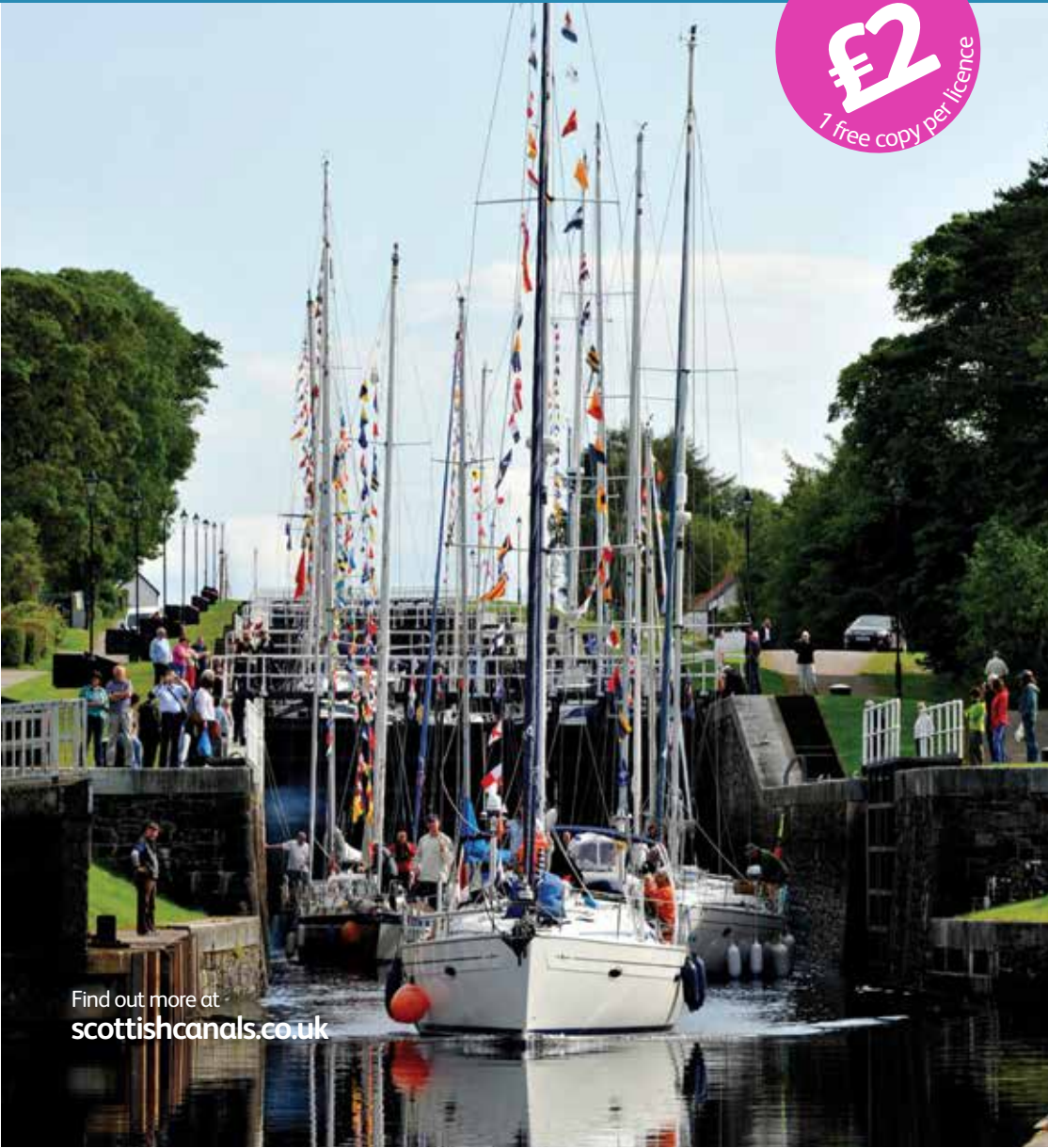


Skipper's Guide Caledonian Canal



Find out more at
scottishcanals.co.uk

Contact Us

Caledonian Canal

Seaport Marina, Muirtown Wharf
Inverness IV3 5LE
T: 01463 725500 F: 01463 710942

Clachnaharry Sea Lock

Inverness IV3 8RE
T: 01463 725512 or 07920 237331

Corpach Sea Lock

Corpach, PH33 7H
T: 01397 772249 or 07917 348025

Scottish Canals

Canal House, Applecross Street
Glasgow G4 9SP
T: 0141 332 6936 F: 0141 331 1688

Crinan Canal

Pier Square, Ardrishaig
Argyll PA30 8DZ
T: 01546 603210 F: 01546 603941

Email: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk



Find out more at
scottishcanals.co.uk

WELCOME TO THE CANAL

Scottish Canals hope that you enjoy cruising the Caledonian Canal and trust that the information contained in this Skipper's Guide will prove helpful. If you have any queries or suggestions for improving our service please do not hesitate to contact the canal office, or visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

45.72 m (150ft) long; 10.67m (35ft) beam; 4.1m (13.5ft) draft. Vessels with draft over 3.8m (12.5ft) are advised to contact the Canal Office before arrival. Maximum mast height in the canal is 35m (115ft) above the waterline, but clearance under the Kessock Bridge on the Inverness Firth is lower at 27.4m (89.8ft). The Caledonian Canal is approximately 96.5km in length (60 statute miles or 50 nautical miles) of which 35.4km (22 miles) is man made, the remainder being formed by natural fresh water lochs. There are 29 locks and 10 swing bridges along the waterway, all of which are operated for you by Scottish Canals' staff.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The canal operates on a seasonal basis as follows:
Winter: Monday to Friday 0900 – 1600
Spring & Autumn: 7 days 0830 – 1730
Summer: 7 days 0800 – 1800
Locks and bridges may be closed during lunch break.
Lock and Bridge operations take some time to complete, so try to arrive at each location in time for the operation to be

completed before closing time.

Call the canal office on 01463 725500 or visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details of winter closures for maintenance work.

