

# diamonds in the rough west highland way

**genuine  
active  
experiences**

**GRADE:**



Founded in 1973, Walkers' Britain & Europe (formerly Sherpa Expeditions) specialises in self-guided inn-to-inn, escorted walking and cycling holidays throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. We offer a wide range of trips, from rambles to leisurely cycles and challenging hikes. We are constantly pioneering new trails and refining our self-guided holidays to an art. Over many years our leaders, local representatives and travellers have all contributed to the detailed trail notes we provide, making them the definitive guide to the areas we visit. Walkers' Britain & Europe is part of the World Expeditions Travel Group [www.worldexpeditionstravelgroup.com](http://www.worldexpeditionstravelgroup.com) which offers a diverse range of holiday experiences across the globe.

<b>TRIP NAME:</b>	DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH WEST HIGHLAND WAY
<b>TRIP CODE:</b>	SOG9977
<b>TRIP DURATION:</b>	11 DAYS
<b>GRADE TEXT:</b>	MODERATE - 3
<b>ACTIVITY:</b>	SELF-GUIDED WALKING
<b>ACCOMMODATION:</b>	10 NIGHTS HOTEL/GUESTHOUSE
<b>DATE DETAILS:</b>	→ <b>2027</b>   20 MAY - 30 MAY



## highlights

- A Walk to the Foot of Ben Nevis
- Follow the shores of Loch Lomond, Britain's largest lake
- Rannoch Moor and Scotland's oldest licensed inn
- Walking through Glencoe and Glen Nevis
- Summit Ben Lomond

## the trip

This tour follows the 96-mile West Highland Way national long-distance trail through the south-western part of the Scottish Highlands. It is claimed by some to be the most popular long distance trail in the British Isles and is known as Scotland's best loved long distance route. It is the perfect entry-level long distance hike.

This itinerary begins at the official start of the West Highland Way at the obelisk in Milngavie just outside Glasgow. Your walk will include Loch Lomond, valley routes through the mountains round Crianlarich and open heather moorland across the Rannoch Moor wilderness area. You will pass close to sombre Glencoe, famed for its massacre of the MacDonald Clan, and finishes at Fort William near the foot of Ben Nevis. This is Britain's highest peak, which can be readily ascended if you're an experienced walker and asks our team to arrange an extra night in Fort William.

The West Highland Way is a well-established and popular hiking route in Scotland, containing some landscapes of great beauty. The altitude range is from sea level to 1850 ft (4408 ft if Ben Nevis is climbed).

## your leader

When you join this Diamonds in the Rough Adventures (DITRA) partner trip, you will be accompanied by experienced Diamond coach, and become part of a dedicated team of women, training and hiking together to maximise everybody's enjoyment and success.

Your Diamond Coach will train and support your team in your preparation. This exclusive DITRA itinerary is tailored to exactly what women want and everything is included.



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Knowing who you're on the trip with ensures that your teammates are perfectly prepared and fit for the adventure (that means you must be, too!). Everyone is expected to commit to Trek Training and the preparation hikes as advised by your coach. A private Trip WhatsApp group will allow you to connect directly with your team as well as give you direct access to your coach. World Expeditions staff are responsible for delivering your extraordinary experience during your adventure. Please direct all pre, mid and post trip feedback to World Expeditions. Your Coach is not the tour operator, guide, navigator or first aider.

### itinerary at a glance

<b>Day 1</b>	Milngavie
<b>Day 2</b>	Milngavie to Drymen 19.5 km/12 miles
<b>Day 3</b>	Drymen to Rowardennan 22 km/14 miles
<b>Day 4</b>	Ascent of Ben Lomond
<b>Day 5</b>	Rowardennan to Ardlui 22 km/14 miles
<b>Day 6</b>	Ardlui to Tyndrum 24 km/15 miles
<b>Day 7</b>	Tyndrum to Bridge of Orchy/Inveroran 12 km/7 miles or 15 km/9.5 miles
<b>Day 8</b>	Bridge of Orchy/Inveroran to Kingshouse Hotel 20 km/12.5 miles
<b>Day 9</b>	Kingshouse Hotel to Kinlochleven 14.5 km/9 miles
<b>Day 10</b>	Kinlochleven to Fort William 24 km/15 miles
<b>Day 11</b>	End of tour

