

4 Night Scottish Highlands Christmas & New Year Self-Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Self-guided walking

Destination: 📍 Scottish Highlands

Trip code: GLC04-PXA03

Grades: ul 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 68kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Few places gift walkers with winter scenery like Scotland does. Hike through snowy Scottish Highlands, crunch over frostbitten fields, and ramble by frozen lochs for an experience sure to put you in a merry mood. And then there's the reward. Fire roaring and a belly-warming whisky ready for pouring, festive breaks at our country house in Glen Coe come with all the Christmas magic you could wish for. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and welcome you

with a sprinkling of festive cheer, fresh, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a self-guided walking holiday
- Staying in our charming country house in the Scottish Highlands
- Heading out on your choice of winter walks
- The easy-to-follow routes and maps available in our Discovery Point
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Scottish Highlands on foot
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2 and 5

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2-3: Laid Back Walks (Walking Grade 1 - 2)

Our easiest selection means walking at a relaxed pace, often stopping and spending time at places of interest along the way. Some are circular walks that start and end on the doorstep of our country house; others make use of local transport whilst remaining close to the property. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alltshellach range from 2.5 to 5 miles and visit popular areas such as Glenfinnan, Kinlochleven, and Lismore.

Day 2-3: Leg Stretcher Walks (Walking Grades 2 - 4)

These are a selection of longer walks on well-graded paths that allow you to discover local highlights and viewpoints. These routes are often further from the house but still offer walks that start and end on the doorstep of the property, plus options for guests travelling by public transport or car. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alltshellach range from 4 to 9 miles and visit popular areas such as Steall Falls, Kentallen, and the Lost Valley.

Day 2-3: Full on Walks (Walking Grade 2 - 5)

These walks are ideal for those with more stamina who can push themselves to go that extra mile. Some routes will start from the house, but some may require the use of a car. Public transport may not be possible for every route in this category due to remote locations. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alltshellach range from 4.5 to 11 miles and visit popular areas such as Ben Nevis, the Ballachulish hills, and Glencoe.

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Alltshellach

For a combination of mountain views, olde-worlde charm, and somewhere comfortable to sleep, this stately Scottish house in North Ballachulish has an enviable setting right on the shores of Loch Leven. The walking opportunities here are as every bit rugged and romantic as you'd expect, especially around Glen Coe, the Mamores, Kinlochleven, Bidean nam Bian, and Ben Nevis – the 1,345-metre-high peak towering above glistening lochans and glacial valleys in the north-west Highlands. You can also spend time in Fort William and ride the Hogwarts-esque Jacobite steam train as it makes its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan, and Arisaig to the fishing port of Mallaig.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.