

## Recommended Walks from the Loch Awe Hotel

### *Walk to Cruachan Dam*

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- Distance: 9.7km / 6 miles
  - Time: 5 – 6 hours
  - Sturdy footwear essential
  - Terrain: Easy or steep routes available but both have relatively good paths
  - Ascent: 1,300ft
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### Easy Route

Turn left at the road. Shortly after passing St Conan's Kirk, take the track to the right. You will arrive at a padlocked gate, which has access for walkers but please note 24-hour access to this gate is required for dam vehicles. Follow the road to the dam. The road is three miles long, has a good surface all the way and climbs gradually across the hillside.

### Steep Route

Walk along the main road for 3 ½ miles until you reach the Visitor's Centre at the Cruachan Power Station. Climb the steps to the Railway Station and go through the blue gate under the railway line. The path ascends steeply through woodland, crosses a stile over a deer fence and onto open hillside. Please note this path is steep and sturdy footwear is essential.

### Top Tip

Why not merge the two walks together – ascend by the easy route and return by the steep route or vice versa!

## *St. Conan's Kirk*

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- Distance: 1.9km / 1.2 miles
  - Time: 30 – 40 mins
  - Terrain: roadside pavements and gravel paths around the Kirk.
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### Description

Turn left out of the hotel and follow the footpath west. The Kirk is on the edge of the Loch and is normally open until 9pm each day.

The little church is one of Argyll's hidden treasures and is well worth a visit. Construction commenced in 1907 and was completed in 1930. Work was slow as only local labour was used. Stones were not quarried but were rolled down the hillside and split and shaped on site! Leaflets describing its fascinating history are available at the Kirk.

## *To Kilchurn Castle*

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- Distance: 6.4km / 4 miles
  - Time: 2 hours
  - Good footwear recommended
  - Terrain: flat path but the last section of track can be boggy after heavy rainfall
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### Description

Turn right at the hotel entrance and follow the road to the head of the loch. Shortly before the road sign to Inveraray take the track to the right which leads to the castle. This last section can be quite wet and boggy after heavy rainfall.

The castle is entered through a doorway marked 1693. An initial vaulted room leads through into the open courtyard. The main keep – a tower house – was actually built between 1440 and 1460 by a Campbell. You can ascend one of the turrets on the Loch Awe side, but the best views are from the top of the keep. Once you have finished exploring the castle and its grounds return by the same route.