

# Magical days out

## RUN OFFERS MUCH MHOR

Entries have opened for the Run Mhor Hidden Glen 10k on September 16.

The race takes place in the beautiful Monachyle Glen near Balquhiddier.

The out-and-back route starts at Monachyle Mhor Hotel and follows the road alongside Loch Doine before returning to the hotel and heading deep into the Hidden Glen along rough trail tracks.

The route then follows Monachyle Burn as it winds its way through the glen.

Reaching the turning point and high point of the route after six kilometres the runners head downhill to return to the hotel.

There is also a 1km fun run alongside the 10k.

■ [www.tayfitness.com](http://www.tayfitness.com)

## THINK INTO THE BOX



If you are looking for the perfect gift for an outdoors enthusiast, how about buying them Great Britain in a Box?

The £24.99 pack has been created by OS Maps and for the same price as a normal

subscription.

The pack includes: full set of 1:25 000 OS Explorer Maps; 1:50 000 OS Landranger Maps; National Park auto-routing; aerial photography and more on your smart devices; Lifeventure DriStore touchscreen phone case; Navigation Guidebook #GetOutside Guide full of ideas of places to visit; Exclusive offers from OS and other outdoor brands.

■ **For more info see**

## GEAR OF THE WEEK

### TITAN ULTRA COLLECTION

Columbia Sportswear has launched a Titan Ultra collection of clothing for trail runners.

The range, for men and women, features a Titan Ultra short-sleeved shirt, a long-sleeved half zip top, and shorts.

One of the key features is "sweat-activated cooling technology" to keep your skin dry and comfortable.

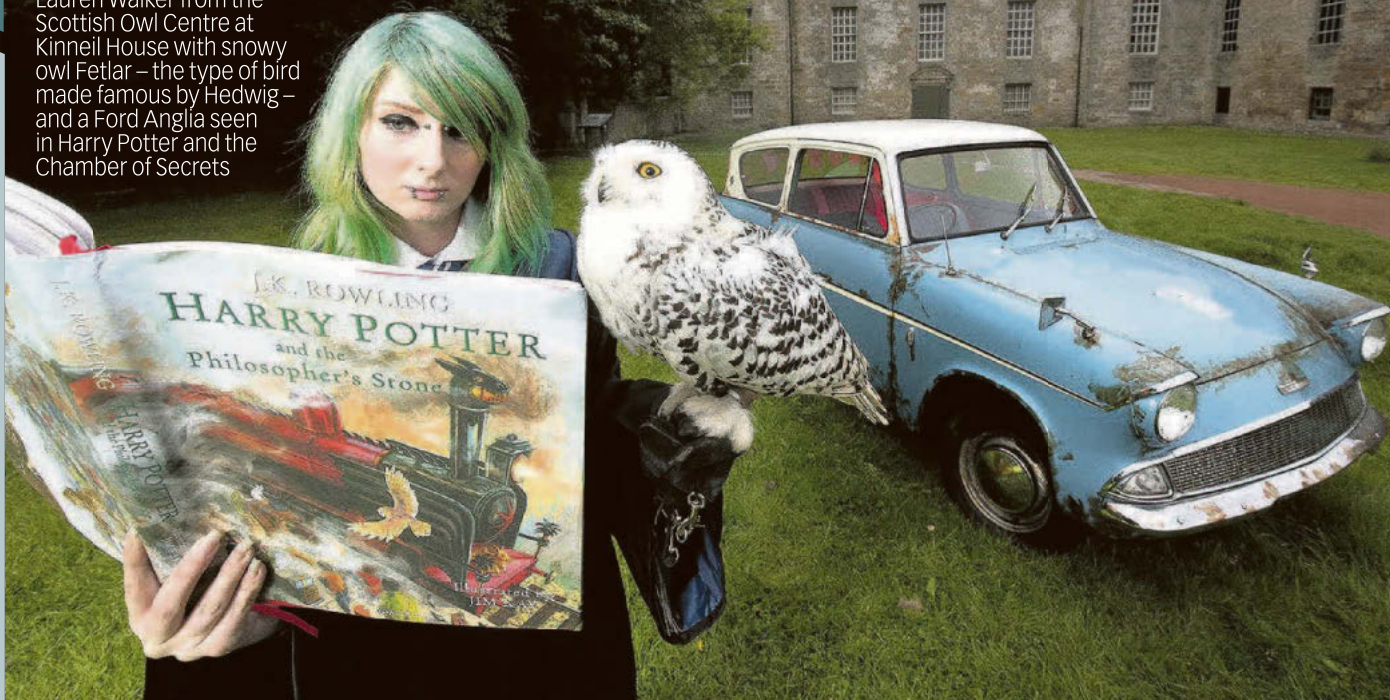
The products are available in a range of colours and sizes and prices start from £28.

