



GLENFINNAN, FORT WILLIAM & GLENCOE ADVENTURE

WINTER EDITION FROM GLASGOW

We leave Glasgow by a motorway which takes us over the River Clyde, past the airport and then into open countryside. We will then cross over the Clyde again, this time over the impressive Erskine Bridge, high up above the river to allow ships to sail underneath.

After driving through the town of Dumbarton, whose history goes back about 2000 years, we come to Loch Lomond. This is the third longest (39 km) and third deepest loch in Scotland and also has the largest surface area of any loch or lake in Britain. On the far side of the loch is Ben Lomond, the most southerly of Scotland's mountains. Loch Lomond is wide at its southern end (8 km) but becomes narrow in its northern half. It also has 37 islands.

Beyond Loch Lomond we pass through attractive Glen Falloch (a glen is the name we use for a narrow valley) and soon we reach the village of Crianlarich, an important road and rail junction. From now on, you will see signposts that give the names of towns in both Gaelic and English.

At the next village, Tyndrum, the road divides and we head north into more beautiful countryside. Soon pretty Loch Tulla comes into view before we drive up onto Rannoch Moor, a vast desolate area of moorland, small lochs and boulders that extends for a long way to the east (to the right of the road) while to the west is a range of mountains.

We pause for refreshments in Tyndrum, before we continue onwards to Glencoe. We pass the road to one of Scotland's five ski centres then drive round the base of Buachaille Etive Mor ("the great shepherd of Etive" in Gaelic), the impressive mountain that guards the east end of the glen and is very popular with climbers. Soon we reach the narrow part of Glencoe where there are three mountains on the left, all similar to each other and called the Three Sisters of Glencoe while up on the right is a high ridge. Glencoe is the best known of all Scottish glens - beautiful, but also mysterious or menacing, depending on the weather and the light. It featured in scenes in Skyfall as well as Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban and the Outlander series.



Beyond Glencoe we drive alongside two sea-lochs, Loch Leven and Loch Linnhe and then through the town of Fort William. A fort was built here by the government in 1690 to house soldiers to control this part of the Highlands from the threat of Jacobite Uprisings. Behind the town is Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain at 1345 m.

From Fort William we take a road to the west called the "Road to the Isles". Beside the road is a railway line and that rail journey has been voted 'the most beautiful in the world' by an independent travel magazine!

Soon we reach Glenfinnan, a beautiful location situated beside lovely Loch Shiel with mountains surrounding it and with a magnificent, curved railway viaduct that opened in 1901. It has 21 arches, was made entirely out of concrete and featured in some of the Harry Potter films. The most famous scene shot here was in the flying car scene in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets when Ron and Harry find themselves being chased across the bridge by the train.

It was also at Glenfinnan in 1745 that Bonnie Prince Charlie met those clans who agreed to support him in a Jacobite Uprising against the government in an attempt to regain the throne for his father. There is a monument commemorating the Jacobites which you can climb* but the best viewpoint for both the loch and the viaduct is on the small hill behind the visitor centre and which is easily reached by a path.

After leaving Glenfinnan we drive back to Fort William where we will stop for lunch.

From Fort William we return to Glasgow, taking the same route that we took in the morning.

* This is an optional extra – the cost for this attraction is not included in the price you have paid for the tour.