

THE INVERARAY INN

ESTD 1755

Dear Guest

On behalf of my entire team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to The Inveraray Inn. We hope that you have a pleasant stay with us.

Please do not hesitate to contact either me or a member of my team if there is anything that we can do to make your visit more comfortable.

Kenny Rattray
Group MD

The Inveraray Inn, Front Street. Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XB
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Change of Ownership & Revival of a Famous Name

The hotel was purchased by the Byrne family in the summer of 2015, returning the business to local ownership for the first time in many years. Opened in 1755 to national acclaim, the hotel was known as “The Inveraray Inn”. Our first act as new owners was to reinstate the original name.

Our family has a long history in the hotel trade, is local to Argyll and also owns the Best Western hotels in Crianlarich (Stirling) and Whitburn (West Lothian). Since acquiring the hotel we have invested more than £1 million in a full and sympathetic refurbishment of this iconic and historic building. We hope that you are pleased with the results and wish you an enjoyable stay.

A Brief History of Inveraray

Inveraray, at the head of Loch Fyne, owes its prominence to the rebuilding of Inveraray Castle, seat of the Duke of Argyll, in the 18th century. The town's history, however, goes back much further, since it was made a Royal Burgh in 1638 by Charles I. The Argyll family, who hold the chieftainship of the Clan Campbell, have been important players in Scottish history, with a happy knack of usually picking the winning side during centuries of bloody inter-clan feuding and bitter political in-fighting. The Campbells' contentious massacre at Glencoe of their rival MacDonalds in 1692 is long remembered, but their positive role in shaping modern Scotland cannot be overstated.

In 1744 the third Duke of Argyll decided to demolish the existing castle and start from scratch with a new building. The castle was 40 years in construction, and the work was largely supervised by the Adam family, renowned to this day as gifted architects and designers. The end product was not a castle in the traditional sense, but a classic Georgian mansion house on a grand scale. Over the years the castle has played host to numerous luminaries; Queen Victoria visited it in 1847, and the Royal connection was further cemented when her daughter, Princess Louise, married the heir to the Campbell chieftainship, the Marquis of Lorne, in 1875, illustrating the elevated position of the Argyll family in the social pecking order of the times.

The town prior to the reconstruction of the castle was little more than a collection of humble cottages, but as early as 1747 William Adam had drawn up plans for the creation of a new Inveraray. As part of this project the Duke built an inn on Front Street at the entrance to his castle grounds which was known as “The Inveraray Inn” (Historic Scotland). The Inveraray Inn opened for business in 1755 on the same day as Inveraray's new court house (the Town House) and the inn was described at that time as being “not exceeded by any Thing of this Kind in North Britain” in contemporaneous reports. During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, various famous figures stayed at and in some cases wrote about The Inveraray Inn including Robert Burns, Johnson & Boswell and Dorothy Wordsworth. At that time Inveraray was so isolated that the nearest road fit for a carriage was forty miles away. This was to change, however, for military rather than social reasons. Following the rebellion of 1745-6, it had become obvious that to control the clans, it was vital that troops should be able to move quickly throughout the Highlands. General Wade was sent



north to undertake the task, and set about creating a network of roads and bridges which would ensure that troops could be rushed from strategic bases in Fort William, Fort Augustus or Fort George to tackle any insurrection. As a result, the approach to Inveraray along Loch Fyne on the A83 actually follows one of Wade's old military roads; Aray Bridge, just below the castle, dates back to 1775.

The architecture of the town was largely the work of two men: this hotel and the neighbouring Town House are by John Adam while most of the “new” Inveraray was the creation of Robert Mylne, a celebrated architect of the period. The end product was an attractive town which included houses for estate workers, a woollen mill, and a pier to exploit herring fishing, an industry which was to mushroom in later years to play a major role in the town's economy. The finished product is one of the best examples of an 18th century new town in Scotland, and the vast majority of the properties in the centre of Inveraray are considered worthy of protection because of the town's architectural significance.

The celebrated essayist Doctor Johnson, himself no fan of Scotland, was moved to comment on the new Inveraray: “What I admire here is the total defiance of expense”. Inveraray today is much more accessible, both by land and by sea, for like many towns on the Clyde it was a popular destination for passengers after the coming of the steamship. Although regular shipping services have long since ceased, rendered extinct by the coming of the motor car, the paddle steamer Waverley still makes occasional calls.

Guest Directory



Guest Information

Accessibility

The hotel has no passenger lift. There is a ramp at the entrance to Reception and one ground floor bedroom in the Porter's Lodge for those with reduced mobility.

Alarm Calls

If you would like a Wake Up Call, please contact Reception who will be happy to arrange this for you. Alarm Clocks are also provided in each room for your use.

Banking

We regret that we are unable to cash cheques or exchange foreign currency. Limited facilities are available at the Post Office in the town.

Bar Meals and Snacks

Bar meals and snacks are available from 12:00 noon until 3:00pm and again from 5:30pm until 8.45pm.

Breakfast

A full Scottish or Continental Breakfast is served in the Dining Room from 7:00am until 10:00am daily.

Central Heating

Bedroom heating may be manually controlled. Please contact Reception should you experience any problems in this regard.



