

# **The Loch and Forest Trail** **2009 Itinerary**



## **Day 1 Sunday**

Transport will be from Glasgow Airport (GLA) at 12:00 noon. A representative of the riding centre will meet the riders at the International Arrivals Lounge. If you arrive early there is a coffee bar and lounge for you to relax in after your flight. We then take them to their hotel, Allt-Na-Craig, an elegant family run Victorian mansion with breathtaking views of Loch Fyne, which is to be their home for the next 6 days. The journey from Glasgow takes them deep into the western highlands of Argyll, along the picturesque banks of Loch Lomond and over the 'Rest and be Thankful', the high mountain pass into Argyll, then along the shores of the beautiful sea loch, Loch Fyne.

After settling into their hotel you will meet your guides and discuss the week ahead.

## **Day 2 Monday**

After a leisurely breakfast, you are collected from the hotel and brought up to Brenfield where your riding skills are matched with a suitable horse. The horses, faithful friends for the week, are all specially chosen for their good nature and stamina and know how to look after their rider.

We ride from the centre deep into the hills and forests above Ardrishaig. A picnic lunch is carried on the horses and we stop to eat by the Kilduskland Loch (It has been known for hardier riders to have a quick lunchtime dip in the loch!).

After lunch we continue over the ridge and down towards the Crinan Canal, possibly through the old ruined Cairnbaan village. At the end of the day we arrive at the Cairnbaan Hotel where it's possible to get an early evening drink before returning to Allt-na-Craig.

## **Day 3 Tuesday**

From Cairnbaan we ride for a short way beside the Crinan Canal, then branch up into the hills and into the extensive Achnamara Forest - where countless lochs and lochans were linked in the 18th Century to provide water for the canal. A network of forestry roads and grassy tracks provide good riding with stunning views across Loch Sween to Tayvallich and beyond to Jura.

We carry a picnic lunch and can choose from a number of lunch sites to eat at.

After lunch we continue riding through the forest before arriving at Seafield where riders are transported back to Allt-na-Craig.

## **Day 4 Wednesday**

Today we start by riding North to the deserted highland clearance village of Arichonan township, with its stunning views Southward towards Loch Scotnish, Loch Sween and beyond! Heading North and rounding the headland we approach our lunch site, which overlooks the Paps of Jura, the Isle of Scarba and the Corryvreckan – the second largest whirlpool in the world!

After lunch we continue along the west coast path, past an Iron Age ‘vitrified’ fort, until we reach the picturesque fishing village of Carsaig. We are then transported back to Allt-na-Craig, perhaps stopping off at the pub in Tayvallich for a quick drink on the way!

## **Day 5 Thursday**

Today we start in Kilmichael Glen and ride into the forest of Moine Ghlas.

After lunch we make our way high into the Kilmory Forest. At this point there are panoramic views including, Mid Argyll, Loch Fyne, the Isle of Arran and even Brenfield itself.

We finish the day by Achnabreck historic stones and from there you go home to Allt-na-Craig.

## **Day 6 Friday**

Today we follow the Crinan Canal (opened in 1801 as a safe passage for boats to avoid having to navigate the treacherous waters around the Mull of Kintyre) to Ardrishaig where we stop at a traditional pub for lunch. We then ride up the hill and home to Brenfield in time for afternoon tea at Brenfield Farm.

After a fond farewell to your two and four-legged friends at Brenfield, you will spend your last night at Allt-na-Craig.

## **Day 7 Saturday**

Transport leaves Allt-na-Craig at 9:30am giving time to arrive at Glasgow Airport (GLA) for around 12 noon.

**Note:** The above itinerary is an approximate description of the trail. The route may vary due to many factors, such as forestry work, farming activities or deer stalking, making detours necessary. Locations of night stops can in some circumstances vary too.

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