



EXPLORE GLEN FINGLAS

THE HEART OF THE TROSSACHS

Sitting in the heart of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, Glen Finglas Estate is a vast expanse of hills, woodland, water and open heathland and an integral part of The Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve.

Immortalised by poetry and paintings, the dramatic landscape of Glen Finglas is home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife and its scattered ancient hillside trees are one of the finest examples of upland wood pasture in the country.



Ruth MacLean WTM



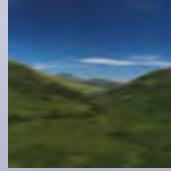
LET THE PAST INSPIRE



Townships are established in the glen. Pollarding and wood pasture begin, and the deer forest maintained.



Glen Finglas dam is built & the glen is flooded.

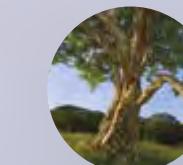


The Woodland Trust acquires Glen Finglas. More trees, more routes, more fun!

8,000 BC

The Ice Age ends in Scotland, forming the upper glens.

Early 1400s



Sir Walter Scott's 'Glenfinlas' is published and the poet Wordsworth visits the Trossachs.

1803

Between the 1300s and 1700s Glen Finglas was a popular royal hunting forest – a favourite place for the nobles and kings of Scotland to pursue deer. Look carefully across the Glen Finglas reservoir and you'll see a mound called Tom Buidhe (the yellow knoll). This is thought to be the site of the old Hunt Hall, built for James II of Scotland in the 1400s where important documents of state may have been signed.

Celebrated Victorian writer and art critic John Ruskin, was a regular visitor to Glen Finglas and the dramatic scenery upstream from Brig o' Turk provided the backdrop to the famous painting of him by Sir John Everett Millais.

Sir Walter Scott was similarly inspired and set the ballad Glenfinlas, a lament about a fatal hunting expedition here.



Black grouse

Images: John Bidges WTM, Paul Glendell WTM, Niall Benvie WTM, Ian Tayler Creative Commons License, Craig Somerville WTM.



WILDLIFE TO TREASURE

The woods and hills of Glen Finglas are alive with wildlife.

Look up for the chance to see a **buzzard** or **golden eagle** soaring overhead and listen for **woodpeckers** as you stroll through Little Druim Wood. **Red deer** can be spotted grazing in upland areas and pine martens scurry up and down the trees. If you're lucky you might catch sight of a **black grouse** flying fast and low from the woodland edges.

THE FOREST OF THE FUTURE

Once upon a time the glens were covered with native **alder**, **birch**, **oak**, **hazel**, **rowan** and **willow**. Now individual old trees are separated by large areas of grassland, decorating the landscape like living sculptures. Referred to as **wood pasture**, this type of woodland is a result of people's use of trees over hundreds of years. **Grazing livestock** and careful cutting or 'pollarding' of trees have created this valuable habitat which the Woodland Trust Scotland is committed to restoring.

We have already planted **one million native trees** at Glen Finglas and we're working with partners as part of The Great Trossachs Forest NNR to help restore the landscape to a more natural mix of moorland, wetland and native woodland habitats.





Rock of Ages

The ice age over 10,000 years ago made its mark on the glen – giant boulders on the slopes were carried there by sheets of ice and left abandoned when it receded.

Once home to Wild Boar

The name of the local village is Brig o' Turk, which means 'Bridge of the wild boar' in Gaelic, a reference to the wild boar which would have roamed these hills 600 years ago.

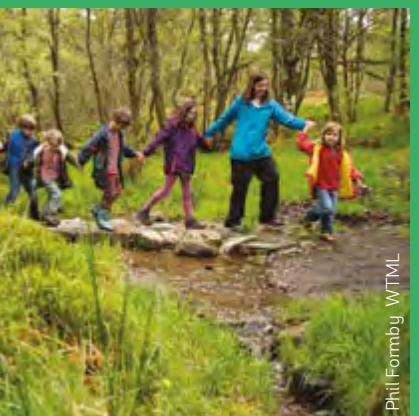
"A magical place. This place is so peaceful and beautiful, and I loved the little surprises you can find at every turn. Wonderful" Kate L.



START YOUR ADVENTURE



Stu Thomson WTM



Phil Formby WTM



Gwen Raes WTM

There's always somewhere new to explore at Glen Finglas. Sitting below the **summit of Ben Ledi** and stretching out to the shores of **Loch Venachar**, the **5000-hectare Glen Finglas estate** lies five miles west of Callander and 22 miles north west of Stirling. The nearest village is Brig o' Turk on the A821.

The **Visitor Gateway** at Lendrick Hill car park is the perfect starting point for exploring the estate. Packed with facilities to help you make the most of your visit, you can pick up leaflets and maps here.

