



There's a
secret world
on your doorstep

Your local canal: It's yours to enjoy everyday

A canal is not just a length of water. It's your escape route to another hidden world. And the best thing about it is it's right next to the everyday, noisy, busy world you're in now. All you have to do is step off the pavement, nip down a quiet pathway, or find some steps by a bridge, and you'll soon be in a completely different place. A place for a pleasant stroll or cycle ride, for wildlife spotting, alfresco eating and so much more.

This guide is full of useful ideas for exploring and making the most of your own local canal, as well as telling you something about the things you'll see on and alongside it.

...you'll soon be in a completely different place

Key canal sites

★ 1 Caledonian Canal

You'll find something to look at, something to interest you or something fun to do along the entire Scottish Canal network.

60 miles of Scottish Highland splendour amid outstanding unspoilt scenery best describes the Caledonian Canal. We have chosen several diverse locations stretching out from the centre of Inverness down to Fort Augustus to give you an idea of the enormous variety the canal offers. Whether you're after a bustling, exciting scene or a rural idyll – we have something to offer you.

★ 2 Muirtown Basin

Only 15 minutes walk from Inverness city centre, Muirtown Basin lies between Clachnaharry and Muirtown on the Caledonian Canal. The basin was originally planned as a second harbour for Inverness, however now serves as a marina for boats visiting the canal.

★ 3 Tomnahurich

Some translate Tomnahurich as 'the hill of the yew trees'; some prefer 'knoll of the earth'; others know it as the 'Fairy Hill'. The 16th or 17th century prophet, the Brahan Seer, predicted the coming of the Caledonian Canal – "full-rigged ships will be seen sailing eastward and westward by the back of Tomnahurich."

★ 4 Fort Augustus

Situated at the mid-point of the Caledonian Canal in the heart of Scotland's Great Glen, an impressive staircase of five locks runs through the heart of the village. Idle away some time watching lock keepers guide boats through the flight of locks, and enjoy a bite to eat or something to drink at one of the canalside eateries.



The Caledonian Canal

More than just a waterway

The Great Glen is a massive geological fault – a dramatic tear through the underlying rock resulting in deep lochs and fantastic scenery. Add to this a rich cultural and natural history and the result is a world class destination.

The three Great Glen Ways – walking, cycling and boating – offer a spectacular and sustainable alternative visit to the Glen. Welcome to the Great Glen Ways – by boot, boat or bike.



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Dochgarroch*

Dochgarroch lies on the Caledonian Canal at the mouth of Loch Dochfour leading into the magnificent Loch Ness. Approximately four miles from the city of Inverness, this is a picturesque spot where you can enjoy the peace and quiet of the canal.

* Not shown on map

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's a wildlife documentary

A canal is like a nature reserve, several metres wide and many miles long. You might see kingfishers, water voles, dragonflies, bats or herons. They've all been seen on or by canals.

Who knows, on your local canal, you could even be an otter spotter!



Nature and Wildlife

The combination of water, greenery and relative peace and quiet makes the Scottish Canals and their banks a haven for wildlife.

Look out for otters, swans and ducks on the water and woodland birds among the trees. Foxes, roe deer and maybe even pine martens can be spotted in the pine woods. Don't forget the water life in the river and canal. There's plenty of fish – for otters and fishermen – as well as eels, waterboatmen and freshwater shrimp. Full details of how to get your angling permit and what types of fish you are likely to see can be found at www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Where to cycle – Visit us by bike

Canals provide the perfect route to enjoy a cycle, whether it be a leisurely ride along the towpath or mountain biking along the Great Glen Way long distance route. For more information on cycling along your local canal visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Stepping out – Visit us by boat

There are plenty of different walking routes around the canal for you to enjoy and help you keep fit. With so much wildlife, towpath and water activity there is always something of interest to look at. The canal is a great place to take the family for a walk or relax and unwind by going for a jog.

The canal towpath at Muirtown makes a convenient footpath from the coast into Inverness – and this holds true for locals who can leave the car at home and enjoy a waterside walk to the shops and back. Muirtown Basin is an attractive destination, and children will enjoy 'gongoozling' the boats.