MAIN ROAD BRIDGES

The main road bridges at Muirtown, Tomnahurich, Fort Augustus and Banavie are used daily by people driving to and from work. Scottish Canals assists traffic flow by allowing road vehicles priority at peak times.

RAIL BRIDGES

To assist the flow of rail traffic, the bridges at Clachnaharry and Banavie are periodically closed to canal traffic. See local lock keepers for timings.

TIDAL OPERATION

Special note should be taken of the tidal restrictions at sea locks. Within normal operating hours, Corpach Sea Lock is available $\geq 1\text{m}$, and Clachnaharry Sea Lock is available $\geq 1.4\text{m}$. This restriction is caused by the need for sufficient depth to float the sea lock gates. At low water and spring tides the sea locks are **CLOSED 2 HOURS** (or a little longer) either side of low tide.
Contact the Sea Lock Keeper on VHF CH 74 for advice.

PASSAGE TIMES

The absolute minimum time required to make passage is 2½ days, but why rush? Enjoy the delights of the Caledonian Canal.

CORPACH BASIN

Corpach Basin is at times used by large freight vessels which require room to manoeuvre, therefore it is rarely available for berthing leisure craft. Please follow the lock keeper's advice and berth where directed.

NAVIGATION

Information is contained in the following publications; Pilots: The Admiralty North Coast of Scotland Pilot (NP52) and the Admiralty West Coast of Scotland Pilot (NP66), both of which can be obtained from Admiralty chart agents.
Also in Yachtsman's Pilots published by Imray, Laurie, Norie & Wilson, and by Clyde Cruising Club.
Charts: Eastern Approaches – Moray Firth 115, Inverness Firth 1078, Caledonian Canal 1791. Western Approaches – Loch Linnhe (North) 2380, Fort William and Corpach 2372.

PILOTAGE

Pilotage is not normally required, however, in the case of very large craft this service may be arranged. Please contact the canal office for advice and allow a minimum of 48 hours for pilotage arrangements to be made.

NARROWBOATS

Skippers of narrowboats are requested to contact the canal office for specific safety advice in advance of arrival.

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

A postal service can be arranged if you inform the Sea Lock Keeper on entry.

IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE

A telephone / fax service can be arranged if you inform the sea lock keeper on entry. All crew making first UK landfall must inform UK immigration.

SLIPWAYS

Scottish Canals slipway for small, non-motorised craft only:

Seaport Marina	01463 725500
Other slipways:	
Caley Marina	01463 236328
Great Glen Water Park	01809 501381
Corpach Boat Builders	01397 772861

Dores / Inchnacardoch Bay - check slipways for access details.

Please check slipways for suitability before use.

JETTIES & TRANSIT MOORINGS

There are transit jetties adjacent to most locks and bridges. Please check with lock keeper as to the best place to berth, particularly if you plan a long stay. During the summer season, it is helpful if skippers of large vessels (LOA $\geq 15\text{m}$) call the canal office prior to arrival, to allow planning of overnight berthing on passage.

FUEL

Diesel fuel is available at Seaport Marina, Caley Marina, and Corpach. Garages provide petrol in small quantities - enquire as to opening hours. Camping Gaz is available at many garages and local stores – please ask lock keepers for advice.

CANOEISTS

More than 4000 canoeists and kayakers paddle the canal each year. Please keep their launch pontoons clear.

SAFETY FIRST and the CANAL ENVIRONMENT

BOAT SAFETY SCHEME

All users of the canal must hold insurance for a minimum of £1 million third party liability.

All those berthing within the canal system for periods in excess of 30 days must obtain a Boat Safety Certificate or equivalent. Owners using the canal for less than 30 days will be subject to spot checks to ensure their craft meet the standards of safety required under the scheme. Checks will cover the gas system, electrical system, and will be visual or in the case of the gas test carried out by use of a leak detector.

SPEED LIMITS

The maximum speed permitted on the canal sections is 5 knots, but please plan your passage with leisure in mind since excess speed not only damages canal banks, but is hazardous to other users. Please slow down as you approach locks and bridges, and also whilst passing moored craft.

VHF COMMUNICATION

Sea locks and most locks and bridges are equipped with VHF and operate on Channel 74. Please keep your VHF Radio switched on!

RADAR

Masters are requested to ensure radar scanners are switched off whilst craft are within or approaching locks.

WIFI

Wifi hotspots are available at various locations along the canal (see chart overleaf). Vouchers are available to purchase online at www.highlandwifi.com

LARGE VESSELS WARNING

Large commercial vessels operate on the Caledonian Canal. These craft normally have right of way and it may be necessary to stop smaller craft for short periods. For your safety please adhere to Scottish Canals' staff instructions at all times.

SWIMMING

Please do not swim in the waterway, you could become entangled in weeds or rubbish, be hit by a passing craft or be drawn into a sluice when locks are in use. The results could be fatal.

DRINKING WATER

Available at Seaport Marina, Dochgarroch, Fort Augustus, Laggan, Banavie and Corpach. Please bring your own hose pipe for connection to the taps.

TOILETS AND SHOWERS

Available at locations throughout the canal (see map). Keys are issued by sea lock keepers on arrival and collected on exiting the canal. There is a fee for keys not returned on exit.

PUMP OUT FACILITIES

Available at Banavie, Fort Augustus and Muirtown locks. If you require a pump-out please ask lock staff for advice on operation and service cost. Please note that black water must not be discharged into the canal.

LITTER

Please respect the sensitive environment along the canal by using the bins provided at locks or retain litter until you can recycle it. All locations have compulsory recycling facilities.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Available at Seaport Marina and Fort Augustus, Gairloch and Banavie – please see local notices for advice on costs and operation. Be sure to bring your own washing powder or liquid detergent!

PORT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Scottish Canals has produced Port Waste Management Plans which are agreed with the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) and must be complied with at all times. Please note that no discharge of oil or bilge water is permitted either in the canal or its adjacent waters and any

contravention of this ruling will result in notification to the MCA and may render you liable to prosecution by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA). Emergency discharge facilities can be arranged using specialist contractors at additional cost - please contact the canal office for advice.

