



# Self-Guided Loch Ness Tour Directions

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook



## Outlandish Scotland Journey

### Directions for a Self-Guided Loch Ness Tour

In the **Loch Ness Tours (Site #14)** chapter of *Outlandish Scotland Journey Part Two*, we help you decide whether or not to book a guided tour of Loch Ness—something we strongly recommend—and identify our favorite Loch Ness guided tours. This PDF is designed for Outlanderites who prefer to embark on a self-guided Loch Ness tour.

visit Inverness  
loch ness

This PDF contains the **Loch Ness Circuit** self-guided driving tour developed by **Visit Inverness Loch Ness**, and posted at:

<https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/explore-the-scottish-highlands/scottish-car-tours/car-tours-loch-ness-circuit/>

All text from the Visit Inverness Loch Ness tour is provided in ARIAL font.

We've added a few stops to this tour, provided SatNav/GPS coordinates for *all* of the sites listed, and suggested the amount of time each place requires.

All of our text is in this (Palatino Linotype) font.

**Please note that this itinerary was designed based on an Inverness departure and return.**

If you will be driving north from Fort William or Fort Augustus to Inverness, and returning to Fort Augustus/Fort William after your Loch Ness tour, simply begin with Stop 7 (Fort Augustus) and proceed to Stops 8, 9, and 10 along the east side of the loch. Then drive to Stop 1A and work your way back to Stop 7 along the west side.

If you'll not be returning to Fort Augustus/Fort William after driving north to Inverness, we suggest skipping the east side and visiting only the western side sites. Begin with Stop 7 and reverse the directions below, driving to Stop 6, then 5, and so on.

#### A Half-Day Tour of Loch Ness (4 to 6 hours)

Originating from Inverness, visiting sites on the western shore of Loch Ness, *skipping* Corrimony Cairn, and finishing your tour at Urquhart Castle. From there, reverse course and return to Inverness.

#### A Full-Day Tour of Loch Ness

Including the other stops on this itinerary requires up to a full-day commitment—6 to 10 hours, depending on how many places you visit. As you learned in our Loch Ness Tours chapter, however, many of the other sites associated with Loch Ness are absolutely marvelous.

## Loch Ness Cruises

We highly recommend enjoying a *short* cruise as part of your self-guided Loch Ness tour. The shortest Loch Ness cruises available for a self-guided Loch Ness tour are 1 hour long.

- **Loch Ness by Jacobite’s “Inspiration” Cruise**—also known as the “Clansman” cruise—departs from (and returns to) the Clansman Hotel, which is **Stop 2** on the route. This cruise can be prebooked, and it runs all year long. If you miss your booked cruise time, however, your fee is non-refundable.  
<https://www.jacobite.co.uk/cruiseinfo/Inspiration/>
- **Deepscan Cruises** depart hourly from the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition in Drumnadrochit (**Stop 3** on the route). These cruises cannot be prebooked, and are only available from Easter through October. The benefit of taking a Deepscan Cruise: Your itinerary timing is more flexible.  
<http://www.lochness.com/cruises.aspx>
- **Castle Cruises Loch Ness** depart hourly from Drumnadrochit village. Their ticket office is in the Loch Ness Gifts store directly across the road from the Drumnadrochit iCentre and free public car park. These cruises cannot be prebooked, and are only available from Easter through October. The benefit of taking a Castle Cruises Loch Ness cruise: Your itinerary timing is more flexible.  
<http://www.lochnesscruises.com/>

*Here we go!*

## Car Tours—Loch Ness Circuit

### 1 Day – Start and Finish in Inverness

67 miles

#### **Stop 1[A] Caledonian Canal Dochgarroch Lock**

**Drive Time:** 15 minutes from Inverness City Centre

Following the A82 south from Inverness, the **Caledonian Canal Dochgarroch Lock** is the first stop you’ll reach and the first stop added to this itinerary by *Outlandish Scotland Journey*. Read about this locations in our Loch Ness (Site #14) chapter.

Please note that the Loch Ness by Jacobite cruise that departs from this harbor is 2 hours long, and we do *not* recommend that long of a cruise.

**Dochgarroch Lock:** 57.433339, -4.30647

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes ... or, up to 1 hour if you hope to watch a boat go through the lock and don’t accidentally arrive when that is happening.

#### **Stop 1[B] Wellington Lay-By**

**Drive Time:** 5 minutes from Dochgarroch Lock

Following the A82 south out of Inverness, Loch Ness first comes into view just beyond [the village of] Lochend where there is a large lay-by to stop and take your first photos. The lay-by is called the **Wellington Lay-By** as it was here that a Wellington Bomber aircraft crashed into the waters of the Loch on a training flight during World War 2. From the lay-by you can also see across to

Aldourie Castle, a 'fairy tale' style castle, home of the Cameron Clan for over 300 years, but now providing exclusive accommodation for families and groups.

