

## FESTIVAL SUMMARY

### FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE

- 1 **Easy/Moderate 10.00am-12.30pm** RSPB Corrimony Reserve. Restoring natural habitat for our native birds. Guided by RSPB site manager.
- 2 **Easy/Moderate 2.30pm-5.00pm** Guisachan Estate. Explore the clan and social heritage of this beautiful part of Strathglass. Led by a local expert.
- 3 **Moderate 10.00am-4.00pm** Tomich hill lochs and drovers' roads returning via Plodda Falls. A new walk led by a local expert.
- 4 **Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-5.00pm** TOLL CREAGACH & TOM A' CHOINICH. 2 of Affric's easy access Munros. Led by Boots n Paddles.
- 5 **Strenuous Hill walk 9.00am-5.30pm** SGURR NA LAPAICH & CARN NAN GOBHAR. 2 spectacular Munros. Led by Natural High Guiding..

### SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE

- 6 **Moderate 9.00am-12.30pm** Glen Affric NNR. Plodda Falls and Wild Boar in Woodland project. Led by Forestry Commission Ranger.
- 7 **Moderate 2.15pm-5.15pm** Glen Affric NNR. MEALLAN. 16 years of assisted woodland regeneration. Guided by Trees for Life.
- 8 **Moderate 10.00pm-4.00pm** STRATHFARRAR. Ancient landscapes brought to life. Guided by Highland Council Countryside Ranger.
- 9 **Strenuous Hill walk 9.00am-6.00pm** CARN EIGE, MAM SODHAIL & SGURR NA LAPAICH. 2 fabulous Munros and a fantastic ridge walk above Glen Affric. Led by Natural High Guiding.
- 10 **Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-5.00pm** Strathfarrar Ridge Walk - SGURR FHUAR-THUILL & SGURR NA MUICE. Led by Boots n Paddles.

### SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE

- 11 **Easy/Moderate 10.00am-12.30pm** RSPB Corrimony Reserve. Restoring natural habitat for our native birds. Guided by RSPB site manager.
- 12 **Moderate 10.00pm-4.00pm** STRATHFARRAR. Getting close and personal with wildlife. Guided by Highland Council Countryside Ranger.
- 13 **Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-4.00pm** SGORR NA DIOLLAID - a Corbett in Glen Cannich. A new shorter hill walk for beginners and seasoned walkers with tired legs! Led by Natural High Guiding.

## **WELCOME TO THE "HERITAGE" 4th GLEN AFFRIC WALKING FESTIVAL!**

The stunningly beautiful highland glens of Affric, Cannich, Strathfarrar and Strathglass epitomise the natural heritage for which this part of Scotland is famous the world over. The area also has a rich heritage of social, cultural and clan history. This is the clan country of the Chisholms and the Frasers, of rugged mountains, lochs, dramatic waterfalls, rushing streams, open straths and unspoilt wilderness. It is the land of heather and blaeberry, red deer, pine marten and golden eagle, as well as a rich diversity of birdlife, wild flowers and rare dragonflies. At the heart of this landscape are the National Nature Reserves of Strathfarrar and Glen Affric, home to the largest forest of ancient Caledonian Pine left in Scotland.

As little as two centuries ago, this landscape supported a population of several thousand, which suffered greatly in the times of the Highland Clearances. The Clearances saw man replaced first by sheep and later in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century by deer, as the Victorians arrived to treat the Highlands as their sporting playground. It was here at Guisachan that Lord Tweedmouth, a rich Borderer, bought the estate in 1854, re-located the estate's crofters to the new village of Tomich and bred the first golden retriever.

Although modern transport access is limited, this was not always so. Drovers took their sheep and cattle from the good grazings in Strathglass south by Guisachan over the easy pass to Glen Moriston. In past centuries the safest routes between Inverness and the west coast were through Glen Affric to Kintail or via Glen Cannich or Glen Strathfarrar to Lochcarron.

Highly dependent on the future well-being of the Glen Affric area as a sustainable tourism and recreation destination, Strathglass Marketing Group play a pivotal role in raising awareness of the need to preserve this very precious heritage and environment. SMG would like to extend a very warm welcome to all walkers wishing to discover the riches that the Glen Affric area has to offer, whether you are a nature lover, mountaineer, hill walker or a more casual walker.

