

STAY SAFE ON LOCH EARN



The waters of Loch Earn can be **very cold** all year round. Within minutes hypothermia can be a real danger. Consumption of alcohol can speed up the effects of hypothermia.



Attractive beaches shelve very quickly into deep cold water.



Beware of sudden squalls and changes in wind direction.



Always check weather forecast before departing.



Offering assistance to other loch users should only be undertaken when it is **safe to do so**.



Do not enter the River Earn as there are underwater hazards.



Loch Earn A code of conduct

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

There are public phones at:

Lochearnhead	01567 830255
St Fillans	01764 685221

IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL: 999

NON URGENT CALLS DIAL: 101

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Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority on behalf of the Loch Earn Management Working Group.

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The National Park Authority does not accept any responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions in this leaflet or for any accident or incident, however caused.

Loch Earn is one of Scotland's most popular outdoor locations and a place many people call home. This Code of Conduct aims to help you enjoy your recreational activities on and around Loch Earn as safely as possible and with consideration for others.

It encourages the good, safe and responsible management of Loch Earn for the benefit of everyone and has been compiled with the support of loch side residents, landowners, boating clubs and commercial operators.

Enjoy the Loch safely and responsibly.

KEEPING LOCH EARN SPECIAL...

Many people live by Loch Earn all year round – it's their home so please respect their privacy and leave the loch as you would like to find it.

Whenever you're in the countryside...

- Take your litter home
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Leave all gates, fences and property as you find them
- Keep your pets under close control
- Keep all water clean
- Do not disturb livestock, crops or machinery
- Be considerate and keep noise levels to a minimum, especially between 10pm and 7am
- Park your vehicle responsibly without causing obstruction to access and do not use passing places for parking
- Take extra care on narrow country roads

You must have permission from the landowner before you launch a powered boat or personal water craft (PWC).

ACCESS TO LOCH EARN

Non-powered craft

You can carry non-powered craft, such as canoes, SUPs and dinghies, onto Loch Earn but you cannot take a vehicle (with or without a trailer) across land to get to the water. There are lots of places where you can gain easy access to the loch with your non-powered craft.

Powered craft

Facilities for the launching of powered boats and PWC are limited on Loch Earn. Visitors should plan ahead with the launching facilities below and confirm that they are able to launch and recover their craft at that location (see map overleaf). Every power-driven boat of 10hp (7.5KW) and over must be covered by 3rd party liability insurance.

Launch Facilities

The Watersports Centre, Lochearnhead*
Tel: 07711 368649

Drummond Estate Boat Hire, Lochearnhead*
Tel: 01567 830 400

Loch Earn Brewery, Hotel & Visitor Centre, St Fillans
Tel: 01764 685212

** No personal water craft (jetskis, wetbikes etc).*

CAMPING AROUND LOCH EARN

Camping Management Byelaws are in effect around Loch Earn from 1st March to 30th September. During this time you need to either book into a campsite or obtain a permit to camp.



Permits are for specific areas around the loch and are available from the National Park at:
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping

From October to February campers should follow the guidance laid out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



FISHING ON LOCH EARN

Game fishing

- Strictly by permit only as per the River Earn Catchment Area Protection Order
- Permitted only between **15th March and 6th October inclusive**
- Remember, there's no right to fish for freshwater fish in Scotland without a permit.
- Fishing is prohibited on some stretches of the loch (see map for details)
- Bailiffs patrol the waters and tributaries of Loch Earn and may exercise their considerable powers against those fishing without a permit or contravening conditions set out in your fishing permit.

You can buy fishing permits at:

Lochearnhead Village Shop	01567 830 214
Drummond Estate Boat Hire	01567 830 400
St. Fillans Village Store	01764 685 309
Loch Earn Leisure Park	01764 685 270

Whenever you're fishing on Loch Earn please follow these simple rules

- Don't deploy set lines – it's against the fishing law of Scotland
- Don't discard a hook, line, weight or any other item of fishing tackle into the water or onto the shore – they're a danger to wildlife
- If you are fishing from a boat, follow the Good Boating Code (see overleaf).

THE GOOD BOATING CODE

There is no dedicated rescue boat service on Loch Earn. Drivers of power-driven craft must know and abide the 'Navigation Rules'. Please follow these simple rules to ensure that you, your friends and everyone else on the loch has a safe and enjoyable trip.

- If you choose to drink alcohol – do not drive a boat.
- A buoyancy aid or lifejacket should be worn by all occupants of the craft at all times. Your boat should have a means of attracting attention in the event of an emergency – even a whistle!
- Keep well clear of boats where the occupants are fishing either by fly or trolling. A boat trolling can have lines just below the surface up to 50 metres behind it.
- Observe a dead slow speed in areas of moored boats, jetties and 50 metres off all shores to protect swimmers and shore anglers' lines.
- Carry an alternative means of propulsion and safety gear e.g. a paddle and a bailer.
- Avoid navigating at night. If you need to, do so only with navigation lights and with local knowledge.
- Ensure you have sufficient fuel for your return journey.
- All vessels must stay at least 15 metres away from fish farm cages and not cut between blocks of cages.
- Keep well clear of boats with water-skiers and stay clear of the slalom courses at the eastern and western end of the loch. Do not use these buoys as moorings.
- Keep a good look out at all times for Open Water Swimmers. Be aware some swimmers tow brightly coloured swim safety aids which may look like normal buoys. If you see a buoy in the water, stay well clear as it could be attached to a swimmer.

Navigation Rules

- Powered craft give way to non-powered craft and boats engaged in fishing.
- When overtaking, keep well clear of other craft.
- Always look left and right when setting off.
- Give way to craft approaching from starboard (right).
- Approaching craft should pass port to port (left side to left side).
- Avoid risk of collision - make changes in direction early and obvious.
- Make minimum wake, especially passing small craft.
- When water-skiing always have a driver and an observer on board the craft.
- For recreational towing (wake boards, ringoes, bananas, etc) always have an observer on the boat and keep well clear of other activities.
- Keep a look out for swimmers in the loch who can be difficult to spot, especially if there are waves or sun glare.
- Do not harass birds or other wildlife. This is a crime under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Please respect the privacy of lochside residents. Do not land or anchor a powered craft near a residence without consent and keep noisy and repetitive activities well away from shores and homes. You have no right to beach a powered craft on any shore around the loch without landowners permission, except in an emergency.

Personal watercraft users

Inappropriately used personal watercraft such as jet skis and wet bikes can impact on the enjoyment of other loch users over a wide area. Noise from your craft, especially from activities such as going round in circles, can be disturbing. PWC users are asked to consider other users and avoid using their craft in such a way that is liable to cause annoyance and disturbance to others. Consider taking a proficiency course to build up your level of skill. Please keep well clear of shore-side houses, anglers, other boats and wildlife and do not perform unsafe manoeuvres.

Open Water Swimming

- Loch Earn is a popular spot for swimming, however as well as the safety information above, please remember the following before getting in;
- As you are low in the water, it can be difficult for other water users to spot you. Always wear a brightly coloured swim cap and, if possible, use a swim safety device – these are brightly coloured inflatable bags which you can tow behind you whilst swimming.
 - Swim with at least one other person.
 - Where possible, use an escort canoe/kayak which can also display the alpha flag (international sign of diver in the water).
 - Always swim within your own capabilities and be aware of the effects of gradual chilling.
 - Check weather conditions before heading out - a large swell can quickly develop when wind directions change.