### detailed itinerary

<b>DAY 1</b>	Milngavie Travel to Milngavie, the official start of the West Highland Way. It's a short train journey from Glasgow, approx 20 mins. Accommodation: The Premier Inn. <b>meals: NIL</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	Milngavie to Drymen 19.5 km/12 miles The official start of the West Highland Way walk is at the obelisk in Milngavie. You follow some good paths through beautiful scenery. Glengoyne Distillery, along the route, is worth a visit. Accommodation: Kip in the Kirk (a converted 1819 church hall) is our overnight stop, where the host will make you more than welcome and has become a favourite with our hikers. <b>meals: B</b>



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### DAY 3 Drymen to Rowardennan 22 km/14 miles

Experience the gentle scenery on the bonny banks of Loch Lomond on today's hike. Passing highland cattle in the fields, the route winds up through forest and across the moors up to Conic Hill. From the summit, enjoy great views over the loch and across the islands there. This marks the boundary of the Highland fault and officially the start of the Highlands proper. The way drops down to Balmaha by the water and then winds its way towards Rowardennan along the lochshore with tree-framed views. Rowardennan marks the road head and a convenient place to stay at our pleasant hotel.

Accommodation: We stay overnight at Rowardennan Hotel with bar. The inn is practically on the shore of Loch Lomond and beautiful scenery surrounds it including the mass of Ben Lomond. All rooms have ensuite facilities. The restaurant provides carefully selected, seasonal dishes ensuring that you receive a true taste of Scotland.

meals: **B**

### DAY 4 Ascent of Ben Lomond

Today the aim is to make an ascent of Ben Lomond. One of the most popular Munros, it offers fantastic views of the length of Loch Lomond and far into the hills to the north and the Trossachs to the east. Depending on how you are feeling there are two paths you can take to the summit - the main tourist path or the more challenging Ptarmigan Ridge Path.

Accommodation: Rowardennan Hotel

meals: **B**

### DAY 5 Rowardennan to Ardlui 22 km/14 miles

Today you walk in the shadow of Ben Lomond for much of the time, following the Loch edge path. There are no big ascents to make, but a few short steep ups and downs. You can pass by Rob Roy's prison and cave, where he is said to have held up in times of difficulty and held prisoners at his pleasure. You could perhaps have a drink at the hotel at Inversnaid before walking on to Ardluish. Here you can raise a buoy on a pole to attract the attention of the ferryman who will collect you and transfer you to our hotel on the western side of the loch (approx £5 per person, not included).

Accommodation: Tonight we stay at The Ardlui Hotel with comfortable rooms on the western side of Loch Lomond. Rooms have TV and tea tray etc. and there are two restaurants, a lounge and public bars.

meals: **B**

### DAY 6 Ardlui to Tyndrum 24 km/15 miles

This morning you will return across Loch Lomond by ferry. From here, recommence your walk passing through Glen Falloch and its waterfalls with views towards Benn Mor. A short steep ascent takes you over the shoulder of a hill into the pretty valley of Glen Fillan. Crossing the River Fillan, you can visit the remains of a priory known to Robert The Bruce. He was defeated locally in a skirmish with the English in the broken glacial terrain around Dalrigh, which we next pass on the way to Tyndrum. This is a busy little village which developed from the 1740s from lead mining and now has exploitable Gold and silver reserves nearby. There is the famous 'Green Wellie' shop here for all things Scottish.