With “**Heritage**” as the theme for this 4<sup>th</sup> Glen Affric Walking Festival, we invite you to share this very special environment in which we are privileged to live and work and to hear from our knowledgeable guides about the social and clan influences that have played such a part in shaping this landscape. Each of the glens has its own particular character, history and distinct natural beauty and all feature in our varied walks programme.

June is one of the most picturesque months of the year in our area. The last of the winter snows still linger on the higher mountains whilst spring has finally established itself in the higher reaches of the glens and wildlife are busy raising their young. What better time to explore this pristine environment and discover for yourself the heritage of which we are so proud?

## **NEW FOR 2007**

### **Two new walks (3 and 13).**

Expanding on the walks listing below, a **confirmation letter** will be sent to each walker detailing every walk they are booked on. This will include general **background information** about the area and highlight more specific information for some of the walks. Subject to permission from OS, we also hope to include maps giving an indication of the **hill walk routes**. However, these routes will be indicative only. The actual route followed will depend on circumstances applying on the day.

## **EVENING ENTERTAINMENT**

At the request of participants in previous Festivals, **after-walks socialising** has been included in this year's programme. This will take the form of **FREE** venison barbecues followed by **FREE** bat walks, courtesy of Forestry Commission Scotland, on *both* Friday 1<sup>st</sup> *and* Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The barbecues will start at 9.30pm in the Dog Falls car park in Glen Affric followed by a bat walk each evening from 11pm to midnight. Bat detectors will be provided and you will have the opportunity to see and hear pipistrelles as well as Daubenton's (or water) bats which frequent the area.

## **GUIDES**

All guides are specialists in their own field of interest and, as well as ensuring that the correct routes are followed, they will provide interesting and captivating information on our landscape, fauna, flora, land management and local heritage.

For all low level walks not requiring stamina or strenuous hill walking experience, your expert guides are either local volunteers, representatives of charitable organizations (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Trees for Life), or of government agencies (Forestry Commission Scotland and Highland Council Countryside Rangers).

The high level hill walks will be guided by professional mountain guides with all the appropriate qualifications and experience. Your mountain guides will carry first aid and safety equipment at all times.

A signed health/medical condition declaration (to be completed on the back of your booking form) is required from all those who wish to go on the high level walks. If unsure, please consult your doctor. Mountain guides reserve the right not to take you on any walk if you are deemed to be ill equipped or not physically fit. Likewise, if your guides believe that you are placing yourself or the group at risk by your actions, they reserve the right to remove you from the walk. In adverse weather conditions, guides will decide on the appropriate course of action (abandoning the walk or altering the route). Their decision is final and in all the above circumstances no refund will be given.

A checklist of equipment required for all high level walks is given below the health declaration form. The programme of high level walks must not be considered as being strictly adhered to as weather conditions will dictate on the day and a totally different route/destination may very well be on the cards.

## **ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER SERVICES**

Strathglass offers the full range of accommodation: hotels, bed and breakfasts, caravan and camping sites, hostels and self-catering units. All accommodation bookings should be made directly with each proprietor. For a **full list of accommodation and other services** available locally **see the Accommodation and Services pages on this website.**

## **TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT**

Strathglass is less than 30 miles south-west of Inverness and is easily reached **by road** from the A862 (Inverness to Beaulieu) and A82 (Fort William to Inverness) via the A831 loop road linking Drumadrochit, on the shores of Loch Ness, to Beaulieu. **Rail links** at Inverness and Beaulieu; see [www.firstscotrail.com](http://www.firstscotrail.com) or [www.railtrack.co.uk](http://www.railtrack.co.uk) **Bus services** from Inverness, Beaulieu and Drumadrochit (except on Sunday). Bus timetables available from: [www.rapsons.co.uk](http://www.rapsons.co.uk) (Area D, services 17, 19, 21A & 21B).

