

On Ben Lomond, looking over
Loch Lomond and the Luss Hills.

5 REASONS TO HEAD FOR...

LUSS, LOCH LOMOND



Blink and you'll have missed it, but instead of flying past Loch Lomond on your way to the West Highlands, there's a quaint loch-shore village worth stopping for...

To explore Loch Lomond NP

1 It's all too easy to be distracted by the allure of the higher peaks of the north and give the Loch Lomond National Park nothing more than a nod of appreciation at the increasing topographical drama on your way up on the A82. But pay a little closer attention and you'll notice the small conservation village of Luss positioned right on Loch Lomond shore and just a very easy diversion from the main road. Made famous by the popular TV series in the 80s and 90s, *Take the High Road*, Luss is truly a

village where loch and mountains meet, and is nicely positioned to explore the whole National Park.

For rolling hillwalks

2 From the village, the Luss hills provide gentle hillwalking with magnificent views over Loch Lomond and out to the dramatic Arrochar Alps. Head to Beinn Dubh and Beinn Eich for a taste of the immediate surrounding area. If you're Munro-bagging, Scotland's most southerly tick is Ben Lomond, just a 30-minute crossing on the Rowardennan ferry from Luss to its base (spring to autumn only). There are 21 more Munros to bag in the National Park, and some smaller but no less dramatic Corbetts, such as The Cobbler, waiting to be explored.

For historical finds

3 Although the signs of settlement of the area date back 5000 years in the form of the artificial islands created as loch dwellings called crannogs, the beginning of the village of Luss itself dates back to medieval times. Gravestones in the churchyard are thought to date back to as early as the 7th century. The infamous 'Highland clearances' were thought to have started here. In 1749 black-faced sheep were so successfully introduced to a farm in

Luss that it changed the face of farming in Scotland – people were forced by landowners to sell their cattle, and evacuate their homes and crofts. There's a 1.5-mile Heritage Trail walk from Luss that takes in some of the best historical sights.

To soak up village life

4 Much of the draw of Luss is the quaint houses that were built in the 1800s by powerful landowners, and these now have conservation status. The village attracts plenty of tourists, so although some of the boat services and water sports do not operate in winter, it's the best time to avoid the crowds. There are two fab cafés, the Coach House and The Village Rest (which also do evening meals), and a pub, the Loch Lomond Arms, for all the refreshments you need.

For a view with a room

5 For a cute little village, Luss has a surprising variety of accommodation. Enjoy the ultimate hit of luxury, with mountain and loch-view balconies at the Lodge on the Lomond, or look for a more budget option at the Inn, a range of B&Bs, Airbnb cabins, cottages and rooms. The Luss campsite is only open from spring to autumn.

Climb The Cobbler! p99

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