

Course details – 3-day dry stone walling course

Course dates: 11th to 13th May 2018
Course location: Loch Lomond National Park, Highlands, Scotland
Course cost: £225.00 (for three days)

This three-day course offers a 'hands on' practical experience to the construction of a dry stone retaining wall. It will be suitable both for complete beginners and those wishing to practice existing dry stone walling skills. Participants must be 16 years of age or over.

The course will introduce you to or expand on existing knowledge of the heritage and craft of this traditional building method. You will be given an overview of the fundamentals of the construction of a dry stone retaining wall and other features and finishes, such as squeeze stiles and cheek ends.

During the course you will construct a dry stone retaining wall whilst learning about the different geological shapes and sizes of different materials, engineering terms, and descriptions and uses of varying types of stones.

By the end of the course you will be able to safely and confidently set about constructing a dry stone retaining wall or a basic landscape feature and will have an understanding of dry stone wall heritage, terminology, materials and their uses.

Instructor details:

John Holt of the [London School of Dry Stone Walling](http://www.londonschoolofdsw.co.uk) will be your instructor. He is an experienced professional waller and certified to instructor level by the Dry Stone Walling Association. John runs regular dry stone walling workshops at various venues as advertised on his website. You can contact John Holt on mobile: 07749 032680, email: john@londonschoolofdsw.co.uk

What's included in the price?

- Three days' guidance, advice and technical instruction during the construction of a dry stone retaining wall.
- Construction materials, tools and equipment.
- Personal protective equipment (gloves, goggles, kneeling pads where required).
- First aid supplies.
- Picnic lunch x 3 days.
- Two-course evening meal x 3 days.
- Daytime hot/cold drinks (non-alcoholic) x 3 days.
- Informative course handouts.
- Certificate of Achievement.

It is essential for you to bring your own protective rain wear and strong hardy footwear (preferably safety boots). We recommend you wear old clothing as it is likely to get dirty or marked.

Course cost does NOT include travel and accommodation, this must be organised independently by participants. Information and links are contained in this document.

Booking notes: Course bookings must be completed a minimum of 10 days prior to the selected course date. If booking with a Craft Courses voucher for part/all of the course fee, please fill in the contact form above or telephone us. Your voucher code must be provided at the point of booking.

Course location

The dry stone walling course site is on a small farm on the shores of Loch Eck, surrounded by mountains and forests within the Loch Lomond National Park in Argyll, Scotland.

Loch Eck is a seven-mile long freshwater loch located on the Cowal Peninsula and is well stocked with trout. For those who fancy getting afloat to explore the tranquil waters, kayaks can be hired locally.

The forests surrounding Loch Eck are peppered with waterfalls and contain a large network of foot and cycle paths for ramblers and cyclists and there are plenty of mountains for climbers of all abilities.



Beautiful beaches just 150m from the farm offer wonderful opportunities for some wild swimming, barbeques or watching the sun set over a glass of wine or a cold beer!

There is an abundance of wildlife surrounding the farm including red squirrels, pine martins and red deer, whilst in the nearby sea lochs porpoises, dolphins and basking sharks are occasionally spotted. There is a plentiful and varied bird population due to the diverse habitats within this area.

Why not extend your stay...

The area boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery Scotland has to offer whilst being just 1.5 hours from Glasgow airport and main transport hubs. Local activities and attractions include canoeing and kayaking, fishing, quad biking, archery, clay pigeon shooting, deer stalking (within season), walking, mountain and rock climbing, gorge walking and scrambling, cycling and mountain biking, horse riding, botanic gardens, castles, historic archaeological sites, sailing and golf.

The Cowal Peninsula is bordered on three sides by stunning sea lochs offering boat trips to spot porpoises, otters, sea lions and whales. To the north are the majestic Arrochar Alps (a delight for serious climbers) and Loch Lomond, where you can enjoy a wide range of activities on the water, discover what lies beneath at the Sea Life centre, or explore the area by air on a sea plane! The Peninsula has its own unique history with a wealth of museums, castles, and archaeological sites of significance and is served by a vast network of walking and cycle paths - possibly the best way view this unspoiled natural environment.

Visitor guides



[Visit Scotland website](#)



[Visit Cowal website](#)

Getting to the course



By air to Glasgow International Airport (1 hour flight from London). Easyjet and Ryanair offer most competitive prices. The further ahead you book, the cheaper the flights.

Transfer from airport options:

- 1) Hire car at Glasgow airport (1.5 hrs drive to course site). Please let us know if you are travelling by hire car and we will email you detailed map and directions.
- 2) Taxi or bus to Paisley train station, train from Paisley to Gourock foot passenger ferry terminal, and then ferry from Gourock to Dunoon, where pick up can be arranged.
- 3) Taxi to Paisley, then McGills bus from Paisley to Dunoon, where pick up can be arranged.



By train to Glasgow Central (approximately 4.5 hrs from London). Daytime and overnight sleeper trains available. Early booking essential to get cheapest prices.

Transfer from Glasgow Central train station options:

- 1) From Glasgow Central train station get train to Gourock foot passenger ferry terminal and then ferry from Gourock to Dunoon, where pick up can be arranged.
- 2) From Glasgow central train station travel to Buchanan Street bus station, then McGills bus from Buchanan Street to Dunoon, where pick can be arranged.



By car, approximately 8.5 hours from London to course location PA23 8SG. Please let us know if you are travelling by car and we will email you detailed map and directions.



By coach into Buchanan Street bus station, Glasgow.

National operators include Megabus and National Express. Journey times vary. Onward travel via McGills bus from same station to Dunoon, where pick up can be arranged.

