



Loch Tay, Perthshire

Highland Perthshire, Argyll & the Isle of Mull General interest hiking tour

With this hiking tour you will explore two very different parts of Scotland: Highland Perthshire with its high mountains, long, deep glens and an abundance of trees, and Argyll & the Isle of Mull in the west Highlands with their craggy hills, narrow glens and a long and varied coastline, with high cliffs, spectacular sea lochs or fjords, sandy or rocky bays, caves and arches - always something new to draw you on around the next corner.



Kilmartin Glen, Templewood stone circle

Highlights

- View of Loch Tay from Kenmore Hill;
- Visit to the Scottish Crannoch Centre;
- Hike through the ancient Black Wood of Rannoch;
- Glen Coe
- Walk through Kilmartin Glen with its prehistoric and early historic monuments;
- Tour of Duart Castle, Mull;
- Tobermory, Mull;
- Boat trip to and walks on the Isles of Staffa, with its basalt columns, and Iona with visit to Iona Abbey.



Glen Coe

1. Glasgow/Edinburgh - Stirling Castle - Highland Perthshire
2. Loch Tay
3. Castle Menzies, Black Forest
4. Journey to Argyll, Glen Coe
5. Isle of Kerrera
6. Kilmartin Glen
7. Journey to Mull, Duart Castle and Tobermory
8. Threshnish
9. Isles of Staffa and Iona
10. Mull - Glasgow/Edinburgh



Letters Lodge South, Strathlachlan, Argyll
PA27 8BZ, Scotland (UK)
Tel. +44 (0)1369 860272
info@aboutargyll.uk
www.aboutargyll.uk



Isle of Kerrera

Highland Perthshire

Highland Perthshire is as far from the sea as you can get in Scotland. With its high mountains, long, deep glens and an abundance of trees, highland Perthshire is a very distinctive part of Scotland, contrasting perfectly with the seaboard of Argyll. Generations of the so-called 'Planting' Dukes of Atholl shaped much of the landscape seen today. Between 1738 and 1830, the family planted around 27 million conifers. As a result Perthshire is now known as 'Big Tree Country'. It is not only home of many tall trees, the Fortingall Yew, which is believed to be 3,000 years old, is Europe's oldest living thing.

Argyll

Argyll in the west Highlands has a long, broken, islanded coast. The hinterland contains a landscape of gentle farmland and wide peat bog surrounded by rugged hills, secret glens and hidden lochans. At the edge, where crofts (a form of smallholding) may still be found and lobster fishermen ply their trade, is a unique seascape of exposed wildness, with islands large and small scattered across it.

Isle of Mull

Mull is one of the largest of the Hebridean islands but it is bitten into by so many sea lochs that the sight and sound of salt water is never far away. This makes for a long coastline with high cliffs, sandy or rocky bays, caves and arches.

The northern scenery of Mull is a stepped landscape of lava flows from eruptions of around 50 million years ago when the North Atlantic Ocean was beginning to open. Monks travelled with the Celts from Ireland. St Columba is the best known of all and you will learn more about him when we visit the Isle of Iona.

History

The first inhabitants of Scotland to be known by the name 'Scots' were the Gaelic-speaking Celts who colonised Argyll from the north of Ireland in the early centuries A.D. In Ireland, their kingdom was called Dalriada and the same name was applied to the part of Scotland that they occupied.

The modern name of 'Argyll', long ago having replaced Dalriada in normal use, actually comes from the Gaelic for 'Land of the Gael'. At the same late iron-age period that saw this Scots colonisation in the west, Perthshire was the land of the southern Picts, and, until Scotland was first unified under Kenneth McAlpin, the two groups were frequently at odds – indeed the Picts are known to have sacked the principal Scots fortress of Dunadd at least twice.

Wildlife

Wildlife reflects the different landscapes of Perthshire and Argyll in many ways, with, for example, larger herds of red deer and more birds of the mountainous sub-arctic, such as ptarmigan and snow bunting, on the Perthshire hills, whereas Argyll has numerous coastal animals, such as seals, and very many sea birds. Both areas have golden eagles and otters and much else besides.



Tobermory, Isle of Mull



Letters Lodge South, Strathlachlan, Argyll
 PA27 8BZ, Scotland (UK)
 Tel. +44 (0)1369 860272
info@aboutargyll.uk
www.aboutargyll.uk