



## West Highland Way

The West Highland Way was the first long distance footpath to be established in Scotland. The route begins in Milngavie near Glasgow and after 95 miles of outstanding scenery, finishes in Fort William, at the foot of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. The West Highland Way connects with the Great Glen Way, which Mickledore also offers to walkers, who want to walk all the way from Milngavie to Inverness.

The West Highland Way threads through Scotland's history, following in the footsteps of drovers, pilgrims, soldiers, clansmen and cattle-rushers. Some of the walking is straightforward and some of it involves scrambling. It is important to note that some areas can be very exposed and must be taken seriously, as the weather in Scotland is very unpredictable.



## Summary

### Why do this walk?

- A tremendous route joining the Scottish lowlands with stunning Highland scenery.
- Walk along the “Bonnie Banks” of Loch Lomond with great views of the mountains.
- Cross the remote wilderness of Rannoch Moor, with its unique landscape.
- Savour the excitement & achievement as you near Fort William, with Ben Nevis towering above.

### Essential Info

Length	4 - 10 nights
Full Route Length	95 miles / 152 km
Shortest Break Length	47 miles / 75 km

### Grade



Moderate to Challenging

Thousands of regular walkers complete the WHW every year – but remember this is a challenging route passing through increasingly remote and mountainous terrain. There are some longer days too. This is a route for experienced walkers.

**Terrain:** Varied – lowland meadows, foothills, loch sides, remote moorland, and high mountain passes – it has it all!

**What's it like underfoot?** The route is generally well maintained, but there are sections where the going is rougher and others where it can get muddy. The side of Loch Lomond is infamous for its difficult tree roots.

**How Much Up & Down?** Not too much considering where you are! Over 4000m of ascent in total, with climbs of 300 - 500m on most days. The 2 biggest climbs – 500m up the Devils' Staircase, and 700m out of Kinlochleven, are saved for the final 2 days.

**Signposting:** Good.

**Navigation:** Signposting is good and the route follows well defined paths, so no particular difficulties. But there are sections of remote wilderness (Rannoch Moor), and higher mountain terrain

(where you may be in the mist on a bad day) so you need to be able to navigate – these aren't places you want to get lost.

## Route

### Milngavie - Drymen

The Way starts in Milngavie, a suburb of Glasgow. It travels across rolling hills and lowland plains. This is an easy pleasant walk along the valleys of Blane and Endrick with good views of the hills.

### Drymen - Rowardennan

The Way continues with a mixture of good woodland paths, moderate gradients on Conic Hill and hillside tracks. The approach to Loch Lomond is very picturesque.

### Rowardennan - Crianlarich

Today is mainly rugged walking over loch side rocks and tree roots with some scrambling. This can be a wild and demanding section of the Way, especially north of Inversnaid.



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#### Crianlarich - Inveroran

With typical highland walking in glens and over low passes with moderate ascents and descents, on mainly well surfaced paths and tracks. There are many fine mountain views to be enjoyed today.

#### Inveroran - Kinlochleven

A moderate to hard day with amazing scenery. The terrain is mainly good underfoot but it is highly exposed and can be difficult in bad weather - be prepared!

#### Kinlochleven - Fort William

Starting with a steep climb out of Kinlochleven followed by rough paths in Nevis Forest, your final day finishes with a gentle descent into Fort William.

#### Additional Days

##### Tyndrum

Today's village earns much of its living by providing goods, services and accommodation to passing travelers, mostly motorists heading up or down the busy A85 and A82 trunk roads. In doing so, Tyndrum is carrying on a long tradition. The village's origins date back to the days when droves of highland cattle from the north and west passed through en route to markets in central Scotland bringing lots of tired, hungry and thirsty drovers with them.

This is a good location for a "rest day" in order to travel along the picturesque West Highland Train Line to visit Oban – a coastal resort with a difference - the town and its bay are virtually land-locked, giving it a sheltered setting. For memorable views walk up Oban Hill to McCaig's Tower or take a walk to Ganavan Sands and relax on the beach.

##### 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 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!

#### Getting There and Away

General travel information on the West Highland Way area will be in your holiday pack, including train and bus timetables where available. 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:

**By Air:** The nearest international airport is Glasgow (GLA). There is a regular shuttle bus into Glasgow city centre (approx 25 mins). Glasgow to Milngavie is seven miles, you can either: take a taxi from Glasgow city centre; travel by train directly to Milngavie, this takes 25 minutes; or travel by bus, which takes 40 minutes.

