

Glen to Glen

THE SCOTLAND TOURIST NEWSLETTER

Featured in each Months Newsletter

- Scotland Travel Tip
- Featured Castle
- Featured Adventure
- Island Adventure
- Hiking/Biking Trail
- A Must See
- A Must Eat
- Beach Lovers
- Museum Buffs
- The Whisky Admirer
- The Beer Connoisseur
- Featured Monument



Tourist Map

Our website now features a new Tourist Map that highlights the locations of all the places mentioned in our previous month's newsletters. The map will be updated monthly as each newsletter is archived at the end of the month. Feel free to visit glentoglen.com to check it out.

Travel Tip

Midges are tiny flying insects found in Scotland, especially in damp and wooded areas during warmer months. These insects can be a nuisance due to their bites, which can cause itching and discomfort. To deal with midges, consider wearing long sleeves, using insect repellent specifically designed for midges, and avoiding outdoor activities during their peak feeding times around dawn and dusk.

Featured Castle

Knock Castle



Are you ready to embark on a journey through time and explore the captivating history of Scotland? Look no further than the mesmerizing ruins of Knock Castle in Aberdeenshire. Perched atop a prominent hill just outside Ballater, this stunning tower house offers an authentic glimpse into the past, making it a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Knock Castle, a four-storey tower dating back to the 17th century, stands as a testament to the rich heritage of the Scottish highlands. Accessible via a scenic farm track, the castle's rugged beauty and well-preserved walls will transport you to an era of Scottish lairds and their traditional way of life. The tower, although a shell, has been stabilized, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore its structure up to the wallhead.

Visiting Knock Castle is like stepping into a time capsule. The panoramic views from the hilltop location are breathtaking, providing an added layer of charm to the experience. While the tower itself is a shell, its impressive structure and the absence of scaffolding allow you to truly appreciate its historic significance. The castle is under the care of Historic Environment Scotland, ensuring that its legacy is preserved for generations to come.

Before you set out on your adventure, keep in mind that access to Knock Castle is via a farm track. If you plan to drive, it's essential to seek permission from the farm beforehand. While there is no formal parking area, pedestrian access is permitted and provides an opportunity to savor the natural surroundings. The castle's remote location means that amenities may be limited, so it's advisable to come prepared with snacks, water, and comfortable footwear.

Location: Ballater AB35 5SQ Scotland

Glen to Glen

Featured Adventure

Scotland's Castle Trail

Nestled in the picturesque landscapes of Aberdeenshire, Scotland's Castle Trail beckons travelers on a captivating voyage through centuries of history and architectural marvels. With a staggering count of over 260 castles, stately homes, and ruins, this region has rightfully earned the title of "Scotland's Castle Country." As you set out on this enchanting adventure, you'll discover a world where the past seamlessly intertwines with the present.

The Castle Trail's allure lies not only in its remarkable destinations but also in the scenic journey that connects them. Spanning a total distance of 229.2 miles (366.72 km), the trail winds its way from the charming coastal town of Stonehaven to the picturesque village of Alford. Along the way, the distinctive brown and white Castle Trail signs will serve as your guiding beacons, ensuring you don't miss a single hidden gem.

Your journey commences with a visit to the dramatic ruins of Dunnottar Castle in Stonehaven. Perched atop towering cliffs, this historic stronghold has witnessed the footsteps of legends like William Wallace and Mary Queen of Scots. Moving forward, you'll be transported to a fairytale realm as you explore the spellbinding interiors of Crathes Castle. Its spiral staircases and lush gardens provide an immersive experience that transcends time.

