

Welcome to the 5th Glen Affric Walking Festival “Ancient Landscapes”

With “**Ancient Landscapes**” as the theme for this 5th 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.



Walk 6 - Glen Affric with Sgurr na Lapaich on far right.



Walk 8 - Loch Mullardoch in Glen Cannich

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.

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?

The Walks of the Festival

Please note that we ask all to share cars wherever possible

Meet Point for all walks - Tea room at the Caravan & Tent camp site in Cannich

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FRIDAY 30th May

1 Moderate 10am-4pm [Glen Affric NNR](#) 12 kms or 16kms

A short climb up to the [Tomich Hill Lochs](#) and [Monument](#) offering wide panoramic views before heading West over the old [Drove Road](#), taken by sheep & cattle from the West Coast to the market at Tore close to Inverness, towards the [Wild Boar](#) in Woodland project and on to [Plodda Falls](#) via the old Victorian [Hunting Lodge](#) at Hilton. **Either** (pick up car at car park at bottom of falls) **or** Return to Tomich through the [Douglas Firs](#) which contain some of the **tallest** trees in Scotland and via the old ruin of [Guisachan House](#) and if time call in to see [Guisachan Falls](#) with the ruins of one of the **first electricity** power units in the Highlands.

Leader: This walk will be led by a local Forestry Commision Ranger
Meet: Camp site 9.30am
Required: Walking boots & waterproofs: Packed lunch: minimum age 12 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

2 Moderate 10am-3pm **New** [Cougie to Loch Affric](#) 9kms

Deep in Strathglass beyond [Tomich](#) lies the enchanting hamlet of [Cougie](#), which is where you will be taken by our own transport and is where our walk will start from. Here you will be shown the outline of an **ancient hill fort** before starting the walk past an **ancient wood** and up into a charming hidden glen with spectacular views of the [Affric Hills](#) and [Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin](#) (Benevean). Past fishing lochs and onto the path under the [Aonach Shasuinn](#) Corbett before dropping down to [Loch Affric](#) and heading back to the Loch Affric car park. Here there is a beautiful short river walk past the [Affric Falls](#) as well as a short climb up to a **view point** with its' wonderful classic view of a highland glen with a loch. You will be picked up from the car park and returned to the Cannich Camp site

The walk will be led by Ian Pocock who has lived in Cougie all his life and has an intimate knowledge of the area.

Leader: This walk will be led by local expert Ian Pocock
Meet: Camp site 9am
Required: Walking boots & waterproofs: Packed lunch: minimum age 12 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

3 Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-5.00pm **New** [Aonach Shasuinn - Corbett](#): 888mtrs distance 16kms

Starting from the Glen Affric car park the walk will take you along the south side of Loch Affric to the Allt Garbh river and path. This leads you to [Loch an Sgùid](#) up to to [Bealach an Amais](#) and onto the corbett top. Returning via the [Coire Gorm](#). The corbett offers spectacular views of the Affric Hills.

Leader Local Guide - Tim Francis from Natural High Guiding
Meet: Camp site 8.30am
Required: See equipment list. **No Dogs**. Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26.00 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

SATURDAY 31st May

4 Moderate 10am to 4pm **New** [Cougie to Tomich via Loch an Eang](#) 11kms

You will be taken to Cougie using our own transport to the ancient hamlet of Cougie, which is where our walk starts from. The walk will head east along the forestry road to the path which runs along one the one of the tributary rivers to [Loch na h-Eiridh](#) . There is a short distance of rough walking before the old forestry above [Loch an Eang](#) . Pick up old drove road from west coast & follow down to the ancient hamlet of [knockfin](#) past where [Tomich](#) used to be and finish in [Tomich](#) where you will be picked up and returned to the Cannich Camp site

Leader: This walk will be led by local expert Ian Pocock
Meet: Camp site 9am
Required: Walking boots & waterproofs: Packed lunch: minimum age 12 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

5. Moderate 10.00am-4.00pm (flexible duration). [Strathfarrar](#) – An Ancient Landscape brought to life 8 kms

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 (expert Highland Council Countryside Ranger)
Meet: Camp site 9am **sorry no dogs**
Required: Walking boots & waterproofs: Packed lunch: minimum age 8 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