Nine way-marked walking routes leave from the Lendrick Hill car park including The Great Trossachs Path – which offers access to a network of trails throughout the NNR. The 15 mile (24km) **Meall trail** provides the ultimate challenge on foot or by bike. Children of all ages will enjoy exploring the **family friendly natural play and sculpture trail** in Little Druim Wood. Ring the **troll bell** to awaken Clach, or crawl into the **spy chamber** to see if you can spot some local wildlife!

FINDING GLEN FINGLAS

Glen Finglas lies five miles west of Callander and 22 miles north-west of Stirling. From Glasgow take the A81 to Aberfoyle, then the A821 over the Duke's Pass to Brig o' Turk.

From Stirling take the A84 to Callander. Continue one mile north of Kilmahog, then turn left on to the A821.

Trails start from the Glen Finglas Visitor Gateway in the Lendrick Hill car park, just outside Brig o' Turk village on the A821. Toilets and free wi-fi are available at the Visitor Gateway.

woodlandtrust.org.uk/glenfinglas



DO YOU LOVE TREES?

Your family can help us protect native woodland and its wildlife. You'll also get inspiring ideas for woodland adventures when you join woodlandtrust.org.uk/join or call 0330 333 3300.

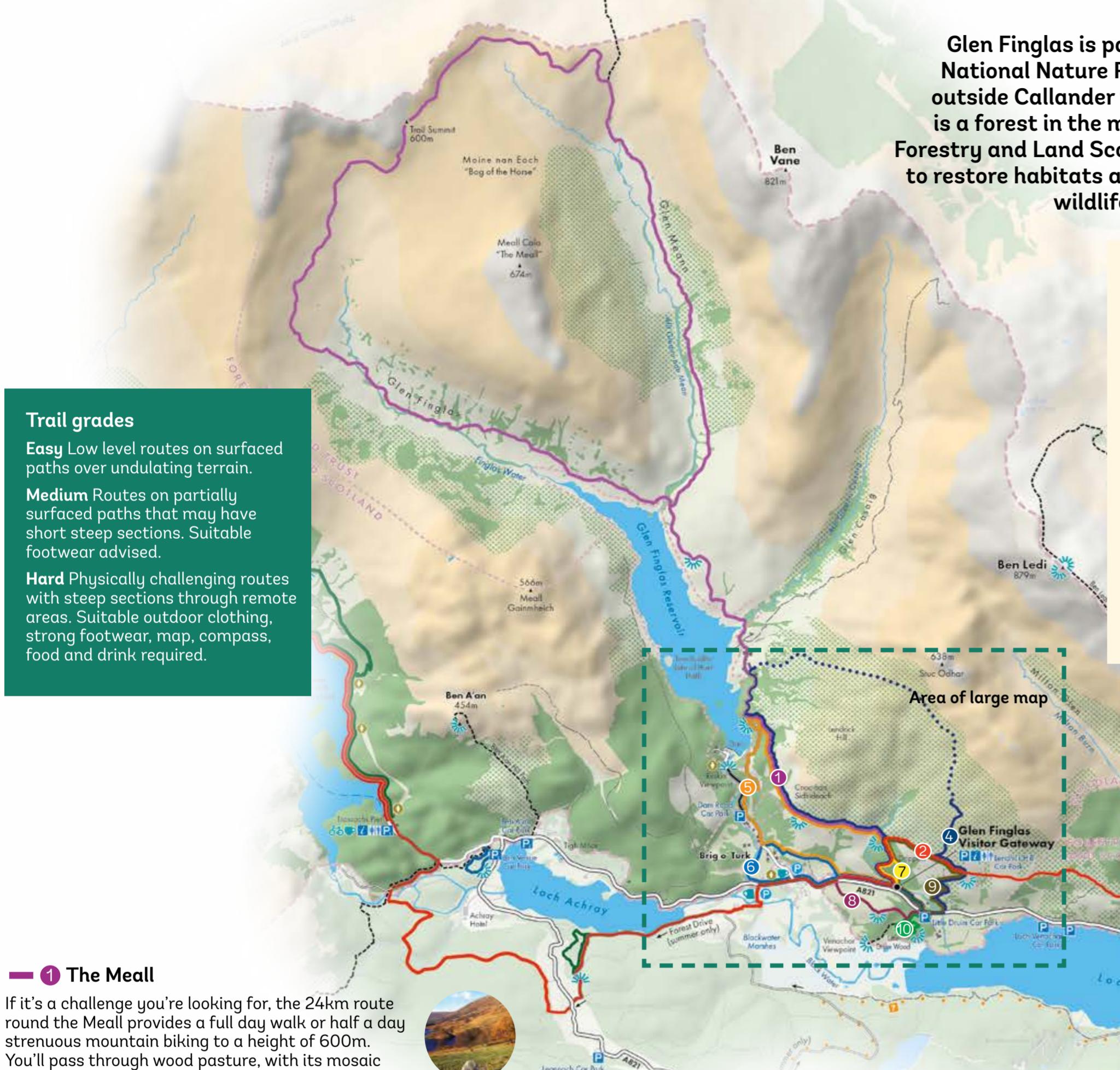
Glen Finglas is part of The Great Trossachs Forest NNR



Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

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EXPLORE GLEN FINGLAS



Trail grades

Easy Low level routes on surfaced paths over undulating terrain.