**By Public Transport:** Milngavie has a railway station. Most services will pass through Glasgow.

**By Road:** Milngavie is seven miles north of Glasgow. For Glasgow, travel on the M6 north followed by the A74 (M). From Glasgow, follow the A81 direct to Milngavie.

#### Returning from Fort William:

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

**By Road:** Head for either Glasgow (107 miles) or Edinburgh (136 miles) depending on the direction of your final destination.



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## 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 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](http://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 West Highland Way 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 two single rooms for any one 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** One 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.



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

### 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** You will need to pay for your own transport but we can help you to make arrangements.

**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](http://mickledore.co.uk)

## 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.



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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 over 20 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!
- 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 about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

## Client Feedback

We're proud of our reputation for quality holidays on the West Highland Way. There are plenty of customer reviews on our Website but here's a couple of comments to give you a flavour:

*"The service was flawless. At the end of a long day of walking the last thing a person wants to think about is "is my reservation correct and will my bag be there". I did not think about either of those things once! We had a wonderful time and I would highly recommend Mickledore. Regards, Nancy - happy customer."*

**Nancy Raskin, Maryland, USA.**

*"We will be doing the whole route in future and would love to stay at the same B&B's. Many thanks. I have been in the travel industry for 20 years and Mickledore is up at the top. You give us great service with what we got. Many thanks again and keep up the good work."*

**Nick Hassett, Stockton on Tees, UK.**



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## The Whole West Highland Way

If your stay at the **Kingshouse Hotel** falls at a particularly busy time we may have to charge a supplement and you may have to stay for two nights if you would like to stay at this accommodation. If you would prefer not to stay there, we may be able to book two nights in Kinlochleven with a transfer to and from Kingshouse, just let us know when you book.

Milngavie to Fort William in 6 Days Walking Code: WH7				Milngavie to Fort William in 7 Days Walking Code: WH8		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Milngavie for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Milngavie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Milngavie to Drymen	12	19	Milngavie to Drymen	12	19
Day 3	Drymen to Rowardennan	14	23	Drymen to Rowardennan	14	23
Day 4	Rowardennan to Crainlarich	20	32	Rowardennan to Inverarnan	14	23
Day 5	Crainlarich to Inveroran	16	26	Inverarnan to Tyndrum	13	21
Day 6	Inveroran to Kinlochleven	19	31	Tyndrum to Kingshouse	19	14
Day 7	Kinlochleven to Fort William	14	23	Inveroran to Kinlochleven	19	31
Day 8	Depart from Fort William after breakfast			Kinlochleven to Fort William	14	23
Day 9				Depart from Fort William after breakfast		

Milngavie to Fort William in 8 Days Walking Code: WH9				Milngavie to Fort William in 9 Days Walking Code: WH10		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Milngavie for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Milngavie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Milngavie to Drymen	12	19	Milngavie to Drymen	12	19
Day 3	Drymen to Rowardennan	14	23	Drymen to Balmaha	6	10
Day 4	Rowardennan to Inverarnan	14	23	Balmaha to Rowardennan	8	12
Day 5	Inverarnan to Tyndrum	13	21	Rowardennan to Inverarnan	14	23
Day 6	Tyndrum to Inveroran	9	14	Inverarnan to Tyndrum	13	21
Day 7	Inveroran to Kingshouse	10	16	Tyndrum to Inveroran	9	14
Day 8	Kingshouse to Kinlochleven	9	14	Inveroran to Kingshouse	10	16
Day 9	Kinlochleven to Fort William	14	23	Kingshouse to Kinlochleven	9	14
Day 10	Depart from Fort William after breakfast			Kinlochleven to Fort William	14	23
				Depart from Fort William after breakfast		



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## West Highland Way - The Lowlands and Lochs

### Milngavie to Crainlarich in 3 Days Walking Code: WHL4

		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Milngavie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Milngavie to Drymen	12	19
Day 3	Drymen to Rowardennan	14	23
Day 4	Rowardennan to Crainlarich	20	32
Day 5	Depart from Crainlarich after breakfast		



## West Highland Way - The Highlands

### Crainlarich to Fort William in 3 Days Walking Code: WHH4

		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Crainlarich for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Crainlarich to Inveroran	16	26
Day 3	Inveroran to Kinlochleven	19	31
Day 4	Kinlochleven to Fort William	14	23
Day 5	Depart from Fort William after breakfast		



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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 <input type="text"/>	
Packed Lunches Y/N	No. Twin Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Off Street Parking Y/N	No. Single Occupancy Rooms <input type="text"/>	
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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