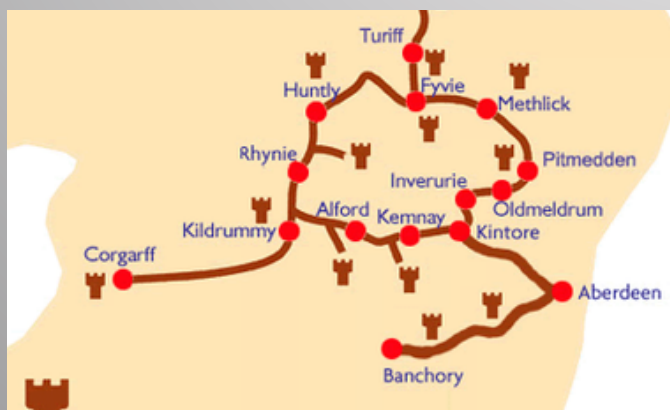
Prepare to be enchanted by Haddo House, an elegant mansion exuding Victorian grandeur. As you wander through its rooms adorned with fine art and furniture, a sense of aristocratic life comes to life. Kinnaird Head Castle, home to the Museum of



Scottish Lighthouses, offers a unique twist on history. The lighthouse tower embedded within the castle walls is a testament to the evolution of Scotland's maritime heritage. A highlight of the journey awaits at Balmoral Castle, the cherished Scottish retreat of the Royal Family. The elegant castle, nestled amidst stunning surroundings, provides an insight into royal life while boasting impressive gardens and special exhibitions. As you explore, it's not uncommon to feel a connection to history and a sense of awe.

While the castles steal the spotlight, the journey itself unveils the true essence of Aberdeenshire. Winding roads lead through idyllic countryside, past rolling hills, and alongside quaint villages. Keep your camera ready to capture panoramic views, and perhaps even a glimpse of Scotland's diverse wildlife. As the weather can be unpredictable, be sure to pack layers to stay comfortable during your explorations.

As you venture along the Castle Trail, consider renting a car for the best experience, allowing you to set your own pace and immerse yourself fully in each stop. While exploring castles is the heart of the journey, take time to indulge in local flavors and immerse yourself in the warmth of charming towns.



Glen to Glen

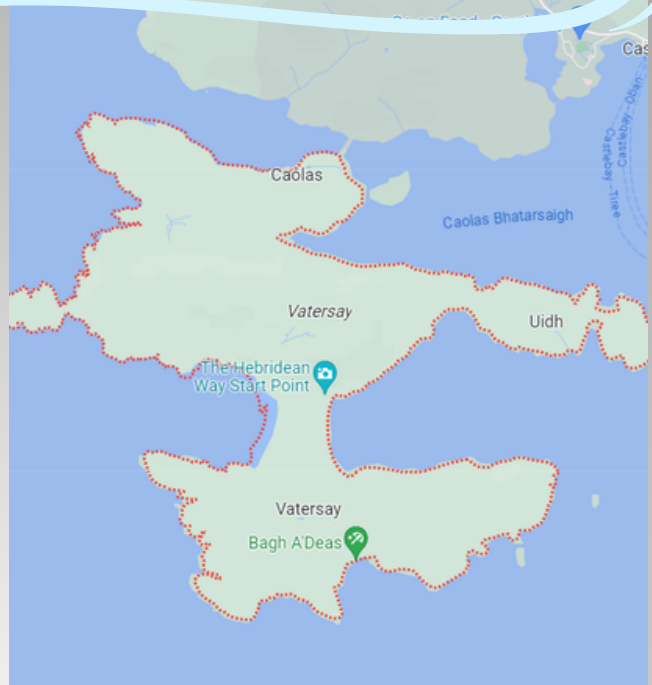
Island Adventure

Vatersay Island A Unique Scottish Getaway

Nestled on the southernmost and westernmost fringes of the Outer Hebrides, Vatersay Island is a hidden gem that beckons to those seeking an off-the-beaten-path Scottish adventure. This captivating island boasts a captivating blend of breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and a resilient community that welcomes travelers with open arms.

Vatersay Island's irregular shape and stunning geography are bound to leave a lasting impression. The island is composed of two rocky landmasses connected by a sandy isthmus, forming a tombolo. As you traverse this sandy stretch, you'll be greeted by the stunning white-sand beaches of Bàgh Siar (West Bay) and Bàgh Bhatarsaigh (Vatersay Bay). The beaches are not only picturesque but also invite you to soak in the tranquility of the turquoise waters and the rich machair grasses that fringe the coastline. For wildlife enthusiasts, Vatersay Island offers encounters with Eurasian otters, seals, grey herons, and even Atlantic puffins.

