



# A GUIDE TO ALL THE HARRY POTTER ⚡ FILMING LOCATIONS IN SCOTLAND



As the home for Hogwarts in the books and movies, Scotland delivers an extraordinary experience for Harry Potter fans looking to relive the magic of the series. Many areas within the dramatic and mystical landscape of the highlands served as Harry Potter filming locations, including the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct that the Hogwarts Express travels over, the beautiful Hogwarts Black Lake, the location for Hagrid's Hut, and other stunning highland scenery used for the grounds of Hogwarts.

Whether you're looking to ride the Hogwarts Express, dip your toes into the Black Lake or imagine yourself taking a break from studying potions to walk around the Hogwarts grounds, this Harry Potter Scotland guide provides everything you need to have a once in a lifetime magical experience.

This post covers all of the Harry Potter filming locations in Scotland, providing information on the location, the films in which they appeared and a map of where to find the Harry Potter filming locations in Scotland. It also breaks these Harry Potter places into a four-day road trip itinerary that covers not just the filming locations, but also includes a day in Edinburgh to cover the [Potter Trail](#) and tips for making the most of your Harry Potter Scotland tour.

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## Rannoch Moor – Hogwarts Train Route



All aboard at Rannoch Moor. That is, if you're a Death Eater. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*, Voldemort's followers stop the train in the middle of Rannoch Moor to search the Hogwarts Express for Harry Potter. A defiant Neville stands up and says "Hey losers, he isn't here" with the hauntingly desolate moor scenery surrounding the train windows.

This Harry Potter filming location in Scotland stretches for miles of wide open expanse just east of Glencoe. Filled with peat bogs and small bodies of water, this mostly barren landscape has a haunting beauty when compared to the lush green mountains that surround it.

In addition to its feature in the seventh movie of the Harry Potter series, Rannoch Moor also gets screen time in *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. As the train chugs along to Hogwarts, it cuts through the peaty bogs of Rannoch Moor on its way from Platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  to Hogwarts. You can catch a glimpse of this just before Harry moves through the train in his attempt to spy on Malfoy in the Slytherin train car.

## Loch Etive and Glen Etive – Hogwarts Scenery



Following the single track road along the River Etive to Loch Etive and Glen Etive offers not only stunning scenery, but also a treat to visit some of the background scenery used in *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*.

In the sixth movie, a film helicopter shot scenes of the Glen Etive and Loch Etive to digitally superimpose the grounds of Hogwarts. In movie seven, Harry, Hermione and Ron also set up camp here while they wait for Ron's arm to heal during their search for horcruxes.

## Glencoe – Hagrid's Hut and Hogwarts Scenery



For the filming of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, filmmakers moved Hagrid's Hut from outside one of the studios near Black Park, England and into the Scottish Highlands. Near Clachaig Inn, set designers built Hagrid's Hut amid the trees and rolling hills in the Glencoe area of the Scottish Highlands.

A construction project that took almost five months to complete, Hagrid's Hut in Glencoe was built just ahead of small little loch known as Torren Lochan. In the films you can see this little body of water sitting to the right of the gamekeeper's house. For *Prisoner of Azkaban*, set designers also created the giant pumpkin patch and scarecrow that you see Buckbeak laying among just before his "execution."

Hagrid's Hut is not the only Harry Potter filming location, though, in the Glencoe area. Just up the hill from Hagrid's Hut, filmmakers also assembled the wooden Hogwarts bridge, a chapel-like entrance to Hogwarts from the wooden bridge, and fiberglass standing stones for the third movie. It's among these standing stones that one of the most bad-ass scenes of the Harry Potter movies happened. Here, Hermione punches Malfoy in the face after he comes along to see Buckbeak's "execution."

Additionally, along the banks of Torren Lachan a seriously injured Sirius Black nearly receive the Dementor's Kiss. Harry and Sirius' souls are spared, though, when a mysterious figure appears on the other side of the lachan (tiny lake) and scatters the dementors away with a powerful Patronus charm.

Unfortunately, filmmakers removed Hagrid's Hut and other Hogwarts grounds sets once filming for these scenes wrapped. For the later films, filmmakers did not rebuild the same sets up in Glencoe, but you will see the same scenery digitally added to sets that were used on-site at the Warner Brothers Studio just outside London. You can, however, walk along the wooden "Bridge to Nowhere" at the Harry Potter Studio tour in London.

