



## LOVE LOCH LOMOND, THE TROSSACHS AND THE CLYDE SEA LOCHS

### Love Loch Lomond Sense of Place Destination Toolkit

#### Loch Lomond Need to Knows/Quick Facts

##### Iconic

Loch Lomond, paired with the sea lochs that make up the seaboard to the west of the loch, is a Scottish icon. Famed in a song known throughout the world, the scenic beauty of this part of Scotland has been enjoyed since tourism's earliest days, more than two centuries ago.

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

##### Easy to Reach

In today's 'time-poor' society the wheel has come full circle. In the 19th century, Loch Lomond and the Clyde Sea Lochs had advantages because it was easy to reach from Scotland's populous central belt.

Today, though visitor expectation is much higher, destinations that offer 'get-away-from-it-all' experiences yet lie close to good transport connections are more attractive than ever.

- Drive from Glasgow city centre in as little as 30 minutes.
- Hire a car at Glasgow Airport and reach our area in an hour or less via the Erskine Bridge.
- Enjoy superb views of Loch Long and Loch Lomond via the world famous West Highland Railway Line from Glasgow. This line also stops at Helensburgh (Upper) and Garelochhead before swinging back through Arrochar & Tarbet and Ardlui at the northern end of the loch, en route to Oban and Fort William. This rail journey is considered one of the most scenic railway line in Britain [www.westhighlandline.org.uk](http://www.westhighlandline.org.uk)
- The Loch Lomond area is well served by regular rail services. The most frequent are direct half-hourly services throughout the day from Glasgow Queen Street to both Balloch (at the southern end of the loch) and to Helensburgh Central, via Dumbarton.
- Connect with a loch cruise option moments away from Balloch railway station, or enjoy walking routes from Helensburgh. Take your bike aboard the Loch Lomond WaterBus on several of the cruise options, or combine your loch cruise with walking route options.
- From Glasgow Queen Street, rail services for Oban and Fort William connect with several stations by or near Loch Lomond. Plan your journey at [scotrail.co.uk](http://scotrail.co.uk)

Download the Love Loch Lomond [Map](#) and [Leaflet](#).

## Excellent Infrastructure and Accommodation

The Loch Lomond area is a 'mature' destination, not only for accommodation but for already developed experiences of the Lochs and their environs: golf, cycling, angling, recreation on the water - especially a cruising network - plus a great choice of hiking and walking trails.

- Choose from a variety of loch-side hotels, guest houses and self-catering properties both by Loch Lomond and Loch Long.
- Great choice of self-catering and guest-houses. 4 & 5 star accommodation providers plus several forming part of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.
- Pet-friendly, exclusive use, farm-based, quirky, or just simply good value, Loch Lomond possesses a great range of places to stay and get away from it all.
- Growing trend of eco-tourism accommodation available, from glamping to eco-lodges and contemporary bothies.

<http://www.lovelochlomond.com/loch-lomond-accommodation>

## A Natural Playground for Exploring and Adventures

People visit the area to enjoy a huge range of outdoors activities from walking and cycling to golf, wakeboarding, water-ski-ing and other watersports, rafting, kayaking, paddle-boarding, sailing, climbing, fishing, gorge-walking and mountain-biking. Visitors come for the dramatic and beautiful scenery of the lochs, coasts, hills, forests and glens. Visitor attractions include castles, stately homes and gardens, guided forest, nature and art trails, nature reserves and whisky distilleries.

<http://lovelochlomond.com/things-to-do> <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/>

## History, Culture and Heritage

The area is rich in history and heritage and has a wealth of stories ready to be shared with visitors. Local history, including people and places relevant to the area, place names, the history behind local Clans and much more are explored in the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** website.

[Gaelic place names](#) have a lot of significance in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and are often a source of fascination for visitors.

## Festivals and Events

Loch Lomond's annual events include The Great Scottish Swim (August), Highland Games and Gatherings, outdoor and sporting events including the Glasgow 2018 European Championships Open Water Swimming and more. Previous festivals have had a strong food and drink focus, such as Balmaha's Braw, the Loch Lomond Food & Drink Festival and the annual Mhor Festival, as well as newer additions such as Helensburgh's Streetfood Sunday.

Find out more local information: <http://lovelochlomond.com/whats-on>

## Wildlife and Nature

The area has an abundance of wildlife and offers visitors the opportunity to experience nature in diverse ways. These include guided walks, trails and experiences within [The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#), the [RSPB Loch Lomond Reserve](#) at Gartocharn, and [the Lodge Forest Visitor Centre](#) near Aberfoyle; for all ages and at all times of the year.

## Food and Drink

Food and drink is a key attraction for visitors to Scotland and to the Loch Lomond area, which is home to a wide range of high quality local producers, farmers markets, food foraging, unique dining experiences, food festivals and events, food trails, and opportunities to try local food and drink. <http://lovelochlomond.com/food-and-drink>

## Unique Experiences

The breathtaking views and scenery are a key draw for weddings and other types of celebrations, events and activities, made possible by the range of Loch Lomond venues and businesses catering to this market. Weddings, corporate and incentive events, meetings and conferences and group activities are popular. Read more about unique experiences [here](#).

