



## OCEAN FILM FEST ON TOUR

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour is back for 2018 with two dates in Scotland.

An evening of ocean-themed films will show at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness on September 14 and the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh the following night.

The films show adventurers rowing treacherous oceans and intrepid surfers riding the world's biggest waves.

As well as films, each screening will see a free prize giveaway to win ocean-related goodies too.

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour began in Australia, with the aim of inspiring people to explore, respect, enjoy and protect the oceans.

■ Go to [oceanfilmfestival.co.uk](http://oceanfilmfestival.co.uk).

## STEER CLEAR OF STALKERS

With the deer stalking season under way, walkers are being encouraged to check the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

A Heading for the Scottish Hills section of the website is managed by Scottish Natural Heritage and provides details on deer stalking on estates between July and late October.

The site helps walkers follow advice about stag-stalking. The code advises on alternative routes and when to avoid crossing land where stalking is taking place.

■ Go to [outdoor access-scotland.scot/hftsh](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot/hftsh)

## GEAR OF THE WEEK

Komperdell have added Hike Master walking poles to their 2018 collection.

They can be bought in two lengths, 105cm-140cm and a 90cm-120cm. They boast a newly designed grip called the Fatso Grip, which is made of rubber and slimmer than other Komperdell poles.

The new shape is more comfortable to use for longer periods.

Other features include power locks for adjusting height, padded straps and a three-year guarantee and service.

■ The walking poles cost about £79.95 and for retailers check out [firstascent.co.uk/find-a-retailer](http://firstascent.co.uk/find-a-retailer).



# Go wild in the country

**IN-TENTS EXPERIENCE**  
Sallochty campsite, where only campers are allowed.

## Wild-style camping in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is growing quickly.

More campers are booking into "informal" campsites that offer a back-to-nature experience but with the benefit of basic facilities.

Campsites, such as Loch Chon and Sallochty, on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond, have toilets and fresh water.

A new site, Loch Achray, near Aberfoyle, is also set to open later this summer.

Some 2000 people camped at Loch Chon between March, when it opened, and September last year.

Between March and May this year, the numbers almost doubled compared to the same period in 2017. More than 90 per cent of campers said they would recommend Loch Chon campsite.

Byelaws introduced last year created "camping management zones" between March 1 and September 30 in Scotland's original national park.

In this period, you can camp in these zones either by staying in a campsite or booking a permit to camp in a designated area.

Camping permit areas offer a more wild camping experience without any facilities, enjoyed according to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, while informal campsites offer a few more home comforts.

Wild camping is permitted anywhere outside of the Camping Management Zones.

National Park chief executive Gordon Watson said: "There are lots of ways to enjoy camping in the park in the summer season, from wild camping to formal campsites with all the facilities.

"If you're looking for something somewhere in between, there are some great smaller informal



**PITCHER PERFECT** Wild camping by the shores of Loch Chon

campsites. These are set in woodland and loch shores, with a more natural and wilder feel."

### WHERE TO CAMP WILD-STYLE IN THE PARK LOCH CHON CAMPSITE

On the B829 road between Kinlochard and Inversnaid.

**PITCHES:** 26 for tents, many solid and weather-proofed, and including two accessible pitches.

**FACILITIES:** Toilets, running water and parking. Hire fire pits and buy firewood, midge repellent and nets.

**WHY?** Easily accessed yet seemingly remote, the site is set on the shore of Loch Chon.

**COST:** £7 per adult per night. Under 16s free. Up to two dogs.

**CONTACT:** "Camping" at lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping

### SALLOCHTY CAMPSITE

On the B837 road between Drymen and Rowardennan.

**PITCHES:** 30

**FACILITIES:** Toilets, running water and parking.

**WHY?** The tents-only site is located at an ancient Oakwood forest on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond. There are walking, cycling and watersports nearby.

**COST:** £7 per person per night.

Kids aged 5 to 15, £1. Under 5s free. **CONTACT:** Sallochty wardens on 01360 870142 or sallochty.wardens@forestry.gov.uk

between March and October.

**THE CABIN AT LOCH LUBNAIG**  
On the A84 on the eastern shore of Loch Lubnaig.

**PITCHES:** Nine tent pitches and two motorhome spaces.

**FACILITIES:** Parking, toilets, running water, and a cafe.

**WHY?** Easy to access and close to the tourist town of Callander.

**COST:** For camping and campervans: £7 per adult per night; under 16s, free. Chemical waste disposal, £2 per use.

**CONTACT:** See [thecabinatlochlubnaig.co.uk](http://thecabinatlochlubnaig.co.uk)

**LOCH ACHRAY CAMPSITE**

(Due to open later this summer.) Off the Duke's Pass via the exit of the Three Lochs Forest Drive.

**PITCHES:** 17 solid and weather-proofed pitches for tents.

**FACILITIES:** Toilets, parking and running water. Hire fire pits and buy firewood at most pitches.

**WHY?** Three Lochs Forest trail in Queen Elizabeth Forest.

**COST:** £7 per adult per night. Under-16s free. Up to two dogs.

**CONTACT:** "Camping" at lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping