

GLEN ETIVE



View from the road, Glen Etive

My hillwalking friend who had suggested Loch Ordy, north of Dunkeld also recommended Glen Etive. So imagine my delight when Scottish Community Foundation ran their first Extra Challenge (for mobility challenged people) in Glen Etive in 2004. And here I must share the story of a very proud mother. Our two daughters, then aged 19 and 27 years, had signed up to run the Caledonian Challenge, a mere 54 miles of the West Highland Way, with a fellow entrant as yet unknown to them. He had run the Caledonian Challenge in previous years and was looking to beat his 2003 time of 17 hours 39 minutes. He had little expectation that our girls would even complete the challenge. However, together as a team they egged each other on and came in at 12 hours 39 minutes.

The following year, 2005, the Extra Challenge upgraded and took place not only on the day of the Caledonian Challenge but on a section of the West Highland Way itself, alongside the able-bodied competitors. And yes, yes our elder daughter, being one of the leaders, passed us to achieve a personal best and the fastest woman's time of the 12 hours 22 minutes.

Our Extra Challenge took place the day before along the first 6 miles of Glen Etive. The weather was fairly bleak but this did not stop us from having a marvellous experience of supported rambling which ended in a jamboree of medals, photos, massages, home baking, soup and burgers, all sponsored by IBM. www.caledonianchallenge.com/extra/

Glen Etive has a tarmac, single track road that ends abruptly at Loch Etive. Consequently traffic is minimal and you can park on the verge anywhere along it's 12 miles (24 miles return). It follows the River Etive which is rarely out of earshot and if you reach the end you are rewarded with a beautiful view. But remember the 12 mile return journey. That is, unless you have someone who

will come and pick you up. Glen Etive is very typical of the long, high-sided glens to be found on the West Coast of Scotland. If you're seeking that "get-away-from-it-all" experience then you'll find it here.

Further information from:

SNH, The Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA 01397 704716

Highland Access Officer: 01397 707050

NTS Visitor Centre, Glen Coe: www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/glencoe/visitorcentre/

FACTFILE	
MAP	Ordnance Survey map 41 & 50
GRID REFERENCE start/finish	NN 246548/108450
PARKING	On verge of road anywhere
TOILETS	Green Wellie Shop, Tyndrum : W/C (R) NTS Visitor Centre, Glencoe: W/C
DISTANCE	12 miles each way
LANDSCAPE	Hills, river, loch