Accommodation: Tonight we will use a number of guesthouses in the small but bustling village of Tyndrum.

meals: **B**



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### DAY 7 Tyntrum to Bridge of Orchy/Inveroran 12 km/7 miles or 15 km/9.5 miles

A fairly short but picturesque day walking the West Highland Way. The route continues up past the domed hulks of Ben Odhar, Ben Lui and Ben Dorain to the Bridge of Orchy. Pass the farm of Auch, often with cotton grass streaming in the wind. You may be staying at Bridge of Orchy, otherwise it is time for a quick dram before continuing on to Loch Tulla (Inveroran). This is a beautifully situated lake surrounded by Scots pines - a remnant of the ancient Caledonian forest which covered much of Scotland. In good weather, you can walk steeply over Mam Carraigh for beautiful views. Otherwise take the quiet lochside road. You will be opposite the Black Mount estate of the Flemming family, famous for Ian and Peter. In fact, the James Bond story 'Skyfall' is probably based on this humble pile. Plenty of deer and birdlife are normally evident. There is limited accommodation here, which is the reason for staying in either village.

Accommodation: Stay at the Inveroran Hotel set in beautiful surroundings.

meals: **B**

### DAY 8 Bridge of Orchy/Inveroran to Kingshouse Hotel 20 km/12.5 miles

Continue to Loch Tulla if necessary. You then head up on the old military road across the wilds and the heather clad wastes of Rannoch Moor. Hike past Ba Bridge, claimed to be the remotest part of the West Highland Way. The scenery becomes ever more expansive with views into great corries once filled with glaciers. Often you can see deer and there is great interplay between land, lake, mountain and sky. The military road winds down to the old drovers' inn near the Gateway to Glencoe. This is in the shadow of perhaps the most impressive looking mountain of the tour: Buachaille Etive Mor (the Shepherd of Etive Mor).

Accommodation: Overnight at the Kingshouse Hotel.

meals: **B**

### DAY 9 Kingshouse Hotel to Kinlochleven 14.5 km/9 miles

From the Kingshouse Hotel the way passes beside Buchaille Etive Mor and then proceeds up the Devil's staircase to 1850 ft. It is as bad as it seems and a well graded section of the West Highland Way. You can try to imagine the army bringing artillery pieces up here. This offers spectacular views back from whence you came. Then it is a long descent to sea level at the head of Loch Leven with views of the Blackwater dam, Loch Leven and The Pap of Glencoe. Kinlochleven was a place for hydroelectric power smelting bauxite for aluminium. Today, one of the old smelters is turned into a climbing centre offering ice climbing. More sedentary activity can be had by walking to the Grey Mares Tail waterfall on the edge of town.

Accommodation: In Kinlochleven we use The Highland Getaway or the Bank House Guesthouse. A warm welcome awaits at either of these establishments.

meals: **B**

### DAY 10 Kinlochleven to Fort William 24 km/15 miles

A steep climb up under the steep slopes of the Mamore hills at the beginning of the day follows old Victorian hunting tracks. Then you are back on the old military road and over the Lairigmor Pass. Hike through dense coniferous forest to Glen Nevis past the foot of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak (4408ft). The West Highland Way continues into Fort William on the side of Loch Linnhe, where it ends right in the centre and close to handy pubs for a deserved celebration. Fort William is a Mecca for climbers, mountain bikers and train enthusiasts. The town was built as a garrison against the Jacobite threat. A few remains of the fort are to be seen by the lochside.

Accommodation: We use many different B&Bs and guesthouses in Fort William as it is a busy town.

meals: **B**



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DAY 11 End of tour

Your West Highland Way holiday ends after breakfast.  
meals: **B**

### additional supplements

At the time of booking we aim to offer our usual choice of accommodation, however if these are not available then alternatives are used (and on occasion a small supplement may apply). If these are of a different standard and / or a supplement applies you will be informed on confirmation of your booking.

### additional deposits

Due to the requirements of some hotels on the route we may require the prepayment of an additional deposit which is non-refundable. This payment is required at the time of booking together with our normal per person deposit. This prepayment should not be viewed as an additional cost. We recommend you take out travel insurance at the time of booking.