**Airlinks** to Inverness airport from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Luton, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle with the following airlines [www.flybmi.com](http://www.flybmi.com), [www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com), [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com), [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com), [www.aerarann.ie](http://www.aerarann.ie), or [www.easternairways.com](http://www.easternairways.com) **Airport** in Inverness: [www.hial.co.uk/inverness.airport.html](http://www.hial.co.uk/inverness.airport.html), with **bus shuttle** to Inverness (area B1, service 11): [www.rapsons.co.uk](http://www.rapsons.co.uk) **Taxi service**: see our members list.

For **walkers with no transport** once you have reached your accommodation, please notify us when booking and we will endeavour to make sure you are taken to your walks meeting points on the basis of shared transport with other motorised walkers or organisers. **Motorists** are kindly asked to indicate their willingness to offer such shared transport.

**Recommended maps**: Ordnance Survey Landranger series No. 25 and 26.

## **CHARGES & BOOKING**

Spaces are limited, so to avoid disappointment it is important that you book a place for any walk as soon as possible. Please check our discounted tickets for families comprising 2 adults and 2 or more children as shown on the booking form. Children charges are for those aged under 18 and are shown on both the booking form and the walks descriptions, along with all other charges.

All walks need to be booked using the enclosed form and the full booking amount must be paid by cheque. Where a walk is either oversubscribed or under-subscribed, an alternative will be offered. In order to help us with this, please indicate your preferred second choice. Please note: a walk may not proceed if the minimum numbers shown are not reached.

You can check if a walk is fully booked by **phoning 01456 459 341** or **e-mailing: [tigh@clara.net](mailto:tigh@clara.net)**

The organisers will endeavour to acknowledge all walks bookings either by letter or email, but may not be able to do so for bookings received less than 21 days prior to the start of the event. By completing the booking form walkers agree to the terms and conditions applying to this Festival.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

If the Festival fails to attract sufficient interest, all monies paid to the organisers will be refunded and notice of cancellation will be given 21 days (i.e. Thursday 10 May 2007) prior to the start of the Festival. Accommodation bookings or transport tickets will not be taken into consideration for refunds by the organisers. All accommodation booking arrangements will remain as agreed with providers.

If walkers have to cancel their booking, they must notify the organisers as soon as possible and confirm in writing. However, any deposits paid will be forfeited. For any cancellations notified between 30 and 15 days inclusive **before the first day** of the Festival, 60% will be retained by the organisers. The remainder will be promptly returned. For cancellations under 14 days (inclusive), the full amount will be retained.

## **LIABILITY**

Activities in the outdoors are potentially hazardous by their nature. Individual participants in the Glen Affric Walking Festival must, therefore, accept that they take part at their own risk and the organisers and sponsoring bodies cannot accept liability for any death, injury, loss or damage suffered during the Festival unless caused by our negligence or by that of someone employed by us, nor can we accept responsibility for any loss or expense to our clients from any cause beyond our control. All walkers are responsible for their own safety and it is recommended that individuals provide their own personal insurance cover.

As organisers, Strathglass Marketing Group wish to ensure that everyone enjoys these very varied walks and is well prepared. For your own safety, enjoyment and that of other walkers, please ensure you abide by the recommendations set out for each individual walk. Any relevant medical conditions must be notified to the group leader before the commencement of walks. In particular, if you need to take medication, please ensure your guide is aware of this and that you carry it with you at all times.

Please observe the **Scottish Outdoor Access Code** at all times; a free copy of the full Code is available from Scottish Natural Heritage (01738 458545) or email [pubs@snh.gov.uk](mailto:pubs@snh.gov.uk) This is an excellent reference for anyone who wants to responsibly enjoy our great Scottish outdoors. As regards dogs, please note this time of year is sensitive with young lambs and ground nesting birds - some of them rare - so please abide by the guidance given for each walk, and clean up after your pet.

## **WALKS GRADINGS**

**Easy:** on roads, forest tracks and footpaths with no difficulties. **Moderate:** mostly on forest tracks and footpaths, may include some short distance off track walking. **Strenuous:** mostly off track with long distance and/or considerable height gain over rough ground.

**Timings in bold are the actual walking times.** Generous allowance made for hill walks completion.  
**Meet/start:** please ensure you register at least 20 minutes before start time.

