

# Fort Augustus, Scottish Highlands, Scotland

A pocket-sized Highland village sliced in half by the Caledonian Canal, where boutique cruise ships rise and fall through five hand-operated locks with Loch Ness stretching ahead. Watch the swing bridge halt traffic, then walk to the loch shore in minutes.

 Canal berth (direct docking)  Typical call: overnight or full day  British Pound (GBP)  English

## MY DAY IN PORT

|                  |               |                   |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Ship/Date: _____ | Arrive: _____ | All aboard: _____ |
| Excursion: _____ | Notes: _____  |                   |

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Canal berth, heart of village — no tender

**Walk to center:** 0–5 min (directly on towpath)

**Best For:** Canal history, Loch Ness cruises, Highland scenery

**Don't Miss:** Watching boats transit the five-lock staircase

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  ~£50–80 to Inverness ·  **Rideshare**  not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Cruise Loch Ness Boat Tour** — Board a catamaran at the foot of the locks for a 50-minute cruise on Loch Ness with onboard sonar displays.
- **Urquhart Castle** — Dramatic 13th-century ruins perched on a cliff above the deepest part of Loch Ness, ~25 minutes north on the A82.
- **Clansman Centre Living History Show** — Costumed interpreters in a converted 19th-century schoolhouse recreate 17th-century clan life — how the kilt was bound, weapons used, and Highland...
- **Great Glen Way Towpath Walk or Cycle** — The flat towpath heading west from the locks toward Loch Oich offers serene Highland scenery through pine forests.

## BEST WALKS

- **Lock Staircase to Loch Ness Shore** 1.2 km · 20 min · flat · free — Walk down the five locks to the swing bridge, then continue along the canal bank to the shore of Loch Ness for unobstructed views down the loch toward Cherry Island, the...
- **Caledonian Canal Towpath to Loch Oich** 4 km one-way · 1 hr · flat · free — Head west along the tree-lined towpath from the lock basin toward Loch Oich.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

|  CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS) |      |     |      |  DAYLIGHT &  MONEY |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Mon                                                                                                               | High | Low | Rain |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Apr                                                                                                               | 52°  | 39° | 15d  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Jun                                                                                                               | 63°  | 50° | 18d  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Aug                                                                                                               | 63°  | 53° | 20d  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Sep                                                                                                               | 60°  | 50° | 16d  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Oct                                                                                                               | 53°  | 45° | 20d  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |

|                                                                                                    |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Apr 6:10AM–8:28PM · Jun 4:23AM–10:15PM · Aug 5:46AM–8:58PM · Sep 6:50AM–7:36PM · Oct 7:52AM–6:14PM |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Midges are real. June–September, Highland midges can be intense on calm, humid days. Bring repellent or pick up local Avon Skin So Soft in village shops.
- Layer up regardless of forecast. The Highlands can deliver four seasons in a day. A compact waterproof jacket is non-negotiable.
- Cards accepted everywhere. Scottish pounds are the currency, but contactless card payment works at every shop, pub, and café in the village.
- Coach excursions: watch your time. The A82 along Loch Ness can queue in high season. Build a buffer before your coach departure to avoid missing the ship.
- Boat tours book fast. Cruise Loch Ness runs popular 50-minute catamaran tours from the lock foot. Book ahead online or arrive early — spaces fill quickly when a ship is in port.

# Fort Augustus, Scottish Highlands, Scotland — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1 Kytra Lock** A historic lock on the Caledonian Canal, great for boat watching.
- 3 Suidhe Viewpoint** Panoramic mountain and loch views from a high scenic viewpoint.
- P Cruise port / terminal**

- 2 Allt na Criche** A beautiful waterfall and scenic walk through the forest.
- 4 Summer House** A charming historic garden building offering peaceful views.