



Inverness & the Central Highlands

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lime Tree (p341)
- ➔ Café 1 (p305)
- ➔ Cross (p322)
- ➔ Lochleven Seafood Cafe (p339)
- ➔ Old Forge (p350)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Rocpool Reserve (p305)
- ➔ Lime Tree (p340)
- ➔ Lovat (p315)
- ➔ Eagleview Guest House (p322)
- ➔ Trafford Bank (p304)

Why Go?

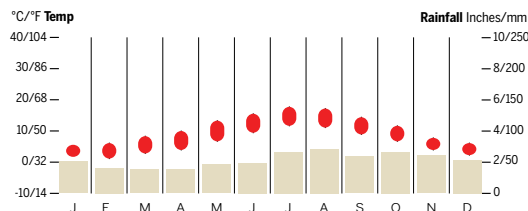
From the subarctic plateau of the Cairngorms to the rolling hills of Highland Perthshire and the rugged, rocky peaks of Glen Coe, the central mountain ranges of the Scottish Highlands are testimony to the sculpting power of ice and weather. Here the landscape is at its grandest, with soaring hills of rock and heather bounded by wooded glens and rushing waterfalls.

Not surprisingly, this part of the country is an adventure playground for outdoor-sports enthusiasts. Aviemore, Glen Coe and Fort William draw hill walkers and climbers in summer, and skiers, snowboarders and ice climbers in winter. Inverness, the Highland capital, provides urban rest and relaxation, while nearby Loch Ness and its elusive monster add a hint of mystery.

From Fort William, base camp for climbing Ben Nevis, the Road to the Isles leads past the beaches of Arisaig and Morar to Mallaig, jumping-off point for the isles of Eigg, Rum, Muck and Canna.

When to Go

Inverness



Apr–May Mountain scenery is at its most spectacular, with snow lingering on the higher peaks.

Jun Fort William hosts the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, pulling huge crowds.

Sep Ideal for hiking and hill walking: midges are dying off, but weather is still reasonably good.



Inverness & the Central Highlands Highlights

- ① Hiking among the hills, lochs and forests of beautiful **Glen Affric** (p308)
- ② Wandering through the ancient Caledonian forest

- at **Rothiemurchus Estate** (p316)
- ③ Making it to the summit of **Ben Nevis** (p343) – and being able to see the view

- ④ Exploring the hills around gorgeous **Glen Lyon** (p335)
- ⑤ Keeping right on to the end of the road at bleak but beautiful **Rannoch Moor** (p332)