## **WALKS LISTING**

### **FRIDAY 1st JUNE**

#### **1. Easy/Moderate 10.00am-12.30pm. RSPB CORRIMONY NATURE RESERVE.**

A walk through pinewood to see and hear a range of woodland birds and newly emerged spring flowers and a chance to see the variety of management projects being undertaken to restore natural woodland to the reserve.

**LEADER:** Corrimony Site Manager, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.  
**Meet/Start:** 9.45am, opposite Spar shop car park, Cannich. **DOGS STRICTLY ON LEAD PLEASE.**  
**Required:** Stout footwear & waterproofs. Age minimum: 12 years  
**Maximum:** 20 people. **COST:** £5 per adult £3 per child

#### **2. Easy/ Moderate 2.30-5.00pm. GUISACHAN ESTATE.**

Explore this Highland estate and hear its history, from the Frasers of Culbokie in the early 1500s to the current ownership, including its glorious (or infamous ?) Victorian times under Lord Tweedmouth.

**LEADER:** A local expert.  
**Meet/start:** 2.00pm opposite Slaters Arms car park, Cannich.  
**Required:** Stout footwear & waterproofs.  
**Maximum:** 20 people. **COST:** £5 per adult £3 per child

#### **3. Moderate 10.00am-4.00pm. TOMICH HILL LOCHS TO PLODDA FALLS VIA DROVERS' ROADS.**

Join our new walk to the hill lochs above Tomich, then follow the roads the sheep and cattle drovers would have taken to the pass leading to Glen Moriston. Return by the spectacular Plodda Falls.

**LEADER:** A local expert.  
**Meet/start:** 9.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich.  
**Required:** Walking boots and waterproofs; **packed lunch.** Age minimum: 12 years. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people. **Maximum:** 12 people. **COST:** £10 per adult £6 per child

#### **4. Strenuous 9.30am-5.00pm. TOLL CREAGACH (1053m) AND TOM A' CHOINICH (1112m).**

Two of Glen Affric's most accessible Munros with fabulous views over Glen Affric and Glen Cannich. Distance: 16km. Ascent: ~1100m.

**LEADER:** Boots n Paddles  
**Meet/start:** 9.00am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich. OS Landranger Map 25.  
**Required:** See equipment list. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people **Maximum:** 8 people. **COST:** £25. **Sorry no under 18's**

#### **5. Strenuous 9.00am-5.30pm. SGURR NA LAPAICH (1150m) & CARN NAN GOBHAR (992m).**

Two excellent Munros above Loch Mullardoch in upper Glen Cannich. A long day over some rough ground, but the scenery is well worth the effort! Distance: 18km. Ascent: ~1400m.

**LEADER:** Natural High Guiding  
**Meet/start:** 8.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich. OS Landranger Map 25.  
**Required:** See equipment list. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people **Maximum:** 8 people. **COST:** £25. **Sorry no under 18's**

## **SATURDAY 2nd JUNE**

**6. Moderate 9.00am-12.30pm GLEN AFFRIC NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE. WILD BOAR & PLODDA FALLS WALK.** Join the ranger on a walk through magnificent Douglas fir and larch trees to the spectacular Plodda Falls. Identify some trees and hear some of the history of the Victorian estate in which they were planted. Guisachan Wild Boar in Woodland Project presentation.

**LEADER:** Stuart Findlay (Forestry Commission Scotland).  
**Meet/start:** 8.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich, with pick up at Tomich Hotel at 8.45am on the way.  
**Required:** Stout footwear & waterproofs. **DOGS ON LEAD PLEASE.**  
**Minimum:** 2 people. Maximum: 20 people. **COST:** £5 per adult £3 per child

**7. Moderate 2.15pm-5.15pm. GLEN AFFRIC National Nature Reserve. MEALLAN.**

Assisted regeneration or how deliberate human intervention makes a difference in an otherwise degraded woodland environment. See the outcome of 16 years work within the protection of deer fencing.

**LEADER:** Trees for Life  
**Meet/start:** 1.45pm opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich. **Shared cars to site please.**  
**Required:** Walking boots/wellies and waterproofs. Age minimum: 5 years. **DOGS STRICTLY ON LEAD.**  
**Maximum:** 16 people. **COST:** £5 per adult £3 per child

**8. Moderate 10.00am-4.00pm (flexible duration). STRATHFARRAR – AN ANCIENT LANDSCAPE BROUGHT TO LIFE.** A walk to experience the native forest and its special flora and fauna. Hear about the history of Glen Strathfarrar and see some of the woodland restoration work that has taken place over the last 25 years.