### **Steall Falls and Glen Nevis – Quidditch Pitch and Triwizard Tournament**



Britain's second highest waterfall of Steall Falls and the surrounding area of Britain's Glen Nevis have appeared multiple times through the Harry Potter movies. Their most common appearances are associated with the famous wizard sport of Quidditch.

In the first two movies, the quidditch pitch sits on the flat grassy expanse of Glen Nevis. Harry and the other Hogwarts players zoom around the beautiful scenery battling it out for the win. In *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, the quidditch pitch has moved to the base of Steall Falls.

Steall Falls can also be seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. This filming location in Scotland appears when Harry encounters the dragon in the very first task of the Triwizard Tournament. After the dragon breaks free from its chain, she and Harry take to the sky in a life or death chase. Just as they emerge from the arena, the cascading waters of Steall Falls flow in the background.

### **Loch Shiel – Hogwarts Lake**



Cue the heartwarming music that closes out many of the Harry Potter films as you imagine the beloved Hogwarts Castle sitting in the distance on the right hand bank of the beautiful Loch Shiel.

Located just across from Glenfinnan Viaduct, the Harry Potter filming location of Loch Shiel was used to digitally create the Black Lake that surrounds Hogwarts Castle in the movies. Usually, filmmakers digitally imposed the school on the right hand side of this breathtaking loch. In *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the loch also provided the backdrop for the scenes from the second Triwizard Tournament task. In the movie, three giant bleachers stretch up over the loch as the champions dive into the cold depths of the water to search for what they will most.

You can also catch glimpses of Loch Shiel in the background whenever the Hogwarts Express goes over the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct.

## Glenfinnan Viaduct – Hogwarts Train Route



Possibly the most famous of the Harry Potter filming locations in Scotland, the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct stands tall in the bonny hills of the highlands. In many of the films, the Hogwarts Express crosses over the Glenfinnan Viaduct on its way to the famous wizarding school.

One of the most notable scenes that feature Glenfinnan Viaduct occurs in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Unable to get through Platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  to catch the Hogwarts Express, Harry and Ron decide to take Mr. Weasley's bewitched flying car to get them to Hogwarts. In search of the train, they land on the tracks of the Glenfinnan Viaduct as the train zooms behind them and they fly up, down, and around the viaduct in a panic.

In the warmer months of the year, a steam train just like the Hogwarts Express crosses over Glenfinnan Viaduct anywhere from four to six times a day. More on that now...

## Jacobite Steam Train – Hogwarts Train Route



All aboard for real this time. The Jacobite Steam Train provided the exterior shots of the Hogwarts Express during the filming of the Harry Potter movies. Painted black and red, this steam train travels from Fort William, over Glenfinnan Viaduct, and through the West Highlands to the small seaside town of Mallaig. Helicopters were used to get shots of the train moving along this route throughout the films.

Additionally, the filmmakers used the train itself as a filming device. Actors shot the scenes inside the Hogwarts Express from within the Harry Potter studios outside London, however filmmakers needed to be able to digitally add the beautiful Scottish scenery into the windows for the final result. To do this, they rigged one of the train cars with a camera to capture the beautiful route that the train takes.

Because of this filming technique, you can see many of the scenery from the movies by hitching a ride on this train. On its daily trek to the seaside town of Mallaig, the train provides the opportunity to see Glenfinnan Viaduct, Loch Shiel, Loch Eilt, and Loch Morar.

### **Loch Eilt – Dumbledore’s Grave**



The final resting place of one of Hogwarts’ most beloved headmasters sits on an island in the middle of Loch Eilt. That’s right, the filming location for Albus Dumbledore’s grave can be found in the Western Highlands. Towards the western end of the loch stands an island known as Eilean na Moine. You’ll recognize it from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* when Voldemort breaks up the grave to steal the Elder Wand from Dumbledore’s corpse.

While this island houses one of the greatest wizards who ever lived, the majority of Loch Eilt around it did not make it on screen. Filmmakers actually took Eilean na Moine and digitally imposed it onto Loch Arkaig, our next Harry Potter filming location in Scotland.



