

INTRODUCTION An ideal beginner's trip for those not used to long distances. The route takes in the River Larig, Loch Doine, Loch Voil, River Balvaig, and Loch Lubnaig. With no difficulties or awkward portages, and a campsite halfway down. Allow two days to make this a comfortable trip.

WATER LEVEL The shallowest part of the Balvaig is under the bridge at the end of Loch Voil, near Balquhiddier village.

ACCESS There is only one drawback – the parking. The roads are narrow and awkward, so it is recommended to do this trip in either spring or autumn, and avoid school holidays to reduce congestion. Many tourists come to see Rob Roy's grave in Balquhiddier. If you do go there in summer, find parking early in the morning! Start on River Larig, from a passing-place (no parking) (453 186). Access is possible to Loch Voil at its eastern end at a lay-by near to the bridge over the River Balvaig (535 207). Access/egress at Strathyre campsite (558 163), the top end of Loch Lubnaig (564 151), the first large car park on Loch Lubnaig (586 118) and the last car park (585 107). Do not park in passing places on Loch Voil!

DESCRIPTION Start on the River Larig, at the western end of the glen. The road comes near to the river about 500m before the car park at the end. Boats have to be off-loaded quick-

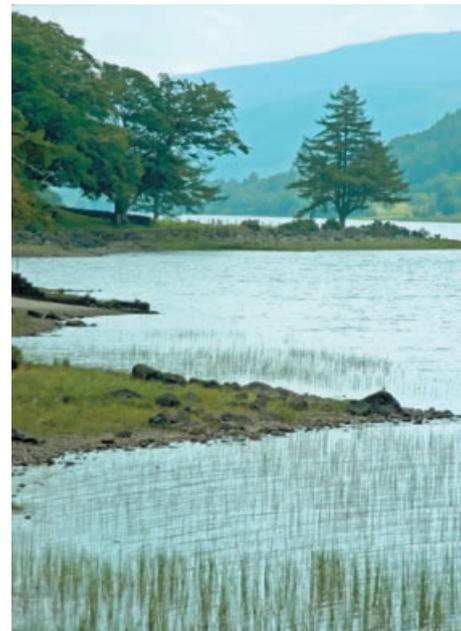
ly to avoid congestion. The river is slow and just wide enough for open canoes. After 1.5km, it flows into Loch Doine (no road access) and after another 1.5km, a tiny river of 200m or so connects this top loch with the 6km long Loch Voil.

Approaching Balquhiddier village, the River Balvaig leaves to the right, flowing swiftly under a stone road bridge. Access is good here, with parking on the left side of the bridge. The river bends tortuously for the first kilometre with minor rapids then slows, and takes about 6.5km to reach Strathyre village on the A84 from Callander to Crianlarich. Halfway down the minor road on the right side of river comes close, and there is a tiny cable ferry for animals to cross the river. The village has most facilities, with a campsite 200m downstream of the stone bridge (restricted parking). Approaching the bridge, there is a small drop and two rapids after the bridge. Loch Lubnaig is a gem. It lies amongst high mountains, six kilometres long and half a kilometre wide with spectacular views. Just as the river flows into the loch, there is a parking place on the left, on the main road nearby, one of three only on the loch. The next two, which are off the road, and with picnic facilities, are a further 4.5 and 5.5km down respectively.

CAMPSITES & ACCOMMODATION At Strathyre.

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📍 Loch Lubnaig | David Walsh





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PESDA TOURING MINI-GUIDE #04

BALQUHIDDER



LENGTH **21.5 km**

OS SHEET **57**

GRADE **1**



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