Read about the Wellington lay-by in our Loch Ness (Site #14) chapter.

**Wellington Lay-By:** 57.398599, -4.354367

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes will be plenty!

### **Stop 2 Clansman Hotel**

**Drive Time:** 3 minutes from the Wellington Lay-By

A few miles further down the road pull in at the **Clansman Hotel**. Not only does it have a great gift shop and café, it is also the embarkation point for Jacobite Cruises out on to Loch Ness.

**Loch Ness Clansman Hotel:** 57.364592, -4.392538

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes ... 1 hour and 30 minutes if you've booked a cruise.

The Loch Ness by Jacobite office is at the south end of the Clansman Hotel, just past the Nessie Shop. From there, you'll follow a path with some stairs that goes under the highway to reach the Clansman Harbor dock.

### **Stop 3 Drumnadrochit**

**Drive Time:** 6 minutes from the Clansman Hotel

Thirteen miles from Inverness you enter the village of **Drumnadrochit**. Park in the large car park in [front of] the **Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition** ... The Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition has a VisitScotland 5 star exhibition which tells you all you could wish to know about Loch Ness and the Monster, both fact and fiction. A long established family business, the centre manager Adrian Shine is a world authority on everything associated with the Loch. Back down in the village, Fiddler's Restaurant not only provides excellent bar food but also a huge selection of whiskies to choose from (not if you're the driver, of course)!

Read our **Drumnadrochit (Site #15)** chapter to learn more about the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition, and why we recommend avoiding "Nessieland." You'll also learn more about the two other Loch Ness cruise options in that chapter.

To assist all Outlanderites visiting Drumnadrochit, we created a map identifying the places discussed within the Drumnadrochit chapter:

<http://OutlandishScotland.com/15DrumnadrochitMap.pdf>

**Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Car Park:** 57.337286, -4.477858

**Drumnadrochit iCentre Car Park:** 57.335439, -4.480025

**Suggested Visit Time:** No less than 1 hour & 30 minutes for the exhibition and shops within the centre. Longer if you have time to enjoy the village of Drumnadrochit.

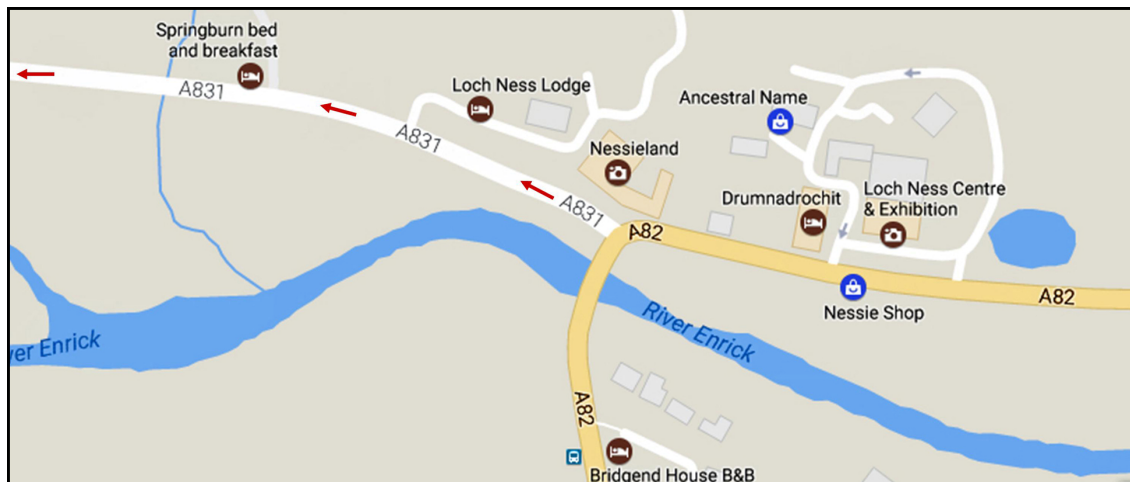
Add another hour if you'll be enjoying a cruise from this location.

### **Stop 4[A] Corrimony Chambered Cairn and Stone Circle**

**Drive Time:** 15 minutes from Drumnadrochit



**Corrimony Chambered Cairn and Stone Circle** is another *Outlandish Scotland Journey* addition. Read our Loch Ness (Site #14) chapter to learn more about this unusually well preserved, 4000-year-old passage grave and its dwarf stone circle. Outlanderites who will be visiting **Clava Cairns (Site #11)**, however, can skip Corrimony without remorse.



[Copyright 2016 Google Maps UK segment (enhanced)]

**Directions to Corrimony Chambered Cairn and Stone Circle:**

- At the Drumnadrochit bend of the A82—just west of the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition—turn right and take the A831 west for 7.7 miles (12 minutes). There you’ll see a sign directing you to turn left on the unnamed, single-lane road that leads to Corrimony Cairn.
- Follow that road for 7 tenths of a mile (3 minutes) and you’ll reach the Corrimony Cairn car park.

