Welcome to Carron Valley

Come and enjoy the great outdoors at Carron Valley. Whether you are walking, cycling, horse riding or watching wildlife, the emphasis is firmly on fun for the whole family.

The Water...
The reservoir is over three miles in length. Completed in 1939, it is the jewel of the valley.

Birdlife
The reservoir offers a sanctuary for birdlife and the loch shore is a great spot to try your hand at wildlife photography all year round.

In spring, crested grebe hold elaborate courtship displays, in which they rise out of the water and shake their heads. Very young grebes can often be seen hitching a ride on their parents’ back!

In the summer, you may see osprey as they hunt for fish. Seen in flight they have white or slightly mottled underparts and the adult’s wingspan can be up to 180cm.

In autumn, look out for goldeneye. Only the male sports the tell-tale yellow eye. All year round, watch out for the tufted duck and towards dusk, listen out too for our nocturnal toomy owls and barn owls.

Forest Wildlife
There’s lots of wildlife here in Carron Valley; look out for red deer, red squirrel and even the elusive pine marten. Once almost extinct, pine marten, or ‘mertrick’ in Old Scots, have recovered in numbers in recent years.

Red squirrels are another species under threat. Scotland is now home to more than three-quarters of the UK’s remaining red squirrel population. Here at Carron Valley, you might see one at any time of year – they don’t hibernate.

You’re not going nuts...
Don’t just look for red squirrels in the trees... did you know that they can swim? (and they are either left or right pawed!)

Trout Fishing
Fly fish for wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout on the reservoir.
Permits are available from: Carron Valley Fishery
Tel: 01324 823698

Carron Valley has some great purpose-built mountain bike trails. There’s 5 miles (8km) of red grade (difficult) trail.

Pick up our Carron Valley Mountain Biking leaflet for details.

If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact us on:
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For information on public transport services contact Traveline Scotland, 0871 200 22 33 or www.travelinescotland.com
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Explore

This is a great forest for exploring on foot, by bike or on a horse. Take an hour or all day.

Main track junctions have numbered posts to help you find your way along with this map. Mind it's a big place though! Not all junctions have numbers.

As a guide, the reservoir is about 5km long (over 3 miles)

Heading for the hill

The distinctive peak of Meikle Bin looms above the forest. It’s a steep climb up through the woods and onto the open hill to reach the summit, but if you’re fit and prepared, well worth it for the views. For the quickest way onto the hill, park at the western end of the reservoir. Be aware that the route is not waymarked, so you need to take a map and know how to use it.

Take care on the hills

Please remember that the weather on the hills can change very quickly. Even in summer, conditions on the tops of hills are often much colder and windier than at low levels, despite clear skies. Here are some pointers for a safe and enjoyable trip:

- Be properly equipped
- Plan your route carefully and stick to it
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return
- Take adequate warm and waterproof clothing
- Wear suitable footwear
- Take sufficient food and drink
- Carry map and compass, know how to use them
- Turn back if it gets too hard for you
- In emergencies, call 999 and ask for POLICE

Tell them:
1. Location of the incident
2. Number of people in the party
3. Any injuries (if there are, ask the police to inform the Ambulance Service)

Take care on the hills

Ultimately this will be a full-scale replica of a medieval fortified village, right here! Duncarron is currently under construction by the volunteers of Clanranald Trust. You can visit on their open days, held several times each year, but the construction site is closed to visitors otherwise.

Look out for news of the next events at www.duncarron.com

Sir John de Graham's Castle

Sir John de Graham was a loyal supporter and friend of William Wallace. He died in 1298, fighting alongside Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk. Local legend has it that Wallace may have come to Sir John's castle following this defeat.

What's left of the castle is a fine medieval earthwork, with an unusual square motte (moat). You'll find the location at the top of the leaflet map - by Todholes.

Duncarron Medieval Village

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