

SCOTLAND – AUTUMN IN THE HIGHLANDS

5-days / 4-nights **QUALITY** hotel-based **GUIDED** walking in the spectacular colours of autumn



Autumn is perhaps the best time of year to explore the glens and lochs of the central Scottish Highlands. Crisp, fresh autumn air, the roar of rutting stags, and vibrant shades of red, orange, amber and gold in the forests fringing the glens and the faded purple hues of the heather on the hillsides create a remarkable and unforgettable highland walking experience. This small group tour, in the company of like-minded walkers, is created and timed to seek out the bold autumnal colours in the Great Glen, Glen Affric and near to Loch Ness.

This is an easy walking holiday, based in a comfortable, quality hotel in the historic village of Fort Augustus at the southern end of Loch Ness. Though small, the village of Fort Augustus is a bustling spot, with barge and boat traffic passing through the locks on the Caledonian Canal and cyclists pedalling the Great Glen cycle route. It is an ideal location for walkers, with easy access to a wide variety of scenic walks in all directions. The forests, glens, lochs and valleys offer superb autumnal vistas for photography as well as an enchanting environment to explore on foot and there is time to stop and enjoy or photograph the views along the way. Enjoy dramatic scenery locations each day and be rewarded with cosy fires and hearty meals.

Cost from: **\$2825** per person twin share Single room supplement on request

Departs: 27 September, 21, 28 October, 7 November 2023
 25 September, 5, 12, 19, 26 October, 2 November 2024

Includes: 4 nights' accommodation in an eco-conscious 3-star hotel, meals included as indicated on itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Picnic Lunch, D=Dinner), the services of an experienced and knowledgeable guide / driver, all transport throughout the trip starting and finishing in Inverness.

Not included: Drinks, meals not mentioned, transport to/from Inverness, personal expenses, gratuities.

Single Supplement: There is no single person supplement charged to solo travellers however, you will share a room with another person of the same sex. If you require a single room, a supplement applies.

Grade: Easy to Moderate of about 5 hours each day, following good trails with no major ascents, with stops to rest or take photos. The terrain will usually be paths or hill trails, which may be muddy or rough in places. Most walks are glen hikes, with ascents of low-level hills, up to 1,500 feet / 450m high.

Getting there: Meet your guide at **Inverness Railway Station** at **10.30am** on Day 1. We aim to have you back by **4.00pm** on the last day. Inverness is well-connected by rail to Glasgow, Edinburgh and London.

Accommodation and meals: Quality family-run, eco-conscious hotel in a landmark Victorian building in the historic loch-side village of Fort Augustus. Its grace and charm are complemented by natural décor and genuine, warm hospitality. Bedrooms offer home comforts and modern facilities.

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Suggested Itinerary: *

Day 1: Hike above Loch Ness and return to Inverness **walking @ 6 miles (9km), 3-4 hours**
 We meet in Inverness then travel to our first walk on the north side of Loch Ness through a community-owned forest. An excellent trail leads uphill to moorland, passing through the woods. The community trust have added some interesting sights to our hike, including a reconstructed Iron Age house and a wildlife hide overlooking the loch. The summit offers wide-ranging views. It's a short journey to our hotel in Fort Augustus for our welcome dinner. (L, D)

Day 2: Laggan to Fort Augustus through the Great Glen **walking @ 9 miles (15km), 5 hours**
 We enjoy a point-to-point walk along the remote eastern shores of Loch Oich, the second of the three main lochs in the Great Glen, following the line of a former railway. At Bridge of Oich, an elegant, cantilevered granite and iron suspension bridge built to an innovative design by brewer-turned-engineer James Dredge in 1854, we join the Caledonian Canal footpath, which conveniently leads us directly back to our hotel. (B, L)

Day 3: Glen Tarff & General Wade's Military Road **walking @ 5 miles (8km), 5 hours**
 Today we follow General Wade's Military Road towards the Corrieyairick Pass at 800 metres, although we won't be climbing that far. Our trail follows the woodland along the River Tarff. The gorge is a *Site of Scientific Interest* and is home to a number of rare plants such as Wood Cranesbill and Greater Wintergreen. (B, L)

Day 4: Glen Affric **walking distance varies, 4-5 hours**
 We discover the ancient forests and the peace and solitude of Glen Affric today. There are several stunning walks – perhaps circumnavigating Loch Affric or following a route through the ancient forest of the great wood of Caledon, exploring the flora and fauna of the glen. This is also an incredibly photogenic place, and we have ample time to try and capture the scene. Afterwards we return to the hotel for our farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Glen Moriston and Dundreggan **walking @ 5 miles (8km), 3 hours**
 We travel to Dundreggan Estate in Glen Moriston, where a conservation group is working to restore native Caledonian forest on this 10,000-acre estate. We have a chance to walk through the regenerating forest and on the lower slopes of the hills. We return to the vehicle and transfer back to Inverness, arriving by 4pm. (B, L)

** The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of tour guide as weather and other conditions allow.*



Outdoor Travel offers walks – guided in small groups or self-guided inn-to-inn with luggage transfers and meals – in many areas of the UK or Europe including the **Coast to Coast** trail or **Cornish Coastal Track** in England, the **Tour du Mont Blanc** in the Alps, the pilgrim's **Way of St James** or **Camino de Santiago** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** the pilgrimage 'road to Rome' in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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