellach via the James of the Glen monument and the Ballachulish Bridge.

Day 3 Achnacarry Day

Option 1 - Waterfalls to Achnacarry and Gairloch

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 400 feet (120m)

This option begins with a visit to Neptune's Staircase, a dramatic flight of eight locks on the Caledonian Canal in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's tallest mountain. From here, we'll travel by coach to the large waterfall Eas Chia-Aig, the starting point of our walk. Crossing the bridge over the River Arkaig, where it flows out of the enormous Loch Arkaig, we'll explore Achnacarry Castle. This Scottish baronial home of the Clan Cameron was destroyed by the Redcoat British Army during the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. However, it was rebuilt in 1802 and later housed the Commando Basic Training Centre for British Special Forces in WWII. We'll continue via the unusual St. Ciaran's Church, following much of the route on the Great Glen Way. Our journey then takes us along a forest path on the shore of Loch Lochy, with chances to spot canoes, boats, and ships crossing the Caledonian Canal. We'll end our walk at Gairloch.

Option 2 - Loy Bridge to Achnacarry and Waterfalls

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

We'll start by crossing under the Caledonian Canal through the 260ft-long masonry conduit built around 1810 to provide farm access. In storm conditions the tunnel can be wet with excess water from the River Loy but is normally dry. There is no lighting, so a torch is advised to avoid puddles. After just 2.3 miles of easy walking on the canal tow path we'll reach Gairloch Canal Bridge. From here, we'll follow the same route as options 1 and 2 but extend the walk to cross the River Arkaig and continue upstream through the woods. Crossing back over via a foot bridge we'll pass Achnacarry House and continue past Loch Arkaig to the waterfalls.

Option 3 - Gairloch to Achnacarry and Waterfalls

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

Initially following the same route as option 1, we'll visit St Ciaran's Church, before taking the less frequented path through fields and forest. We'll pass the River Arkaig and the now disused walled garden to reach Achnacarry where there'll be time for a visit to the museum before making our way on to Loch Arkaig and the waterfall.

Day 4 Dunstaffnage Castle and Oban

Option 1 - Dunbeg to Oban

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 400 feet (120m)

Starting with a visit to the historic Dunstaffnage Castle, we'll take the well-made path from Dunbeg across open moorland to the coast at Ganavan Sands - arguably Oban's best beach. Following the coast south on minor roads and field paths, we'll pass Dunollie Castle and round a headland by the war memorial. Here, the whole of Oban Bay including the harbour and town comes into view with McCaigs Tower above. After admiring the ferries coming and going to the islands, we'll walk along the seafront promenade past the cathedral, and enjoy time to explore the piers, cafés, shops, and attractions.

Option 2 - Dunstaffnage to Oban and McCaig's Tower

Distance: 5 miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

After our visit to the historic Dunstaffnage Castle, we'll walk through the woods to the nearby beach. Following paths below the sea cliffs, there's a short-but-steep ascent to the viewpoint at Aonadh Beag where we'll enjoy panoramas over Appin, Lismore, and Mull. Undulating moorland paths take us to Ganavan Sands where we'll continue into Oban. From the North Pier, we'll turn steeply up narrow streets to reach McCaigs Tower for near bird's-eye views of the town and harbour.

Option 3 - Ledaig to Oban via Connel Bridge and McCaig's Tower

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

This walk begins at Ledaig shingle beach. Crossing Loch Etive via the Connel Bridge, we can look out over the currents and tidal flows that can be seen at all ebb tides. We'll then head toward Oban through quiet countryside on minor and unsurfaced roads. Descending into Oban allows us to approach McCaig's Tower from behind and get the full effect of the spectacular views of the town that appear almost suddenly. Finally, we'll make an easy descent to the seafront for free time to explore.

Day 5 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Walk at a relaxed pace, often spending time at places of interest en-route. Walking experience isn't necessary as distances are quite short and gradients generally easy.



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

Accommodation

Alltshellach, Glencoe

For a combination of mountain views, olde-worlde charm, and somewhere comfortable to sleep, this stately Scottish house in North Ballachulish has an enviable setting right on the shores of Loch Leven. The walking opportunities here are as every bit rugged and romantic as you'd expect, especially around Glen Coe, the Mamores, Kinlochleven, Bidean nam Bian, and Ben Nevis – the 1,345-metre-high peak towering above glistening lochans and glacial valleys in the north-west Highlands. You can also spend time in Fort William and ride the Hogwarts-esque Jacobite steam train as it makes its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan, and Arisaig to the fishing port of Mallaig.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team. Check out 10am.

About

- 38 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 53 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Full-board (including cream tea on arrival) • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking • Boot room and drying room • 2 travel cots & 2 high chairs • Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks • Indoor pool
- Books and games to borrow • Licensed bar • Three lounges • Lawns and wooded grounds leading down to Loch Leven • Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



Food & drink

Seasonal dining, tailored for you

Our team of skilled chefs design our dinner menus to showcase the best of each season, from warming winter comfort food to vibrant summer dishes, including vegetarian, vegan and high-protein options. We also source fruit and vegetables within a 40-mile radius of each house, open every break with a Chef's Special menu inspired by dishes and flavours of the local area, and are able to adapt dishes to suit special dietary requirements.

