Camping Byelaws: What you need to know

Byelaws in effect from 1st March to 30th September, which manage camping and firelighting at some lochshore locations in the National Park.

The byelaws help protect the environment and promote responsible enjoyment of these lochshores.

The byelaws cover four Camping Management Zones, which make up less than 4% of the National Park.

Between 1st March and 30th September, if you camp in these Zones you must book into a campsite or permit area, so please plan ahead.

The locations of campites, camping and motorhome permit areas, are shown on the map overleaf.

The byelaws also cover irresponsible firelighting, including collecting firewood. If you have a fire, make sure you build it in a place where it will cause no damage or use a fire bowl. Bring your own wood, as collecting firewood has a damaging effect on wildlife in the area.

Camping in the National Park

Camping is a fantastic way to experience the great outdoors and connect with the unique environment of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Whether you’re an experienced camper or a first timer, coming on your own or taking the kids, there’s every kind of camping experience on offer here.

There’s a wide choice of places to camp in the National Park. Pitch up at a campsite along a loch, river or stream, or for those who prefer the solitude of wild camping away from the hustle and bustle, there are plenty of places to immerse yourself in some of the most spectacular scenery in Scotland.

Whether you choose to stay in a campsite or wild camp, please ensure you do so respectfully and responsibly. Leave no trace and always follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code - a practical guide to help everyone enjoy the outdoors responsibly. www.outdooracccess-scotland.com

Camping Permit Areas

The National Park provides permit areas specifically for motorhomes and campervans. There are three locations, with designated motorhome parking areas. There are also a number of permit areas for motorhomes and campervans (see map overleaf).

Camping is permitted in these zones in designated permit areas. There are plenty of places on roadsides in the National Park, but these are not covered by the byelaws.

Permits cost £3 per tent/motorhome/campervan, per night, and can be bought online at: lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping or book in advance go to: lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping

Motorhome Permit Areas

The byelaws cover four Camping Management Zones, which make up less than 4% of the National Park.

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The locations of campites, camping and motorhome permit areas, are shown on the map overleaf.

The byelaws also cover irresponsible firelighting, including collecting firewood. If you have a fire, make sure you build it in a place where it will cause no damage or use a fire bowl. Bring your own wood, as collecting firewood has a damaging effect on wildlife in the area.

Going Wild

If you love the solitude of wild camping there are plenty of great places to experience a night under the stars and the spectacular scenery of the National Park.

Scotland’s access legislation means that everyone can camp wherever access rights apply, as long as it’s done responsibly. In the National Park seasonal camping byelaws apply in certain areas, which means in these places, between 1st March and 30th September, you must camp in a campsite or designated permit area. Find out more in the ‘Camping Byelaws: What you need to know section’.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says ‘wild camping’ is lightweight, done in small numbers and only for two or three nights in any one place.

If you are ‘wild camping’ help to avoid causing problems for local people and land managers by not camping in enclosed fields of crops or farm animals, and keeping well away from buildings, roads or historic structures. Take extra care to avoid disturbing nesting birds. If you want to camp close to a house or building, seek the owner’s permission. See the ‘Respect Your Park’ guidance overleaf for top tips on camping responsibly.

Pick your Pitch

There are a wide range of campsites throughout the National Park offering different levels of facilities.

From campsites with hot showers and electric hook-ups, to sites with basic facilities such as fresh water and toilets. Locations that offer a more basic camping experience include The Cabin, a small site on the shores of Loch Lubnaig and the National Park’s campsite at Loch Chon and Loch Achray, both in The Trossachs.

On Loch Lomond there is a small campsite on the beautiful island of Inchcailloch and on the shores of east Loch Lomond, the Forestry Commission Scotland campsite at Sallochy Bay offers woodland pitches next to the West Highland Way and the lochshore.

The cost of pitch will very depending on the level of facilities on offer at a specific location. The map overleaf shows places to camp in the National Park, lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping

Know the Code

Enjoy Scotland’s outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to an equal and unobstructed view of the outdoors. Your actions and rights and those of others are matched up in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you’re in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things to be:
• take responsibility for your actions
• respect the interests of other people
• care for the environment.

Visit scotlandoutdoors.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

RESPECT YOUR PARK

We want everyone to be able to make the most of the National Park. It’s an amazing place and we want to it stay that way.

Here are our top tips for how to enjoy the National Park responsibly:

Tackle your litter before you leave

Never cut down or damage trees to make a fire

When nature calls, use a public toilet or ‘go’ well away (30m) from open water, bury your waste or bag it up and take it away

Dispose of your fishing line responsibly

Keep noise down and lights low after 10pm

Be aware of road conditions and park your vehicle responsibly

Find out more in the ‘Camping Byelaws: What you need to know’ section.

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Camping is a great way to enjoy Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. From March to September there are several different ways to camp, either by staying in a designated Management Zone or by booking into a permit area or campsite. If you want to stay within these Zones, you can ‘wild camp’, either by responsible ‘wild camping’ outside of the Camping Management Zone or by booking into a permit area or campsite. It is important to check whether a site is suitable for touring caravans.

To learn more about camping in the National Park and to book camping permits or campsites go to: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping

Please note: we have tried to ensure that the details we provide on camping in the National Park are accurate but if you are in any doubt, please contact us at yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org or if you know of a site which is not listed, please send us an email with details for yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org

To get the most up to date details to:
yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Please check with provider for suitability for touring caravans.