There are disposal facilities for small amounts of waste oil at Seaport Marina and Corpach.

CALEDONIAN CANAL INFORMATION

Length of natural lochs	38 miles (61.16Km)
Length of canal cuttings	22 miles (35.4 Km)
Total length of canal	60 miles (96.56 Km)
Summit level at Loch Oich:	106 feet (32.31m)
Number of Locks	29
Number of Bridges	10

SOME PRIMARY SAFETY POINTS

DO

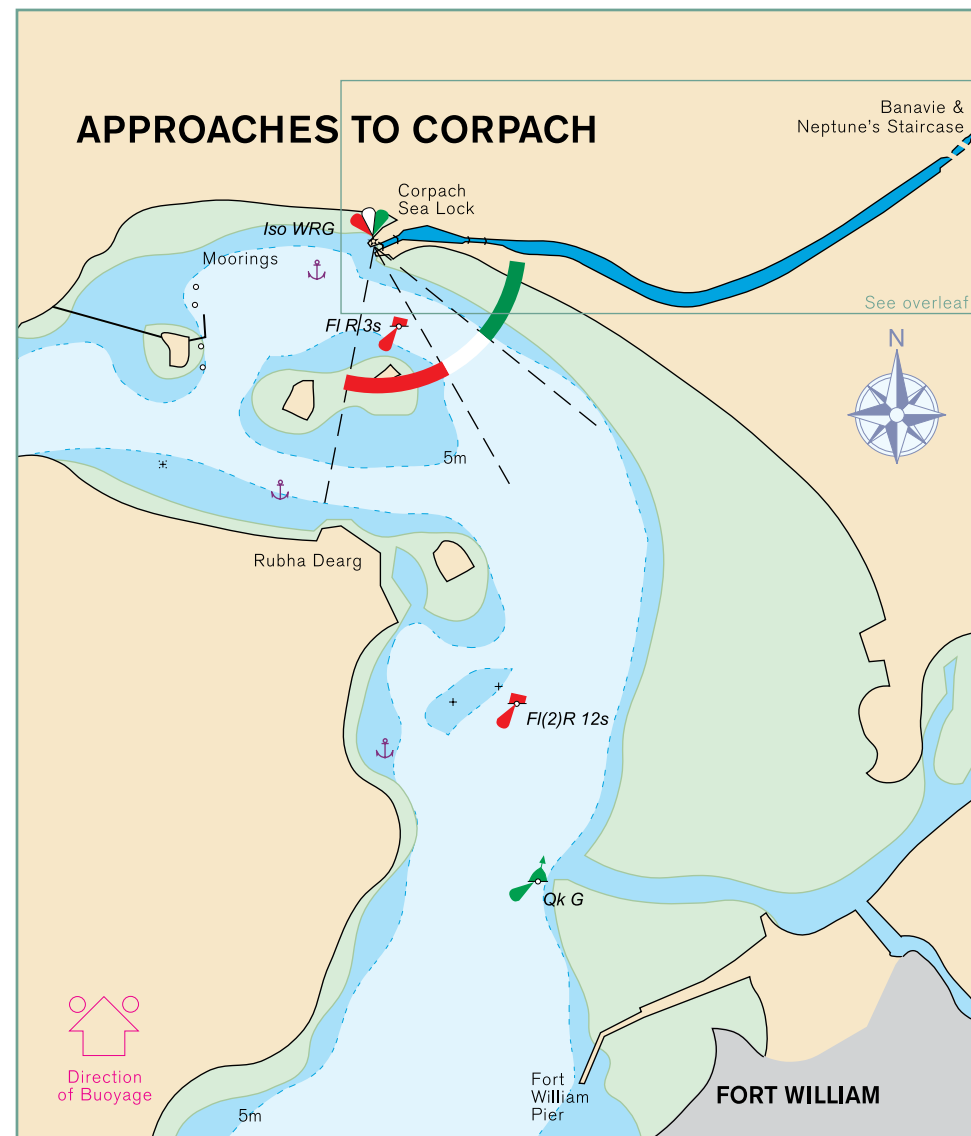
1. Do have an adequate number of competent crew aboard. Single-handed passage is possible but may be subject to delays depending on staff availability to assist.
2. Do take time to plan ahead, lay out warps, fenders, and clear decks before you set off.
3. Do check fuel and oil levels before starting the engine and also that all controls are working properly.
4. Do make sure that children and non-swimmers wear life jackets.
5. Do relax and take your time.

DON'T

6. Do not speed in the waterway, this damages banks and affects other waterway users.
7. Do not cruise after darkness.
8. Do not cruise near weirs, or attempt to shoot them in canoes.
9. Do not allow pets to wander – keep them on leads and do not allow them to foul the canal banks.

Emergency Out of Hours Contact:
0800 072 9900

WATERWAYS SYMBOLS	OTHER SYMBOLS
	NAVIGATION SYMBOLS



APPROACHES TO CORPACH

- Admiralty Chart 2380 & 2372. Imray Chart C65.
- HW Corpach is at Oban ±0000 (sp); -0020 (np). Tidal range 3.5m (sp); 1.3m (np).
- There is a holding pontoon outside the sea lock.
- Yachts generally cannot lie in the sea lock basin, and should continue through the next set of locks or to Banavie.
- Marine diesel fuel is available at Corpach Basin.

