

3-3 Gairloch to South Laggan

- Map** panels 3.2 and 3.3 (outside back cover)
- Distance** 12 miles (19 km)
- Terrain** a mix of tarmac and forest paths and tracks, mostly shared with the Great Glen Cycle Route
- Grade** easy
- Food and drink** Gairloch (seasonal), South Laggan
- Side-trips** Clan Cameron Museum (Achnacarry), Cia-aig waterfall walk, Great Glen Water Park (South Laggan)
- Summary** fairly easy walking along the length of Loch Lochy, with splendid views



Looking towards Laggan Locks from above Kilfinnan



Clan Cameron Museum, Achnacarry

- In this section, you walk through land owned by the Camerons of Lochiel. Two miles after Gairloch, there is the option of a small diversion to their museum, which you can combine with visiting the Cia-aig (pronounced Kaig) waterfall to rejoin the Way at Clunes. Bonnie Prince Charlie hid in a cave here for two weeks after his flight from Culloden.
- Achnacarry House has belonged to the Camerons since 1660, but was destroyed in 1746 to punish them for their role in the Jacobite rising. This was the last place where clan chiefs used the pit and gallows to punish cattle stealers. The House was damaged in the second world war but was rebuilt afterwards.
- Allow an extra 2-3 hours for this option, but spare a thought for the Commando recruits who in wartime, heavily laden, had to complete the five-mile round trip in under 50 minutes. From 1942-45, Achnacarry housed the British Commando Basic Training Centre, which put 25,000 recruits through an extremely tough training system. Some recruits died because of a realistic regime that used live ammunition; the memorial at Spean Bridge honours their memory (page 44).



The Clan Cameron Museum

covers the history of the clan and its Jacobite links, and has also

photographs and reminders from the commando training era. It is open afternoons daily from April to October, also late mornings in July/August (tel 01397 712 480). Continue past the museum and cross the white bridge to reach the tip of Loch Arkraig. Turn right along the B8005 and near the hump-backed bridge look for where the waters of the Cia-aig fall into the Witch's Cauldron. Return along the Dark Mile (Mile Dorcha) to Clunes.

