



**LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK**

**Balloch**

Days out in the National Park

*Am Bealach*

*Làithean a-muigh anns a' Phàirc Nàiseanta*



**LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK**

**Dunbartonshire West Council**

[www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org)

[www.visitscotlandunbartonshire.com](http://www.visitscotlandunbartonshire.com)

For more information visit:

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**Getting here is easy**

Balloch is on the A81. Take the third exit at the distinctive National Park roundabout with the flying geese sculpture, off the A82 main route from Glasgow to Crianlich, Balloch is served by a regular train service from Glasgow's Queen Street Station and is readily accessible by bus and coach from Glasgow.

For more information on public transport services contact **Traveline Scotland** on 0871 200 22 33 or [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

**Balloch Village**

At the southernmost point of Loch Lomond lies the village of Balloch.

Balloch Road runs through the village and a supermarket, gift shops, Post Office, pharmacy, hotels, B&Bs and ample eating, dining and licenced premises are all available.

For inspiration and ideas just call into the VisitScotland iCentre (opposite the railway station) where helpful staff will offer guidance on what to see and do, where to stay, souvenirs and tickets to local attractions.

Getting onto the loch will be high on most visitors' wish list. Take a cruise or waterbus trip from the River Leven by the bridge in the heart of Balloch or from Loch Lomond Shores.

If you're bringing your own boat, head down to the Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway, where there are launch facilities, trailer park, registration point and always a helpful National Park Ranger on hand.

We are always happy to hear your views, please take a few moments to complete our online Balloch visitor survey:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/ballochsvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ballochsvey)

**Balloch & Beyond**

The 17-mile West Loch Lomond Cycle Path (Regional Route 40) follows the western shores of Loch Lomond up to Luss and continues on to Tarbet. This is a mostly traffic-free route, with only two short stretches on minor roads.

National Cycle Route 7 links Balloch with Drymen, Aberfoyle, Callander and Killin to the north and south towards Glasgow following sections of the River Leven and the Forth & Clyde Canal.

Waterbus services operate on Loch Lomond from May to September, linking Balloch and Luss, Luss to Tarbet via Rowardennan and Luss to Balmaha. Long distance routes The John Muir Way (Helensburgh to Dunbar) and the Three Lochs Way (Balloch to Inverglaz) also pass through the village of Balloch.



**Loch Lomond Shores**

Loch Lomond Shores is one of Scotland's most popular visitor destinations.

Combining the beautiful environment with an outstanding mixture of leisure and shopping experiences overlooking the majesty of Loch Lomond. Whether it's shopping, eating or playing, there's plenty to do.

For a spot of retail therapy you can meander through the mall where there are an assortment of shops offering fashion, jewellery, cosmetics, outdoor clothing, souvenirs and gifts. If you're hungry, there are a variety of cafes and restaurants. Regular Farmers' Markets are held on the water front offering a variety of meats, cheeses, breads, jams and more, along with hot food.

**Balloch FAQs**

Where can I find public toilets?  
Public toilets can be found in the centre of Balloch outside the VisitScotland iCentre, Balloch bus station, Balloch Castle Country Park and at Loch Lomond Shores.

Where can I find an ATM?  
There are cash machines at Loch Lomond Shores, KeyStore newsgene on Balloch Road, Co-Op Supermarket on Carrochan Road and in the Balloch House Hotel on Balloch Road.

Where can I park?  
There are car parks in Balloch Castle Country Park, opposite South Lodge gates (Balloch Road), Moss o' Balloch Park (Balloch Road), opposite Balloch Station and at Loch Lomond Shores.

How do I get to Loch Lomond Shores?  
Loch Lomond Shores is ¼ mile (0.5km) from Balloch station. There is a flat riverside path that starts from the public car park opposite Balloch train station (approx 10-15 mins walk).

Can I take a boat trip?  
Yes, you can take a cruise or Waterbus from the centre of Balloch next to the bridge or from Loch Lomond Shores.



There's plenty for you and your family to do. Become Tarzan for the day on the aerial adventure course, meet some feathered friends at Loch Lomond Bird of Prey Centre or aquatic pals at Loch Lomond Sea Life Aquarium. Try a round at the adventure golf course or hire a canoe and get onto the water. Take to the loch on a cruise or waterbus departing from the pontoon, visit the paddle steamer Maid of the Loch (at Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway) or just stroll along the paths through the woods and onto the shore for some fantastic views.

[www.lochlomondshores.com](http://www.lochlomondshores.com)





**KEY**

- Railway/ Train station
- National Cycle Route 7
- West Loch Lomond Cycle path
- Three Lochs Way
- John Muir Way

**Park Mobility Routes**

- Shore Path Route 6km 50mins
- Walled Garden Route 2km 30mins
- Castle View Route 3km 30mins

Local information

Car Park

Bus Station

Toilets

Play Area

Bird of Prey Centre

Aquarium

Cafe

Restaurant

Shopping

Post Office

Picnic area

TreeZone

Waterbus/Loch Cruise



# Balloch Castle Country Park

Balloch Castle Country Park is steeped in history and was the stronghold of one of Scotland's most powerful medieval families, the Earls of Lennox. Located near the shore, the old castle was built around 1238 and was occupied until 1390. All that is left is the knoll on which the castle once stood and the remains of the moat.



The castle which stands now was built for John Buchanan of Ardoch in 1808, best known as a partner in the Glasgow Ship Bank. He commissioned celebrity-architect Robert Lugar to build his new gothic-style mansion. The castle is set in a commanding position overlooking the loch and is enclosed by 18th and 19th century designed landscapes – ornamental woodlands, open parklands, walled gardens, tree avenues – all designed to impress.

In 1851 the Dennistoun-Brown's bought the estate and like many Victorians were keen plant collectors and so the estate gained an attractive array of exotic trees and shrubs such as the Monkey Puzzle tree from Chile. Early in the 1900s, Glasgow Corporation bought Balloch Estate and created Loch Lomond Park. Around 200 acres of the estate were set aside for public use and it became known as 'Glasgow's Garden'. In 1980 it became Balloch Castle Country Park and in 2002 it became the only country park in Scotland's first National Park.



Today you can wander through the park and discover the delights of a designed landscape in a world class setting. Easiest access is through the gates at the South Lodge entrance opposite the bus station on Balloch Road.



Photography by: VisitScotland, Ewan Myles, Tree Zone, Trudy Hughes, Paul Saunders Photography, Scottish Enterprise