

ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER VISITORS

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. You will find maps and guides in the accommodation. I recommend the Brig o' Turk Loop and Little Druim Walks detailed on this leaflet:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/46392/10513-glen-finglas-leaflet-map-a2-v3.pdf>.

These can be done separately or joined into a single walk. The Little Druim Wood walk is especially good for children as it has interesting sculptures and stone 'fossils' to discover on a 'play trail'. See the leaflet here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/48400/explore-our-play-trail-at-glen-finglas.pdf>

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 (via the 1st link above) and, again, is accessible on foot from the house. Turn right out of the track and follow the red Great Trossachs Path from the house (approximately where the tea cup is shown in Brig o' Turk village) to the 'P' parking sign at Lendrick Hill car park. 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. 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, and ice cream for sale made on the premises) 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 or Loch Venachar.

For more information, see here: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/forest-parks/queen-elizabeth-forest-park/three-lochs-forest-drive>

Water enthusiasts can go gorge walking at Brig o' Turk. Organised by In Your Element, this is suitable for children from aged 8. Details at: <https://iye.scot/tours/gorge-walking-discovery-brig-o-turk/>

Toy Museum, Callander

On the main street in Callander, the museum is on two floors and houses an eclectic mix of toys from bygone times.

<https://thehamiltontoycollection.co.uk/museum>

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. Cycles for adults and children are available to hire at the pier. You can take

bikes on the steamer and sail to Stronachlacher then either cycle back (perhaps a bit far for younger children) or have a cycle around the Stronachlacher area then get the board back. There is no extra charge on the boat for bikes hired at the pier.

Tel: 01877 376315

E-mail: enquiries@lochkatrine.com).

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

Details of bike hire are here: <http://www.katrinewheelz.co.uk/>

Aberfoyle

The Lodge Visitor Centre

The Lodge Visitor Centre has a selection of nature trails, a waterfall walk and a squirrel hide. This is also the home of the Go Ape adventure course but at present admission is limited to children over 10.

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

Sculpture Trail

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>

Scottish Wool Centre

Sheep dog demonstrations (with ducks rather than sheep) plus some rare breeds.

<https://www.simplythebestdestinations.co.uk/Scotland/10%20Aberfoyle>

Watersports

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/>

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/>

Argaty Red Kite Centre (also red squirrels)

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. <https://www.argatyredkites.co.uk/>

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>

Next to the Nature Reserve is the alpaca trekking centre.

<https://www.facebook.com/flandersmossalpacas/>

Loch Lomond

Beside the Loch Lomond Shores complex at Balloch, is the Bird of Prey Centre which has daily flying displays. Details here: <https://lbopc.co.uk/>

Also in the Loch Lomond Shores complex is the Loch Lomond Sealife Centre:

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

Booking ahead will be essential for both.

Blair Drummond Safari Park

The Safari Park is a popular destination for families and can be extremely busy in the summer. Since reopening, admission has been by pre-booked ticket only. Details here:

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

Historic sites

If history, battles and castles are of interest, local places to visit are:

- Doune Castle - <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/doune-castle/>
- Stirling Castle - <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn>
- Wallace Monument - <https://www.nationalwallacemonument.com/>
- Bannockburn - <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/bannockburn> (Tickets for the battle experience, either to take part or to watch, can be booked online at <https://nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/thebattleofbannockburnexperienceparticipate>)
- Inchmahome Priory (on island in the Lake of Menteith so a short trip in a small motor boat is required) - <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/inchmahome-priory/>
- Moirlanich Longhouse in Killin - due to reopen at the end of May. <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/moirlanich-longhouse>

Other options

Intrepid Scotland runs 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