

## **Nature/wildlife activities in and around Brig o' Turk & The Trossachs**

### On foot from the house

There are plenty of walks and cycle routes nearby, either around the village or by Loch Achray, which are accessible from the house on foot. I recommend the Brig o' Turk Loop and Little Druim Walks detailed on the [Glen Finglas map](#). These can be done separately or joined into a single walk.

Details of other walks nearby, local wildlife, and the work of the Woodland Trust Scotland (which manages Glen Finglas) are available at the WTS visitor gateway. It's adjacent to the Glen Finglas car park marked on the map and, again, is accessible on foot from the house. Turn right out of the track and following the pink path from the house (approximately where the tea cup is shown in Brig o' Turk village) to the 'P' parking sign at Glen Finglas. For more information, have a look at these two web pages: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood-information/glen-finglas/>  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood-information/glen-finglas/visitor-gateway/>

In the other direction, you can walk to Loch Achray from the house. Turn left out of the track and walk along the pavement, turning left to The Byre Inn (a good place to stop for a coffee/drink after a walk). Carry on past the pub and over the humped-back bridge (Brig o' Michael). Continue along the track through Achray Farm (which has a small herd of goats, hens and ducks) to emerge onto the Three Lochs Forest Drive. For a short walk along Loch Achray-side, keep right along the track. There are plenty of side tracks to explore taking you deeper into the trees, or simply continue along the shore to the campsite at the far end. Alternatively, bear left when you emerge from the farm for a longer walk/cycle to Loch Drunkie.

The attached map of the three lochs forest drive shows the drive in full and associated walks. Our house is marked top left. Alternatively visit this website for more information:

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/three-lochs-forest-drive>

### More on local & less-local walks

There is a comprehensive list of walks in the area with directions/descriptions, including our nearest peak Ben A'an, on the excellent Walk Highlands website here:

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/trossachs.shtml>

### Loch Katrine

On the other side of Loch Achray from the village is Loch Katrine. Drive or cycle to the pier from where you can walk/cycle along the north shore of the loch and/or take the one of the cruises on the loch. If you don't have bikes, you can hire them at the pier from Katrine Wheelz.

[\(http://www.katrinewheelz.co.uk/\)](http://www.katrinewheelz.co.uk/).

A really good excursion is to take bikes by boat as far as Stronachlacher (on a one-way ticket) and then cycle back to the pier round the loch. The sail to Stronachlacher takes about an hour and the distance

back from there to the pier is about 15 miles. More information about the pier and cruises on the loch is here: <https://www.lochkatrine.com/>

### Inversnaid

From Stronachlacher (or Loch Ard, see below), it's also worth continuing a further four or five miles along the north shore of Loch Arklet to Inversnaid. This is on the east shore of Loch Lomond and has a lovely waterfall which is quite spectacular in full flood. There is a short (but steep) walk from the hotel/pier there (<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/arklet-trail.shtml>) or the RSPB nature trail (<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/inversnaid.shtml>).

### 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>

If swinging through the trees appeals, also at the Lodge visitor centre is Go Ape with two of the longest zip wires in the UK. Details here: <https://goape.co.uk/locations/aberfoyle>.

Also near Aberfoyle is the Loch Ard Sculpture Trail with sculptures created by local artist Rob Mulholland. <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/loch-ard-family-sculpture-trails-p401741>

A bit further along Loch Ard at Kinlochard is an outdoor (and watersports) centre. There are a variety of activities on offer, though some require larger groups. Archery, climbing/abseiling and orienteering are available to groups of four and up. <https://gocountry.co.uk/outdoor-activities-trossachs/>

From Kinlochard, you can drive on to Inversnaid (about 10 miles) to see the waterfall and do the short Arklet or RSPB nature trail walks (see Inversnaid above).

### Loch Lomond

Continuing west, there are several places of potential interest at Loch Lomond. At the south end of the loch near Balloch, you will find the Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre (<https://llbopc.co.uk/>) and the Loch Lomond Sealife Centre (<https://www.visitsealife.com/loch-lomond/>).

Near Balmaha, on the east shore of the loch, is the Inchcailloch Nature Reserve. It's on an island in Loch Lomond and accessible by waterbus from Balmaha. <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/things-to-see/inchcailloch/>. Well worth a visit to explore the island.

## Port of Menteith

From Port of Menteith you can take a boat across to Inchmaholme Priory and explore the island as well as the ruins of the Priory.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/inchmahome-priory/prices-and-opening-times/>

Near Port of Menteith is Castle Rednock Farm where pony trekking and segway trekking are available.

<http://www.castlerednocktrekking.com/>

## Doune

To the east of Callander, near Doune, is the Red Kites Centre at Argaty. From the centre's hide you can see red kites in flight and feeding. There is also a woodland hide from which you might see red squirrels, jays, nuthatches and tree-creepers. <http://argatyredkites.co.uk/about-red-kites/>

## 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.

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

## Balquhiddier (pronounced Bal-whidder)

To the north of Brig o' Turk, you can take a wildlife safari in Balquhiddier Glen in search of red deer and golden eagles. Balquhiddier is also the location of Rob Roy's Grave, a popular spot for visitors. Rob Roy MacGregor was a notorious outlaw, or a great folk hero, depending on your point of view.

<http://www.hiddenglensafaris.co.uk/safaris.html>

## Blair Drummond

The Safari Park is an ever popular day out.

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

## Adventure activities

In Your Element: outdoor adventure fun for families and individuals in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, including gorge walking at Brig o' Turk.

<https://iye.scot/families-loch-lomond/>

Intrepid Scotland: Cycle safaris (from age 7 upwards), campfire cooking, fishing and more.

<https://www.intrepidscotland.com/#> and

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/scotlandintrepid/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/scotlandintrepid/posts/?ref=page_internal)

## Parking

The most popular spots in the National Park can be busy, especially on a fine day. Parking in some places is limited and we advise checking the status of car parks before you go. You can get updates on the Park's website at <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/covid-19-coronavirus/car-parks-visitor-facilities/> or through social media feeds (@lomondtrossachs on Twitter and <https://www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs>)

The car parks at Ben A'an and Ben Venue fill up very quickly so if you plan to climb either hill or explore the area, we advise going early or towards the end of the day. Please note a clearway has recently been introduced to prevent hazardous parking on the surrounding roads. This is being enforced with penalty notices being issued to any cars parked on the clearway.