Delve into the island's history as you explore its archaeological treasures. The remains of an Iron Age broch at Dun a' Chaolais overlook the Sound of Vatersay, providing a glimpse into the island's ancient past. Nearby, a passage grave dating back to the 3rd millennium BC stands as a testament to the island's enduring significance throughout the ages. For history buffs, the Bronze Age cemetery at Trèseabhaig and the ancient cairn near the village of Vatersay offer insight into the island's prehistoric heritage.



Vatersay Island is linked to Barra by the Vatersay Causeway, making accessibility a breeze compared to relying solely on small passenger ferries. The causeway has not only transformed transportation logistics but has also improved access to essential services like schools and emergency facilities. Castlebay, the main village on Barra, is just a short drive away from the causeway.

While Vatersay Island offers a unique and rewarding experience, there are a few downsides to consider. The island's remote location means that amenities and services may be limited. It's advisable to plan ahead, stock up on essentials, and be prepared for unpredictable weather conditions. The same rugged landscape that makes the island beautiful also requires a degree of caution. Visitors should exercise care when exploring coastal areas, as tides and waves can be powerful and swift.

Visiting Vatersay Island promises an unparalleled escape from the ordinary. Its mesmerizing beaches, ancient archaeological sites, and warm local hospitality create an unforgettable experience for travelers seeking a genuine connection with nature and history. With its mix of enchanting beauty and historical intrigue, Vatersay Island invites you to venture off the well-trodden path and immerse yourself in the raw allure of the Outer Hebrides. Just remember to come prepared, respect the environment, and savor every moment of this unique Scottish getaway.



Glen to Glen

For the Hiker / Biker

The Loch Ness 360

Scotland's rugged landscapes and breathtaking scenery have long captured the hearts of travelers seeking adventure and natural beauty. If you're looking to immerse yourself in the splendor of the Highlands, the Loch Ness 360 Trail promises an unforgettable journey through enchanting landscapes, charming villages, and the legendary Loch Ness.

The Loch Ness 360 Trail is a captivating route that encircles the iconic Loch Ness, taking walkers on a captivating journey through some of Scotland's most picturesque scenery. Starting in the Highland Capital of Inverness, this trail offers a complete circuit around the famous loch, presenting walkers with an array of awe-inspiring views and cultural experiences. Embarking on the Loch Ness 360 Trail is like stepping into a storybook. The trail follows two distinctive sections: the first half along the renowned Great Glen Way on the north side of the loch, and the second half along the South Loch Ness Trail on the southern shore. The trail not only offers a chance to soak in the natural beauty of the region but also unveils historical sites, charming villages, and cozy accommodations.

As you tread the path of the Loch Ness 360, you'll encounter a series of captivating stages. From the bustling city of Inverness to the quaint village of Dores, each segment brings its own unique charm. The trail offers a variety of terrains, from lush woodlands to serene waterside paths, ensuring that every step