**LEADER:** Corinne Hambly (Highland Council Ranger Service)  
**Meet/start:** 9.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich, then shared cars up glen at 9.45am from the car park by the gate at the entrance to Glen Strathfarrar  
**Required:** Walking boots and waterproofs; **packed lunch.** Age minimum: 8 years. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people. Maximum: 12 people. **COST:** £10 per adult £6 per child

**9. Strenuous 9.00am-6.00pm. CARN EIGE (1183m), MAM SODHAIL (1181m) AND SGURR NA LAPAICH (1036m)**

The longest walk of the Festival. Two fabulous Munros *and* a fantastic ridge walk high above Glen Affric. Distance: 24.5km. Ascent: ~1650m.

**LEADER:** Natural High Guiding  
**Meet/start:** 8.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich. OS Landranger Map 25.  
**Required:** See equipment list. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people Maximum: 8 people. **COST:** £25. **Sorry no under 18's**

**10. Strenuous 9.30am-5.00pm. STRATHFARRAR RIDGES. SGURR FHUAR-THUILL (1049m) AND SGURR NA MUICE (891m)**

A shorter, but no less exhilarating, walk along exposed ridges with fantastic views. Distance: 13km. Ascent: ~1050m.

**LEADER:** Boots n Paddles  
**Meet/start:** 8.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich, then shared cars up glen at 8.45am from the car park by the gate at the entrance to Glen Strathfarrar. OS Landranger Map 25.  
**Required:** See equipment list. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people Maximum: 8 people. **COST:** £25. **Sorry no under 18's**

## **SUNDAY 3rd JUNE**

**11. Easy/Moderate 10.00am-12.30pm. RSPB CORRIMONY NATURE RESERVE.**

A walk through pinewood to see and hear a range of woodland birds and newly emerged spring flowers and a chance to see the variety of management projects being undertaken to restore natural woodland to the reserve.

**LEADER:** Corrimony Site Manager, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.  
**Meet/Start:** 9.45am, opposite Spar shop car park, Cannich. **DOGS STRICTLY ON LEAD PLEASE.**  
**Required:** Stout footwear & waterproofs. Age minimum: 12 years  
**Maximum:** 20 people. **COST:** £5 per adult £3 per child

**12. Moderate 10.00am-4.00pm (flexible duration). STRATHFARRAR – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH HIGHLAND WILDLIFE.**

Play your part as natural history sleuths: inspecting track boards, temporarily trapping small mammals, identifying wildlife likely shelters and getting close up views of their occupants, pond dipping, plant hunting and bird watching.

**LEADER:** Corinne Hambly (Highland Council Ranger Service)  
**Meet/start:** 9.30am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich, then shared cars up glen at 9.45am from the car park by the gate at the entrance to Glen Strathfarrar  
**Required:** Walking boots and waterproofs; **packed lunch.** Age minimum: 8 years. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people. Maximum: 20 people. **COST:** £10 per adult £6 per child

**13. Strenuous 9.30am-4.00pm. SGORR NA DIOLLAID (818m)**

A Corbett above Glen Cannich, but one with plenty of character and marvellous views. The shortest hill walk of the Festival – for beginners or seasoned walkers with tiring legs! Whet your appetite on this one and come back enthused and ready for next year! Distance: 8km. Ascent: ~750m.

**LEADER:** Natural High Guiding  
**Meet/start:** 9.00am opposite Slaters Arms, Cannich. OS Landranger Map 25.  
**Required:** See equipment list. **NO DOGS.**  
**Minimum:** 5 people **Maximum:** 8 people. **COST:** £25. **Sorry no under 18's**

**GRATEFUL THANKS FROM STRATHGLASS MARKETING GROUP TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE**



For further information about the Glen Affric area, accommodation, restaurants, activities, etc please visit other pages on our website where you can obtain direct links to all our members:

Alternatively, write to : **Strathglass Marketing Group, Cannich, Inverness-shire IV4 7NB**

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