



Glencoe

Teacher's information



Glencoe is well known for its breathtaking landscape, but there's much more to be discovered hidden in its unknown corners. Four hundred million years ago the Glen was a seething cauldron of volcanic lava. For the last one million years, glaciers have come and gone, shaping the landscape that we see today. During the past five thousand years people have lived in and changed the Glen, but wildlife abounds in its meadows, bogs, lochs, rivers and mountains. It is an ideal place to discover the richness of Highland history, archaeology, nature and environmental issues.

Set amongst beautiful birch woodland and surrounded by Glencoe's magnificent mountains, the new, low-level Woodland Walk starts from the Glencoe Visitor Centre. The circular route leads through woodland, home to pine martens, roe deer and red squirrels, and finishes at Inverrigan, one of the sites of the Glencoe Massacre. From here the trail leads back through the woodland to the visitor centre. The trail is 1.5km and takes around forty-five minutes.

The school programme offers a variety of activities, led by the Ranger Service. There is a wide range of habitats to study – rivers, lochs, meadows, woodland, bogs and moorland. The award-winning visitor centre houses an audio-visual presentation on the Massacre of Glencoe, as well as displays on geology, plant and animal life, mountaineering, people of the glen, Glencoe and the American Indians and conservation management. There is also an education room in the visitor centre, which can accommodate up to fifty children.

The school programme offers many opportunities for cross-curricular work and links to the Curriculum for Excellence:

- An illustrated guidebook is available on request (cost £5 plus p&p)
- Secondary schools are also welcome – please contact Glencoe to discuss your requirements
- Information is available for groups wishing to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award explorations or expeditions in this area
- For more information for teachers, go to the NTS Learn website: www.ntslearning.org.uk

Planning your class visit:

- To book: Contact Glencoe for a booking form. Please discuss your needs with staff when making your booking
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment
- Glencoe is open for educational visits at any time during visitor centre opening hours - these vary according to time of year – please visit the NTS website for more details: www.nts.org.uk

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Planning your class visit (continued):

- Certain times of year work best for certain topics – e.g. butterflies in spring and summer only. Please bear this in mind when planning your visit.
- Maximum class size: class size, and ratio of teachers/adults to pupils, can vary according to the activity booked. The education room has a maximum capacity of 55 (sitting theatre-style), and can easily accommodate smaller groups. For guided walks around the visitor centre woodlands, the usual group size is maximum 20 – the preferred ratio is 1 adult/teacher for 10 children
- Access: The visitor centre is fully accessible, as is the viewing platform (located just outside the centre). Do contact Glencoe to discuss your requirements. You can also check the Glencoe webpage on the NTS website: www.nts.org.uk
- Toilets are available at the Visitor Centre. There are 2 fully adapted toilets, one by the café and one by the main toilet block.
- Refreshments: There is a cafe on site and food or packed lunches can be arranged in advance. There is also a small picnic area in the car park. NTS educational membership includes use of the education room as a base for the day, including eating packed lunches.
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit

Charges:

These vary depending on the activity booked. Schools with NTS educational membership have free entry to the exhibition. For any activities that carry a charge, NTS educational members are given a reduced rate. For more details, please contact Glencoe.

- Entry to the exhibition is free for schools with NTS educational membership, as is use of the education room.
- Schools without educational membership are also welcome. Entry to the exhibition is £2 per pupil, for under-16s in a group booking.
- Schools may also book to visit to the exhibition, and use the education room for their own studies, on an independent visit. Again, this is free for schools that are NTS educational members, but there is a charge of £2 per pupil for under-16s in a group booking - plus an hourly charge for the education room hire.
- To apply for educational membership, go the NTS Learn website: www.ntslearning.org.uk – or contact Glencoe
- Class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site

During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead the school programme
- For the programme, your class will normally be split into two groups, with one group touring the exhibition, and the other going for a walk with the ranger; the groups then swap. This arrangement may vary depending on the size of your group – and can be confirmed at time of booking.
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour
- Pupils do not need to bring any materials for the school programme
- Pupils/teachers may take photos in the education room and on the property
- Coats and bags can be left in the education room (please confirm at time of booking)
- Wet weather shelter is available in the education room (please confirm at time of booking)
- Pupils are welcome to visit the shop. For the health and safety of all visitors, a maximum of 6 pupils may visit the shop at any one time



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During your class visit (continued):

- On arrival: Your class will be met by the ranger under the visitor centre entrance canopy and led to education room. N.B. Coaches must park in the coach park. Pupils walk the short distance (100 m) from there to the visitor centre. For the health and safety of all visitors, please do not park your coach at the visitor centre entrance

Getting to Glencoe:

- The visitor centre is situated on the A82, 17 miles south of Fort William and 1 mile south of Glencoe Village.
- If coming from the south the visitor centre is 35 miles north of Crianlarich.

Head teacher's feedback, following a school visit to Glencoe:

"Duror Primary School had a great visit to the Glencoe Visitor Centre. The whole class enjoyed the practical, hands-on activities, and the eye-opening scavenger hunt through the woodland around the visitor centre is still talked about!"

Marylin MacDonald, Head Teacher, Duror Primary School

For more information and a booking form contact:

Learning and Events Ranger
Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glencoe, Argyll PH49 4HX
Telephone No: 0844 493 2222
Email: glencoe_education@nts.org.uk