

The Rob Roy Trail **2009 Itinerary**



Day 1 Saturday

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 . You will be taken to your first hotel in Fort William at the foot of Ben Nevis - Britain's highest mountain! The journey from Glasgow takes you deep into the Western Highlands of Argyll, along the picturesque banks of Loch Lomond.

After settling in, guests meet their guides and get a briefing on the week ahead.

Day 2 Sunday

After breakfast you are taken to meet your horses in the heart of Glen Nevis. Once familiarised with your mount we follow the traditional peat track up out of the Glen before taking to the open hill, which is wild and remote, populated by Scotlands native black faced sheep, deer, eagles, hawks and a host of wildlife. Make sure to bring your camera every day! Stopping for picnic lunch by the river at Blarmafulchuch before heading on through the Mamore mountain range, famous for its outstanding and scenic beauty, known worldwide by photographs but rarely seen in its natural state. Access to all, but the very few, is supremely difficult. The horse being the most versatile of cross country transport grants you, its rider, the privilege of first hand experience of this country.

The day ends at the head of Loch Leven where you stay in the idyllically situated McDonald Hotel, with the horses spending their night at a traditional sheep station in the mountains.

Day 3 Monday

Leaving Kinlochleven, we follow the famous West Highland Way over the mountains and down the "Devils Staircase" to the head of historic Glen Coe, site of the infamous McDonald Massacre in 1692, and used in the 1995 film "Rob Roy".

Here we have lunch at the foot of Buachille Etive Moor (The Big Shepherd of Glen Etive).

After lunch we ride to the edge of Rannoch Moor and our accommodation for tonight, the Kings House Hotel – the oldest licensed pub in Scotland! Tonight the horses are corralled on the moor in front of the hotel giving us the opportunity to watch them relax from our doorstep.

Day 4 Tuesday

Today we ride across Rannoch Moor, Scotlands largest unspoilt moorland and the largest blanket bog in Europe. We get the opportunity to wind our way through the famous peat bogs and appreciate the vast expanses of purple heather, beautifully framed by the majestic mountains towering in the distance.

We ride to the door of Inveroran Hotel, a traditional 19th century inn and the first resting place for drovers having safely guided their herd across Rannoch Moor. Tonight as the horses graze in front of the hotel, they are often joined by wild red deer! After dinner (fresh wild haggis in hunting season) we retire to the bar for live music and the chance to sample the pubs “top shelf”!

Day 5 Wednesday

Leaving Inveroran we follow the River Orchy (a beautiful salmon river running from Loch Tulla to Loch Awe) winding our way through Glen Orchy forest where we can increase our pace and jump the ditches if you like!

After lunch we ford the river (hopefully not getting too wet!) and ride on through a traditional sheep farm. We leave the horses in Stronmillican Glen and then visit the stunning 15th century ruin of Kilchurn Castle, at the head of Loch Awe, on foot.

We then drive on to tonight’s accommodation at the Taynuilt Hotel a 16th century coaching inn.

Day 6 Thursday

Starting at Stronmillican we ride out through the old village of Dalmally to the monument, raised in 1859, to the famous Gaelic bard Duncan Ban MacIntyre. We climb through the forest to the ridge before heading across the open plateau at the top. The stunning views, in all directions, make it feel like you’re on top of the world!

We have lunch by a mountain reservoir before riding down into Glen Shira, passing close to the site of the croft where Rob Roy stayed in 1715.

Leaving the horses in Glen Shira we travel the short distance down the glen to Inveraray, where we stay at the Loch Fyne Hotel which has a swimming pool and spa facilities to help you relax before dinner.

Day 7 Friday

Today we ride through Glen Shira and onto the high ground with splendid views of Inveraray and Loch Fyne below.

The ride ascends to the Dun Na Cuaiche, built by the 7th Duke of Argyll, again with stunning views of Inveraray and the beautiful 16th century castle. Your camera is a must have item.

Late lunch will be taken at the Castle’s tea room, giving the opportunity to explore the castle, before visiting the famous Loch Fyne Whisky shop for a drop of the amber nectar!

Your host will then take you to Inveraray’s finest alehouse to sample some local beer before returning to the Loch Fyne Spa hotel.

Day 8 Saturday

We will collect you from your hotel around about 10am to get you to Glasgow Airport (GLA) by 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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