

# Enjoying Scotland's outdoors

In Scotland, you can enjoy the outdoors on most land and inland water, as long as you act responsibly and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



**SCOTTISH OUTDOOR  
ACCESS CODE**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)



## These rights of responsible access include things like:

- walking
- cycling
- sightseeing and picnicking
- dog walking, provided your dog is under proper control
- swimming
- watching wildlife

## but do not include:

- access with motor vehicles
- hunting, shooting and fishing

## Responsible access can be enjoyed over most of Scotland including:

- parks
- hills and woods
- beaches and the coast
- lochs, rivers and canals

## Exceptions include:

- houses and gardens
- other buildings
- school grounds
- most land where crops are growing
- places which charge for entry

## How to follow the Code

### Key principles are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of others
- care for the environment

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## When you're out and about

- Paths are shared with others – let people know you are coming so you do not alarm them, and slow down, stop or stand aside if needed.
- Respect the needs of other people enjoying or working in the outdoors and follow any reasonable advice from land managers.
- Don't disturb or damage wildlife or historic places.
- Park sensibly and do not create an obstruction.
- Take your rubbish home.



## Walking your dog

- Do not allow your dog to approach animals or people uninvited – where possible avoid animals.
- Always keep your dog in sight and under control – if in doubt use a lead.
- Always bag and bin dog poo, or take it home.

## On farmland

- Access rights do not usually apply to farmyards, but if a well-used path goes through a farmyard, you can follow this.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Keep to unsown ground, field edges or paths.
- Never let your dog worry or attack farm animals. Do not take your dog into fields containing young animals or growing crops.
- Keep a safe distance from cattle. If they act aggressively, take the shortest safest route out of the field. If you have a dog, release it and let it find its own way to safety.



## Be a responsible camper

- Access rights include responsible lightweight camping in tents, in small numbers and for two or three nights in any one place. Keep well away from buildings and roads.
- Leave no trace of your campsite.
- Carry a trowel and bury your own waste and urinate well away from open water, rivers and burns.
- Use a camping stove. Never light open fires, barbeques or fire bowls in dry periods or near to forests, farmland, buildings or historic sites at any time. Never cut down or damage trees.
- Follow all local advice at high risk times and places.

## Further information

- For more information and further guidance on different activities, visit the Scottish Outdoor Access Code website [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

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