

Arrochar & Tarbet Paths



Explore the local network of Arrochar and Tarbet paths to enjoy dramatic scenery and discover a rich hidden heritage

lochlomond-trossachs.org

The villages of Arrochar, Tarbet, Succoth and nearby Ardlui have a thriving heritage community. For more information about the local heritage, visit:

- Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui Heritage Group www.arrocharheritage.com
- High Morlaggan: www.highmorlaggan.co.uk
- Hidden Heritage of a Landscape www.hiddenheritage.org.uk

The area is also a hub for hill walking, cycling, water sports and natural heritage; for more information visit:

- The Three Villages Community Website and Cafe www.threevillages.org.uk
- Great Trossachs Forest www.thegreattrossachsforest.co.uk
- Loch Lomond Waterbus Service www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/waterbus
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
- Forestry Commission Scotland (Argyll Forest Park) <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk>
- The Hidden Heritage Trail hiddenheritage.org.uk/resources/hidden-heritage-trail
- Three Lochs Way www.threelochs.org.uk
- The Cowal Way www.cowalway.co.uk

Please pass this leaflet on when you have finished with it!

Funding for this leaflet was donated by visitors to the National Park through the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs OUR Park scheme.

This leaflet has been produced in partnership with **Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust**, a local community-run charity that aims to support those who live in and visit the area. Money raised from this leaflet will go to support local community projects.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their support:



Welcome to Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth – this leaflet gives a taste of the variety of beautiful paths in the area, which offer something for everyone.

Nestled beneath the Arrochar Alps the villages of Arrochar, Tarbet and Succoth are situated within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. They are bordered on one side by Loch Lomond, the largest freshwater loch in Britain, and on the other by Loch Long, a fjord-like sea loch. The two lochs are linked by a stretch of land once traversed by Vikings, cattle drovers and military roads.

The Argyll Forest Park extends north from Arrochar and offers trails for cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Ardgartan, nestled at the foot of the Cobbler among the conifers, means 'high garden' in Gaelic and boasts many paths including the Cat Craig Loop, the Peninsula Circuit, and relaxing riverside and loch-shore walks.

When out walking please make sure you are prepared and use this leaflet in conjunction with an Ordnance Survey map and other walking information.

6 Succoth to Coiregrogain Circular

Glen and forest walk with spectacular scenery

Follow Route 5 until you meet the tarmacked road to Loch Sloy. Turn left for about 0.5 km, then take the track left over a bridge into Coiregrogain. Ignoring a rough track to Ben Vane on the right, continue west below the dramatic peaks of Ben Vane, Ben Ime, Ben Narnain, and A'Chrois, finally descending and crossing the burn, just before a small dam.

Distance:
11 miles; 17.5 km
- circular

Type of route:
well-defined tracks

moderate

Take care after heavy rain or snow melt! The track heads back down the opposite side of Glen Loin, with views of Ben Lomond and down Loch Long to the Clyde. As the track passes above the houses at Succoth, either turn sharp left to descend to the glen, turning right out of the trees and following the road through Succoth to the head of Loch Long, or continue and turn left down the 'zig-zag' path to the A83 and the 'Cobbler' car park.



7 Arrochar to Honeymoon Bridge

Arrochar to Ardgartan above Loch Long

Park at the head of Loch Long and climb the path marked by a carved wooden fox. Turn left at the T-junction, with views over Arrochar and Loch Long, and across to Ben Lomond. Continue to a fork in the path, then either head left to Ardgartan or right to Honeymoon Bridge.

Distance:
Ardgartan: 2.3 miles; 3.7 km
Honeymoon Bridge: 2.7 miles; 4.4 km
- one way

Type of route:
forestry paths

moderate

The latter path contours around the hillside, ending in a small parking area beside the road, while the left path descends gradually and emerges from the trees above Ardgartan. Take care crossing the busy A83, then follow the path by the river to the car park and picnic area. You can extend this walk by following the trails in Route 9. This is a one-way walk, but both Arrochar and Ardgartan are on bus routes.



8 The Cobbler

Climb Ben Arthur

The iconic peak of Ben Arthur (884 m), better known as The Cobbler because of its distinctive outline, dominates the view from Arrochar. Although a popular climb, the terrain is steep and difficult, and the weather notoriously changeable - proper clothing and footwear are essential.

Distance:
about 14 miles;
22.5 km
- return

Type of route:
steep but clear paths

strenuous



Only a brief description is provided here, and you should use the appropriate OS map to plan your route. Park at the head of Loch Long (small charge), cross the road, and climb the path marked by a carved wooden fox. Turn left at the T-junction, then shortly right, soon following a stream. Ignore a path to the right and continue to the famous Narnain Boulders. Keep right at the next fork to reach a small lochan, then left to ascend stone steps to the ridge. Of the three peaks of The Cobbler, the central peak is the highest, but some scrambling and a head for heights are needed to scale the rock pinnacle!