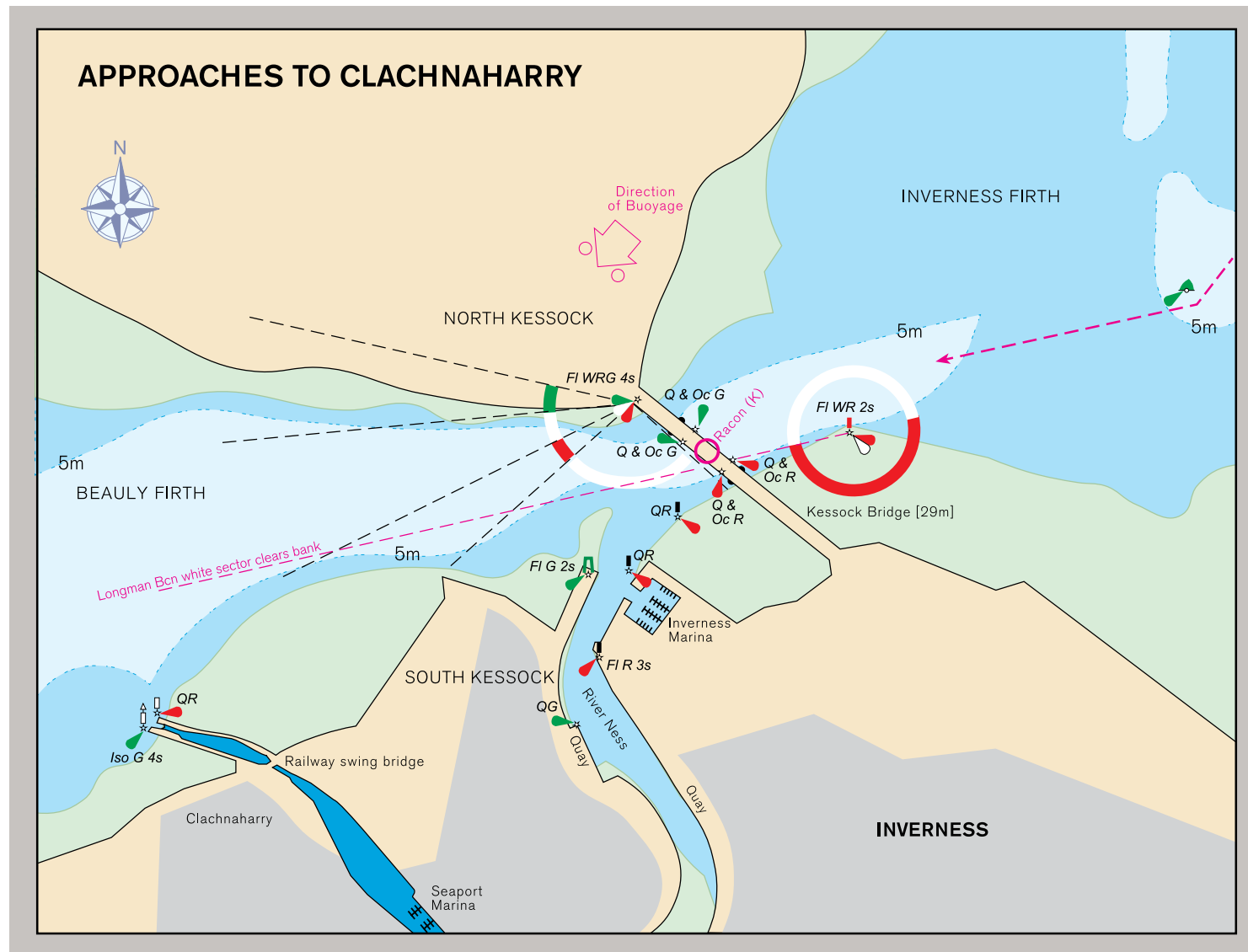
SEA LOCK HOURS

- The Canal Sea Locks operate with approx. 1.4m of tide (Spring HW± 4 hours), and within operating hours.
- VHF Ch 74 (16), call: "Corpach Sea Lock" or "Clachnaharry Sea Lock".
- Inverness Marina VHF Ch 12 / Inverness Harbour VHF Ch 12/16 (office hours)

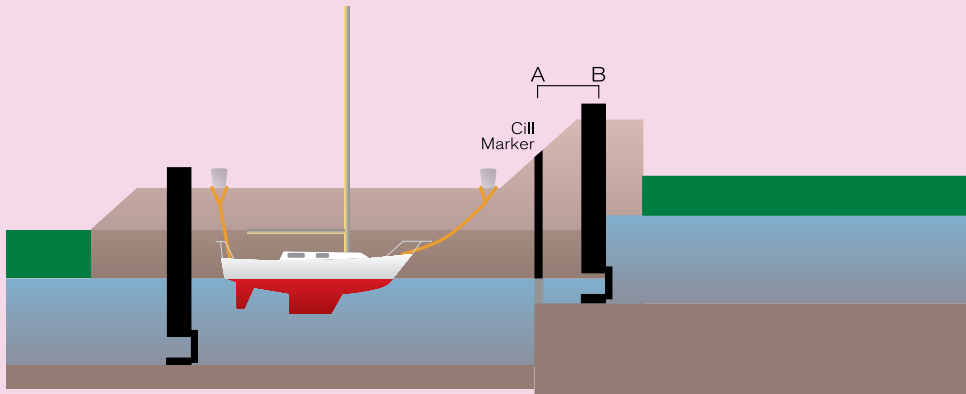
APPROACHES TO CLACHNAHARRY

- Admiralty Chart 1078. Imray Charts C22 & C23.
- HW Inverness is at Aberdeen -0050 (sp); -0150 (np). Tidal range 4.1m (sp); 1.9m (np)

- The final 3 miles of the approach from the NE to Kessock Bridge is shoal in places. A careful course should be maintained.
- The tide runs strongly through Kessock Narrows and Kessock Roads. Approach the sea lock with care in these conditions.
- Anchoring off the sea lock may be difficult due to strong tidal current. It may be preferable to wait in Inverness Marina.
- To avoid sandbank NE of canal entrance, (night) keep in white sector of Longman Point Beacon, or (day) keep beacon well open north of S bridge pier.
- For passage between Inverness Marina and Clachnaharry Sea Lock (and vice versa) see map below.