Venues with meeting facilities include:

- [The Shore Loch Lomond](#)
- [Lodge on Loch Lomond Hotel](#)
- [Loch Lomond Arms Hotel](#)
- [Knockderry Country House Hotel](#)
- [Ardoch Scotland](#)
- [Glengoyne Distillery](#)
- [Auchentoshan Distillery](#)

Fun and challenging activities for team building away days too:

- [Cruise Loch Lomond](#)
- [Sweeney's Cruises](#)
- [In Your Element](#)
- [Loch Lomond Leisure](#)
- [Amazing Days Scotland](#)

## Breathtaking Scenery and Lots to Do

Though it can be the first thing that springs to many people's minds thanks to that song '*The Banks of Loch Lomond*', this feature is still a core element of the Scottish experience. The beautifully laid out traditional town of Helensburgh or the modern loch-side visitor attraction of Loch Lomond Shores are the two main gateways to the scenic delights only moments away - beyond the 'Highland Line'.

## Breathtaking Scenery and Lots to Do – continued

Over the Highland Line (the 'Highland Boundary Fault') the scenery really does change dramatically - but the lochs, mountains and moors are really just a backdrop for a whole range of activities.

- The area is part of Scotland's first National Park, [Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park](#)
- Enjoy great views with little effort: from Duncryne Hill near Gartocharn north over Loch Lomond; from the island of Inchcailloch; from many stopping places along the west side of Loch Lomond which is part of the West Highland Way, the most popular of Scotland's Great Trails; also from the long-distance footpath 'The Three Lochs Way' over Loch Long, or climb Ben Lomond, the most southerly "Munro" in Scotland (a mountain over 3000ft/914m). Walk, cycle, kayak, sail or mountain bike – there are lots of options to help visitors get active.
- Local guides are available. There is also a programme of [ranger service guided walks](#).
- More than 30 islands lie in Loch Lomond. Discover them by the seasonal [Loch Lomond water-bus](#) or a great range of cruises.
- Balmaha Boatyard was established over 150 years ago and still operates as a family company taking visitors to the islands in Loch Lomond. Some of their traditional clinker style boats dates from the 1930s.

### Loch Lomond "Did You Knows"...

- Loch Lomond is the largest inland stretch of water in Great Britain by surface area.
- It is thought that by 1816 the illegal stills on the islands of Loch Lomond were producing an estimated 100 gallons a day for consumption in Glasgow.

(Nowadays visitors can visit two distinctive whisky distilleries in the area: Auchentoshan Distillery, which distils the only triple-distilled single malt whisky in Scotland, and Glengoyne Distillery, producing a famously unpeated whisky and offering a wide variety of tours including a Whisky and Chocolate Matching Experience).

- "Captain Haddock" is Tintin's best friend in the famous Belgian cartoon and story series. His favourite whisky is a brand called "Loch Lomond". Blistering barnacles!



## Loch Lomond Did You Knows - continued

- John Logie Baird, the inventor of television, was born in Helensburgh and is commemorated by a bust on the town's seaside promenade.
- The paddle steamer PS Comet was built for Henry Bell, hotel and baths owner in Helensburgh, and began a passenger service on 15 August 1812 on the River Clyde between Glasgow and Greenock. This was the first commercially successful steamboat service in Europe. The Comet's flywheel is on display on the East Bay promenade.
- The Maid of the Loch was the last paddle steamer built in Britain. Built on the Clyde in 1953, she operated on Loch Lomond for 29 years. She is now being restored at Balloch pier by the Loch Lomond Steamship Company.
- The annual Ne'erday Swim at Rhu regularly sees over 100 entrants taking to the water and audiences of several hundred gasping in admiration. (The ones in the water are just plain gasping.) A collection is taken for the RNLI and certificates are issued bearing the motto, *"Many are cauld, but few are frozen"*!
- Though the Cutty Sark is possibly the most famous Dumbarton built ship, the now-vanished yards here were pioneering in their day. The first ever steamship to cross the English Channel, the 'Margery', came from Dumbarton. The largest-ever inland waterway fleet – Burma's Irrawaddy Flotilla – as mentioned in Rudyard Kipling's 'Road to Mandalay' - was also built here.
- The Scottish Maritime Museum holds the world's first commercial ship model experiment tank and shows visitors how to design their own ship.
- The Scottish Submarine Centre is a recently opened venue in Helensburgh (seasonal opening) offering an educational glimpse into Naval History.
- Princess Louise, the daughter of Queen Victoria, had a huge impact on Helensburgh and Garelochside, where she lived in Rosneath Castle (now demolished) and she loved the beauty and quietness of the Gareloch.