



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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Great Glen Way

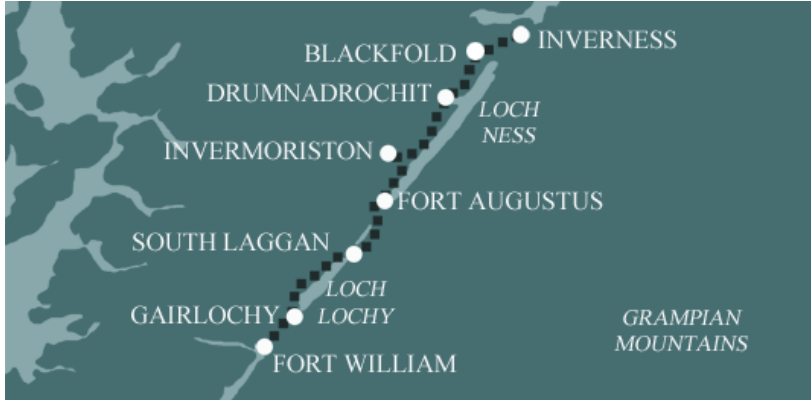
The Great Glen Way runs 73 miles following the Great Glen from Fort William on the Atlantic west coast to Inverness on the North Sea. This is a dramatic, but pleasantly relaxed, Scottish Coast to Coast route following one of the Highlands most celebrated glens.

From Loch Linnhe on the Atlantic coast the route follows canal towpaths, loch shore paths and forestry tracks to reach Inverness, capital of the Highlands. This is a relatively easy, low level route providing great views of the Lochs of the Great Glen and fine panoramas of the surrounding Highlands. With good waymarking, this trail is a good introduction to the Scottish Highlands.



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Summary

Why do this walk?

- Walk from coast to coast through the Scottish highlands, on well made paths without too much ascent.
- The Caledonian Canal provides an interesting backdrop and historical interest along much of the route.
- Explore Loch Ness, by foot and boat.
- Fine views of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain.

Essential Info

Length	6 - 8 nights
Full Route Length	73 miles / 117 km

Grade



Moderate



The Great Glen Way is a very appealing walk on good terrain. It is easier than the West Highland Way as it is less strenuous, but it still requires good planning and preparation. No problem for regular walkers!

Terrain: The route generally follows the Caledonian Canal, loch shores, and well made forest trails on the lower slopes. What's it like underfoot? Pretty good. Well maintain canal towpath and forest tracks. Shorter sections can be rougher or muddy, so good footwear essential. How Much Up & Down? Amazingly little considering the size of the surrounding mountains! Some short steep ascents and a longer climb of 300m to Blackfold on the final day.

Signposting: Generally good, but use your map and guidebook as well.

Navigation: Pretty straightforward. You may encounter hill fog on the moorland around Blackfold, but the route is well defined.

Route

Fort William - Gairloch: Underneath Ben Nevis on the Caledonian Canal

The route starts in Fort William, on the shores of Loch Linnhe and in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. Views of the mountain and its fearsome North Face cliffs can be seen over much of this section, weather permitting. The route leaves the shores of Loch Linnhe, heading inland past Neptune's Staircase, a series of locks near the start of the Caledonian Canal. From here the route takes the riverside path and canal towpath to the highland village of Gairloch, at the foot of Loch Lochy.

Gairloch - South Laggan: The shores of Loch Lochy

This 13 mile section follows the northern bank of Loch Lochy for its entire length. It is characterised by fairly easy walking on forestry tracks, footpaths and minor roads. There are spectacular views over Loch Lochy to the high mountains beyond.

South Laggan - Invermoriston: Loch Oich and Fort Augustus

The canal towpath and old railway track bed take the route along the tree clad shores of Loch Oich, a nature reserve resplendent with native woodlands and wild flowers. There are views across the Loch to the ruins of Invergarry Castle,



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once the seat of the MacDonnells clan. Fort Augustus, established by General Wade in 1729, is soon reached. St Benedicts Abbey and cruises on Loch Ness provide diversions here.

Invermoriston - Drumnadrochit

After a steep climb out of Invermoriston with fine views of Loch Ness, you will walk on steep undulating forest tracks until Grottaig. From here the trail changes to moorland and farmland with views over the Great Glen and onwards to Drumnadrochit, known locally as "Drum." You could take a rest day here to visit the impressive Urquhart Castle and cruise on Loch Ness.

Drumnadrochit - Inverness

This is the most challenging section of the trail, and quite a contrast to the rest of the walk. The trail crosses in turn high moorland, farmland and woodland, finishing on the rural paths of Ness Islands before viewing the impressive setting of Inverness Castle, where this walk finishes.

Additional Days

Fort William

Fort William is the capital of the West Highlands, situated at the head of Loch Linnhe. It's not the prettiest of towns, but there are a good number of shops, and some good outdoor stores to browse

around or buy new gear. A lot of people take an extra day here to climb Ben Nevis – Britain's highest mountain (1344m / 4409ft). It's a long day, and the weather can be harsh, so make sure you are fit and prepared!

Fort Augustus

This is a lovely village at the head of Loch Ness built around a picturesque staircase of locks as the Caledonian Canal descends to Loch Ness. Enjoy a cruise on Loch Ness, have a lazy lunch in one of the pubs or restaurants, or take a round of golf on the 9 hole course.