The towpath continues on to Tomnahurich Bridge where it joins the Great Glen Way long distance route, and the walk between here and Dochgarroch is most attractive, with views down to the River Ness.

Follow the Great Glen Way long distance route down to Fort Augustus, and be treated to incredible views of Loch Ness. Join the towpath at Fort Augustus for a scenic walk to Aberchaldier swing bridge, passing the delightful Kytra and Cullochry Locks. Visit www.greatglenway.com for more information about the route. There are also many forestry walks in and around the canal.

Take to the water – Visit us by boat

There are a number of ways to get on the water along the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness.

Boat Trips



Jacobite Cruises, Tomnahurich

For the finest way to see Loch Ness, nothing compares to Jacobite 5 star cruises.

Tel: 01463 233999

www.jacobitecruises.co.uk

Eilidh Catriona*, Dochgarroch

Exclusive cruises on Loch Ness aboard a luxurious modern motor cruiser.

Tel: 07818 068155

www.highlandfreespirits.com



Seagull Trust, Highland Branch

The Seagull Trust provide free canal cruising for disabled people.

Tel: 01320 366733

www.seagulltrust.org.uk

Loch Ness Cruises*, Drumadrochit

The most informative and entertaining cruise on Loch Ness. Nessie Hunter leads the way in Loch Ness research with her innovative underwater cameras and video/dvd equipment.

Tel: 01456 450395

www.loch-ness-cruises.co.uk



Royal Scot, Fort Augustus

Cruise on Loch Ness and see the terrain and underwater life with hi-tech sonar and underwater imaging technology. Also available to hire for functions.

Tel: 01320 366277

www.cruiselochness.co.uk



Augusta, Fort Augustus

Short cruises or angling trips on Loch Ness.

Tel: 01320 366579

www.augusta.uk.com

Boat Hire



Caley Cruisers, Inverness

Tel: 01463 236328

www.caleycruisers.co.uk

West Highland Sailing*, Laggan

Tel: 01809 501234

www.westhighlandsailing.com

* Not shown on map

Where to eat and drink

1

Clachnaharry Inn

17-19 High Street, Clachnaharry, IV3 8RB

Tel: 01463 239806

Dunain Park Hotel & Restaurant*

Loch Ness Road, Inverness, IV3 8JN

Tel: 01463 230512

Oakwood Restaurant*

Dochgarroch, Inverness, IV3 8JG

Tel: 01463 861481

Cobbs Restaurant & Coffee Shop*

The Clansman Hotel,

Loch Ness, Inverness, IV3 8LA

Tel: 01456 450326

Fiddler's Highland Restaurant & Bar*

The Village Green, Drumnadrochit, IV63 6TX

Tel: 01456 450678

Loch Ness Lodge Hotel*

Drumnadrochit, IV63 6TU

Tel: 01456 450342

Loch Ness Café & Bistro*

The Drumnadrochit Hotel,

Drumnadrochit, IV63 6TU

Tel: 01456 450218

The Lewiston Restaurant & Brewery Bar*

The Loch Ness Inn, Lewiston,

Drumnadrochit, IV63 6UW

Tel: 01456 450991

2

Inchnacardoch Lodge Hotel

Loch Ness, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BL

Tel: 01456 450900



3

Lovat Arms Hotel, Bar & Restaurant

Station Road, Fort Augustus, PH32 4DU

Tel: 0845 4501100

4

The Boathouse Restaurant

St Benedict's Abbey, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BD

Tel: 01320 366682

5

The Bothy Restaurant & Bar

Canalside, Fort Augustus, PH32 4AU

Tel: 01320 366710

6

The Lock Inn & Gilliegorm Restaurant

Canalside, Fort Augustus, PH32 4AU

Tel: 01320 366302

7

The Scots Kitchen

Main Street, Fort Augustus, PH32 4DD

Tel: 01320 366361

8

The Caledonian Hotel

Main Road, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BQ

Tel: 01320 366256

Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel*

Loch Lochy, Spean Bridge, PH34 4DZ

Tel: 01397 712622

* Not shown on map

More pubs and restaurants are available along the Scottish Canals. Find out more at www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Complimentary Glass of Wine from Clachnaharry Inn

Spectacular views, good food, real ales and a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink for each main course purchased from our main evening menu served between 6-9 pm.

