

Recommended Walks from the Ardgartan Hotel

Riverside Walk

- Distance: 1.9km / 1.2 miles
 - Terrain: flat path but can be muddy after heavy rainfall
 - Time: 25-40 mins
 - Way-marked path signed by red marker posts.
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STAGE 1

Turn left from the hotel and continue along the tarmac road past the pink cottage. On the right hand side there is a lay-by with a small bridge crossing Croe Water.

STAGE 2

Cross the bridge and turn left, continuing on the woodland trail for ½ mile before arriving at the forestry car park. From here you can loop back around and follow the red marker posts back towards the hotel.

STAGE 3

You will pass the initial bridge that you crossed but keep walking and you will eventually reach the Forest Holidays Campsite which has a small shop and café. Either pop in for a refreshment or you can continue along the path until you reach another small bridge. Cross over Croe Water once again and follow the direct path to the hotel.

Boat House Walk

- Distance: 2.9km / 1.8 miles
 - Way-marked path signed by blue marker posts
 - Time: 40-60 minutes
 - Terrain: flat path but can be very muddy after heavy rainfall
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STAGE 1

Turn left out of the hotel and walk towards the coach parking area. On the left-hand side follow the path marked by a blue post.

STAGE 2

The path follows the Lochside west and you will eventually stumble upon the old boathouse on the shore. The path eventually meets a single-track tarmac road. At this point you can either retrace your steps back to the hotel or turn right and follow the road.

STAGE 3

If you have turned right follow the road for approx. ½ mile before reaching a crossroads. Turn right at the crossroads past the pink cottage and back towards the hotel.

Cat Craig Loop

- Distance: 6.4km / 4 miles
 - Time: 3-4 hours
 - Good footwear recommended
 - Terrain: excellent path but the route is initially quite steep.
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STAGE 1

Turn left from the hotel and continue along the tarmac road past the pink cottage. The road forks here but bear right and continue along the road towards the forestry car park and toilet block. Before the bridge crossing over to the A83 there is a path on the right leading up the hill.

STAGE 2

Follow the sign and begin the walk heading North. The initial part of the walk is very steep but short and after approx. 1 mile it levels out. At the top of the hill bear left. The walk meanders through the forest for approximately 3-4 miles before reaching the single-track road by Coilessan Farm.

STAGE 3

The last section of the walk is along the single-track tarmac road. Follow the road for approx. 1 mile before reaching a fork in the road by the pink cottage. Turn right at the pink cottage crossroads and follow the direct road back to the hotel.

Hill Path to Arrochar

- Distance: 4.8km / 3 miles
 - Time: 1 - 1.5 hours
 - Terrain: good path but can be muddy after heavy rain.
 - Good footwear recommended
 - Bus from Arrochar (Braeside Stores) @1.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm & 7.10pm. (Times correct summer 2017)
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STAGE 1

Turn left from the hotel and continue along the tarmac road past the pink cottage. The road forks here but bear right and continue along the road towards the forestry car park and toilet block. Cross the A83 by the bus stop (be careful of the busy main road).

STAGE 2

The path is very clear but is initially steep up the hillside. The walk offers great views of the surrounding famous Rest and Be Thankful Glen and once you are at the top there are some magnificent views of Loch Long.

STAGE 3

A yellow marker will signal the path to Arrochar. The path will level out and continues along the forestry track. A tall mobile phone mast indicates that you are nearly at Arrochar. The path to the left of the mast continues up the Cobbler but to get to the village you must continue on the path for a few meters before reaching a bench with magnificent views of the Loch.

STAGE 4

At the bench turn right down the 'zig zag' path towards the Loch. From the car park at the bottom of the path you can continue left towards the village for refreshment or to meet the bus back to the hotel. (The bus departs from Braeside stores – continue along the loch side towards the middle of the village). Alternatively, you can walk back to the hotel by following the pavement along the loch side or for those with enough energy you can retrace your steps back over the hill to the hotel!

The Cobbler

- Distance: 17km / 10.6 miles
 - Time: 4 - 5 hours
 - Good footwear essential
 - Terrain: clear path but fairly rocky near the summit
 - Ascent level: Corbett
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STAGE 1

Turn left from the hotel and continue along the tarmac road past the pink cottage. The road forks here but bear right and continue along the road towards the forestry car park and toilet block. Cross the A83 by the bus stop (be careful of the busy main road). The path is very clear and begins steep up the hillside. Once you are at the top of this section there are some magnificent views of Loch Long.

STAGE 2

A yellow marker will signal the path to Arrochar. The path will level out and continues along the forestry track before reaching a tall mobile phone mast. The path to the left of this path indicates the start of the ascent. Continue climbing up the path which goes through a short section of forestry before emerging next to a stream. Keep straight on the path and head upstream towards open ground and a clear path, passing a small dam. The three peaks of the Cobbler can now be seen clearly ahead.

STAGE 3

The path continues to climb more gently, crossing a number of side streams on large stepping stones. Eventually the massive rocks known as the Narnain boulders are reached. The well-made path continues to climb steadily. When a fork is reached, keep right and continue up the valley. A small lochan is reached just before the junction of the paths at the top section of the walk. The route up the Cobbler turns left and ascends stone steps.

STAGE 4

The path is less well made towards the top but is still straightforward to follow. The ridge is reached between the North and Central peaks. Turn right to visit the higher, central peak. The Cobbler is 884 metres high which makes it a Corbett and offers panoramic views of the Arrochar Alps and Ben Lomond in the distance. Retrace your steps back down the hill to the hotel.