From the ancient Atlantic oakwoods that fringe the rugged coastline to the tree- 
cloaked flanks of towering mountains, the forests of North Argyll are inspirational 
places. It is hard to resist their powerful charm, evoking a wild landscape far removed 
from the stresses of modern life.

The well-maintained trails described in this 
leaflet are clearly signposted by waymarkers, 
guiding you to some unforgettable experiences. Forestry Commission Scotland manages 
these forests to balance the demands of timber 
production with recreation and conservation.

Separate leaflets about the forests of the Isle of 
Mull and Mid Argyll and Kintyre are also available 
from the Forestry Commission Scotland district office (see back page for contact details) 
and visitor information centres.

What to see

You can find peace, or excitement and a sense of wonder in the 
forests of North Argyll. Walk, run, ride or just stand 
while among the trees that thrive in the temperate rainforest climate and climate. If you’re feeling more adventurous, 
choose one of the demanding trails and discover stunning high 
views over the remarkable landscape.

The secluded forests provide a home to iconic Highland wildlife. 
If you tread carefully and make little noise, you might catch a 
glimpse of red squirrels, otters, pine marten and red or roe deer.

Forestry Commission Scotland works hard to maintain the forests, 
preserving their remarkable natural and cultural heritage and 
ensuring that visitors enjoy their time in North Argyll.

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Sutherland’s Grove

Marvell at the mighty fir trees of Sutherland’s Grove, the oldest of which were planted in 1870, with more added in 1921 to commemorate Lord John Donald Sutherland, one of the founders of the Forestry Commission. Some tower 53 metres (174 feet high). As you push deeper into this vast forest, you will find more ancient oaks and Scots pines. The trails follow the gorges of the Alshann Taltiti burn, whose curiously-sculpted rocks create entrancing waterfalls. Short gentle gradients.

Gorge Trail
A lovely short loop that takes in a number of the forest’s highlights. You follow the river up to the dramatic gorge, before returning through mixed woodland.

Long moderate slopes with some fairly steep sections. Can be narrow in places. Often wet and muddy after rain.

Troll Trail
Explore the woods a bit further and meet the trail who lives beside the footbridge above the gorge. This trail is a great place to spot red squirrels too.

Varied with some fairly steep, rough and rocky sections. Can be narrow in places. Often wet and muddy after rain.

One bridge with a steep narrow flight of steps.

Beinn Lora
The challenging climb through the varied woods of the foot of Beinn Lora is richly rewarded. The truly-panoramic views are among the most memorable in Argyll. From the Eagle’s Eyrie you can look over Benderloch to the Monvern Peninsula, Mull and Lismore. On clear days you can see towards the smaller isles south of Oban.

Beyond the forest gate, the route to the summit of Beinn Lora is across open ground and often boggy but well worth the effort.

Coastal Climb Trail
A short pull up the steep craggy hillside above Benderloch yields some great sea views across Trakie Bay and the Lynn of Lorn.

Wide, firm but uneven gravel and earth surface. Long steep slopes with some uneven and loose sections.

Eagle’s Eyrie Trail
Feel on top of the world at the breath-taking bird’s eye viewpoint on this steep but spectacular trail on the slopes of Beinn Lora.

Wide long steep slopes for 500m. Wide, firm gravel and stone surface with some uneven and loose sections.

Strone Hill
Wander through some lovely oak woodland around An 1-dear to a spectacular waterfall viewpoint.

Firm but uneven gravel surface throughout. Some fairly steep slopes with loose stones.

Waterfall Woods Trail
Step off at this natural resting place, where for centuries cattle drovers and other travellers along Glen Orchy have paused for a moment. The high moorland trail passes through oak, birch and rowan woodland that provides brilliant colour in spring and autumn and welcome shade for summer picnics. The riverbank route has viewpoints over the river below, which are particularly dramatic when the river is in spate - perhaps you should hope for wet weather.

An Darach Ruadh Trail
The ‘red oak trail’ follows the River Lochy down through some beautiful native oak woodland. Look out for the amazing ‘astral tree’.

Firm but uneven gravel path throughout. Includes steep slopes and one wide bridge.

KEY TO TRAIL MAPS

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