**Coordinates for the A831 Turn to Corrimony Cairn:** 57.333724, -4.669152

**Corrimony Cairn Car Park:** 57.334690, -4.685668

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes oughta do it.



[©Unknown Internet-posted pic segment (enhanced)]

### **Stop 4[B] Urquhart Castle**

**Drive Time:** 19 minutes from Corimony Cairn and Stone Circle

6 minutes from Drumnadrochit

Half a mile beyond [southeast of] Drumnadrochit are the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**. Standing perched above the deepest point in Loch Ness, the castle is a very popular attraction providing an insight in to the rich social and cultural history of the area. There is also an excellent café and gift shop.

Read our **Urquhart Castle (Site #16)** chapter to learn more about this fabulous, not-to-be-missed Loch Ness attraction.

**Urquhart Castle Car Park:** 57.324974, -4.445198

**Suggested Visit Time:** 1.5 to 2 (or 3) hours



[©2016 Google Street View image segment (enhanced)]

If you have the misfortune to be greeted by a “Car Park Full” sign upon arrival at Urquhart Castle (something only likely to happen during July and August, the busiest tourist season months):

- Drive through the car park anyway. Perhaps someone has left, but the sign has not yet been removed.
- If an attendant is present to prevent you from entering the lot, ask her/him what to do. You may have to wait at some other location, *OR* go on to the next stop and return later.

### **Stop 5 Invermoriston**

**Drive Time:** 20 minutes from Urquhart Castle

From Urquhart Castle it is a 20 minute drive [southwest] to the small village of **Invermoriston**. Often overlooked by visitors, it's a good place to stop and stretch your legs on the short walk to the waterfalls and Thomas Telford's historic bridge.

**Invermoriston Car Park:** 57.213674, -4.617376

**Suggested Visit Time:**

Only 30 to 60 minutes is required to leisurely visit the falls and bridge viewpoint, or quickly visit the viewpoint *and* walk over the bridge.

At least an hour can be spent in the Clog & Craft shop!  
Read our Loch Ness (Site #14) chapter to learn more about Invermoriston and the attractions it offers. Below are directions for finding them.

### **River Moriston Falls and Telford Bridge Viewpoint**

- At the south end of the Invermoriston car park is a path that runs behind the Glenmoriston Millennium Hall—aka the Invermoriston Village Hall. (Public toilets are in the hall.) This path leads to the old Summer House where you can view the falls and bridges.

### **Telford Bridge**

- To walk over the Telford Bridge, return to the car park, turn left and walk out to the A82. Cross the highway and turn left.
- Walk south along the highway to the Invermoriston bridge. After snapping pix from there, continue south to the next lane on the right—a single-track road called the “Great Glen Way.” Turn right and walk west for about a block.
- At the first large driveway on the right, turn right.
- In a few steps you’ll reach the path leading to the Telford Bridge, on your right.

### **St Columba’s Well**

- Return to the Great Glen Way, turn left and walk back to the A82 highway.
- Turn left and walk back north on the west side of the A82, passing the car park entrance on its east side.
- Just before you reach the Invermoriston bend in the A82, you’ll see a wooden arch on your left. This marks the entrance to the steps leading down to St Columba’s Well.

### **The Clog and Craft Shop**

- Climb back up to the A82 and turn left to continue walking north.
- When you reach the Invermoriston bend in the A82, the village shop will be on your left, and the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel directly ahead.
- Turn left and walk west on the A887 road for about a block. The shop will be on your right.

There is a small car park directly across from the Clog and Craft Shop. If you’re only stopping in Invermoriston to visit the shop, check to see if space is available in this car park before going to the village car park.

**Clog and Craft Shop Car Park:** 57.214777, -4.618381

### **Stop 6 Fort Augustus**

**Drive Time:** 9 minutes from Invermoriston

The next stop is at **Fort Augustus** at the southern end of Loch Ness. This bustling, small attractive village is dominated by the Caledonian Canal, built in the early part of the 19th Century by Thomas Telford, one of Scotland’s greatest civil engineers. Take a walk up and across the locks or simply rest a while and watch, particularly in summer as yachts and cruise boats make their way through to Loch Ness or south towards Fort William and the West. ...



There [are many] gift shops in the village to browse and places to eat.

Also don't forget to take a stroll along the lovely footpath which takes you along the waterfront around Fort Augustus Abbey. This building has a long and checkered history stretching back hundreds of years but today has been converted in to exclusive apartments.

