



## 6 Day Classic Cruise Sample Itinerary for Inverness to Banavie



A fantastic journey along the length of the Caledonian Canal. Guests can enjoy the cruise along Loch Ness, with plenty of opportunities to try the activities on offer or just sit back, and relax. Walking, canoeing, cycling and sailing are all on offer with qualified, patient instructors ready to help.

**Sunday** Boarding time is 14:00. The barge departs Muirtown and takes the scenic cruise to Dochgarroch. Walking, cycling and relaxing aboard are all excellent options.

**Monday** Setting off early from Dochgarroch means you get the morning light as you emerge onto Loch Ness. The barge heads towards Urquhart castle on the northern shore before heading across to Foyers for lunch, where it will remain for the rest of the day and overnight. Cycling along the south shore of Loch Ness is the alternative to cruising on the barge. Foyers bay can be an excellent place to participate in canoeing or sailing. For land lovers there are plenty of walks of varying length and difficulty with something to suit everyone. A walk up to the falls, on an established path, is a must and worth the effort, especially if you see an elusive red squirrel.

**Tuesday** Making the most of the tranquil beauty of Foyers we will spend most of the morning continuing our exploration of the area, be it by canoe, sailing boat, bicycle or foot. We will depart around lunchtime making the scenic cruise to Fort Augustus. Guests can choose to do a road cycle or relax on board and try to spot the other elusive animal the Loch Ness Monster. The barge will tie up at the bottom of Fort Augustus locks overnight.

**Wednesday** Ascend the Fort Augustus staircase of 5 locks in the morning and then tie up at the top of the locks for lunch. Departing after lunch, the barge's journey heads south west through Kytra lock, Cullochly lock and then out onto Loch Oich, where we will spend the night at anchor. The afternoon also offers a great walk and an equally good cycle route. An alternative walking option may be offered that allows for fine views of Loch Ness.

**Thursday** The barge will weigh anchor after breakfast and continue its journey along Loch Oich. At the southern end of Loch Oich is a section of canal known as Laggan Avenue, a tree lined section with views opening out towards the west and Ben Nevis, when you reach Laggan locks. This section makes a good bike ride. Along the side of Loch Oich the trail has recently been upgraded to become part of the Sustrans route, making this section of the canal path a well maintained smooth track. Leaving Laggan locks, the barge will cruise to Bunarkaig Bay on Loch Lochy. Guests can relax on board or choose to walk or cycle to the bay. Early afternoon activities at Bunarkaig may include an opportunity to sail, canoe or explore by foot or bike the Clan Cameron estate. Later the barge will weigh anchor and motor the rest of Loch Lochy towards Gairloch at the south western end of the loch. Again guests can choose to walk, cycle or relax on board. The barge will tie up alongside a jetty at Gairloch overnight.

**Friday** Morning cruise from Gairloch to Banavie near Fort William. Guests can choose to cycle along the towpath or relax on board. The barge will tie up at a pontoon just before Neptune's Staircase.

**Guests are fully briefed each day on the cruise plan and activity options. The itinerary above is purely an example with all activities subject to the weather conditions.**