

7 Night Scottish Highlands Gentle Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Gentle guided walking

Destinations: Scottish Highlands, United Kingdom & Scotland

Trip code: LLBEW-7

1, 2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A landscape of stunning mountains and rugged terrain steeped in history, the Scottish Highlands offer some of the most scenic walking in the UK. Yet it's also perfect for exploring at a much gentler and more relaxed pace. With this holiday we've designed a choice of guided walks that minimise gradients and rough ground without compromising on the sights and scenery. Choose from up to three different-grade daily walks that showcase the nation at its most beautiful, the shortest of which is just four miles.

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 up to three guided walks (on walking days)
- 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

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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

TRIP SUITABILITY

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.

ITINERARY VERSION 1

Day 1: Arrival Day

Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival, served from 4.30pm.

Day 2: Historic Glencoe

Option 1 - Hospital Lochan And The Glencoe Visitor Centre

Distance: 4.5 miles (7km)

Ascent: 550 feet (160m)

We'll begin with a walk up the peaceful main street of Glencoe Village passing the local museum and the Glencoe Massacre Monument – a memorial to the 30 members of Clan MacDonald murdered by government forces during the Jacobite Uprising in 1692. Crossing the old Bridge of Coe, we'll head through the woodlands that surround "Hospital Lochan", an 18th century manor house that served as the local hospital for many years. After a circuit of the lochan, we'll follow the Glencoe Orbital track to the National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre where there's free time to check out fascinating exhibits on the history and wildlife of the area.

Option 2 - Hospital Lochan And The Clachaig Inn

Distance: 5.5 miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 850 feet (260m)

This walk follows the same route as option 1 to begin with but makes a complete circuit of the lochan to take in several superb viewpoints. On descending to the Bridge of Coe, we'll walk through a glen along the lower slopes of the Pap of Glencoe. We'll continue on the Glencoe Orbital track until we reach the Clachaig Inn - a former climber's hotel steeped in mountaineering history.

Option 3 - Glencoe Lochan's And Signal Rock

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

Starting at the National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre, we'll have time to check out the exhibits that give a fascinating insight into the wildlife and history of the area and what we will see on the walk. We'll initially follow the same route as option 2 but before reaching the Clachaig Inn, we'll turn right to visit Signal Rock. This small but distinctive summit amongst the trees is reputed to be the place where the signal was made to start the infamous Glencoe Massacre.

Day 3: Nevis Range

Option 1 - Nevis Range Gondola, Gleann Domhanaidh To Distillery

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 300 feet (100m)

Today's walks all start with a ride on the Nevis Range Mountain Gondola. We'll ascend to a height of 650m and enjoy impressive views of Lochaber. After descending, we'll take good paths and gravel roads through the forest towards Fort William. Following the bed of a former railway line, a short section of path takes us alongside a stream to the Ben Nevis whisky distillery. Whisky production began here in 1825, and the distillery's original blend, known as "Long John's Dew of Ben Nevis", was famous throughout Victorian-era Britain. Though it's now in the hands of Japanese owners, it still has a solid reputation for quality Highland single malt whisky. The prospect of a wee dram at the end of the walk will keep spirits high throughout the day.

Option 2 - Gondola To Viewpoint, Gleann Domhanaidh To Distillery

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 550 feet (180m)

After riding the Nevis Range Mountain Gondola, we'll take an easy path north to the viewpoint of Sgurr Finniosgaig. Thanks to the far-reaching views, this route gives the feeling of a high-level walk for much less effort. Then, descending through the forest and along an old railway track, our walk ends with the option of a whisky distillery tour. Alternatively, continue the walk to Inverlochy Castle, stopping along the way to find out about the 15th and 17th century battles fought here.

Option 3 - Gondola To Viewpoint, Gleann Domhanaidh To Fort William

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

Following the gondola ride, we'll take a long-but-easy path west to the viewpoint of Meall Beag for extensive views over both Loch Eil and Loch Linnhe. Then, descending through the forest and along an old railway track, we'll pass by the Ben Nevis whisky distillery before continuing to ancient Inverlochy Castle. Heading across the fields where the battles of Inverlochy were fought, we'll skirt along the shore of the River Lochy Estuary and finish in Fort William where, if time allows, you're free to explore.

Day 4: Free Day - Scottish Highlands

Discover more about [Alltshellach and the local area](#) for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: Ballachulish

Option 1 - 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 Campell was killed. Following the former Connel to Ballachulish railway line, we'll enjoy views over Loch Linnie 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 2 - 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 Dhonuil 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 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 6: 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 - 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.

Option 3 - 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.

Day 7: 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 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Alltshellach

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.

Country House Accommodation

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, and comfortable mattresses.

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, and comfortable mattresses.

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.

Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. 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.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

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

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

The walking day

Prior to setting off on 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.

Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

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

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.

2024 prices are £70 per person for a return transfer or £48 per person for a single transfer. 2025 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: reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

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

Essential 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. Fleeeces 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

Recommended

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

Safety On Your Holiday

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 while 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.

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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