USING THE LOCKS



GENERAL

- Although the Caledonian Canal locks are large there is no need to be nervous about using them, as they are mechanised and operated by experienced canal staff who know the local conditions.
- Follow the Lock Keeper's instructions, and do not hesitate to ask him or her for help.
- Be prepared to share the lock chamber with other craft - this reduces the work load and saves water.
- When approaching each lock, berth at the nearest transit jetty and put a crew member ashore to take your lines in the lock.
- Ropes should be tended from on board, not from the shore, and should be led to a cleat or winch to aid control. However, at main lock flights ropes of small craft should be tended from shore, by an adult, to permit vessels to be "walked" from lock to lock on the flight. This avoids the need to start & stop engines and throw lines ashore at each lock.
- To avoid a build up of fumes in the lock chamber please switch off engines once your ropes are secured ashore.

BASIC EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED

1. Three or four good quality ropes of sufficient length (15 metres) to reach the bottom of the lock chamber
2. Adequate fenders to protect your topsides – 3 or 4 per side should suffice.
3. In addition, a good tip is to lace a canvas sheet between the hull and fenders to avoid scuff marks.
4. If you have a fender plank, use it.
5. Life jackets should be available for, and preferably worn by all crew. Children and non-swimmers should wear them at all times.
6. Ensure that there is sufficient fuel on board, and that engine controls are working correctly. Refuelling is not permitted in lock chambers.

LOCKING TIPS

Those on board will need to control the craft during the locking process. This is not difficult if a few rules are observed:

1. Approach the lock slowly and steadily, if the lock is not ready berth at a transit jetty while the gates are opened. Please do not 'hover' outside the lock. Call the Lock Keeper on VHF Ch74 and follow their instructions.

2. On single locks have a crew member positioned at bow and stern to manage ropes. On lock flights crew from small vessels should manage ropes on shore as directed by Lock Keepers.
3. Ensure ropes are clear from obstruction and can run cleanly through fairleads or stemhead roller.

CILL MARKERS

To avoid possible contact with the lock cill please ensure that your vessel keeps clear of the Cill Marker on the lock wall, and remains clear of lock gangways (area A–B on diagram).

If you are in any doubt please ask a Lock Keeper for advice.

INVERNESS

SEAPORT MARINA, MUIRTOWN

Rail Swing Bridge
Swing Bridge



Power Cables
35m above
water level



BUGHT PARK CAMPSITE:
01463 236920

TOMNAHURICH
Swing Bridge
Keep close to boat
in front to minimise
road traffic delays.
Opening restricted
during peak hours

DOCHGARROCH

LOCH DOCHFOUR

WEATHER FORECASTS
Moray Firth Radio
97.4FM – on the hour

MUIRTOWN AND CLACHNAHARRY



CALEY MARINA
01463 230330

Cater, Cruisers
Hire Boats
Boat Sales
Charandry
Slipway /
Repairs

Wheat
Unstable, Keep Clear
Jetty
Muirtown Flight
Wharf

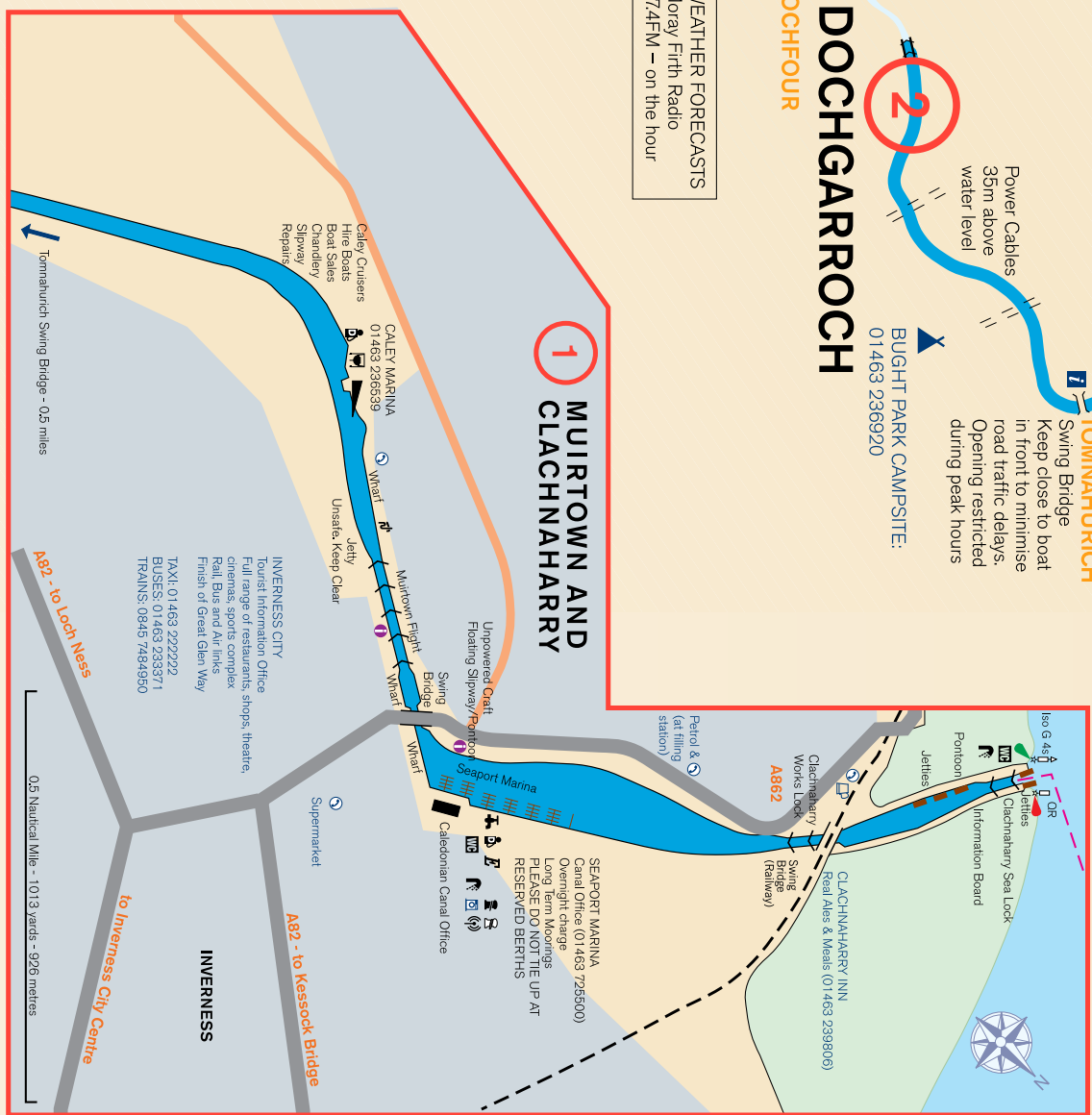
INVERNESS CITY
Tourist Information Office
Full range of restaurants, shops, theatre,
cinemas, sports complex
Rail, Bus and Air links
Finish of Great Glen Way