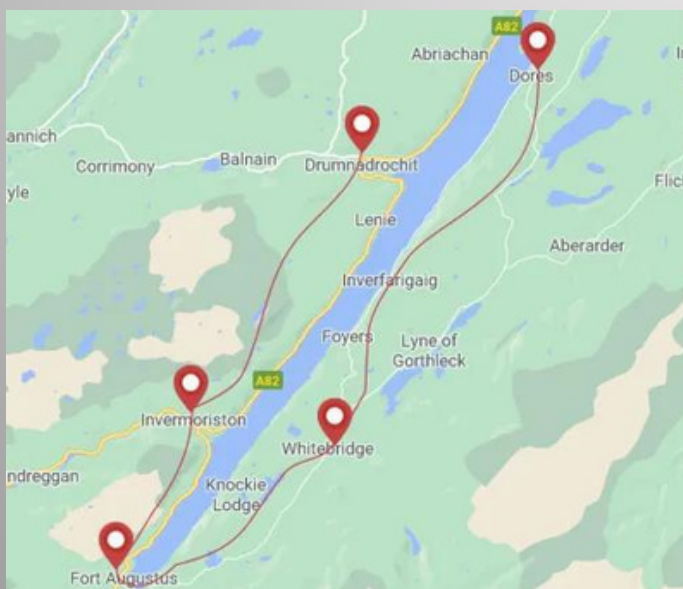


a new adventure. Highlights include the mystical ruins of Urquhart Castle, the picturesque village of Drumnadrochit, and the serene tranquility of Foyers.

While the Loch Ness 360 Trail promises an incredible experience, it's important to consider a few practical aspects before embarking on your journey. The trail can be completed within a week, making it an ideal option for those seeking a manageable adventure. Adequate planning, including booking accommodations in advance, is recommended, especially during peak seasons. While the trail is well-marked and accessible, some sections might require a moderate level of fitness and proper hiking gear.

As with any travel experience, it's important to be aware of potential downsides. Weather conditions in the Highlands can be unpredictable, so packing appropriate clothing and gear for varying conditions is crucial. Additionally, while the trail offers a range of accommodations, some remote sections might have limited amenities, so planning ahead for meals and provisions is advisable.

The Loch Ness 360 Trail promises an adventure of a lifetime, a chance to immerse yourself in the beauty and history of Scotland's Highlands. From the mist-covered hills to the glistening waters of Loch Ness, every step is an opportunity to create lasting memories and connect with the heart of this remarkable landscape. So lace up your hiking boots, pack your sense of wonder, and set forth on a journey that will leave you spellbound by the magic of Scotland's Loch Ness 360 Trail.



Distance: 129.25 Km/80.7Miles

Start: Inverness, Scotland

Finish: Inverness, Scotland

Glen to Glen

A Must See

Fingal's Cave

Are you ready to embark on a journey that will transport you to a realm of ancient legends, awe-inspiring geology, and artistic inspiration? Look no further than Fingal's Cave, a remarkable sea cave nestled on the captivating island of Staffa in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. As your trusty guides to all things Scottish, we're thrilled to introduce you to this natural wonder. The Marvel of Fingal's Cave: Step into a world where hexagonal basalt columns soar skyward, forming an otherworldly symphony of shapes. Fingal's Cave, owned by the National Trust for Scotland, is a geological masterpiece, created over millions of years by volcanic forces and the relentless sea. The cave's mysterious aura, complemented by its natural acoustics, has captured the hearts of poets, composers, and artists throughout history.

The Journey Begins: To embark on this adventure, consider planning a sightseeing cruise from April to September, offered by local companies. The cave's arched entrance, filled by the sea, is a sight to behold from the outside. In calm conditions, some tours even allow you to land on the island and walk along fractured columns that lead you to the cave's interior.

Words of Wisdom: While Fingal's Cave promises an enchanting experience, there are a few things to keep in mind. The Scottish



In weather can be unpredictable. Be prepared for changes in weather, especially if you plan to explore the island. Dress in layers and carry rain gear just in case. Additionally, the journey to the cave involves sea travel, so if you're prone to motion sickness, consider taking precautions.

Please note that the cave's interior is accessible via fractured columns that form a walkway, adding to the adventure but potentially posing challenges for those with mobility issues. Wildlife enthusiasts will find the nearby islands hosting puffin colonies during the summer months.

You need to access the cave by taking a boat or ferry to the island

A Must Eat

Dundee Cake

Steeped in history dating back to the 1600s, the Dundee Cake's story is as rich as its taste. Originally created for Mary Queen of Scots, this cake boasts a delightful blend of raisins, sultanas, almonds, and the distinctive essence of Seville oranges. It's a symphony of flavors that's both delicate and bold, embodying the very essence of Scotland.

