

# Loch Eck Loop

## At a glance

<b>Grading:</b>	 <b>Moderate</b>
<b>Description:</b>	<i>Either direction (Hint: some riders think it's easier tackled clockwise!)</i>
<b>Distance:</b>	<b>33 km / 21 miles</b>
<b>Ascent:</b>	<b>507m</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<i>Suitable for mountain bikes - steep slopes in places, occasional loose material on the paths</i>
<b>Signage:</b>	<i>Directional Forestry Commission Scotland waymarking</i>

## Route Description

Enjoy the magnificent views of Loch Eck, Beinn Mhor and the west coast islands of Jura and Islay on a clear day.

The loop starts / finishes at the FCS centre at Glenbranter and is described in a counter clockwise direction. Riders should be aware this route is demanding and passes through remote terrain in the high forests of eastern Loch Eck, please ensure you (and your bike) are in good condition before setting off.

From Glenbranter (Grid Ref. NS 111 977), follow the track south to Glenshellish Farm, head left at the farm and towards the River Cur. The forest track heads along the western shore of Loch Eck for 11km to Benmore Botanical Gardens passing through peaceful forest and many tranquil beaches. Just before entering the gardens (cattle grid), turn left, head downhill to the bridge and cross into the car park / cafe.

Cross the A815 (caution) to regain the waymarked path. Follow the markers up a series of steep (but thankfully short) singletrack climbs to rejoin the main forest track to head north. After a nice section of singletrack around Inverchapel, follow the track for 6.1km, turn right at the Whistlefield Inn marker post and head uphill for 700m and then left to follow a short section of singletrack downhill, cross the unclassified road and head back into the forest.

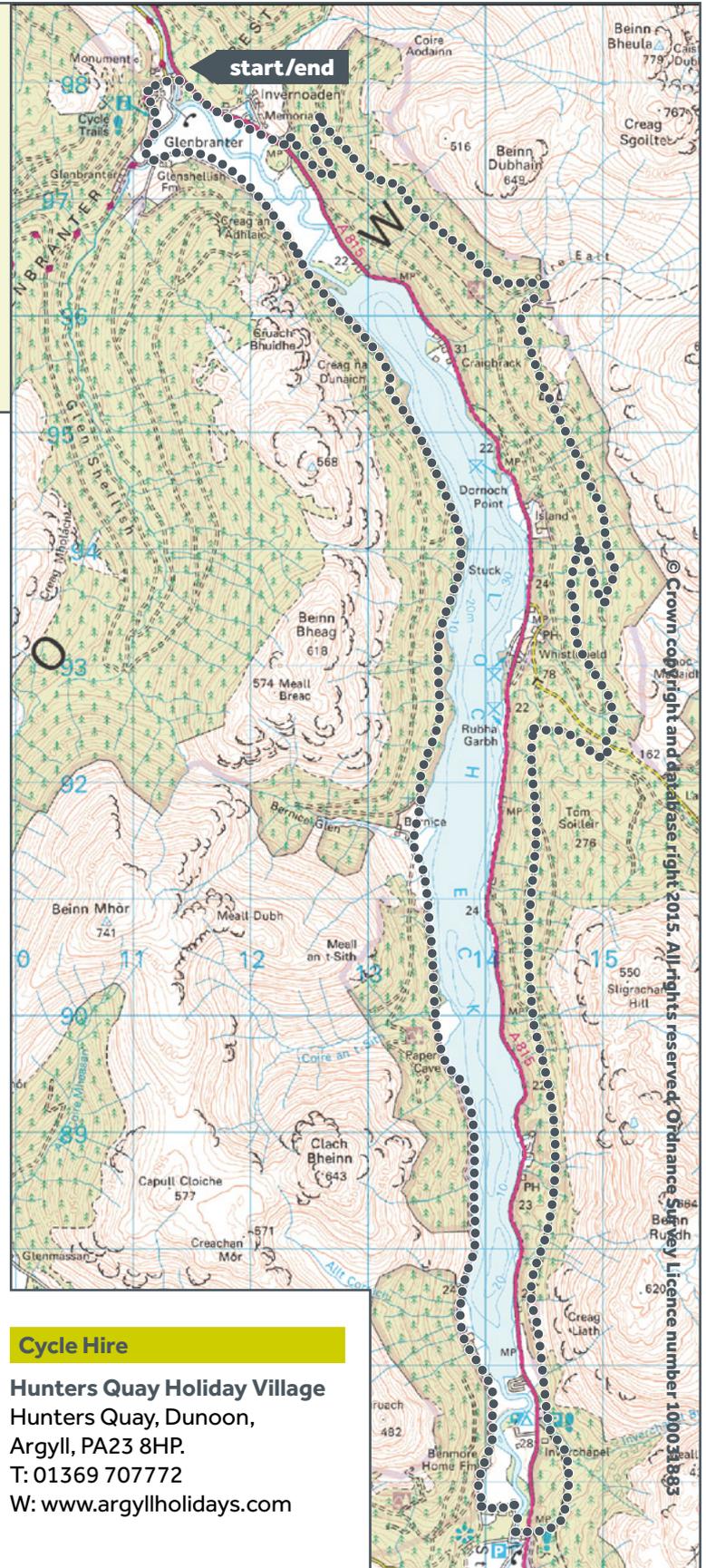
Climb a remote forest track including two hairpin bends (passing radio masts and Coire Ealt hydro scheme), followed by an excellent descent towards the small hamlet of Invernoaden. Turn right on the A815 (caution) for a short ride back to Glenbranter.

## Points of Interest

- Puck's Glen
- Benmore Botanic Gardens
- Kilmun Arboretum
- Kilmun Mausoleum
- Glenbranter Forest

## Facilities

Cafes, Inns, accommodation, toilets and information



## Cycle Hire

**Hunters Quay Holiday Village**  
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Argyll, PA23 8HP.  
T: 01369 707772  
W: [www.argyllholidays.com](http://www.argyllholidays.com)