



ACCESS STATEMENT

Last updated March 2019

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General Information

Argyll Estates warmly welcomes all visitors to Inveraray Castle & Gardens. We recognise that visiting many historic properties and the countryside can present difficulties for people, therefore we are continually improving procedures, and providing extra assistance where possible to ensure that all of our visitors can enjoy a comfortable and enjoyable day out.

We hope this guide will provide the information you need to help you enjoy your visit. Further information and advice is available by contacting the Estate Office – our contact details are later in this document.

Inveraray Castle is open from 1st April until 31st October 10am to 5.45pm (last entry 5pm).

Accessing the Castle

Inveraray Castle and Gardens aims to attract a wide range of visitors. We aim to educate and inform visitors about the Clan Campbell's natural and cultural heritage and we are continually working towards raising standards in visitor facilities and customer care.

In order to achieve this, Argyll Estates is constantly reviewing how to improve all forms of access to the Castle and grounds and is striving to demonstrate best practice in the management of its properties, in the services it provides, and towards the people it employs.

Our ticket kiosk and car park await you at the end of the road where you can pay for your entrance to the Castle & Gardens.

Pedestrian Access

The short, flat walk from the town of Inveraray to the Castle takes approximately 10 minutes. When walking, please be aware that the road is also used for vehicles and that pedestrians should walk in the designated walking lane. Please take care when walking with young children that they do not enter into oncoming traffic.

Car Access

Please drive on the left, be courteous to other drivers and lookout for pedestrians. The speed limit on all Estate roads is 10mph. Ensure you select the car lane on approach and follow directional signage. Please do not stop on the Castle drive as this causes congestion – instead, drop the car off in the car park and walk back using the pedestrian lane.

Coach Access

Please drive on the left, be courteous to other drivers and lookout for pedestrians. The speed limit on all Estate roads is 10mph. The bus lane (new for 2019!) is designed to let coaches fast-track to the car park. Ensure you select the bus lane on approach and follow directional signage. Please do not stop on the Castle drive as this causes congestion – instead, drop pedestrians off in the car park and direct them to walk back using the pedestrian lane.

A one-way system is in operation in the Castle car park. Follow directional signage for entrance to the Castle or gardens.

Disabled Access

At the car park, we have designated disabled parking spaces which are on hard standing. The rest of the car park is gravel and can be difficult to navigate for wheelchair users.

Entrance to the Castle is via 4 stairs or a ramp followed by a further 2 stairs or a ramp through double doors, with plenty of room for a wheelchair. Once inside, the rooms are carpeted and the ground floor is on one level with no stairs, and the doors are wide enough for wheelchair access. Access to the first floor is via 40 carpeted stairs or basement, tea room and gift shop currently only via 24 uncarpeted stairs from within the Castle or 19 stairs from outside. The basement surface at the bottom of the stairs is worn and uneven in places.

The gravel paths in the Castle gardens are also difficult to navigate for wheelchair users but there are some beautiful walks and paths around the Estate that are more suitable for disabled visitors. The garden is on one level.

Admission for visitors with a disability and any companion is free.

Toilets

Toilets, both male and female, are located outside the Castle Gift Shop in the basement of the Castle and are only currently accessible via 19 stairs by the entrance to the Gardens. There is a more accessible toilet available by the Manager's Office for those with walking difficulties. The door access is 28 inches/71cm wide via an inward opening door and sliding door.

Fire Procedure

1. On hearing the fire alarm, immediately stop what you are doing.
2. Leave the building by the nearest fire exit in an orderly manner.
3. Do not stop to collect personal belongings.
4. Assemble at the front of the Castle on gravel by field boundary.
5. Do not re-enter the building until told it is safe to do so.

If you would require additional assistance in the event of an emergency, please make this known on your arrival.

First Aiders

Castle staff are first aid trained. If first aid is required, you should contact the nearest guide immediately. Please report all incidents, no matter how small, to one of our guides.

Smoking Areas

Smoking is not permitted within the Castle, gardens, or by any door/gateway/public space leading to these areas.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are very welcome at Inveraray Castle & Gardens. Water bowls are situated around the grounds. If you can't see one, just ask and we will be happy to assist.

Historic Property Warning

There may be low headroom, uneven surfaces/floors and a risk of falls from low parapets on bridges, folly's, etc as this is a historic property and has original features.

Bags

For the safety of our staff, other visitors and our historical artefacts, bags are not permitted within the Castle. Please leave any bags in your vehicle – but be sure to cover them up.

Accessing the Gardens

The entrance to the garden is to the right of the main door to the Castle. Tickets can be purchased from the car park kiosk. For wheelchair and pushchair access, please ask at Castle entrance. The garden gates are locked at 5.45pm when the Castle closes. Do not eat any berries from the trees as they may be poisonous.

