

Accessible activities and attractions

Loch Katrine

On the other side of Loch Achray from the village is Loch Katrine. Drive to the pier from where you can walk along the north shore of the loch and/or take the one of the cruises on the loch. The shore road is tarmac and mostly quite flat. A wheelchair is available to borrow (free) if you ask at the booking office. I suggest contacting them in advance to check availability.

Tel: 01877 376315

E-mail: enquiries@lochkatrine.com.

Access to the steamer is via the pier walkway (80 meters under cover) and over the bridge to the vessel. A small ramp provides access to the ship itself with assistance provided by the crew on duty.

More information about the pier and cruises on the loch is here: <https://www.lochkatrine.com/> and details about accessibility are here <https://www.lochkatrine.com/about/trossachs-pier-accessibility/>.

Aberfoyle

The Forestry Commission Lodge visitor centre just above Aberfoyle is a good place to visit. You can often see red squirrels from the hide near the Waterfall Walk and there is also an osprey nest live feed at the Lodge itself. There are walks of varying lengths, all of which have something to offer. The website has more details here:

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/the-lodge-forest-visitor-centre>

Ask at the information desk in the Lodge about the use of a mobility scooter. You might want to phone ahead to check availability. The waterfall walk and squirrel hide are accessible using the scooter or a wheelchair.

Tel: 0131 370 5674

E-mail: thelodge@forestryandland.gov.scot

Lake of Menteith

Inchmahome Priory is a lovely spot to visit and is accessible in parts. It's a short boat ride to an island in the Lake of Menteith and visitors must be able to climb in and out of the boat. Access details are here:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/inchmahome-priory/access/>

The nearby Lake of Menteith Hotel has a lovely waterfront restaurant for either lunch or dinner.

<https://www.lake-hotel.com/>

Tel: 01877 385258

E-mail: enquiries@lake-hotel.com

Flanders Moss Nature Reserve

Between Thornhill and Kippen, to the east, is the Flanders Moss Nature Reserve. This is one of the largest intact raised bogs in Britain where you can often see basking lizards in the summer. The reserve has level and even paths and low level information boards so is easy to navigate for wheelchair users. Unfortunately, there is no wheelchair available to borrow on site.

<https://www.nature.scot/visit-flanders-moss-national-nature-reserve>

Blair Drummond Safari Park

In addition to the safari drive, there are a number of animal houses/enclosures closer to entrance and parking areas. Most paths are flat and smooth and can be accessed by wheelchair. There are designated spaces for wheelchairs at the sea lion presentation and bird of prey display. Wheelchairs available on a first-come, first-served basis from the restaurant on payment of a £20 refundable deposit. On fine days, the Park can be very busy so I recommend arriving early if you want to take advantage of the wheelchair availability. Full details are here: <https://www.blairdrummond.com/>

Stirling

The Battle of Bannockburn visitor centre is fully accessible but the exhibition and 'battle experience' do require visitors to be on their feet for an hour or so. Outside the visitor centre, the battle monuments are accessed by level, paved paths. You might find the details here useful:

<https://www.euansguide.com/venues/the-battle-of-bannockburn-visitor-centre-stirling-38/information#page-content>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn>

The Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling has accessible parking and/or a drop off point and is mostly on one level with a small number of steps or ramp access. Details here:

<https://www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk/about/accessibility/>

Further afield

The Loch Lomond Sealife Centre is fully accessible (but doesn't have a wheelchair available to visitors).

<https://www.visitsealife.com/loch-lomond/>

Loch Lomond cruises and waterbus are a good way to see some great scenery without having to walk too far. There are a variety of options. I recommend you look particularly at trips to/from Inversnaid, Luss and Balmaha, for example:

<https://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk/inversnaid-rob-roy>

<https://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk/browse-cruises/item/luss-explorer-2>

<https://www.sweeneyscruiseco.com/cruises/luss-balmaha/>

Luss is a pretty wee village and offers a short, lochside walk on a level path. Balmaha has an accessible jetty and nearby The Oak Tree Inn is a good place to eat.

However, there are lots more places to visit using the waterbus services. Details here:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/water-activities/waterbus/places-stop-off/>

There is more information about a range of accessible activities in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park here: <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-do/all-abilities/>

Falkirk

Just off the M9 motorway between Stirling and Edinburgh are the marvellous kelpies. If you have a blue badge for parking, you can park adjacent to the Visitor Centre. From there it's quite a short distance to the sculptures over mostly level ground. If they are running, I recommend taking the guided tour (30 minutes) which gives you access inside one of the kelpies. The access is wide and level and there is seating inside. The park in which the Kelpies are situated does get very busy particularly at weekends so I suggest either making an early start, or doing this on a weekday.

<https://www.thehelix.co.uk/kelpies-tour/>

Dollar

There is a restored Japanese Garden at Cowden near Dollar to the east of Stirling. Re-opening in early May, visits must be booked in advance. Blue badge parking is available and much of the garden is accessible to wheelchair users. The paths are mostly level but rough in some places.

<https://www.cowdengarden.com/>

Historic buildings

Many of the properties cared for by Historic Scotland are fully or partially accessible. For details of places to visit in central Scotland and Forth Valley, see [this summary](#).