

# Loch Long



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/michellemcfarlane/3246603737/>

Road Access:	A814, A83
Dimensions:	20 miles by 1-2 miles, depth up to 30m
Main Activities:	Climbing, Diving, Fishing, Hill Walking



# Loch Long

Loch Long is a fjord type sea loch in the Cowal area which extends from the Firth of Clyde. It has an arm, Loch Goil, on its western side and is surrounded by mountains with the Arrochar Alps on the west side of the loch's head. The loch forms the entire western coastline of the Rosneath Peninsula.

The town of Arrochar lies at the head of Loch Long and its good accessibility from Glasgow makes it a popular tourist destination during summer. As the Arrochar Alps are nearby it is not a surprise that many visitors come to go climbing and hill walking. The Cobbler, which is actually called Ben Arthur, and Ben Narnain are very popular climbs in the area. There are several marked walking paths throughout the Argyll Forest Park which are also suitable for mountain biking.

The loch is now also popular for sports diving. However it is quite limited in the upper reaches of the loch around Arrochar in terms of the variety of the dive and the access to the water for boats. The Ardentiny Outdoor Education Centre uses the loch for water based activities but also offers land based activities around the loch.

There is plenty of accommodation available at Loch Long either in Arrochar or one of the smaller villages around the loch such as Ardentiny or Cove.

Local Activity Providers:

- The Ardentiny Outdoor Education Centre
- The Ardgartan Camping and Caravan Park
- South Peak



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## Loch Long - Fishing

Loch Long offers good fishing from the shore and from a boat. As you might expect in a sea loch, you can find cod, whiting, plaice, mackerel, skate, wrasse, pollack, spurdog, and many other species in Loch Long. It is free to fish but it is illegal to land any migratory fish such as Salmon or Sea Trout. If these are caught they have to be returned immediately. Fishing boats can be hired from Teighness Stores in Arrochar village or from the camp site at Ardgartan.

## Loch Long - Hiking

### Arrochar to Tarbet

Start from the car park on the shore at Arrochar (charge payable) and follow the short path along the shore to the main road and turn left to pass the shop/post office. At this point cross the road and climb the few steps opposite to reach an information board with a map of the route. Follow the path uphill following the yellow waymarkers. At the junction turn right and keep following the path.

### The Cobbler Arrochar

Of the five main peaks, The Cobbler, undoubtedly is the biggest attraction to the climber. The extraordinary jagged outline of the three rocky peaks, clearly visible from Arrochar, it has made the Arrochar Alps the local point of climbing in the Southern Highlands since the first explorations took place in the late 1800's. Parking is available on the large car park off the A83 at Succoth just to the west of Arrochar. The walk is vaguely waymarked in red; it begins on the opposite side of the road to the car park, passing a carving of a fox. This hike is about 11km long and takes about 4 – 6 hours.

### Arrochar Tarbet link path

Start from the car park on the shore at Arrochar (charge payable) and follow the short path along the shore to the main road and turn left to pass the shop/post office and chippy. At this point cross the road and climb the few steps opposite to reach an information board with a map of the route. Follow the path uphill following the yellow waymarkers. At the junction turn right and keep following the path.



## Argyll Forest Park and the Arrochar Alps

On the West side of Loch Long you will find a magnificent stretch of mountains, lochs and glens. The Argyll Forest Park was the first designated Forest Park in the UK. The Park covers an area of 59,000 acres and belongs to Scotland's most panoramic sceneries. Not only visitors interested in wildlife will enjoy the park; it is also a great place for hiking and hill walking. In the north of Argyll Forest park are the Arrochar Alps. The highest peak is 877m (2,877 ft.).

There is lots of wildlife in the sea loch including sharks, sea otters, sea scorpions, grey seals crabs, sea lemons, sea anemones, shrimp, sea slugs and much more.



<http://blog.robertstrachan.com/archives/258/the-arrochar-alps/>



<http://www.ipernity.com/doc/euchrid/960855/>

## Loch Long – Places to Visit

### Tarbet & Arrochar

**Tarbet** can be found on the north end of Loch Long. The name Tarbet is derived from the Gaelic *Tairbeart* meaning 'draw boat'. Tarbet is traditionally known as a junction village, characterised by the main junction where the **Tarbet Hotel** is situated. Carrying straight ahead when approaching from the South will take you to Arrochar in the west and then south through Argyll. Turning right will take you up **Glen Falloch** and on to the Highlands.

As its name suggests Tarbet is well known for the pleasure cruises available from the pier. **Cruise Loch Lomond** offers you the opportunity to experience the serenity of the 'bonnie banks' from the comfort of one of five vessels. They also provide functions such as **weddings** and special occasions. Tarbet also has a tourist information centre and a railway station that it shares with Arrochar.



The name **Arrochar** is probably from the Gaelic *arachor* an ancient scot measurement of land equal to 104 acres. Arrochar has been seen in records from 1248 spelt as 'arathor' and in 1350 as 'arachor'. Arrochar is situated at the head of **Loch Long** and is a popular attraction for tourists in the summer, due to its idyllic location of a sea loch surrounded by mountains (**the Arrochar Alps**). Arrochar is connected to Tarbet by a low valley which historically has been used to drag boats from the sea to Loch Lomond and this has resulted in a long lasting connection between the 'twinned' villages.

For over five centuries the area was held by the chiefs of Clan Macfarlane and before that by the barons of Arrochar, an old celtic family. Arrochar was a key target for Viking raiders who would sail to Tarbet to attack the Loch Lomond settlements, before their defeat in 1263 at the Battle of Largs.

For wildlife lovers, the area is certainly worth a visit as it is a popular habitat for the red squirrel, which is notoriously shy and difficult to find.

## **Inverusglas**

Inverusglas is an island within Loch Lomond. It lies opposite of Inversnaid at the North end of the loch. There are ruins of a castle which was once home to the chiefs of the Clan MacFarlane, The castle was destroyed in the seventeenth century by Oliver Cromwell's Roundhead troops.

## **Garelochhead**

Garelochhead is situated at the head of Gare Loch, 7 miles northwest of Helensburgh. Today, almost 1300 inhabitants live in the village. Compared to other villages in Scotland, Garelochhead is quite young because it was formed in the 1820s.

Even though it is a quiet place and visitors feel like being back in time, Garelochhead is interesting for a number of activities, especially for people who love water and yachting. For those who prefer a walk, Garelochhead's forests are a good place to do so. The village also has a community centre, the Gibson Hall and a bowling centre as well as an art gallery that opened in 2009.

An operating base of the military; the HMNB Clyde, is situated in Garelochhead but does not effect the beautiful view on Gare Loch. Also a British army training camp is nearby the village. Garelochhead has a number of accommodations with scenic views on the landscape. There is also a railway station.

