

The Good Boating Code

Please follow these simple rules to ensure that you, your friends and everyone else on the loch can enjoy a safe and enjoyable trip.

No boat – except a recognised safety, steam or electric boat should have an engine capacity greater than 4hp.

Before leaving the shore

- check that your boat is seaworthy
- always carry an alternative means of propulsion – spare oars or a paddle
- have lifejackets for everyone
- make sure you have third party liability insurance
- check that visibility is good
- make sure it's not stormy or excessively windy

On the water

- wear lifejackets at all times
- help other boats in distress
- keep away from shallow areas (see map)
- keep a good look out for hazards and warn any other craft of them

Consider others

- only launch your boat from the Forest Hills Watersports Centre
- keep your boat speed and wake to a minimum
- keep at least 20 metres away from people fishing
- respect the privacy of lochside homes
- do not land without the landowner's permission

Powered boat drivers should learn the 'Rules of the Road'

- always keep a good lookout for other boats
- powered craft must give way to non-powered craft
- when overtaking - keep well clear of other boats
- give way to boats approaching from starboard (right)
- boats approaching should pass port to port (left side to left side)
- make early changes in direction to avoid collision
- for your own protection and that of others, all powered boats should be covered by 3rd party liability insurance

SAFETY FIRST

The waters of Loch Ard are very cold all year round. Hypothermia can be a real danger within minutes.

Attractive sandy beaches can shelve rapidly into deep, cold water.

Look out for sudden squalls. The loch may look benign but sudden winds can create mini waterspouts.

Always keep a look out for rocks and sandbanks hidden just under the surface.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Few mobile phones operate in this area.

There is a public phone box at Kinlochard Village Shop

Police at Aberfoyle	01877 382 222
Aberfoyle Angling Protection Association	01877 382 232
Forest Hills Watersports Centre	01877 387 775
Forestry Commission Scotland	01877 382 383
Doctor's surgery	01877 382 421
Loch Ard Sailing Club	01877 382 486
Aberfoyle Motors	01877 382 341
Altskeith Hotel	01877 387 266
Ledard Farm	01877 387 219
Kinlochard Village Shop	01877 387 284
National Park Area Office and Countryside Rangers	01877 382 034

IN THE CASE OF A REAL EMERGENCY DIAL 999

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The National Park Authority does not accept any responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions or for any accident or incident however caused, allegedly arising directly or indirectly from it.

Loch Ard, the 'High Loch', lies beneath towering Ben Lomond in the heart of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Its peaceful shores are home to many families, who live here all year round, and each year countless visitors are welcomed to the loch.

Loch Ard

A Code of Conduct

This voluntary Code of Conduct has been produced to help you enjoy your sport and recreational activities on Loch Ard safely and with consideration for others. Enjoy your stay, treat the loch with respect, recognise the residents' right to privacy and help care for it so that everyone can enjoy its natural beauty.

Enjoy yourself and go safely

Access to the Loch

Recent changes to the law give you new rights of responsible access to the loch.