Accessing the Estate

There are some lovely walks around Argyll Estates, however, not all are over even ground. The main road through the Estate is tarmac and subsequent paths are woodland tracks. The speed limit on the Estate is 10mph and there are traffic calming measures in place. Vehicles are restricted from entering certain parts of the Estate, so please stay on the designated roads.

The Dun Na Cuaiche Woodland Walk is not accessible to wheelchair users or those with walking difficulties as the route is steep and roughly 1.5 miles long. The terrain is uneven, slippery, with loose gravel in places. We recommend wearing walking boots with a good grip sole – and don't forget your waterproofs for our Argyll weather!

Please see the Appendix at the end of this document for maps on walking routes.

Estate Activities

Please note that Argyll Estates is a working Estate - The Estate reserve the right to close any or all of the walks/roads for management purposes and for the safety of visitors due to livestock farming, deer management or forestry operations.

The following activities are not permitted without prior authorisation:

- Drones
- Remote control vehicles
- Boats on the river
- Horse riding
- Quad bikes
- Motor cycles
- Golf
- Swimming
- Fishing

Dog Walking

Argyll Estates is dog friendly and we are happy for visitors to walk their dogs around the Estate grounds (excluding the Castle Gardens). We do ask dog owners to respect other visitors by keeping their dogs on a lead at all times. Clearing up any dog mess and disposing of it in a suitable manner in the bins provided. We also ask dog owners not to leave their dogs in unventilated cars, especially during warm weather. Water bowls are situated around the grounds. If you can't see one, just ask and we will be happy to assist.

Contact Details

Telephone: +44 (0)1499302203

Email: enquiries@inveraray-castle.com

Address: Argyll Estates, Cherrypark, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8XE (Estate office) or Inveraray Castle, Inveraray, Argyll PA32 8XE (Castle).

APPENDIX

Users of the Walks are requested to follow

THE COUNTRY CODE:

- AVOIDING ALL RISKS OF FIRE
- KEEPING DOGS UNDER CONTROL
- LEAVING NO LITTER
- CLOSING ALL GATES
- AVOIDING DISLODGING STONES WHICH MAY ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF WALKERS BELOW
- CAMPING IS NOT PERMITTED
- DO NOT DIG UP SAPLINGS OR WILD FLOWERS

DUN NA CLUAICHE WOODLAND WALKS

Four routes have been laid out by Argyll Estates for the enjoyment of the public. The route of each walk is shown by coloured marker posts. Please note that whilst every effort has been made to ensure reasonable walking conditions, the routes are country paths and some rough walking should be expected - especially on the longest route to the top of the hill. Substantial footwear is advised.

0 5 miles

Approx. Scale

SHORT WALK: YELLOW ROUTE
For the most part, easy conditions.
DISTANCE: just over 1 mile (1.6km)
WALKING TIME: Approximately 1 1/4 hours

MIDDLE WALK: BROWN ROUTE
A little steep ground to be crossed. Moderately good views.
DISTANCE: 1 1/4 miles (2.8km)
WALKING TIME: 2 to 3 hours

LONG WALK: BLUE ROUTE
To the Summit - superb views, weather permitting.
DISTANCE: 2 1/2 miles (4.0km)
WALKING TIME: approximately 2 to 3 hours

DUBH LOCH WALK: RED ROUTE

The walks commence at the corner of the car park to the North of the Castle. Those wishing to go on any of the walks may leave their cars in the area designated for visitors to the Castle.

In case of emergency, it is useful if the location is noted by referring to the nearest numbered marker.

Frew's Bridge

Harbor Tower

SHORT WALK: From Point 6 (1) on the road for 100m and then sharp right. Follow the signs to Point 7.

MIDDLE WALK AND LONG WALK: POINT 6: Directions: turn sharp right and follow the old road for 25m; then turn sharp left and proceed up the hill. There is an attractive Yew tree to the left of the road. The trees behind marker post are Dalmatian Southern Beeches from Chile. At the point as you turn up the hill, observe the Oak tree with the large deformity on its side of the trunk. It may have been caused by a variety of agents - fire, fungi or even lightning - which stimulate the growing area between the trunk and the wood (the area known as the 'cambium') resulting in these 'knots'. If it was cut open it might reveal a very large number of misshapen knots. In many instances knots, as they are sometimes called, can be sliced into veneers and used to decorate furniture. The young conifers on the right of the track are Norway Spruce (Christmas Trees).

POINT 7: The woodland below the road is mainly composed of naturally Sycamore trees. From August to leaf fall you may notice black spots on the leaves.