

## Sample itinerary – Glasgow airport to Inveraray

**57 miles : If driven directly, plan 1.5 hours but we advise stopping at lots of points of interest & scenic beauty, so it could take you much longer !**

Depart airport and follow signs for M8 motorway and Greenock / Erskine Bridge. After 5 miles join M898, signposted Erskine Bridge / Erskine and then follow Crianlarich as you drive over the bridge. At end of bridge, be in left hand lane to join main road heading to Crianlarich via Loch Lomond.

**PLEASE NOTE, YOU WILL NOT BE GOING ALL THE WAY TO CRIANLARICH – SEE DIRECTIONS BELOW**

### **Optional stop 1 :**

Follow this road (A82) until you see signs for Balloch – turn right at roundabout towards Balloch and either go to Loch Lomond Shores (shopping, restaurants and views)

<http://www.lochlomondshores.com>

or follow town centre where you can park and and take an optional cruise on Loch Lomond.

<http://www.sweeneyscruises.com/cruises.php>

Once you are ready, go back to main roundabout and take right turn, direction Crianlarich.

**Optional food / photo stop :** De Vere Cameron House Hotel / Duck Bay Marina (1 mile from roundabout)

Resume journey & carry on driving along A82

### **Optional stop 2 : village of Luss**

Beautiful village with historic “hog back” stones in graveyard – also great place for views of Loch Lomond and the hills

Rejoin the main road (A82) and head for Tarbet –

### **Optional stop 3 : Tarbet**

optional stop for photos, a cruise on loch Lomond or a toilet stop !  
turn right and immediately right into the car park.

**At Tarbet, carry straight on to A83, DO NOT take the right hand turn (A82) unless you are doing the optional stop.**

The next village is Arrochar with some lovely mountains on the far side.

**Optional stop 4 : walk time !**

If you like climbing hills, we can recommend The Cobbler (Ben Arthur), Ben Ime and Ben Narnain, which can all be reached from the car park at the far end of Arrochar, just as it turns the corner to go up the loch. Plan 3-5 hours to complete one of these mountains – though they can be linked together if you wish to make a full day of it. Walk descriptions can be found on <http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk>

Continue your journey – you will drive alongside Loch Long, once used for submarine ordnance testing .

The road will then start to climb through a valley – the top is called the “Rest & Be Thankful” – a welcome stopping point for 18<sup>th</sup> century soldiers who used the military road that followed & climbed this valley to the point at the top.

**Optional stop 5 : Rest & be Thankful**

Good photo stop !

Continue your journey : Stay on A83 and carry on down the other side of the hill and into a long valley – look for the old stone bridge on left hand side at bottom of hill, part of the old military road. You can stop in the “rough” car park on left if you wish to take photos. There is also an information panel on the far side of the bridge.

As you carry on along this straight road, watch your speed as the police often do speed checks here. The national speed limit for this road is 60mph, though you may be more comfortable going slightly slower at times.

You will now connect with the edge of another loch, Loch Fyne – Inveraray is found on the other side of this sea loch.

**Optional stop 6 : Loch Fyne Oyster Bar**

Fabulous (but slightly more expensive) seafood – to eat in or take away

It is only about another 10 minutes drive to Inveraray from here. As you approach Inveraray, there is a set of traffic lights at a bridge, as you cross the bridge, look right and admire Inveraray Castle.

### **Inveraray highlights**

- Inveraray Castle – home of Clan Campbell who have had a very interesting history !
- Inveraray Jail
- Wander around this historic planned town
- Have fish & chips from the fish & chip shop in the main street
- Have a pint and listen to live music in The George Hotel
- Climb up to the folly behind Inveraray Castle

### **Places worth visiting not far from Inveraray**

- Kilchurn Castle on Loch Awe (25 mins in car)
- St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe
- Beaver re-introduction programme, Knapdale
- Auchendrain Farm Township – see how people lived in the 1800s
- Crinan Canal (40 mins)
- Kilmartin Glen – amazing collection of standing stones and burial mounds from over 2000 years ago

Tarbert – at top of Mull of Kintyre (Paul McCartney song anyone ?) – great for fresh seafood as well