Medium Routes on partially surfaced paths that may have short steep sections. Suitable footwear advised.

Hard Physically challenging routes with steep sections through remote areas. Suitable outdoor clothing, strong footwear, map, compass, food and drink required.

1 The Meall

If it's a challenge you're looking for, the 24km route round the Meall provides a full day walk or half a day strenuous mountain biking to a height of 600m.

You'll pass through wood pasture, with its mosaic of trees, once part of an ancient Royal Hunting Forest.

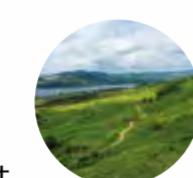
Leaving the Visitor Gateway head north up Lendrick Hill then west past the waterfall viewpoint along the dam trail. On reaching a tarmac road at the reservoir, turn north again and follow the rough vehicle track. Anticlockwise is the easiest direction to tackle the Meall.

Grade Hard Distance 24km (15 miles) Time 7 hours

2 The Great Trossachs Path

Step out of the Visitor Gateway and you are on The Great Trossachs Path. Travel west and you will reach Inversnaid on the banks of Loch Lomond. Alternatively travel east up the hill past the ruins of Drippan farmstead and onwards to Kilmahog and Callander providing spectacular views of Loch Venachar along the way. This long distance path forms the spine of a wide network of trails throughout the NNR and links the West Highland Way to the Rob Roy Way.

Grade Medium Distance 9km (5½ miles) to Kilmahog (the entire GTP is 48km or 30 miles) Time 4 hours to Kilmahog



3 Samson's Stone

Start at the Forestry & Land Scotland car park at Bochastle, close to Kilmahog. This route takes in a small hill overlooking the town of Callander. At the top you will find a large boulder locally known as Samson's Putting Stone. Folklore tells of a strongman named Samson placing it there but it is in fact a boulder left by a glacier over 10,000 years ago. To the west is Dunmore, the site of an Iron Age fort.

Grade Medium Distance 2km (1 mile) Time 40 minutes

The Trails

- ① The Meall
- ② The Great Trossachs Path
- ③ Samson's Stone
- ④ Stuc Odhar
- ⑤ The Lendrick Hill & Dam Walk
- ⑥ Brig o' Turk Loop
- ⑦ Drippan
- ⑧ Druim Viewpoint
- ⑨ Lower Lendrick Loop
- ⑩ Little Druim Wood

Glen Finglas is part of The Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve which stretches from just outside Callander to the shores of Loch Lomond. This is a forest in the making, where the Woodland Trust, Forestry and Land Scotland and RSPB are working together to restore habitats and create a lasting legacy for people, wildlife and the environment.



Part of The Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve

The inset map below can become a handy walk guide once folded down.



7 Drippan

A very short steep climb on a surfaced path with views over Loch Venachar and beyond will take you about half an hour through this ancient semi natural woodland. At the highest point of the walk the ruins of Drippan Farm will come into view.



8 The Druim

This route goes through woodland and open grazing land, with spectacular views towards Brig o' Turk, Lendrick Hill, Achray Forest and Ben Venue. The seat midway along the path gives you a chance to rest and take in the views. Wellies might be an idea as the path can get muddy.



5 The Lendrick Hill & Dam Walk

Heading up the hill north from the Lendrick Hill car park, the route heads west to Glen Finglas Reservoir before returning through Brig o' Turk. This trail gives you access to several vantage points with stunning views over the lower woodland area of Glen Finglas estate, Achray Forest and Ben Venue. A waterfall viewpoint is easily accessed from this path.

Grade Medium Distance 6km (3½ miles) Time 2 hours



6 Brig o' Turk Loop

This low level path loops around the attractive village of Brig o' Turk ("Bridge of the Wild Boar"). Head west on the path beside the main road then follow the boardwalk through the Mires, the old curling pond. As you leave the woodland and cross the road, follow the path along the river before returning via the pub and the tea room to the Visitor Gateway. This walk can be extended 30 minutes by including the Ruskin viewpoint overlooking the waterfalls on the River Turk.



9 Lower Lendrick

This is a short steep climb that takes in big views of the wider Trossachs. Make your way east towards Little Druim Wood then north up the path into the Royal Mail Grove. Planted by volunteers in 1998, these trees were dedicated by Royal Mail employees to their families and friends. Once at the junction with The Great Trossachs Path, turn left and follow the path to the next junction before heading south down the hill past the remains of Drippan Farm to the Visitor Gateway.



10 Little Druim Wood

Find the first play feature in Lendrick Hill car park and follow the path east to the entrance of Little Druim Wood. The path around this ancient woodland will lead you to surprising sculptures and exciting play features. For more details pick up the Little Druim Wood natural play and sculpture trail leaflet.