9 Ardgartan Riverside Trails

Riverside and Boathouse Trails

These gentle paths wind their way through mixed woodland along the River Croe and the shore of Loch Long. The Forestry Commission marks two trails, Cat Craig and Peninsula Circuit both starting at the small car park at Ardgartan, beside the carved wooden eagle. Looking up, you can see the south peak of The Cobbler.

Distance:
1.25-1.75 miles;
2.0-2.8 km
- circular

Type of route:
well-defined paths and tarmac road

easy

Look out for red squirrels in the trees, and bobbing dippers fishing for insects in the river, and you may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of an elusive otter near the shore. In addition to these pleasant walks, Ardgartan provides a base for accessing many other walks towards Lochgoilhead and the Rest-and-be-Thankful.



1 The Hidden Heritage Trail

Arrochar to Tarbet Circular

A circular walk between Arrochar and Tarbet follows in the footsteps of Vikings who, in 1263, dragged their boats across the isthmus of land from Loch Long to raid settlements on Loch Lomond. For further information download the Hidden Heritage Trail leaflet or app from: <https://hiddenheritage.org.uk>

Distance:
3.5 miles; 5.6 km
- circular

Type of route:
well-defined paths

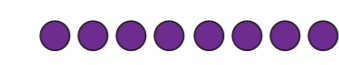
moderate



The trail can be accessed at several points along its route, including Arrochar and Tarbet station. Start by the café at Arrochar's Three Villages Hall and follow the Hidden Heritage and Three Lochs Way markers south along the lochside, then up the hill behind the church. Pass under the railway line then turn left.

After about a mile, look out for the Hidden Heritage information panel, then shortly turn left to cross the A82 opposite Ballyhennan Crescent. Access the forest path by the station, heading west to enjoy stunning views of the famous Arrochar Alps, before turning left to descend back into Arrochar.

Scan QR code to visit Hidden Heritage Trail website ----->



2 Tarbet Loop and Cruach Tairbeir

Woodland walk with panoramic detour

Follow this sheltered walk through mixed woodland and conifers. Keep an eye open for both red and grey squirrels, as well as the elusive pine marten. Park by the restaurant and follow the path under the railway at Arrochar and Tarbet station, turning right as you emerge at the T-junction.

Distance:
2.25 miles; 3.2 km
- circular

Summit detour
1.5 miles; 2.4 km
- circular

Type of route:
forestry paths with some steep sections; summit detour on rough tracks.

strenuous

After climbing steeply and crossing a burn, watch for a marker post for the detour to the summit of Cruach Tairbeir (415m). If you choose this detour, follow the path to the summit, offering spectacular views of Loch Lomond and Loch Long, as well as the dam at Loch Sloy, then return the same way to rejoin the circular path. Continue around the loop, with glimpses of the loch through the trees.



3 Tarbet Isle Loop

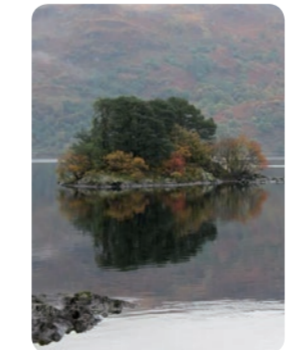
Forest walk with mountain and loch views

This short circular walk through mixed woodland starts just north of Tarbet. Take care along the busy A82 if you walk from Tarbet, or park at the start of the walk opposite Tarbet Isle, known locally as 'Honeymoon Isle' because newlyweds were reputedly sent here. If they were still on good terms by the end of the week, it was deemed a sign that the marriage would last!

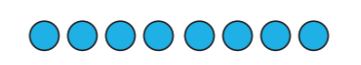
Distance:
1.25 miles; 2 km
- circular

Type of route:
forestry paths

moderate



The loop can be walked in either direction. Heading clockwise, the path climbs to the left before dipping down into the trees and continuing through deciduous woodland - look out for the colourful jays, especially in the autumn when the acorns are ripe! The walk circles back, passing a local café and car park.



4 Tarbet to Inverbeg via Firkin

The Old Road

A pretty one-way walk along a quiet disused road hugging the shore of Loch Lomond, past pebbled beaches with spectacular views across the water to iconic Ben Lomond. Keep an eye out for ospreys!

Distance:
4.8 miles; 7.7 km
- one way

Type of route:
pavement and tarmac paths

easy

Starting by Tarbet Pier, this walk follows the A82 pavement for about a mile (1.6 km), but soon cuts down to the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond along a now-disused road. Arrive at Firkin Point with picnic benches and a great skimming-stone beach. The walk ends at Inverbeg caravan site. This is a one-way walk, but there are bus stops and parking at either end.



