

Secret Adventures - Canoe Across Scotland FAQ

Do I need any canoe experience?

We welcome inexperienced paddlers on our adventures, though we recommend getting some practice in before you join us, so you get a chance to use and strengthen your paddling muscles.

How fit do I need to be?

We don't expect everyone to be super-fit, but you do need to come prepared to paddle for a number of hours at a time. You will also have to help lift the canoes out of the water, and carry your expedition kit around lock gates on the canal, for example.

Can I book on my own?

Yes. Many of our customers travel solo, it's a great way to meet like-minded people.

What will the weather be like?

The Scottish summer is usually warm but you can expect some rain, even if it's just a little. Prepare for anything and think 'layers.' Conditions in April and May will be slightly cooler, with the potential for frost at night. Kit-wise, the main thing is a warm sleeping bag, or an additional bag liner if you feel the cold more.

Where can I leave my car?

[Rose Street Car Park](#) in central Inverness is the best option for this trip.

Why is this trip only for adults (18+)?

All of our group adventures are specially designed for adults to enjoy (18+) as we want these adventures to bring together outdoorsy people who are truly like-minded. Children can be accommodated on some private departures.

Can I meet you in Fort William rather than Inverness?

Yes, by prior agreement. However, you may need to make your own way to Inverness at short notice, if the direction of travel changes due to wind direction forecast, and the expedition has to start in Inverness.

What time do we finish on the final day?

Typically, you will finish around 1:00PM in Inverness, but could be as late as 4:00PM if weather conditions dictate otherwise.

Can I bring my dog?

Sorry but no.

Should I bring my own waterproofs?

We recommend you bring your own waterproofs as they are likely to be more comfortable than our paddling waterproofs. However, you are welcome to borrow ours on request.

Where do we go to the toilet?

You should come prepared for wild toileting, but we are currently rolling out the use of a portable toilet on expeditions where it is practical to do so. There is also access to proper toilets at certain points of the expedition (but not every day). So, although the porta-loo should be available on all Great Glen trips, you still need to be prepared to go wild, just in case. All toilet equipment is provided.

Do you cater for all dietary requirements?

So far, we have been able to cater for every dietary requirement that has come our way.

Do I need to share a tent?

At the moment, the default position is that all solo traveller's will sleep in a tent of their own. Where individuals are travelling with others they have the option of sharing or sleeping solo. You'll be asked to confirm this once you have confirmed your booking.

Will there be any midges?

Midges are most active during July and August, although you may encounter them in June and September too. When on the water, you won't be bothered by them but on land you may encounter them on occasion. However, they don't like wind, rain or strong, bright sunlight and tend to go into hiding under such conditions. We always recommend taking along a midge head net (mosquito nets are not suitable because the holes are too big)