Check In / Check Out

Check in 3:00pm. Check out is 11:00am on the morning of departure.

Late check out may be available upon request, subject to a charge. Please contact Reception for details.

Chemist

The local pharmacy is on Main Street next to "Sweet Memories" .

Church Services

Church of Scotland – 11:15am every Sunday.
Scottish Episcopalian & Catholic Church – 12:30pm every Sunday.

Conference Facilities

Our Campbell Room can cater for up to 100 persons. Please contact Reception for details.

Dietary Requirements

Please advise at Reception if you have special dietary requirements.

Dinner

Dinner is served between 6:00pm and 8:45pm in the Dining Room. Please reserve a table at Reception.

Doctor

A General Practitioner is based at Church Square. Telephone: 01499 302 257.



Electricity

The electrical current is 240 volts. International adapters are available at Reception.

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services: dial 999.

Non-emergency medical advice (NHS24): dial 111.

Fire Precautions

Please read the Fire Instructions Notice located in your bedroom and familiarise yourself with the appropriate escape route.

In the event of the fire alarm ringing, please evacuate the hotel immediately and assemble at the front of the hotel (facing the A83 road to Campbeltown).

Hairdryers

Hairdryers are provided in guest bedrooms.

Housekeeping

If you require extra linen, pillows or towels, please contact Reception.

Please be aware that the fan in the bathroom comes on when the bathroom light is switched on and may run for up to 8 minutes after the light is switched off.

In some bedrooms, the light for the shower is located just outside the bathroom door.

Internet Access

Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the hotel. No password is required.

Ironing Facilities

Please ask at Reception should you require an iron and ironing board.



Late Night Entry

The front door of the hotel is locked at approximately 11:00pm. After this time, please ring the bell for the night porter.

Lunch & Light Meals

Available on the ground floor of the hotel 12:00 noon until 3:00pm and again from 5:30pm until 8:45pm.

Mail

A member of the Reception team will be happy to post your stamped letters or postcards.

Night Emergency

To contact the Duty Manager during the night, dial "0". A night porter is on duty from 11:00pm to 7:00am.

Payment of Account

Guests are required to settle their account in full on departure unless alternative arrangements have been made. We are happy to accept payment in the form of cash or credit/debit card.

Phone Calls

A Direct Dial telephone is located in each bedroom,

- Reception: "0"
- Other room: dial room number
- Outside call: dial "9", wait for the tone and then dial

All calls are charged to the room bill.

Reception

Reception is staffed from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Dial "0" on your room telephone.

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Smoking and Vaping

Please be aware that this is a non-smoking hotel and smoking of cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and cigars) is not permitted in the hotel bedrooms or public areas. A room cleaning fee of at least £100 per occurrence will be charged if smoking or vaping occurs.

Tea and Coffee Making Facilities

Tea and coffee making facilities are available in all bedrooms.

Should you require any top-ups, please contact Reception.

Valuables

Whilst every effort is made to ensure security, the hotel is not responsible for the loss of or any damage to any articles of value whether passed to Reception for safe-keeping or otherwise.

Guest valuables can be locked away in the hotel safe if requested. Please contact Reception.

WiFi

Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the hotel. No password is required.

Walks

Walking routes to suit all abilities are available in the Castle grounds. Access 100 metres from hotel Reception. If you'd like to enjoy a truly unforgettable perspective of Inveraray, climb to the nearby monument Dun na Cuaiche. Clearly sign-posted from the Castle.



Local Attractions

Inveraray Castle



Home to their Graces, the Duke & Duchess of Argyll. Frequent filming location for film and TV.
Open April – October, 10.00am-5.00pm, Open Thu-Mon.

Inveraray Jail and Escape Room



Scotland's 19th Century living prison.
Open year round. Daily from 10.00am-5.00pm.

Auchindrain Township



Scotland's only surviving original farm township. A fascinating glimpse into Western Highland life from years gone by.

Kilmartin House Museum



Award-winning interpretation centre for archaeology and landscape. Features audio visual experiences like "Valley of the Ghosts".

The Bell Tower, Inveraray



The tower was built by the Duke of Argyll as a memorial to all sons of the Clan Campbell who lost their lives in WWI. Its famous bells are the second heaviest in the world. Open to the public (hours vary).

Crarae Gardens & Forest Walks



Covering an area of almost 50 acres, the gardens support rare plants, exotic shrubs and a superb collection of trees. Located seven miles from Inveraray at Minard. Open daily.



Other Ideas

The Campbeltown Road (A83 westbound)

- Inveraray Golf Course
- Furnace
- Lochgilphead
- The Crinan Canal
- The Mull of Kintyre
- Campbeltown

The Oban/Fort William Road (A819)

- Loch Awe
- Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe
- The Inverawe Smokehouse, Taynuilt
- Oban
- Glencoe
- Rannoch Moor
- Fort William
- Ben Nevis

The Glasgow Road (A83 eastbound)

- Loch Fyne Oysters, Clachan
- Benmore Botanic Gardens, Dunoon
- Cruises Loch Lomond, Tarbet

Please ask at Reception if you need further information about these local attractions.