

The spirit of adventure TrueNorth Outdoor



GLENFINNAN AND THE SHIEL WATERSHED

This classic journey following Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape route to the sea via Loch Shiel, the river Shiel and Loch Moidart gives a huge variety of terrain along the trip. The visitor centre at Glenfinnan allows the traveller to gain all the information about the area that they might need on national and local history through to natural history and really sets the scene before the journey begins. On his tall, narrow column complete with spiral staircase the highlander's statue gazes down the length of this imposing glen

The first 2 days follow the lonely "V" shaped valley where the steep sides continue down through the black waters for another 380 feet. The banks are partly wooded and the air is filled with the sound of mountain streams rushing down from the rugged crags above. Sandy beaches provide campsites along the way.

At the southern end the loch narrows considerably and gives an impression of a gateway almost sealing off the hidden glen. Here on an island an ancient burial ground is well worth a visit to see the ruined church with its altar still intact and a small brass bell. The island is said to be haunted and a number of spooky occurrences continue to add to its reputation.

Then as the loch bends to the west leaving the brooding glen behind the atmosphere lifts as the view opens out on rolling hills. Almost imperceptibly the loch becomes a river with waving eel grass showing a flow. The river Shiel flows gracefully through beautiful countryside and ends in a short rush down the chute of the tidal shelf into Loch Moidart.

This picturesque sea loch has a number of coves and islands on one of which Tioram Castle stands dominating the narrows to Kinlochmoidart. The kelp beds round Eilean Shona are populated with seals and sea otters. This island stands like a chock-stone protecting this natural harbour. In calm weather a short excursion round Shona gives the voyageur an awesome view of the open sea. And so the journey ends with a view of the islands of Muck, Rum and Eigg against the massive backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean.

Jed