6 Strenuous Hill walk 9.00am-6.00pm Day 1 of New 2 day Ridge walk. The Affric Range Sgurr Na Lapaich, Màm Sodhail, Carn Eige and if time Beinn Fhionnlaidh and then to the Alltbeithe Y/H 22 kms

This spectacular Classic ridge walk will start from the [Affric Car](#) park taking the forestry track to [Affric lodge](#) where there is a path to take you to the [Sgurr na Lapaich](#) Ridge. This great ridge takes you to [Màm Sodhail](#) and [Carn Eige](#), and if time take in [Beinn Fhionnlaidh](#) before returning via [Carn Eige](#) and dropping down to the [Bealach Coire Ghàidheil](#) where the views down the glaciated glen to [Loch Mullardoch](#) gives the reward and on down to the [Alltbeithe](#) Y/H.

Leader: Local guide from Forestry Commission (Scotland)
Meet: Camp site 8.30am **Sorry no dogs**
Required: See equipment list. Packed lunch, supper and bed in Y/H provided (All clothes and sleeping bags taken to Y/H by SMG)
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £110 **Sorry no U18s**

NB All your spare clothing, sleeping bag and food will be transported to the Y/H and a supper and b/fast will be provided

7 Strenuous Hill ridge walk 9.00am-6.00pm Sgurr Na Lapaich, Màm Sodhail, Carn Eige 21 kms

Always our most popular hill walk taking in 2 fabulous Munros and a fantastic ridge walk above Glen Affric. The walk will start from the [Affric Car](#) park taking the forestry track to [Affric lodge](#) where there is a path to take you to the [Sgurr na Lapaich](#) Ridge which leads you to [Màm Sodhail](#) and onto [Carn Eige](#) and returning via [Coire Leachavie](#).

Leader: Hill walking guide from Boots n Paddles
Meet: Camp site 8.15 am
Required: See equipment list. **Sorry No Dogs**. Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

8 Strenuous Hill ridge walk 8.30am-6.00pm New The Mullardoch Munros, An Socach, An Riabhachan, Sgurr Na Lapaich, (and if time) Carn Nan Gobhar. 21 kms

You will take the [boat](#) down [Loch Mullardoch](#) from Glen Cannich before following the [Allt Coire a' Mhàim](#) up to [An Socach](#) Ridge. Return due west following the ridge to [An Riabhachan](#), [Sgurr Na Lapaich](#), (and if time) [Carn Nan Gobhar](#). If time is short you can drop down to [Loch Mullardoch](#) following the ridge from Sgurr Na Lapaich and return to the Dam head along the loch.

In the event of high winds the boat will not run and you will do [Sgurr Na Lapaich](#) and [Carn Nan Gobhar](#).

Leader: Local Guide - Tim Francis from Natural High Guiding
Meet: Camp site 7.30am
Required: See equipment list. **Sorry No Dogs**. Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

SUNDAY 1st JUNE

9 Easy/Moderate 10.00am-12.30pm. RSPB Corrimony RSPB Game Reserve 5kms

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: Dan Tomes Local RSPB reserve manager
Meet: Camp site 9.30am **Dogs strictly on leads please**
Required: Stout footwear/Walking boots & waterproofs min age 12 years
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

10 Moderate 10.00pm-2.3.00pm New Shenval to Tomich via hill lochs and monument 12kms

This charming walk starts from the delightful village of Shenval heading west through a remote glen to the Tomich hill lochs and monument before dropping down to Tomich where you will be picked up and returned to your walk start point in Shenval

Leader: Local Leader Pierre Lebrun
Meet: Camp site 9.30am **Dogs strictly on lead please**
Required: Packed lunch, Walking boots & waterproofs: minimum age 12 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

11 Strenuous Hill walk 9.00am-6.00pm Day 2 of New 2 day Ridge walk. The West Affric Range. An Socach and Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan if time (Mullach na Dheiragain) 22kms

This is part of walk 6. After a healthy breakfast this great ridge walk will start from the [Y/H](#) and take you straight up to the ridge to take in the 3 munros before returning to the [Affric car](#) park.