Welcome Cream Tea

What better way to start your stay than with a cream tea, served fresh on arrival to make you feel instantly at home. A quintessentially English tradition, our scones are baked in-house and served with preserves and clotted cream, providing the perfect opportunity to meet fellow walkers.

A hearty breakfast to start the day

Start the day with a freshly-prepared cooked breakfast and a wide choice from our continental buffet, including hot drinks, juices and fresh fruit. Our team offer a quick and friendly service, leaving you fuelled and ready for your day's adventures.

Our famous picnic lunch

Our personalised picnic lunches are perfect for a day out walking, ready to enjoy when hunger strikes. Choose from a large selection of fresh sandwiches and salads, freshly baked cakes and snacks, including the ever-popular Freddos chocolate bar! Everything is designed to fit neatly into your rucksack, and all of the packaging we provide is recyclable or compostable.

3-course evening meals

Our à la carte evening menus feature a wide choice of starters, mains, and desserts, made with seasonal ingredients and, wherever possible, herbs and vegetables from our own gardens. Shared around sociable tables, dinners are relaxed occasions, with drinks available to order at the table or from the bar, and a traditional Sunday roast to round off the week.

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Alltshellach has 38 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

We love: Room 21 for its extra space, corner position, and gorgeous views across Loch Leven. Equally fabulous is Room 23 (known as the Bishop's Room) on the second floor.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

*Please note, pool opening hours are: 07:00am – 09:00am 16:00pm – 18:30pm

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Alltshellach](https://www.alltshellach.co.uk)

About your stay

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Alltshellach](#)

Travel Details

Address

Alltshellach
Onich
Fort William
Invernesshire PH33 6SA

Tel: +44 (0)1855 821357

NEW: Return Flights from London Heathrow to Glasgow, plus airport transfers to Alltshellach only £350pp. Call us to book

By shared transfer

If you are travelling to or from Alltshellach on Saturdays or over the festive period you can join our group coach transfer from Glasgow's Buchanan Street Bus Station or Glasgow Airport.

2026 prices are £85 per person for a return transfer or £55 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station at 15:15 or Glasgow Airport at 15:45; arrive at Alltshellach at 18:30.

Return journey: Depart Alltshellach at 08:30; arrive at Glasgow Airport at 11:30 or Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station at 12:00.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

HF Holidays Sales and Support Team

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

By train

The nearest station is Fort William.

Or you can take the train to Glasgow then the Scottish Citylink bus or our group coach transfer to Alltshellach.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

The journey from Glasgow city centre is 97 miles, which takes around 2.5 hours.

By bus

Scottish Citylink bus numbers 914 or 915 run from Glasgow Buchanan Street and Glasgow International Airport.

Ask the driver to stop at the north side of Ballachulish Bridge. From here you'll need to walk 400m to Alltshellach.

By car

From Glasgow take the A82 towards Crianlarich then Fort William. Once you reach Ballachulish go straight on at the roundabout over the steel bridge and take the second right on to the B863 towards Kinlochleven. Alltshellach is 400 yards on your right.

By air

The nearest airport is Glasgow International Airport.

You can take the Citylink bus 915 (2.5 hours) or join our group coach transfer (2.75 hours).

If you fly into Manchester Airport, there are direct and indirect trains to Glasgow. Approximate journey time is four hours plus your transfer to Alltshellach.

Local Area

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Alltshellach.

Ballachulish

Split into three (North Ballachulish, South Ballachulish and Ballachulish Village), the village was once famous for its slate. Nowadays, one of the best-known attractions is the 9-hole Woodlands Golf Course, formally known as The Dragon's Tooth.

Fort William

Nicknamed the Outdoor Capital of the UK, this West Highland town on the banks of Loch Linnhe is a 25-minute drive away. The town centre has a high street with an excellent selection of shops selling outdoor clothing and walking equipment.

Jacobite Steam Train

Making its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan and Arisaig as it travels to the fishing port of Mallaig, riding this Hogwarts-esque steam train is a must for *Harry Potter* fans. Trains run daily and early booking is recommended.

Isle of Mull

Reached by car ferry from Oban or Lochaline, this Inner Hebridean island is home to Tobermory – the colourful town featured in children's TV series, *Balamory*. Don't miss Duart Castle, the ancestral home of Clan Maclean – one of the oldest Highlands families.

Isle of Lismore

After hiring bikes at Port Appin, a 30-minute drive away, it's just a short ferry crossing to this quiet and rural island. Must-dos include making the most of the walking and cycling opportunities, spotting all manner of wildlife, and visiting the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.

Oban

As the unofficial capital of the West Highlands of Scotland and the Gateway to the Hebridean Isles, this harbour town is a 45-minute drive away. The climb to McCaig's Tower rewards with spectacular views across Oban Bay to the Atlantic Islands.

Eilean Donan Castle

Claiming to be the most-photographed Scottish castle, this ancient stronghold worth the 80-mile drive. It opened to the public in 1955 and has since become one of the country's best-loved attractions. Most interesting is the banqueting hall, kitchen, and main keep.

Useful Holiday Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks:

- spare warm clothing
- spare high energy food
- head torch and spare batteries
- please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent and tick remover tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- Walking poles

Trip Information

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Tripnote validity

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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