

Day 4 Inverarnan to Tyndrum.12 M. (19 km)

was receding throughout western Scotland. One tree that was tested in 1997 at the Roslin Laboratories, near Edinburgh, have confirmed its age to be "at least 550 years old and still growing". It was widely believed that Scots Pines lived to a maximum of 350 years until this individual tree was discovered.

As the Way approaches Crianlarich it follows the old military road. These roads were built to provide access for the Hanoverian army (redcoats) to gain access to the Highlands were the Jacobites still caused problems for the English. These access roads and their accompanying garrisons (there was a garrison at Inversnaid for example) were mostly built under the supervision of General Wade, and they became known as "Wade's Roads". Many of these roads and bridges have disappeared but the name of General Wade lives on in one of the verses of the National anthem;



Lord, grant that Marshal Wade,
May by thy mighty aid,
Victory bring.
May he sedition hush and like a torrent rush,
Rebellious Scots to crush,
God save the King.

From the road you can see around you the distant peaks of assorted Munros; Cruach Ardrain and Ben More lie to the east, Ben Lui to the west and many more peaks under the 3000ft height. You are firmly in mountain country now and it can be easily seen how difficult it would have been for any Hanoverian army to overcome the clans within this difficult terrain.

After you come down to the road again after by-passing Crianlarich you enter into Glen Fillan. The name Fillan probably means "little wolf" being formed on a diminutive of faol, a gaelic word for the animal. The glen is named after St Fillan, who came to Scotland from Ireland in 717. He spent a considerable part of his holy life at a monastic cell which he built

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in a cave Pittenweem in Fife. It is stated that, while engaged here in transcribing the scriptures, his left hand sent forth sufficient light to enable him, at night, to continue his work without a lamp. Various artifacts still exist that are associated with him including the head of his crozier which left Scotland with an emigrant to Canada, but was returned some 60 years later and has ever since been in the care of the National Museum in Edinburgh. Just beyond Kirkton farm is the remains of St Fillans priory where he spent the final years of his life.



One you cross back over the road you will come to a small place on the map called Dalrigh meaning ("King's Field" in Gaelic). It was here that a battle was fought in the summer of 1306 between the army of King Robert I of Scotland and the MacDougalls of Argyll, who were allies of Clan Comyn. Bruce's army was fleeing westwards after defeat by the English at the Battle of Methven and was intercepted and all but destroyed, Bruce himself narrowly escaping capture, but was on the run for many years after this defeat.

You are nearly at the end of today's walk with the final town of Tyndrum just ahead. This place relies heavily on providing services to the motorists heading north to Fort William or Oban and south to Glasgow. The town has a the famous "Green Welly" restaurant as well as other food establishments either side of the A82. One interesting fact about Tyndrum is the presence of gold in the nearby hills. There is a gold mine at Cononish and it is believed that there could be gold worth £70 million waiting to be mined there.

Accommodation in Tyndrum

<i>By The Way Hostel & Campsite</i>	www.tyndrumbytheway.com
<i>Dalkell Cottage</i>	www.dalkell.com
<i>Tyndrum Lodge Hotel</i>	www.glhotels.co.uk/tyndrumhotel.html