Leader: Same Local guide from Forestry Commission (Scotland) as for walk 6
Meet:
Required: See equipment list. Breakfast & Packed lunch provided
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people

All your spare clothing, sleeping bag and food will be transported back to Cannich for you to an agreed point

12 Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-5.00pm Affric Range [Toll Creagach & Tom a' Chòinich](#) 16kms

Starting from the [Chisholm bridge](#) you will take the stalkers track up to the fork before heading east to pick up the ascent onto the [Toll Creagach](#) Ridge. [Tom a' Chòinich](#) is in full view to the west and is reached with a lovely ridge walk down to the [Bealach Toll Easa](#) and on up to the summit. Return via the [Tom a' Chòinich](#) ridge and back down to the car park.

2 of Affric's easy access Munros.

Leader: Hill walking guide from Boots n Paddles
Meet: Camp site 8.30am
Required: See equipment list. **Sorry No Dogs.** Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

13 Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-4.00pm **New** [Sgurr na Diollaid](#) - a Corbett in North Glen Cannich. 10kms

A new shorter hill walk for beginners and seasoned walkers with tired legs. Starting just after the Bailey bridge far up Glen Cannich the walk takes up the western side of the Corbett [Sgurr na Diollaid](#) before heading west to [Coire na Fèithe Seilich](#) and back down to the start point

Leader: Local guide - Tim Francis from Natural High Guiding
Meet: Camp site 8.30am
Required: See equipment list. **Sorry No Dogs.** Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

MONDAY 2nd June

14 Strenuous Hill walk 9.30am-5.00pm Strathfarrar Ridge Walk - [Sgurr Fhuar-thuill & Sgurr na Muice](#) 12 kms

This shorter hill walk within Strathfarrar proved highly popular last year so we are repeating it again this year, The advantage is in heading west to get the spectacular views of Loch Monar and the western Munros.

The walk starts just after the Braulen lodge and takes you straight up the stalkers path to [Sgurr Fhuar-thuill](#) then turn South to take in the ridge to [Sgurr na Muice](#) with its views over Loch Monar and back down to the start point.

Leader: Hill walking guide from Boots n Paddles
Meet: Camp site 8.30am
Required: See equipment list. **Sorry No Dogs.** Packed lunch
Maximum: 8 people Minimum 5 people **Cost** £26 per adult **Sorry no U18s**

15 Moderate 9.30am to 3pm **New** Am Meallan 12 Kms

This walk is the same route taken by the runners on our local Duathlon and starts from the Chisholm bridge and takes you up the Stalkers path and river before crossing the river to head south to Glen Affric. Rarely walked by visitors they miss out on its splendid isolation and stunning views of Loch Affric and the Hunting lodge before return to the start point

Leader: Local Leader Pierre Lebrun
Meet: Camp site 9.00am **Dogs strictly on lead please**
Required: Packed Lunch, Walking boots & waterproofs: minimum age 12 yrs
Maximum: 16 people **Cost** £10 per adult £5 per child

If there has been heavy rainfall the river might require a little bit of wading so please bring a small towel to dry the feet!

Information on the area and our Festival

The stunningly beautiful highland glens of Affric, Cannich, Strathfarrar and Strathglass epitomise the natural heritage and ancient landscapes 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 19th 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.

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NEW FOR 2008

Eight new walks

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 30th *and* Saturday 31st May. 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 organisations (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), 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 or www.railtrack.co.uk **Bus services** from Inverness, Beaulieu and Drumadrochit (except on Sunday). Bus timetables available from: 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, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Leeds/Southampton and Manchester with the following airlines www.flybmi.com, www.ba.com, www.easyjet.com, www.ryanair.com, www.aerarann.ie, or www.easternairways.com **Airport** in Inverness: www.hial.co.uk/inverness.airport.html, **with bus shuttle** to Inverness (area B1, service 11): www.rapsons.co.uk For **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 415251** or **e-mailing: ianmure@aol.com**

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 8 May 2008) 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 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.

GRATEFUL THANKS FROM STRATHGLASS MARKETING GROUP TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE AND TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS



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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