Accommodation

A wide selection of self-catering accommodation (ranging between 1 to 7 bedrooms) is available locally. If you would like to spread the cost and don't mind sharing with other course participants, please let us know and we can put you in touch with others on the course.

Self-catering



1 bedroom lodge, Whistlefield, Loch Eck
(approximately 0.5 mile from course site)

<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/accommodation/ash-lodge-loch-eck-by-dunoon-p1381911>



2 bedroom lodges, Whistlefield, Loch Eck
(approximately 0.5 mile from course site)

<http://www.self-catering-scotland.com/whistlefield/#prettyPhoto>



2 bedroom luxury lodge, Rashfield
(approximately 6 miles from course site)

https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/1678313?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=NsUEAlmI



2 bedroom luxury lodge, Rashfield
(approximately 6 miles from course site)

https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/22216693?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=NsUEAlmI



2 bedroom Ruskin Lodge, Lamont Lodges, Pucks Glen
(approximately 6 miles from course site)

<http://www.ruskinlodgeargyll.com/>



2 bedroom lodge, Rashfield
(approximately 6 miles from course site)
<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/accommodation/chestnut-lodge-rashfield-by-dunoon-p1383101>



2 bedroom lodge, Pucks Glen
(approximately 6 miles from course site)
https://www.pitchup.com/campsites/Scotland/Scotland/Argyll/Dunoon/pucks_glen_lodges/?adults=4&arrive=2018-04-09&depart=2018-04-12&type=13&type=6&type=7



1 and 2 bedroom luxury lodges, River Eachiag, Rashfield
(approximately 6 miles from course site)
<http://www.logcabinsdunoon.com/>



2 bedroom beach front apartment, Dunoon
(approximately 12 miles from course site)
https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/13186828?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=K5uGs_qn



4 bed beach front apartment, Monzie Villa, Blairmore
(approximately 8 miles from course site)
<http://www.monzievilla.com/property.php>



2 & 3 bedroom luxury farm cottages, Benmore Farm
(approximately 5 miles from course site)
<http://www.benmorefarmcottages.co.uk/index.php>



3 bed cottage, Stonefield Farm Cottage, Glen Massan
(approximately 8 miles from course site)
<http://www.cottages.com/cottages/stonefield-farm-cottage-w41637>



4 bedroom luxury cottage, Fern Cottage, Ardentinny
(approximately 5 miles from course site)
<https://www.scottish-cottages.co.uk/central-scotland/argyll-bute-and-isles/fern-cottage-uk5025>



7 bedroom luxury villa, hot tub, sauna, Culzean House, Glen Finart, by Ardentinny
(approximately 5 miles from course site)
<http://www.culzeanhouse.com/2/2/Accommodation/Accommodation.html>

B&B, Guest Houses



Double bedroom, breakfast included in private home on shores of Loch Fyne, Strathlachlan
(approximately 9 miles from course site)
https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/11464847?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=doMhByuS



Double bedroom with ensuite, breakfast included, Duncreggan House, Blairmore
(approximately 8 miles from course site)
<http://www.duncreggan.co.uk/rooms.php>



1 or 2 double bedrooms, with full use of private home, Sandbank, Dunoon
(approximately 7 miles from course site)
https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/17461480?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=NsUEAlmI



Double bedroom, breakfast included, The Pier Lochside Guest House, Kilmun, Dunoon (approximately 7 miles from course site)

https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/5568124?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=NsUEAlm



Double bedroom with ensuite, no meals, Oakbank Hotel, Sandbank, Dunoon (approximately 7 miles from course site)

https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/16198308?location=Dunoon%20PA23%20SG%2C%20UK&adults=1&children=0&infants=0&check_in=2018-05-11&check_out=2018-05-13&s=NsUEAlm

Hotels



The Cot House Inn, Rashfield, By Dunoon (approximately 6 miles from course site)

<https://www.cothouseinn.co.uk/>



Creggans Inn, on shores of Loch Fyne, Strachur (approximately 7 miles from course site)

<http://www.creggans-inn.co.uk/>



The Ardentenny Hotel, on shores of Loch Goil, Ardentenny (approximately 6 miles from course site)

<http://theardentenny.com/>



The Whistlefield Inn, Loch Eck, By Dunoon. Due to re-open Spring 2018

Tel: 01369 860440

(approximately 0.5 mile from course site)

Caravans, lodges, motor homes, camping



Electric hook-up for caravans and motor homes, tent pitches, caravan hire. Cot House Caravan Park, Rashfield, By Dunoon

(approximately 6 miles from course site)

<http://www.cothousecaravanparkdunoon.co.uk/>



Electric hook-up for caravans and motor homes, lodges, mini 'bothies', caravan hire, tent pitches. Glendaruel Caravan Park, Glendaruel. (approximately 9 miles from course site)

<http://www.glendaruelcaravanpark.com/>



Static caravans and lodges, Hunters Quay Holiday Village, Dunoon

(approximately 12 miles from course site)

<https://www.argyllholidays.com/parks/hunters-quay-holiday-village>



Static caravans and lodges, Stratheck Holiday Park, on shores of Loch Eck, Pucks Glen

(approximately 5 miles from course site)

<https://www.argyllholidays.com/parks/stratheck-holiday-park>

Wild camping



Fancy getting off the beaten track? If you don't mind sacrificing the usual day-to-day comforts and conveniences try wild camping! It's a great way to discover Scotland's stunning landscape and get close to nature, and the experience definitely comes with a great sense of adventure!

Be sure to read the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#). It's not complicated - basically, campers should follow a policy of 'leave-no-trace'.