### inclusions

- 10 breakfasts
- 10 nights B&B/nights hotel accommodation on a twin share basis with ensuite facilities where available
- One piece of luggage per person transferred from Inn to Inn, not exceeding 20kg
- Transfer from Ardlui/Inveroran to Crianlarich (if required) at start of Day 5. Needs to be requested at the time of booking.
- Digital information pack including Navigational App
- Emergency hotline
- GPX files
- Trip escorted by a Diamonds in the Rough coach

### items not included

- Lunch, Dinner and drinks
- Entrance fees
- Travel insurance
- Travel to the start and from the end point of the trip
- Personal expenses such as laundry and phone calls
- Unscheduled transfers required during the trip
- Guide - this is a self guided holiday
- Excess Luggage
- Return ferry if staying at the Ardlui Hotel

### trip grading - moderate

The walk is graded as moderate. The terrain is hilly with some steep slopes, boggy areas and narrow trails in places with tree roots. There are also gravel type roads and there is some tarmac walking.

### way marking

Reasonably well waymarked with the white thistle logo of the Scottish long distance trails, on signs and small wooden posts. Nevertheless ability with a map and compass is important in poor weather.

### route notes

Please note that digital route notes via the Pathfinder by WETG app are included in the cost of the holiday. There are 3 downloads available per walker, please let us know if you have reached your limit.



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### what you carry

As the walks are fully supported you only need to carry a daypack with your daily requirements including raincoat, lunch supplies, waterbottle, warm top, camera map and compass etc.

### meal inclusions

Breakfasts provided will be a mix of either a Full Scottish or Continental. It is important for you to tell us if you have any dietary requirements when you book your holiday so that we can inform everyone that you are staying with.

### dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance to determine whether we can cater on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

### joining instructions

Reduced services operate on Sunday and Public Holiday.

### accommodation

#### PRE TOUR

We strongly recommend that if you would like pre or post tour accommodation that you request this at the time of booking.

#### DURING TOUR

Described is the normal accommodation that we use on this tour. At the time of booking please be aware that other places might be used instead, if these choices are full or closed for whatever reason. Baths/showers: Many rooms with ensuite/private facilities have a shower rather than a bath, usually because of limited space. Some hotels/guesthouses may however have a separate room in the house where a bath is available to guests.

### check in/out

It is generally normal practice when staying in hotels that you check-in on or after 2pm and checkout by 10am the following morning. Guesthouses/bed & breakfast establishments are normally check-in on or after 4pm and checkout by 10am.

### luggage

We do not offer porter service on our holidays. You must be able to move your own luggage to and from your rooms. This more than likely involve stairs as many of the properties we stay in do not have lifts. Sometimes your luggage will have been taken to your room awaiting your arrival however do not be surprised if it is waiting for you to take up to your room and you are asked to bring it down again the next morning.

### getting there

#### BY TRAIN

Outward journey from London to start point: Train from London Euston to Glasgow Central (5 1/2 hours). Train to Milngavie approx 20 mins. Inward journey to Glasgow at end of tour: Short walk to Fort William station. Train to Glasgow approx 3 hours 40 mins, then travel to airports from Glasgow. You can also take a City Link bus from Fort William to Glasgow Buchanan Street



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station in 3 hours. 4 departures a day. See: [www.Citylink.co.uk](http://www.Citylink.co.uk) Inward journey to London at end of tour: Short walk/ taxi ride to Fort William station. Train to London, via Glasgow. There is also an overnight sleeper service from Fort William to London via Glasgow.

**BY AIR**

Most convenient major city and international airport: Glasgow. Glasgow International Airport is only 30 mins from the centre of town by public bus (quicker by taxi) (Prestwick Airport is about 45 mins from Glasgow Central by train). Train through to Milngavie approx 20 mins.

**insurance**

All clients must have appropriate cover for the activities included for the duration of our trip.

**fast facts**

<b>COUNTRIES VISITED</b>	Scotland
<b>VISAS</b>	Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and US Passport holders who are travelling to the UK on or after 8 January 2025, will need to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA). The best way to do this is to download the app - UK ETA - from the App Store or Google Play. Ensure you download the correct app - it has a crown as its logo. There is also an option to apply online but this is not the preferred method. It costs £10 to apply. Everyone travelling needs to get an ETA, including babies and children. see <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta</a> for further information.
<b>MIN GROUP SIZE</b>	10
<b>MAX GROUP SIZE</b>	14

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY INFORMATION DETAILED IN THE CURRENT BROCHURE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.