Offer for a limited period only and may be withdrawn at any time.

Quote Caledonian Canal to get your free glass of wine or soft drink.

Call 01463 239806 for details of our other meal deal offers!

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's a chat room

Water is good for you. You only have to stroll, sit, eat, drink or just chat beside a canal and you can feel yourself unwind, let go of the stresses of life and generally enjoy yourself more. Try life in the slow lane by your canal.



Just off the towpath



★ 5 Merkinch Local Nature Reserve

The Merkinch Nature Reserve is a hidden gem in the heart of Inverness, situated beside the Muirtown Basin on the Caledonian Canal. It is full of a variety of wildlife inhabiting the very unusual combination of mudflats, brackish pools, small areas of salt water marsh, freshwater pools and a wooded area on the canal embankment.

Torvean Golf Club*

An 18-hole golf course which sits alongside the Caledonian Canal by Tomnahurich Bridge. This municipal golf course offers a fair test of golf to players of all abilities.

★ 6 Bught Park

An area of parkland, and a focus for several sports facilities, situated between the canal and the River Ness in the heart of the city. The park hosts the annual Inverness Highland Games and is also the home of the Floral Hall, Inverness Ice Centre, and Inverness Leisure Complex.

😊 7 Eden Court Theatre & Cinema

The most significant cultural and entertainment venue in the Highlands, the Eden Court Theatre and Cinema complex boasts an 850 seat auditorium, a 270 seat studio theatre, two state-of-the-art cinemas and two dance and drama studios. There is also a restaurant and two café-bars.

★ 8 Loch Ness

Fort Augustus lies at the southern tip of the famous Loch Ness. The village offers stunning views of the loch and perhaps even a chance to see the Loch Ness Monster! Cherry Island near Fort Augustus is the only 'island' on Loch Ness and is really a man-made Iron Age Crannog.

Urquhart Castle*

At its peak, Urquhart Castle was one of the biggest in Scotland. It would be hard pressed to be in a more dramatic position, perched on a rocky outcrop jutting out into the Loch Ness. Its location, commanding a view all the way from Fort Augustus to Inverness, means it has been an important strategic location since Iron Age times and has probably been fortified since the 6th century. These days, its significance is mainly as a top 'Nessie-spotting' location!

Loch Ness 2000 Exhibition Centre*

This world famous exhibition incorporates a seven room automated walk-through telling the whole story of Loch Ness, from the beginning of the Ice Age through to the present day. The experience uses animations/lasers/special effects and much of the actual equipment used in the search for the Loch Ness monster, including the world's largest inflatables, submersibles, sonars, research vessels and much more.

Original Loch Ness Visitor Centre*

The Original Loch Ness Monster Centre exhibition presents to you the facts and documented evidence from photographs, descriptions and film footage of sightings. It also highlights various search expeditions over the years by respected institutions and individuals such as Operation Deepscan.

★ 9 Caledonian Canal Visitor Centre

A small but unique venue showcasing the history of the Caledonian Canal from its beginnings to its present day operations.
Open Easter to October.

★ 10 St Benedict's Abbey

St Benedict's Abbey was a Benedictine monastery from the late 19th century until 1998. Built in 1876, it is one of the oldest buildings in Fort Augustus and is on the site of the original fort named after William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. Though very little remains of the original fort, the foundations still form part of the buildings today, which have been converted into privately owned holiday apartments.