TAXI: 01463 222222
BUSES: 01463 233371
TRAINS: 0845 7484990

Unpowered Craft
Floating Slipway/Pontoon
Swing Bridge
Seaport Marina
Caledonian Canal Office

SEAPORT MARINA
Canal Office (01463 725500)
Overnight charge
Long term Moorings
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE UP AT
RESERVED BERTHS

Clachnaharry
Works Lock
A862
Swing Bridge
(Railway)
CLACHNAHARRY INN
Real Ales & Meats (01463 239806)



LOCH DOCHFOUR



A82
Dochfour House & Gardens
(Private)

Lochend
Cambuslochy Bay
5m

Bona Ferry
5m

2 FR (weir)

DOCHGARROCH

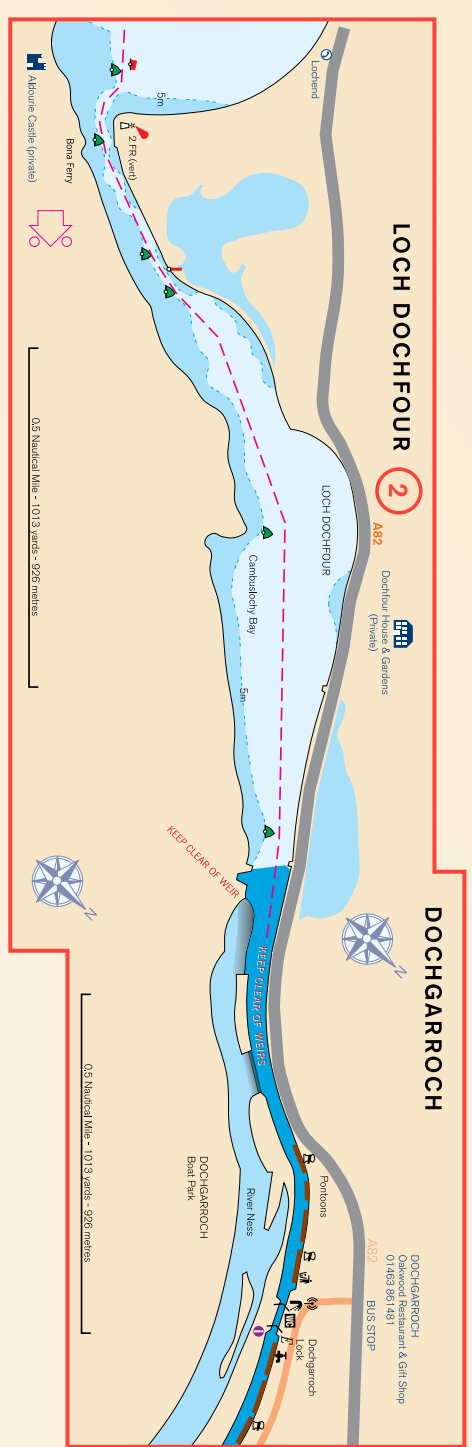


KEEP CLEAR OF WEIR

KEEP CLEAR OF WEIR

Pontoon
River Ness
DOCHGARROCH
Beast Park

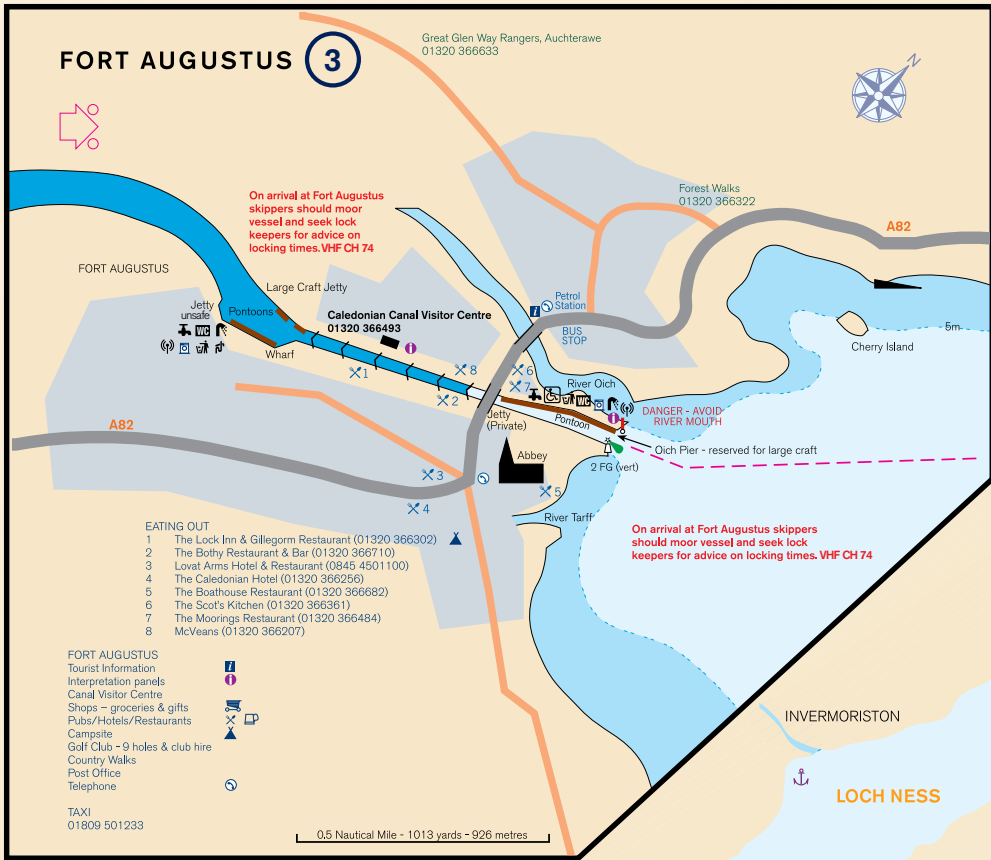
DOCHGARROCH
Oakwood Restaurant & Gift Shop
01463 861481
BUS STOP