But where can you embark on this delectable adventure? Fear not, for we've got you covered! You can experience the genuine Dundee Cake at its birthplace, the picturesque coastal city of Dundee. Journey through charming local bakeries and cozy tearooms, where every bite transports you to a bygone era. Allow the Dundee Cake to be your companion as you explore

Scotland's captivating landscapes, from the historic streets of Edinburgh to the rugged Highlands. Let its flavors encapsulate the warmth and hospitality of this remarkable nation. So, dear travelers, when in Scotland, embrace the heritage and relish the joy of a true Dundee Cake. Your taste buds will thank you, and your heart will forever carry the soul of Scotland.



Glen to Glen

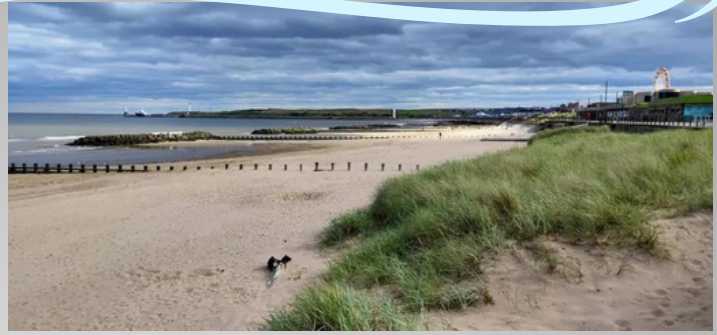
Beach Lovers

Aberdeen Beach

Nestled along the picturesque coastline of Aberdeen, Scotland, lies the captivating Aberdeen Beach and Queens Links, a haven for beach enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. With its renowned golden sands stretching gracefully between Aberdeen Harbour and the River Don's mouth, this breathtaking stretch of coastline offers a serene escape from the bustling city life.

Aberdeen Beach has not only gained fame for its stunning beauty but also for its dedication to preserving its charm. Distinctive groynes and walls line the shore, safeguarding the sands from erosion and providing a unique touch to the landscape. The beach is a hotspot for walkers, surfers, and windsurfers, who all revel in the coastal allure and invigorating waters.

Recently, a million-pound endeavor saw the introduction of new sand, transported by ship from farther down the coast, rekindling the beach's natural grandeur. V-shaped formations of



rocks were ingeniously placed to mitigate erosion, enhancing both aesthetics and functionality.

While the magic of Aberdeen Beach is undeniable, it's wise to note that the Scottish weather can be unpredictable. A jacket or sweater is advisable to fully savor the refreshing sea breeze. Additionally, check local tide times for the safest and most enjoyable beach experience.

Location: Queens Links, Beach Boulevard, Beach Esplanade Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB24 5NS

Museum Buffs

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

Unveil the enchanting world of Robert Burns, Scotland's beloved National Bard, at the picturesque Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. Immerse yourself in the life and genius of this literary icon as you journey through historical landmarks, interactive exhibits, and the very cottage where Burns was born.

Explore the heartwarming history of Burns as you step into his childhood home, the renowned Burns Cottage. This is where he spent his early years and where his creative spirit was ignited. The museum itself is a treasure trove of over 5,000 artefacts, including handwritten manuscripts and personal items, offering an intimate glimpse into the poet's life. Engage with interactive displays that breathe life into his timeless poetry and songs. Stroll along the Poet's Path, meandering through the charming village of Alloway and connecting you with sites that played a significant role in Burns's life and literary works. Admire the grandeur of the Burns Monument, surrounded by serene commemorative gardens. This elegant tribute provides the



perfect setting for contemplation and appreciation.