**Fort Augustus Car Park:** 57.146767, -4.681329

**Suggested Visiting Time:** 1 to 2 hours

### **First Destination: The Caledonian Canal Centre and the Canal**

- After parking in the Fort Augustus car park, walk out to the A82 and turn right.
- Walk south along the A82, cross over the River Oich bridge, and you'll come to the Canal.
- Turn right before crossing over the canal to reach the Caledonian Canal Centre.

Before going into the centre, look to see if any boats are moving through the canal lochs when you arrive. Ask fellow onlookers what the situation is. Should you wait a few minutes, or come back after visiting the centre?

If you're interested in viewing the Fort Augustus Abbey, ask about it at the centre. It is a private business now – self-catering holiday apartments and cottages – and may not be open for the public to stroll through. If it is accessible, the centre will give you directions for how best to reach it.

<https://www.aonachmor.co.uk/fort-augustus-abbey/>

### **Stop 7[A] Suidhe Viewpoint**

**Drive Time:** 13 minutes from Fort Augustus

From Fort Augustus you start your journey back up the south [eastern] side of Loch Ness on the B862. Drivers should be aware that much of the road on this side of the Loch is still 'single track' but don't be put off by this. The traffic on this side of the Loch is light and as long as you follow the etiquette of driving on these roads you will be fine.

The scenery on [this side of Loch Ness] is wild and spectacular and for the best views stop at the highest point on the road called **Suidhe Viewpoint**. If you're not in a hurry, why not take a short walk along the South Loch Ness Trail from here and really take in the views?

At 1200ft (393m), Suidhe Viewpoint is the highest point on the B862. Two small parking laybys flank the road here, with an information board on the north side. From there, a short, but slightly steep path leads up to the viewpoint.

**Suidhe Viewpoint Lay-By:** 57.159553, -4.564954

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes

### **Stop 7[B] Whitebridge**

**Drive Time:** 5 minutes from Suidhe Viewpoint

Four miles north of Suidhe Viewpoint is the tiny village of **Whitebridge** – another of our additions. Home to fewer than 100 people, those who enjoy stopping where few tourists tread should consider grabbing a quick cuppa in the Whitebridge Hotel's pub and café.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitebridge,\\_Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitebridge,_Scotland)

<http://www.whitebridgehotel.co.uk/>

**Coordinates for the Whitebridge Hotel & Café:** 57.203249, -4.506113

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes



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After leaving (or passing) Whitebridge, continue north on the B862 for 1.3 miles—approximately 2 minutes—until you reach the left turn to Foyers. Turn left and follow the **B852** for the remainder of your journey.

**Foyer Turn:** 57.220204, -4.494247

### **Stop 8 Falls of Foyers**

**Drive Time:** 8 minutes from Whitebridge / 13 minutes from Suidhe Viewpoint

At the small village of Foyers, a visit to the **Falls of Foyers** is a must. A tourist attraction since Victorian times, when in spate they must be seen to be believed, the water thundering down over the falls through the gorge out into Loch Ness. There are a number of short walks in the vicinity of the falls to explore and the village also has a couple of lovely cafes to stop off for another cup of coffee after your exertions.

If you'll be passing this way, we highly recommend stopping at **Cameron's Tea Room and Farm Shop** *before* reaching the village of Foyers! See our **Dun Bonnet Cave (Site #17)** chapter to learn more about the tea room—and the cave.

[www.lochnesscottage.com/](http://www.lochnesscottage.com/)

**Cameron's Tea Room & Farm Shop:** 57.245723, -4.487964

**Falls of Foyers Car Park:** 57.250015, -4.490480

**Suggested Visit Time:** 1 hour at the Tea Room, 30 minutes in the Village to see the falls.

### **Stop 9 Boleskine Graveyard**

**Drive Time:** 2 minutes from the Falls of Foyers

If you are interested in local history, two miles on from Foyers is **Boleskine Graveyard** which is close to the remains (private property) of **Boleskine House**, once home of the notorious Victorian occultist Aleister Crowley, and also owned in the 1970/'80s by Jimmy Page of the rock group Led Zeppelin. It was here on the hillside behind the house that they recorded the fantasy sequence from 'The Song Remains the Same.'

**Boleskine Graveyard:** 57.265494, -4.475953

**Suggested Visit Time:** 30 minutes

### **Stop 10 Dores**

**Drive Time:** 17 minutes from the Boleskine Graveyard

Finally, no circuit around Loch Ness is complete without a stop at **Dores**. Not only does it have a great restaurant but also the only beach on Loch Ness and long- time resident Nessie spotter Steve Feltham! On a sunny day it is a lovely place to relax and just savor the unique atmosphere and scenery of Loch Ness.

**Dores Inn Car Park:** 57.381911, -4.332678

**Suggested Visit Time:** 1 hour

From Dores, head back to your Inverness lodgings!

**Drive Time (to Inverness City Centre):** 17 minutes from Dores