

New Long distance trail around Loch Ness set to become walkers' equivalent of the NC500



The new LochNes360° trail developed by Visit Inverness Loch Ness is set to become a major new attraction for the area, indeed according to Willie Cameron, VisitScotland Silver Thistle Award Winner and director of Business Development with the Cobb's Group, Loch Ness, it could become "the walkers equivalent of the NC500". Mr Cameron went on to say, "Cobbs are so confident that it will be a success, we have refurbished one of our hotels to cater almost exclusively for the needs of all users of the trail."

The trail has been developed by Visit Inverness Loch Ness. The destination organisation recognised the potential to create a long distance walking and cycling trail around Loch Ness by simply linking up the Great Glen Way on the north side of the loch with the South Loch Ness Trail on the south side.

Chief Executive of Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Graeme Ambrose said “The problem was for a number of years there was insufficient funding to complete the last major section of the South Loch Ness Trail, a challenging 10km near Fort Augustus. However, last year with substantial funding from SSE, the Scottish Government & Europe and The Highland Council, the organisation was finally able to complete construction and open the way for development of the LochNess360° trail.”

Mr Ambrose went on to say, “The trail is 116km (72miles) in length and primarily suitable for walkers and mountain bikers. The 10km section between Fort Augustus and Loch Tarff has also been designed to cater for the needs of those with limited mobility and is constructed to a very high standard. We expect that walkers will take 5-6 days to complete the full LochNess360° and cyclists 3-4 days. It is truly a ‘monster challenge’ and anyone setting out to do the full circuit should not underestimate the challenge – there is over 3000 metres of ascent along the entire route. But, the good news is that the trail never strays too far from the villages around Loch Ness where the weary can find not only accommodation for the night but also plenty sustenance for the next day! “

For more information on the new LochNess360° trail please come and talk to us on the Visit Inverness Loch Ness stand, **F22 at VisitScotland Expo on Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 April** or alternatively contact us on info@lochness-360.com and/or facebook and instagram @LochNess360