While the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum promises an enchanting experience, it's good to keep a few tips in mind. The museum can get quite busy during weekends and holidays, so if possible, plan your visit on weekdays for a more serene encounter. A

Location: Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr, Ayrshire, KA7 4PQ
Website: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum>

Glen to Glen

The Whisky Admirer Talisker Distillery

Escape to the rugged beauty of the Isle of Skye and immerse yourself in the world of whisky at the iconic Talisker Distillery. Nestled along the shores of the Atlantic, this historic distillery offers a captivating journey into the heart of Scotch whisky production. Known for its distinctive chili catch and spicy character, Talisker's renowned 10-year-old whisky is a must-try for enthusiasts seeking a bold taste adventure. Embark on a guided tour through Talisker's traditional pot stills and modern facilities. Learn about the distillation process, from malt to maturation, as expert guides share the secrets behind the cherished Talisker flavor profile. Conclude your tour with an exclusive tasting experience, sampling a selection of Talisker's finest offerings. From peated to sherry-cask matured expressions, your palate will journey through layers of complexity. Explore the distillery's gift shop for a variety of Talisker expressions and unique souvenirs. Discover special on-location exclusives that make for memorable keepsakes. While the Talisker Distillery promises an unforgettable experience, be prepared for the strong regional accents of the guides. Non-



native English speakers might find some accents challenging. Additionally, keep in mind that the distillery's picturesque location by the Atlantic might subject you to unpredictable weather conditions. Experience the fiery spirit of Talisker Distillery and carry the essence of Skye's whisky heritage with you wherever you roam. Cheers to an adventure brimming with flavor and culture.

Location: Carbost IV47 8SR Scotland

The Beer Connoisseur Tempest Brewing Company

Discover the spirit of brewing innovation at Drygate Brewery, nestled beneath the iconic seven peaks of a converted box factory in Glasgow. With a bespoke 26.5HL main brewhouse and a 250L Studio kit, this brewery embodies a passion for exceptional beer.

Originally built in 1964, the building's rich history as a box assembly and screenprinting factory is celebrated throughout. Step inside to experience the perfect blend of industrial heritage and contemporary craft. The restored sawtooth roof and exposed brick walls harken back to its past, while cutting-edge brewing equipment showcases the present.

Drygate invites you on a journey through brewing excellence and discovery. The preserved paint marks on the concrete floor tell stories of its functional past. From the heart of Glasgow's industrial legacy, the brewery welcomes visitors to explore the intricacies of the brewing process and indulge in unique flavors.



Whether you're a seasoned beer aficionado or curious about the art of brewing, Drygate Brewery offers an immersive experience that marries tradition with innovation. Raise a glass to the fusion of history, passion, and exceptional craftsmanship in every sip. Your visit to Drygate Brewery promises not just a taste of remarkable beer, but also a glimpse into Glasgow's industrial soul.

Location: 85 Drygate, Glasgow G4 0UT Scotland

Glen to Glen

Featured Monument Graefriars Bobby



Nestled in the heart of Edinburgh lies the Greyfriars Bobby monument, a testament to an extraordinary tale of loyalty that has captured hearts for generations. The story unfolds in the 19th century when a faithful Skye Terrier named Bobby stood guard over his owner's grave in all weather, refusing to leave his side for fourteen years. Through rain and snow, Bobby's unwavering dedication touched the souls of those who witnessed his vigil. The monument immortalizes this poignant bond, portraying Bobby beside the grave he protected. A visit to this site allows you to step into history and witness a timeless example of devotion that transcends time and leaves a profound mark on all who encounter it.

About Us

Welcome to "Glen to Glen," your premier destination for exploring the enchanting landscapes and rich heritage of Scotland. Our newsletter is your gateway to discovering the hidden gems and unforgettable experiences that await you. Immerse yourself in the mystique of ancient castles, savor the flavors of traditional Scottish cuisine, and delve into the captivating tales of Scottish folklore. Whether you're drawn to the rugged beauty of the Highlands or the vibrant city life, "Glen to Glen" will guide you through the diverse wonders that make Scotland a truly remarkable and memorable destination. Get ready to embark on an extraordinary journey through the heart and soul of Scotland.

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Newsletter

Scottish Clan Connection

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM BAGTOWNCLANS.COM

Featuring New Each Month:

- Scottish Clan News
- A Clan Myth or Legend
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