### Loch Arkaig – Hogwarts Scenery



As mentioned above, Loch Arkaig provided the dramatic background for the island that holds Dumbledore's Grave in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

The unspoiled beauty of Loch Arkaig also got a bit of screen time in *Half Blood Prince*. Many shots of the Black Lake actually came from Loch Arkaig, particularly the mesmerizing sunset at the end of the movie when Harry, Ron and Hermione discuss their plans at the top of the Astronomy Tower.

Loch Arkaig sits about 10 miles north of Fort William after following mostly single track road through the highland countryside.

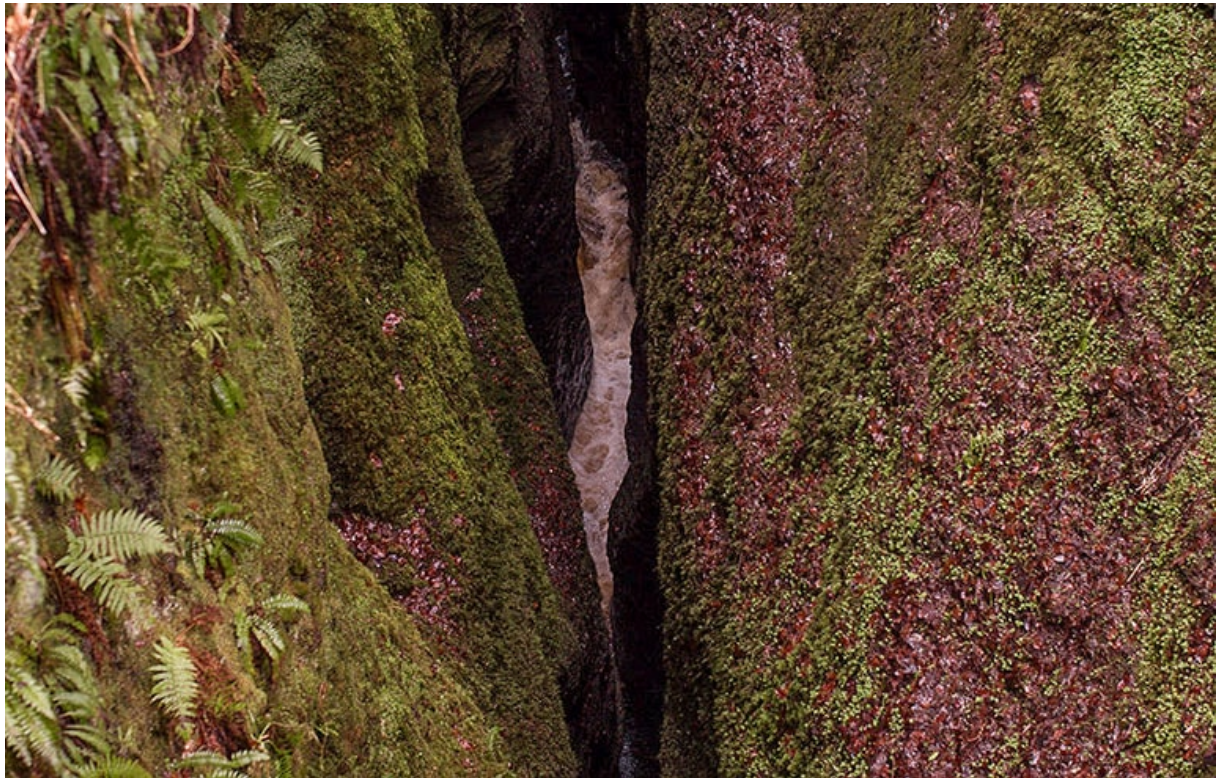
### Loch Morar – Hogwarts Scenery



Loch Morar marks the last of the Harry Potter lochs used as filming locations in Scotland. Home to a magical water beast, the deepest loch in Britain also sees some screen time as scenery stock footage in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

However, unless you're also interested in trying to catch a glimpse of Morag the Monster, I wouldn't recommend driving all the way out to loch for its Harry Potter connection. You can view the edges of Loch Morar from aboard the Jacobite Steam Train.

### **Black Rock Gorge – Triwizard Tournament**



Just 16 miles north of Inverness, you'll come to the final Harry Potter filming location in Scotland. During the first task of the Triwizard Tournament in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, Harry zooms through here as he tries to flee the flames of the dragon.



