

# Great Glen Way Guided Trail

**Tour Style:** Guided Trails

**Destination:** Scotland

**Trip code:** XYLDW

**Trip Walking Grade:** 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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The Great Glen Way follows the magnificent fault-line that makes up the Caledonian Canal. Low-level towpaths and forest trails lead us on a trail from Scotland's western shores at Fort William, to the eastern city of Inverness. The Great Glen takes us along the banks of Loch Lochy, Loch Oich, and the famous Loch Ness, with stunning highland scenery. If we choose the High Route above Loch Ness we have truly spectacular views.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Luggage transfers between accommodation

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Scenic low-lying trail from Fort William to Inverness
- Splendid Highland scenery, rugged mountains and heather glens

- Walk beside Loch Ness
- Follow the magnificent fault line that makes up the Caledonian Canal

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 4 which involves walks/hikes over long distances in remote countryside and rough terrain. Underfoot conditions can be rough, boggy and pathless in places. Sustained ascents and descents require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this trail and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. Some sections of the trail are across remote country and the terrain can be rough underfoot in places. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. The walking day is normally 6 to 7 hours. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace. It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Arrival at Alltshellach, leader introduction and evening meal. Your leader will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

### Day 2: Fort William To Achnacarry

Gentle tow paths of the Caledonian Canal lead us from Fort William to Gairloch, past the impressive Neptune's Staircase. On a clear day you'll be treated to fantastic views of Scotland's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. From Gairloch, forest trails wind along the shore to Achnacarry, where we end today's walk at the 17th century croft house, now home to the Clan Cameron museum. 14 miles (22.5km) with 850 feet (255m) of ascent

### **Day 3: Achnacarry To North Laggan**

Following forest tracks we hug the peaceful shores of Loch Lochy en-route to Laggan and the secluded shores of Loch Oich. Enjoy a rest at the end of the day and visit the Eagle Barge, a Dutch canal boat that has now been converted to a bar/restaurant, moored at Laggan Locks. The only floating pub on the canal! 12 miles (19km) with 1,550 feet (465m) of ascent.

### **Day 4: North Laggan To Fort Augustus**

Tranquil shores and mixed woodland paths offer us a scenic route to the historic village of Fort Augustus. Our day begins through woodland above the northern shores of Loch Oich, before continuing at a leisurely pace along the tow paths. While away some time watching the boats make their way through the flight of locks in the centre of Fort Augustus. 12 miles (19km) with 1,400 feet (420m) of ascent

### **Day 5: Fort Augustus To Invermoriston**

Some splendid forest trails take you past the River Moriston as it tumbles into the waters of Loch Ness, and on towards Invermoriston. Keep your eyes peeled, you never know, you may get a glimpse of the infamous Loch Ness Monster! 7½ miles (12.5km) with 1,400 feet (420m) of ascent. (A High Route of similar length but more climb gives spectacular views in fine weather)

### **Day 6: Invermoriston To Drumnadrochit**

Above the shores of Loch Ness, and a mix of forest, moorland and farmland walking accompany us as we wind our way to the teashops of Drumnadrochit, for a little more 'Nessie' spotting! If time allows, and if you can drag yourself away, make a visit to the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Centre. 14½ miles (23km) with 2,870 feet (875m) of ascent.

### **Day 7: Drumnadrochit To Inverness**

Our final day's walk follows highland drove roads through conserved plantations of the ancient Scot's pine, to the Highland city of Inverness. Whilst this is the most challenging section of the Way, it is straightforward with easy going terrain, and reaches a fitting finale at the imposing Inverness Castle. Any extra effort will be rewarded by spectacularly scenic views all day. 19 miles (30.5km) with 2,050 feet (622m) of ascent

### **Day 8: Departure Day**

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **Inverness Palace Hotel, Inverness - Great Glen Way**

Best Western Inverness Palace Hotel & Spa is nestled on the banks of the River Ness, opposite Inverness Castle and just a few steps from Inverness city centre. Dating back to the 1890's, the Best Western Inverness Palace Hotel combines the best of the past with the contemporary style of the present and a Leisure Club & Spa, including a lovely pool. Rooms include tea and coffee making facilities, TV, hairdryer, iron and ironing board and WiFi.

### **Alltshellach - Trails**

Situated in a stunning location on the shores of Loch Leven, Alltshellach is a stately Scottish house set amid a

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rugged landscape. The house is a picture of Highland solidity, with spectacular views of craggy mountains and grassy slopes beyond the loch. This pocket of domesticity lets you admire nature at your leisure though, sipping tea or G&T as you watch clouds scud across the sky. In fact, this one-time home of the Bishop of Argyll & the Isles has been recast as a hiker's hotel, with an air of old-world splendour, excellent accommodation, a generous indoor pool, three lounges and a supremely cosy Highland Bar that's well-stocked with local beer and whisky, all of which is (almost) enough to distract you from the vast vistas over the waters. But it's the great outdoors you're here for and the house is ideally situated for accessing the Mamores, the mountains of Glen Coe and tackling Ben Nevis as well as bagging munros and spotting local wildlife.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

### Food & Transport

#### Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

#### Luggage Transfers

When you change from one Hotel to another we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

### Joining Instructions

**Rail:** As this holiday starts and finishes at two different points, travelling by train may be the most convenient method of travel. The nearest rail station to Alltshellach is at Fort William, but most guests take a train to Glasgow, and then continue their journey to Alltshellach using our Coach transfer. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call 03457 484950.

**Coach Transfer to Alltshellach:** Each Saturday we operate a coach transfer from Glasgow to Alltshellach. There are limited places, so booking is essential at least 14 days in advance – please call our Holiday Services team on 0208 732 1220 or email [holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk)

The charge is £21 for a single trip; depart Glasgow Buchanan Street bus station\* at 16:15pm or Glasgow International Airport at 16:45pm. \*Buchanan Street bus station is about 15 minutes walk from Glasgow Central station (frequent buses available) or 5 minutes walk from Glasgow Queen Street Station.

**Air:** If you are travelling from overseas or the South of England there are frequent flights to Glasgow International Airport. On Saturdays you can join our coach transfer to Alltshellach, which will depart at 16:45pm from the airport.

**Car:** For those wishing to travel by car, there is car parking available at Alltshellach for the duration of your holiday. However please note you will need to make your own arrangements for the return from Inverness. The best way to return for your car is by bus. For details of bus times and routes visit Traveline – [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

or phone 0871 200 22 33.

## Holiday Finish

The last three nights are spent in Inverness. For your return journey there is a railway station in Inverness and an airport.

Once you have made your travel arrangements, please contact us on 020 8732 1250 or e mail [trails@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:trails@hfholidays.co.uk) with your travel plans and expected time of arrival.

## Essential Information

### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Waterproof walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litres)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

### Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

## Useful Information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

### In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

## Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

### Suggested Reading and Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at some of the following:

[www.greatglenway.com](http://www.greatglenway.com)

*Harvey Maps: Great Glen Way (strip maps on a single sheet)*

*Footprint Maps: Great Glen Way (strip map on a single sheet)*

*Great Glen Way by Jacquetta Megarry and Sandra Bardwell (also contains small scale strip maps)*

*Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger sheets 26 (Inverness and Loch Ness), 34 (Fort Augustus) and 41 (Ben Nevis)*

*Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer Sheets 392 (Ben Nevis and Fort William), 400 (Loch Lochy and Glen Roy) and 416 (Inverness, Loch Ness and Culloden)*

## HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### **PEACE OF MIND**

#### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

#### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

#### **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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## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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