



With such a beautiful and wild landscape it is little wonder that many people come to South Loch Ness to walk and see the rich diversity of wildlife and flora. Many of the walks are waymarked, particularly those in the Inverfarigaig, Foyers and Whitebridge areas, providing excellent safe routes for visitors to experience the area and enjoy panoramic views over Loch Ness.

For the more intrepid visitor, with a good map and compass, there are miles and miles of woodlands, hills and glens to explore. With so many quiet narrow winding roads, the area is ideal for cycling. Take a picnic and enjoy the area at a leisurely pace.

Fishing is widely available in the area both for serious fishing and otherwise. Within a short drive, horse-riding, golf and watersports are possible, as well as a choice of cruises on Loch Ness. Your accommodation provider can usually advise.

Inverness is not far away with its modern shopping centres, conveniences and facilities of a modern city



South Loch Ness has much to offer the visitor but perhaps more than anything it is the wildness coupled with the peace and tranquillity of the area that sets it apart. If Loch Ness has a soul, then it is on the south side – visit South Loch Ness and,

**“walk on the wild side”.....**

For a full directory of holiday accommodation available on the South Side of Loch Ness including hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfast and self catering, as well as detailed information on all activities, restaurants and other tourism related businesses, please check out our website.

[www.lochnesswelcome.co.uk](http://www.lochnesswelcome.co.uk)

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**Welcome to South Loch Ness**, the name given to the area that lies between the southern shoreline of Loch Ness and the high slopes of the Monadhliath Mountains that are situated a few miles inland. Only 8 miles from Inverness and yet a different world..... South Loch Ness is an area of outstanding natural beauty with deep dark forests, wild windswept hills and panoramic vistas that will take your breath away.

Sparsely populated today, ancient Picts, early Christian missionaries, fierce Celtic clans and proud Jacobites all lived and died here, leaving a rich tapestry of history and legend, hill forts, hidden retreats, tales and monuments to mark their passage. In an age where it seems there is little new left to discover in the world, here in South Loch Ness you can still find your very own piece of history, whether it be a ruined bridge or hidden cave, untouched, unspoilt and unchanged in hundreds or even thousands of years.

The range of elevation, from 20 to 1,000 metres, means there is a great diversity of flora and wildlife. In spring the roadside verges are covered with wild yellow primroses and the woodlands are carpeted by a sea of bluebells. In late summer the open high ground is awash with the purple flowers of bell heather. Autumn turns the native woodlands to gold while in winter many of the higher areas are regularly blanketed with snow.

South Loch Ness has a good population of badgers and pine martens while on the hilltops look out for grouse and mountain hares and occasionally soaring high above, ospreys, golden eagles and red kites.

Also common in deer, red deer and red squirrels. This few in Scotland squirrels still thrive they can be seen amidst the hazel preparing for win-



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## “walk on the wildside”

- 1 Aldourie castle (not open to the public) Overlooking the north end of the loch this mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century castle is affectionately known as the ‘pink castle’
- 2 Dores Beach. The only beach on Loch Ness. Enjoy a drink at the nearby Inn and take your own ‘classic’ photo down the length of the loch
- 3 Farigaig Forest trails. These offer a range of wonderful walks in the area through rich and varied woodland with excellent views out over Loch Ness
- 4 Dun Dearduil. Massive rocky bluff that towers above Inverfarigaig. A place of mystery and legend with the remains of an Iron Age fort on the summit.
- 5 Inverfarigaig Pier. Built by Thomas Telford in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and now sadly in a state of decay, it nevertheless is a peaceful spot from which to enjoy the loch
- 6 ‘The Corkscrew’. Aptly named road built in 1815 which twists up deep into the wild and open lands of Stratherrick, rich in wildlife and history
- 7 Boleskine Graveyard. Looking out over Loch Ness this ancient graveyard can tell some interesting tales
- 8 The Falls of Foyers. A tourist attraction since Victorian times: in full flow these falls are magnificent and worthy of their gaelic name ‘Eas na Smuid’ – Water-

## South Loch Ness

- 9 Foyers pier. Originally another Telford construction, this pier provides excellent mooring for small cabin cruisers
- 10 Wade Bridge, Whitebridge. Built in 1732 this is one of the few General Wade bridges in the area that is still intact. In early June it’s sides are a profusion of purple fairy foxglove flowers
- 11 Suidhe Chuimein viewpoint. The highest point on the road between Inverness and Fort Augustus affords stunning views back across the lands of Stratherrick and Strathnairn
- 12 Loch Tarff. ‘Picture postcard’ loch nestling below Suidhe viewpoint . Water from this loch is taken to supply Fort Augustus
- 13 Loch Killin. Good fishing loch nestling in the foothills of the Monhadiath mountains
- 14 Stronlairig Hunting Lodge. Gateway to the hidden glens of the Monhadiaths but now sadly derelict, this once majestic lodge was built by Lord Lovat for the return of his son from the Boer War. Situated on the confluence of two rivers with superb waterfalls nearby
- 15 Loch Mhor. Once two lochs, the waters feed a hydro station at Foyers and are then pumped back up into the loch. Hence why the loch is often to be seen partly empty!

## “walk on the wildside”

- 16 Loch Bran. Gem of a loch hidden in the woods near Foyers. Rich in flora and fauna. Covered with water lilies and a good place to see dragonflies and damselflies in summer
- 17 Loch Ruthven. RSPB sanctuary where between April and August you can see the beautiful and the largest breeding population in Britain of the rare Slavonian Grebe. The RSPB hide is open throughout the year for watching the loch and recording a wide variety of birds.
- 18 Dunlichity Church & graveyard. Resting place of the Clan McGillivray chiefs and site of stones (still visible) on which followers of Bonnie Prince Charlie allegedly sharpened their swords before the battle of Culloden
- 19 McBain memorial. On the Darris road, one mile east of Dores this walled enclosure was erected in 1961 by Hughston McBain of McBain
- 20 Picnic sites - there are no less than 7 picnic sites along the lochside between Dores and Inverfarigaig, as well as those at the Forest centre at Inverfarigaig and on the river Fechlin just south of Foyers.
- 21 Foyers hydro electric power station draws water from high above Loch Ness during peak then pumps the water back up at night