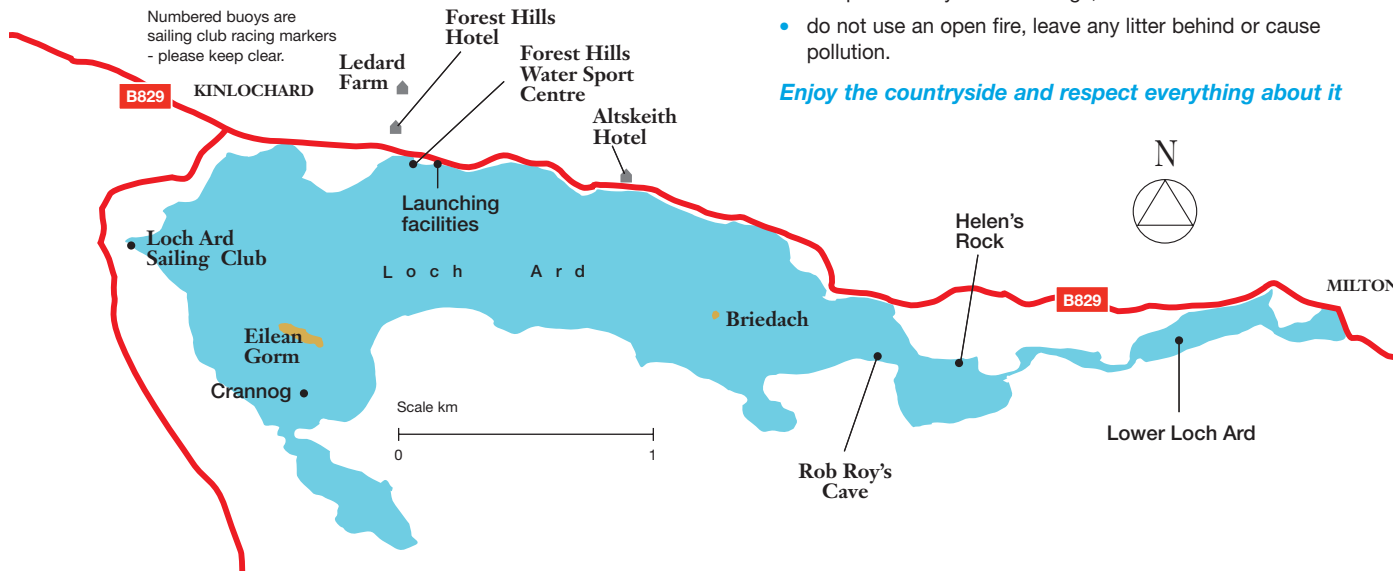
Non-powered craft

You can carry your non-powered craft, such as canoes, surfboards and dinghies, to Loch Ard for responsible recreation. But you cannot take a vehicle (with or without a trailer) across land to get to the water.

Powered craft

If you're planning to take your powered craft (any craft with an engine, no matter how small) across land, you must first obtain the express consent of the landowner. After launching, please park vehicles and trailers carefully so that they don't impede access to or from the water or roadway.

This map should not be used as a guide to navigation.



Keeping it Special!

Many people live by Loch Ard all year round – it's their home and visitors are welcome. Please leave the loch as you would like to find it.

When you're in the countryside please:

- take your litter home
- protect wildlife, plants and trees
- leave gates as you find them
- keep your pets under close control
- keep all water clean
- do not disturb livestock, crops and machinery
- make no unnecessary noise
- don't park a car and trailer on the roadside overnight
- take extra care on the narrow country roads

Get the landowner's specific prior consent before you:

- land your powered boat on private shores
- light fires
- launch a powered boat
- park on private land

Responsible wild camping is allowed under new access legislation. Whenever you're camping follow these simple guidelines:

- camp only on unenclosed ground, in small numbers for just one or two nights
- camp well away from buildings, roads and historic structures
- do not use an open fire, leave any litter behind or cause pollution.

Enjoy the countryside and respect everything about it

Fishing on the Loch

Loch Ard is well-stocked with brown trout by Aberfoyle Angling Protection Association.

When you're fishing please observe the following fishing rules

- never use lead weights – it's illegal
- don't discard hooks, lines, weights, nylon or any items of fishing tackle into the water or on the shore, as they're a danger to wildlife
- please take your litter home
- if you're in a boat, always follow the Good Boating Code
- remember, your fishing tackle and equipment are subject to inspection at any time by authorised persons
- remember, there's no right to fish for migratory fish in Scotland.

Trout fishing

- strictly by permit only
- only permitted between 15th March and 6th October
- only permitted from one hour before sunrise and until one hour after sunset
- fly fishing only
- one rod per permit

You can purchase fishing permits at:

- Kinlochard Village Shop
- Aberfoyle Motors
- Altskeith Hotel
- Forest Hills Watersports Centre
- Ledard Farm

Anyone breaking the terms and conditions of their fishing permit, may be expelled from the fisheries.

Coarse Angling

- pike anglers should be members or affiliates of the Pike Anglers Alliance of Scotland
- the importation of alien species into Loch Ard is strictly prohibited
- the use of live bait is not permitted
- spinners under 6" in length must not be used.