

Our Top 20 things to do around Loch Ness (in no particular order!)



Ness Islands Walk – A walk around the river Ness, and through the smaller islands, connected by a series of bridges. Start the walk from the City Centre, taking in buildings such as the Cathedral and Eden Court on the way, or start on the Dores side of Inverness at the war memorial. The walk can be as long or as short as you want. **FREE**



Inverness Museum and Art Gallery- learn about Scottish geology. Nature and culture, then walk up to and around the castle to enjoy views of the City. **FREE**



Jacobite Cruises - Drive round to the other side of the loch, and get on a Jacobite boat at the Clansman Harbour for a relaxing sail down to Urquhart Castle and back. **£13 - £30**



Dolphin spotting at Chanonry Point – Between Fortrose and Rosemarkie on the Black Isle, Chanonry Point is one of the best spots in the UK to view bottlenose dolphins. They can be seen year-round, but most sightings are in the summer months, and they are best seen at an incoming tide. Chanonry Point is situated East of Fortrose off the A832 **FREE**



Change House Walk - A gentle walk along the shore at the Change House, then follow the marked trail across the road and complete the loop through the woods. **FREE**



Falls of Foyers – A few miles beyond the Change House, you will find one of the must-see sights of south Loch Ness. Starting at the top, with parking beside the shop and café, you can choose to just walk to the first viewpoint for a look, or complete the whole 4.5km loop. **FREE.**



Suidhe Viewpoint - Take a drive up to Suidhe Viewpoint (on the B862 at a height of 393m / 1200ft) the highest point on road on the south side of the Loch. There is an interpretation board and a breathtaking walk to take you even higher. **FREE**



Experience 4x4 – If you want to do something with a little more adrenalin, head along to the premier 4x4 driving and quad biking attraction, only 20 minute drive from Balachladaich. Tel 07825 428227 to book. 4x4 - **£90 per vehicle** for 90 mins. Quad Bikes - **£50 per person**.



Loch Ruthven – use the RSPB hides to view the rare Slavonian Grebe (easiest time to view is Apr – June, although they are around until late summer). Ospreys are also a regular in spring and summer, and buzzards are often seen in the autumn. **FREE**



Farigaig Forest - Just 5 miles from Balachladaich and part of the Great Glen forest, Farigaig has a range of wood types & landscapes & is a haven for red squirrels & badgers. There are several different trails, ranging from 1 hour to 4 hours, which all start at the Visitor Centre. **FREE**



Whisky & Tartan - Drive to Tain to visit Glenmorangie distillery, visiting the Anta pottery and fabric shop in Fearn on the way, enjoying a bite to eat at their café. Glenmorangie Tour approx. **£5** per adult. Anta is **FREE**.



Glen Affric and Plodda Falls – Less than 1 ½ hours away, Glen Affric is renowned for being an area of outstanding beauty, and Plodda Falls is one of Scotland's most beautiful waterfalls. You can also stop at the Bronze Age, **Corrimony Chambered Cairn** near Drumnadrochit.- a passage grave dating from 3rd Milenium BC. **FREE**



South Loch Ness Trail - Walk from Balachladaich along the South Loch Ness trail and up Fair Hair Lad's pass for spectacular views of the Loch. Allow 4 hours to get right to the top and back. Ask for a map of the trail. **FREE**



Titanic Inverness Maritime Museum – An interactive and evolving maritime museum with nautical artefacts and large model ships such as the magnificent Titanic 1:10 scale model which allows you to go inside and Open daily 12-5pm. **FREE**



Floral Hall – Enjoy the oasis of calm just minutes from the City Centre. Wander through the Tropical House and the Cactus House, then head out to the sheltered formal gardens and rockery. Finish off with a bite to eat at Cobbs Café. **FREE**



Cawdor Castle – 1 hour away, the pretty village of Cawdor is home to this impressive fortress, still home to the Cawdor family today. Along with 3 gardens, the 'Big Wood', a fantastic restaurant and a 9 hole golf course, it is a great day out. **May-Oct £6 - £9.75.**



Culloden Battlefield – With 1200 dead in 1 hour Culloden was a short but bloody battle - the last to be fought on British soil. Follow characters who were actually involved in the battle around the interactive exhibition, experience the true horror of the battle in an immersive film, take a battlefield tour, and watch the daily Living History presentations which bring the battle to life. 1 hour from Balachladaich. **£10.50 per adult.**



Clava Cairns – close to Culloden, this Bronze Age circular chamber tomb cairn is worth a visit if you are nearby. **FREE**



Fort George - Following the 1746 defeat at Culloden of Bonnie Prince Charlie, George II created the ultimate defence against further Jacobite unrest. 1 hour away, Fort George is the only ancient monument in Scotland still functioning as a working army barracks - but still welcoming visitors. Also includes café, gift shop Museum of the Highlanders. **Adult £8.90, Child £5.40,**

Concession £7.20



Leaky's Second Hand Book Shop – A converted church at the bottom of Church Street in Inverness, this is an amazing place for anyone who likes books or enjoys a great café with home cooking and an open fire. It also displays local art. Browse, read, drink coffee... nobody will bother you in here. **FREE**

If you would like more information or directions to any of the places listed above, just ask John or Fiona.