5 Succoth to Inverugas & Loch Sloy

Glen Loin

Starting from the car park at the head of Loch Long (small charge) follow the track to the right of the River Loin and then the sign for the 'Stronafyne Loop Walk'. Turn left up the glen, with spectacular views of Loch Long to the south. At the head of the glen, cross the wooden bridge over Inverugas Water by the ruined settlement of Coiregrogain.

Distance:
4.75 miles; 7.75 km
- one way

Sloy detour
3 miles; 4.8 km

Type of Route: well-defined paths and tarmac road

moderate



Turn right on the tarmac road to descend to Inverugas on Loch Lomond (approx 2 miles/ 3.2 km); or turn left for a detour to the Sloy Dam and reservoir, built for the hydro-electric scheme in the mid-1940s and still in use today. This is a one-way walk, but parking and buses are available at Loch Long and Inverugas.



Vikings and Victorians!

The strategic location of the three villages has shaped the history of the area for thousands of years. Loch Long penetrates deep into the mountains, and once provided easy access from the sea for people wishing to settle or trade, as well as for those with less peaceful intentions.



Flint tools found in Tarbet provide evidence of prehistoric activity, while an ancient saga tells how, in 1263, followers of the Norwegian King Haco pulled their boats out at Arrochar and dragged them across the isthmus to Loch Lomond, from where they sailed south to plunder the settlements around Loch Lomond. The name Tarbet is derived from the Gaelic, An Tairbeart, meaning an isthmus.

The lands around Arrochar traditionally belonged to the MacFarlane clan from 1225 until they were forced to sell them in 1785 to help pay their debts. Today, most of the land around the three villages is owned and managed by Luss Estates, under the lairdship of Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss.

The hillsides around Loch Long and Loch Lomond bear testament to the many, small communities that used to live here. A few tumbled walls are now all that remain of settlements such as High Morlaggan, Stuc na Cloich, and Tyvechtican, whose inhabitants abandoned their cottages and self-sufficient lifestyles in favour of towns and cities, or to travel to America or Australia.

The MacFarlanes had a reputation – rightly or wrongly – as enthusiastic cattle rustlers, who would hide their booty in the mountains near Loch Sloy in the dead of night, hence the clan's battle cry of 'Loch Sloy!' and the local name for the moon of 'MacFarlane's lantern'.

The Victorian era saw a steady stream of paddle steamers bringing visitors up Loch Long from Glasgow to Arrochar, from where they could visit the local hotels, or travel across to Tarbet to catch another steamer to explore the scenery of the world famous Loch Lomond.



Photo by Sandra Kay

Loch Long has influenced local fortunes further, once part of a thriving herring-fishing industry, and more recently, as the site of a torpedo-testing range, closed in 1986.

The spectacular mountain scenery that today attracts visitors from far and wide also has more practical applications. The UK's largest conventional hydroelectric power station was opened in 1950 at Sloy, near Ardlui. The Forestry Commission uses the land for plantations, while their proximity to Glasgow meant that the 'Arrochar Alps' played a key role in the development of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