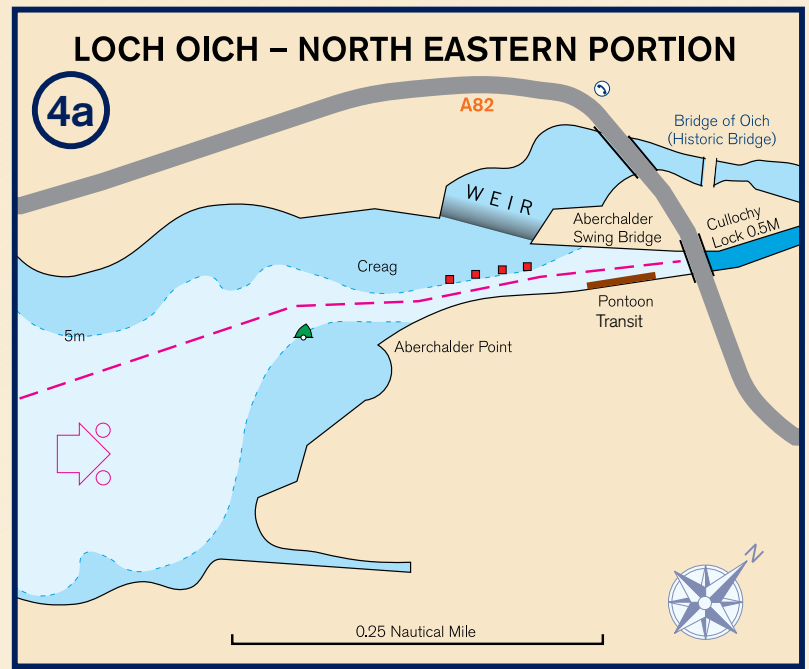
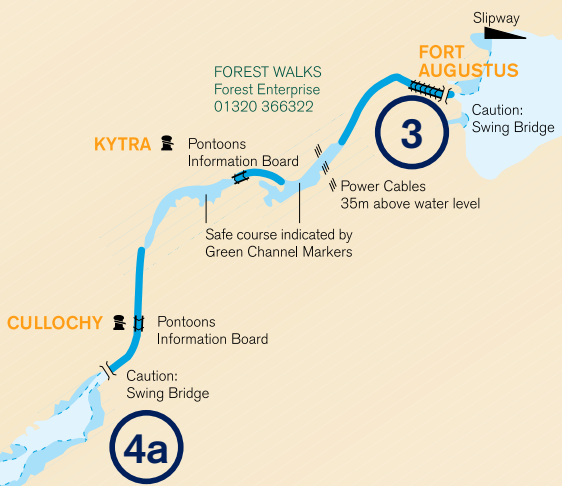
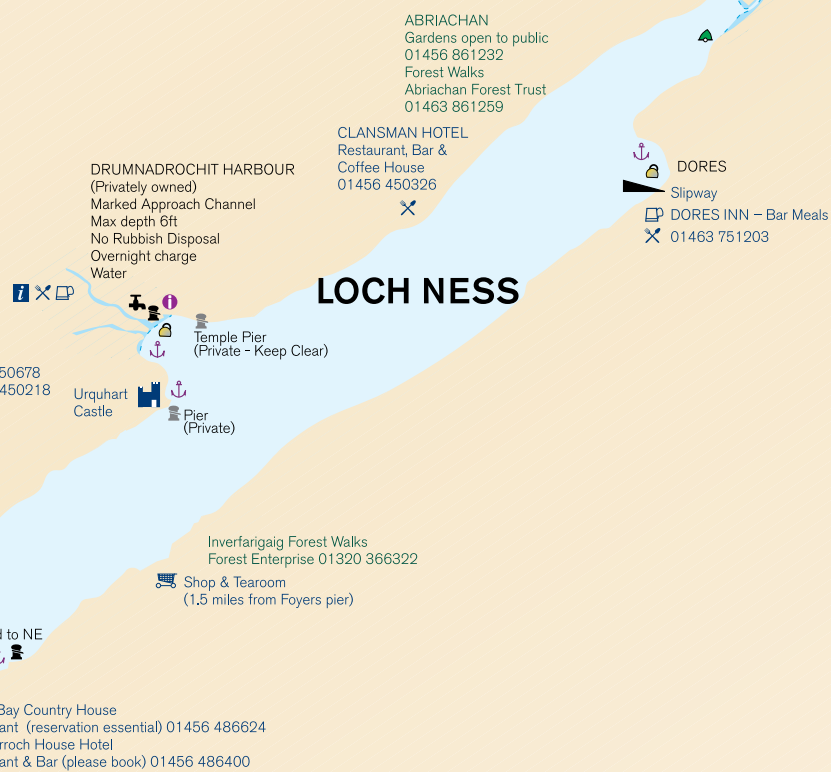
0.2 Nautical Mile - 1013 yards - 926 metres



0.3 Nautical Mile - 1013 yards - 926 metres



DRUMNADROCHIT 1.5M from harbour
Taxi: 01456 450617 or 01456 450550
Visitor Information Centre 0845 22 55 121
Fiddler's Restaurant, Bar & Coffee Shop - 01456 450678
Drumnadrochit Hotel - Restaurant & Café - 01456 450218
Monster Exhibition - 01456 450573
Bike Hire - 01456 450223
Pony Trekking - 01456 450220