Getting There and Away

Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

Getting There: Fort William

By Air: The nearest international airport is Glasgow (GLA). There is a regular shuttle bus into Glasgow city centre (approx 25 mins). From Glasgow city centre there are plenty of direct trains to Fort William. You can travel by train straight from the airport if you wish; it just makes your journey time slightly longer.

By Public Transport: Fort William has a railway station. Most services will pass through Glasgow (GLA).

By Road: From Glasgow in Scotland, Fort William is 108 miles north - approximately 2.5 hours by car. For Glasgow travel on the M6 north then the A74(M). For the most direct route to Fort William from Glasgow, follow this sequence of roads: A81, A804, M8, M898, A898, A82.

Returning from Inverness:

By Public Transport: Inverness has a railway station for onward travel. Glasgow and Edinburgh can both be reached in under 4 hours (3 services a day).

There are regular Citylink bus services to Edinburgh and Glasgow (4 hours).

By Road: When travelling back into England or Wales, head for either Edinburgh (157 miles) or Glasgow (171 miles) depending on the direction of your final destination.

How our holidays work

We specialise in self guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures & history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all your accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks, and all



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the details you need for a successful holiday. You just turn up and walk!

Inbuilt flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please!

You can start on any day you like. We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days or giving you more time to explore the locality. Or you can book part of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure and either post or email it to us. We will get in touch with you shortly afterwards to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively you can book on our website mickledore.co.uk, or telephone us in office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We make a special effort to find the hidden gems, as well as keeping a close eye on the quality of the more mainstream accommodation.

As well as visiting the accommodation ourselves, we ask all our customers to complete a short evaluation on each night's accommodation, which then gives us an insight in to the day-to-day operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem.

The Great Glen includes a great variety of accommodation, including small country hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, farm house accommodation, and Victorian town houses. In selecting the accommodation we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel.

Single Rooms

We are happy to book single rooms on this walk at a supplement, but can't normally book more than 2 single rooms for any 1 group.

What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs.

Full English or Continental breakfast.

Guidebook A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.

Information of Services Along the Route

A comprehensive Service Info sheet, including services such as cash points, banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafes and taxis.

Maps A waterproof 1:40000 map from Harvey Maps covering the whole route.

Personal Itinerary A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find it easily.

Emergency Telephone Support If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

12.5% discount at Cotswold Outdoors

We will issue you with a 12.5% Discount Card valid at all Cotswold Outdoor stores,



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and online, for the whole year on confirmation of your booking.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg .

Packed Lunches Provided for each day's walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or cafe on the route.

Off Road Parking If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).

Arrangement of return transport We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option).

What's not Included

Evening Meals Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/ or restaurant, or where there is

good food available at the accommodation, we'll book that for you. Allow about £30.00 per night.

Transport to the Start & Away from the Finish Taxi or Bus transport if you need to miss a stage (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

Travel Insurance Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website mickledore.co.uk .



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About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area intimately.

- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your requirements.

- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away.
- We are all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 15% discount card for all your outdoor equipment purchases from Cotswold Outdoors.
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

Book With Confidence

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This bonding is fully compliant

with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

AITO Quality Statement

Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at aito.com. Visit the website to find out more



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The Great Glen Way

Fort William to Inverness in 5 Days Walking Code: GG6				Fort William to Inverness in 6 Days Walking Code: GG7				Fort William to Inverness in 7 Days Walking Code: GG8*			
		M	km		M	km		M	km		
Day 1	Travel to Fort William for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Fort William for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Fort William for your first night of accommodation				
Day 2	Fort William to Gairloch the transfer to Spean Bridge	10	16	Fort William to Gairloch the transfer to Spean Bridge	10	16	Fort William to Gairloch the transfer to Spean Bridge	10	16		
Day 3	Transfer back to Gairloch then walk to South Laggan	13	21	Transfer back to Gairloch then walk to South Laggan	13	21	Transfer back to Gairloch then walk to South Laggan	13	21		
Day 4	South Laggan to Invermoriston	18	29	South Laggan to Fort Augustus	10	16	South Laggan to Fort Augustus	10	16		
Day 5	Invermoriston to Drumnadrochit	14	23	Fort Augustus to Invermoriston	8	13	Fort Augustus to Invermoriston	8	13		
Day 6	Drumnadrochit to Inverness	18	29	Invermoriston to Drumnadrochit	14	23	Invermoriston to Drumnadrochit	14	23		
Day 7	Depart from Inverness after breakfast			Drumnadrochit to Inverness	18	29	Transfer to Blackfold then walk back to Drumnadrochit*	11	18		
Day 8				Depart from Inverness after breakfast			Transfer to Blackfold then walk to Inverness	7	11		
Day 9							Depart from Inverness after breakfast				



*This itinerary splits the lengthy Drumnadrochit to Inverness section at Blackfold. There are no services or accommodation at Blackfold. For this reason, in the morning a taxi will take you to Blackfold from where you will walk this leg in reverse, back to Drumnadrochit for a second night. This leg is stunning in reverse as you have a fantastic view of Urquhart Castle on the banks of Loch Ness. The following morning the taxi takes you back to Blackfold to continue your walk to Inverness.



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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email..... Emergency Contact no

Your Holiday

Holiday Code..... Holiday Name.....

Date of First Night..... Date of Last Night.....

Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport	Y/N No. Double Rooms	
Packed Lunches	Y/N No. Twin Rooms	
Off Street Parking	Y/N No. Single Occupancy Rooms	
Return Transfer required (additional charge)	Y/N	

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc):

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel?



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