■ See [www.columbia-sportswear.co.uk](http://www.columbia-sportswear.co.uk)



### LOAD OF OLD HOGWARTS

Lauren Walker from the Scottish Owl Centre at Kinneil House with snowy owl Fetlar – the type of bird made famous by Hedwig – and a Ford Anglia seen in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets



**FIONA RUSSELL**

Go on a spellbinding tour around Scotland to visit locations from Harry Potter movies to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the creation of the boy wizard

### This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of Harry Potter.

Written in Scotland by acclaimed author J K Rowling, the first novel, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, was published on June 26, 1997.

Rowling went on to write six more novels about the boy wizard in her world-acclaimed series.

The Harry Potter books and subsequent films include many references to fabulous Scottish locations. In celebration of the anniversary, we reveal some of the best Harry Potter themed places to visit in Scotland's great outdoors.

#### GLENCOE

The stunning Highland valley of Glencoe forms the backdrop to the movies The Prisoner of Azkaban and The Goblet of Fire.

Take a drive along the A82 that winds through the base of the glen and look up at the many mountains that crowd the skyline. A more immersive experience is to walk in the Glencoe area.

There are plenty of trails and mountain routes to choose from.

■ See [www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/glencoe.shtml](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/glencoe.shtml)

#### RANNOCH MOOR

The vast moor found in the Highlands is the mysterious place where Death Eaters board the train in the movie Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 1.

You could walk or mountain bike a section of the long-distance waymarked trail, West Highland Way, across the moor and imagine yourself as part of a Harry Potter movie set. A 10-mile stretch from Inveronan to Kingshouse crosses the wilds of Rannoch Moor.

■ See [www.west-highland-way.co.uk](http://www.west-highland-way.co.uk)

#### LOCH SHIEL

Loch Shiel, in the so-called Outdoor Capital of the UK, and west of Fort William, is the movie double for the Black Lake.



**CAPS BULLET THEN PIANO**

The beautiful freshwater loch is 18 miles long and up to 120 metres deep. Join Loch Shiel Cruises for a bird watching, wildlife and historical guided boat trip on the sheltered waters.

■ See [www.highlandcruises.co.uk](http://www.highlandcruises.co.uk)

#### STEALL FALLS

A magnificent waterfall, Steall Falls, features in The Goblet of Fire, when Harry faces down a Hungarian Horntail dragon in the Triwizard Tournament.

A short walk from a car park at the end of Glen Nevis road near Fort William heads through scenic Nevis Gorge to Steall Falls. It is Scotland's second highest waterfall with a single drop of 120 metres.

For those with mountain hiking experience, the gorge walk leads to a superb Ring of Steall walk over four Munros.

■ See [www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/steallfalls.shtml](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/steallfalls.shtml)

#### JOURNEY ON THE HOGWARTS EXPRESS

Take a trip on the real-life Hogwarts Express, also the Jacobite Steam Train. The train was seen crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct on the West Highland Line in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Acclaimed as one of the greatest railway journeys in the world, the 84-mile round trip journeys past a list of impressive

extremes. The trip starts near the tallest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, and then visits Britain's most westerly mainland railway station, Arisaig.

It passes close to the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar, and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar. The train also crosses the 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct. It often pauses on the viaduct, to allow passengers to take in the superb view. The furthest stopping place is Mallaig before the train returns to Fort William.

■ See [www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm](http://www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm)

#### HEDWIG LOOK-A-LIKE

Five-year-old Fetlar, a snowy owl similar to Harry's beloved pet Hedwig, can be visited at the Scottish Owl Centre. The centre is also home to Oulu, a 15-year-old Great Grey and sister of Errol, Ron Weasley's hapless bird who also features in The Chamber of Secrets.

■ [www.scottishowlcentre.com](http://www.scottishowlcentre.com)

#### EDINBURGH GEMS

Scotland's capital city is famous as the place where JK Rowling wrote the first and the last books in the Potter series. The Elephant House is the coffee house where she penned much of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The city's Balmoral Hotel is where the author wrote the final book, The Deathly Hallows.

#### FORD ANGLIA

Perfect for a rainy day activity, families will enjoy seeing the Ford Anglia 105Es used in the 2002 movie, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, at Bo'ness Motor Museum.

■ See [www.motor-museum.bo-ness.org.uk](http://www.motor-museum.bo-ness.org.uk)

#### ANNIVERSARY ITINERARY

Visit Scotland recently launched a full 20th anniversary Harry Potter itinerary of Scotland at Kinneil House, Bo'ness.

■ See [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

Join me on my adventures in Scotland's great outdoors by checking out my award-winning website at [www.fionaoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.fionaoutdoors.co.uk). You'll find lots of great information about walking, cycling, running and other outdoor activities, as well as kit reviews.

Advice and ideas