Pontoon
 Corriegour Lodge Hotel
 Restaurant (please book)
 Pontoon
 01397 712685
 Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel
 Restaurant & Bar (please book)
 Pontoons
 01397 712622

LOCH OICH - MIDDLE PORTION 4b

INVERGARRY 0.5M
 A82
 Invergarry Castle (ruins)
 No dogs allowed ashore
 Rubha Garaich
 Eilean na h-Ealaigh
 Eilean Dubh
 River Garry
 Rubha Chalaim
 Eilan Drynahan
 An t-Eilean Fada
 Rubha Ard nan Uan
 Cairn
 Cairn
 Cairn
 Cairn
 5m
 5m
 5m
 5m
 0.5 Nautical Mile - 1013 yards - 926 metres

INVERGARRY 0.5M
 Invergarry Hotel (01809 501206)
 Meals
 Fully licensed
 LOCAL TAXI SERVICE
 01809 501222

Glengarry Castle Hotel
 01809 501254
 Tea, coffee etc
 Meals
 Table licence only

WARNING
 Loch Oich is part of a Hydro Electric scheme - the water level can vary

LOCH LOCHY AND LAGGAN LOCKS 5

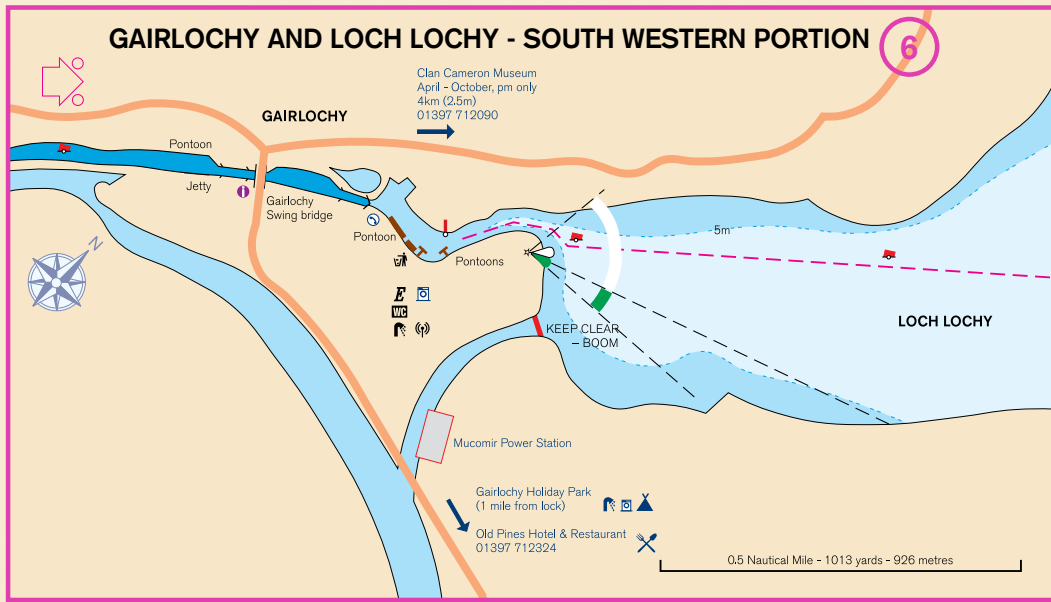
Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Jetty
 LAGGAN LOCKS
 Eagle Barge (Floating Pub & Restaurant)
 07789 858587 or 07811 956893
 OTHER FACILITIES
 West Highland Sailing (Fire Boats)
 01809 501234
 Car Park and Picnic Area
 Killfinnan Burn
 CEANN LOCH
 Killfinnan Point
 5m
 5m
 5m
 0.5 Nautical Mile - 1013 yards - 926 metres

LOCH OICH - SOUTH WESTERN PORTION 4c

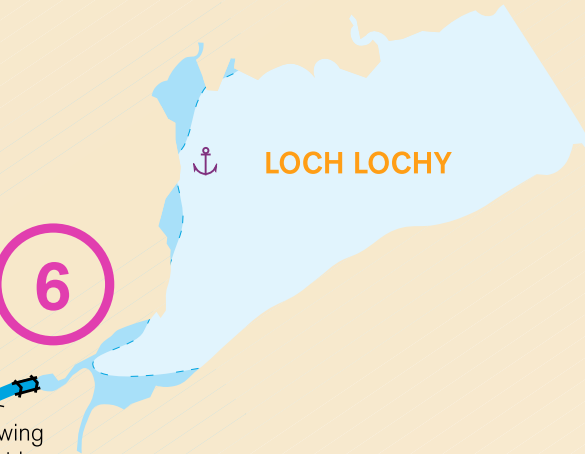
Shop and off licence
 BUS STOP
 Monument - Well of the Seven Heads
 A82
 Laggan Swing Bridge
 Toilets
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Pontoon
 Ardrishaig
 Cairn
 5m
 5m
 5m
 0.5 Nautical Mile - 1013 yards - 926 metres

GREAT GLEN WATER PARK
 01809 501381 (Reception)
 Launderette, Slipway (chargeable)
 Children's play area, games room, entertainment and events
 (contact reception for details)
 Highland Activities - 0845 094 5513
 (variety of land and water based outdoor activities)
 Loch Oich Restaurant & Bar - 01809 501383
 Holiday Lodges (Hoeseasons) - 01502 502588

LOCAL TAXI SERVICE
 01809 501222

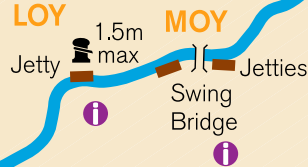


6



GAIRLOCHY

GLEN LOY FOREST WALKS
Forest Enterprise 01397 702184



MUIRSHEARLICH

7

CORPACH
BANAVIE

Swing Bridges

2 Nautical Miles
(2.3 statute miles - 3.7 km)