Arrochar & Tarbet Paths Key

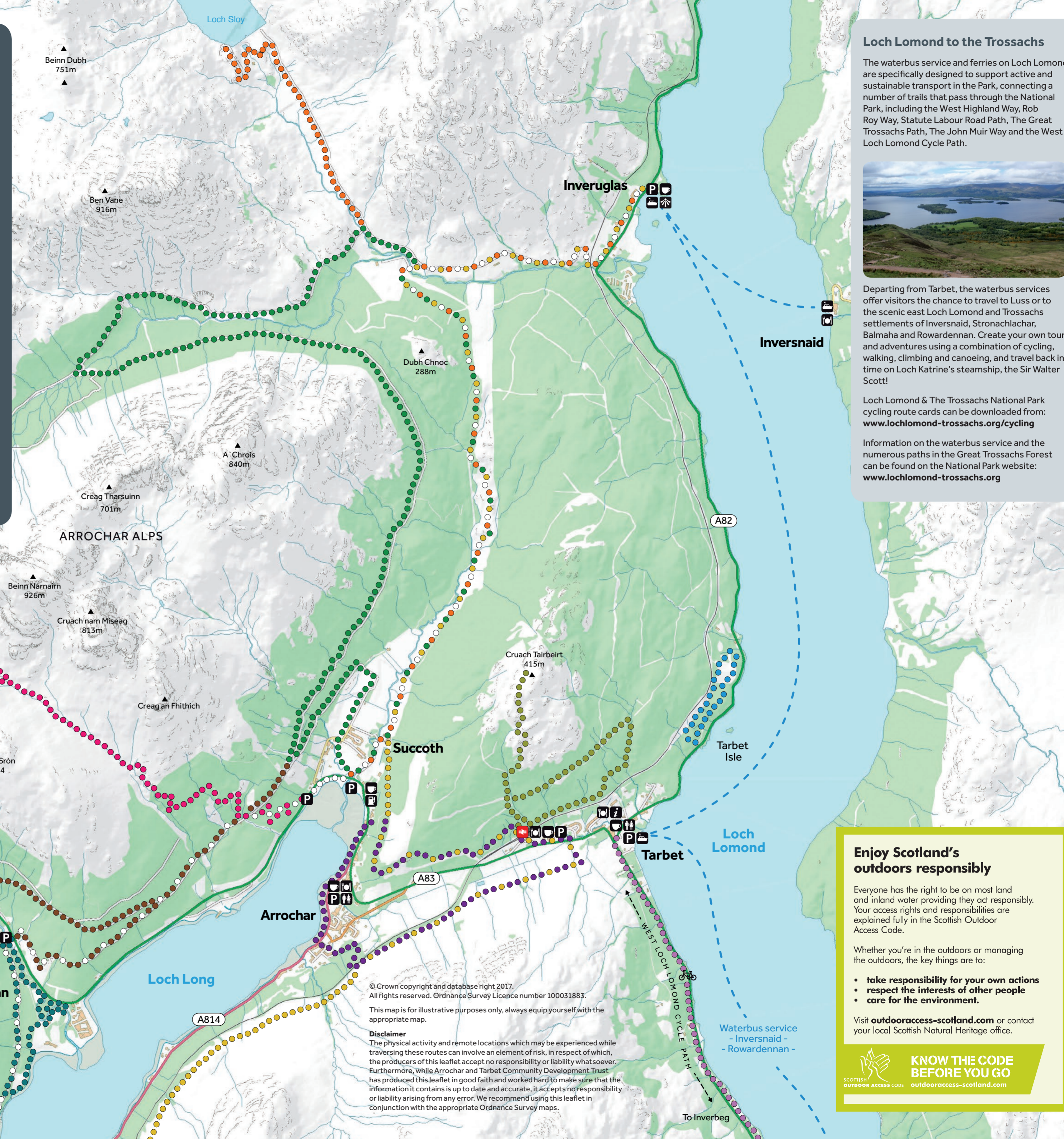
- 1. The Hidden Heritage Trail
- 2. Tarbet Loop and Cruach Tairbeirt
- 3. Tarbet Isle Loop
- 4. Tarbet to Inverbeg via Firkin
- 5. Succoth to Inveruglas via Loch Sloy
- 6. Succoth to Coiregregain Circular
- 7. Arrochar to Ardgartan or Arrochar to Honeymoon Bridge
- 8. The Cobbler
- 9. Ardgartan Riverside Trails
- ○ ○ ○ Cowal Way
- Three Lochs Way

- 🚻 Toilets
- ☕ Cafe
- 🍽️ Restaurant
- P Parking
- 🛢️ Petrol Station
- 🏔️ Viewpoint
- 🚢 Waterbus
- ℹ️ Information

Ardgartan

An area of outstanding and charming beauty, Argyll Forest Park extends from Arrochar to other areas including Glenbranter, Carrick Castle, Lochgoilhead, Benmore, Corlarach, Puck's Glen and Ardentinnny – all of which offer numerous trails for cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

Ardgartan, nestled at the foot of the Cobbler among the Sitka and Norway spruce of Argyll Forest Park, means 'high garden' in Gaelic. The many options at Ardgartan include traversing the exciting Cat Craig Loop or the Ardgartan Peninsula Circuit, or perhaps strolling on the more relaxing riverside and loch-shore walks.



Loch Lomond to the Trossachs

The waterbus service and ferries on Loch Lomond are specifically designed to support active and sustainable transport in the Park, connecting a number of trails that pass through the National Park, including the West Highland Way, Rob Roy Way, Statute Labour Road Path, The Great Trossachs Path, The John Muir Way and the West Loch Lomond Cycle Path.



Departing from Tarbet, the waterbus services offer visitors the chance to travel to Luss or to the scenic east Loch Lomond and Trossachs settlements of Inversnaid, Stronachlachar, Balmaha and Rowardennan. Create your own tours and adventures using a combination of cycling, walking, climbing and canoeing, and travel back in time on Loch Katrine's steamship, the Sir Walter Scott!

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park cycling route cards can be downloaded from: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/cycling

Information on the waterbus service and the numerous paths in the Great Trossachs Forest can be found on the National Park website: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



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