★ 11 The Clansman Centre

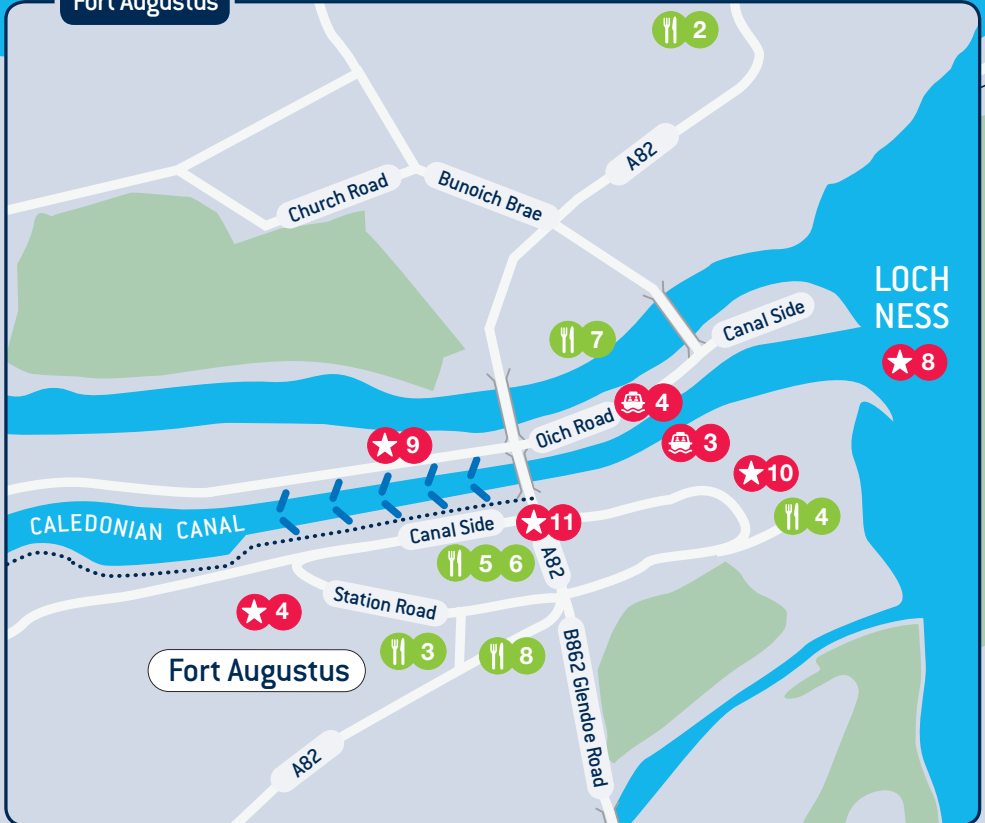
Enter through the doors of a 19th century schoolhouse and take a step back into the 17th century. Learn what life in the Highlands was like in the 17th century, from how people lived and ate, to how they fought!

* Not shown on map

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

Inverness & Fort Augustus

Fort Augustus



Key

Canal

Lock

Towpaths

Bridge

Pub, Restaurant or Café

Place of Interest

Theatre/Cinema

Boat Trip & Hire



Always remember to stay **SAFE** near water –
Stay Away From the Edge

For further information please contact
British Waterways Scotland,
Caledonian Canal Office, Seaport Marina,
Muirtown Wharf, Inverness IV3 5LE
Tel: 01463 725500 Fax: 01463 710942
E-mail: enquiries.scotland@britishwaterways.co.uk

Find street level canal maps at
www.scottishcanals.co.uk
just click on the interactive map

THE CROSSING

Caledonian Canal Celebrations
Feill Canàl Cailleannach
16-20 June 2009



Canalside events

- **The Crossing** – 16 to 20 June 2009.
A spectacular five-day celebration of the Caledonian Canal packed with entertainment for all ages. See a flotilla of sailing craft navigate the canal and locks, or participate in the programme of water and land-based events.
For more information visit www.thecrossing2009.com



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- Join in the excitement of the Caledonian Canal Céilidh Trail with music, song and dance throughout July and August at a variety of venues in and around the Caledonian Canal, from Inverness to Neptune's Staircase.
Details of dates and venues can be found at www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Full details of all events taking place on or by the canals throughout the year can be found within www.scottishcanals.co.uk or by emailing enquiries.scotland@britishwaterways.co.uk



Charter a luxury cruiser or yacht on the Caledonian Canal in Spring or Autumn of 2009 and receive a

10% Discount
when you book direct with
West Highland Sailing

Call 01809 501234
for more information.

Short breaks
are available.

Enjoy your local
canal with
West Highland
Sailing

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