



Move to daily sailings all year round at Loch Katrine in the heart of Scotland's first National Park

In a bold move to boost all year round tourism in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Company has announced the introduction of a much expanded cruising schedule for 2018/19.

Sailings on either the Steamship Sir Walter Scott or Lady of the Lake cruise ships are being increased by over 50% and are now available on a daily basis throughout the year and with increased frequency during the period April to October.

A series of shorter 45 minute cruises are also being introduced to cater for the growing number group tour organisers offering year round National Park highlight day tours on time pressured itineraries.

As part of a wider investment package The Steamship Company has recently taken the operation of the re-branded Steamship Café at Trossachs Pier in house where the seating capacity has been increased to 90 covers to cater for group and independent travel business more effectively.

A major investment has also been made in developing a new Eco Camp with a mixture of eco lodges, motorhome hook ups and camping pitches on the shores of the Loch Katrine with funding support from Forth Valley & Lomond LEADER programme.

Gordon Allan, Managing Director of the Steamship Company said: " We are now gearing up to developing Loch Katrine as a major year round destination in the heart of the National Park and the Great Trossachs National Nature Reserve with a major step change in the breadth and appeal of our offers to the travel trade.

"With over 2,300 sailings on the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott or the MV Lady of the Lake annually, improved cafe facilities and new overnight accommodation we are now in a very strong position to cater for a range of markets."

VisitScotland Chairman, Lord Thurso said: " I am delighted to launch the new sailing programme at Loch Katrine and congratulate the Steamship Company on their commitment to developing year round tourism in such an iconic location in close proximity to the major conurbations of Glasgow and Edinburgh where group tour organisers are increasingly looking for ideas for day trips for the increasing number of international and domestic visitors visiting Scotland in off peak periods."

He added: "The other investments at Loch Katrine are welcome too and should greatly strengthen the appeal of this destination which is arguably where Scottish tourism began with the publication of Sir Walter Scott's blockbuster poem, The Lady of the Lake in 1810."

For further information on the sailing schedule and the range of travel trade sailing and catering packages available please contact Sylwia@lockkatrine.com or tel 01877 332002.

(ENDS)

Date of Issue:

Wednesday 11th April, 2018

Notes for Editors

- For further information, contact: Gordon Allan, Managing Director Steamship Sir Walter Scott Ltd, tel 01877332001/mobile 07796994192 or see website www.lochkatrine.com.
- Classic Steamship Cruises are available on The Sir Walter Scott (200 pax) and Panoramic Cruises are available on The Lady of the Lake (65 pax).
- The Sir Walter Scott has been cruising on Loch Katrine since 1900 with 1 hour and 2 hour cruises available. The two hour cruise calls in at Stronachlacher at the west end of the loch.
- The MV Lady of the Lake, named after Sir Walter Scott's famous poem, provides a range of 45 minute, 1 hour and two hour cruises.
- Both cruise ships are available for charter or tailored-made itineraries.
- The Steamship Café at Trossachs pier can cater for up to 90 covers and a range of good value catering packages are available.
- There are now 8 well insulated high quality eco lodges on site which are open year round. Four of the lodges are fitted with en suite facilities and one is suitable for disabled visitors. There is also be a new toilet block on the site for use by campers and other lodge guests.
- There are also 8 camping pitches and 12 campervan pitches with hook ups for water, electricity and wifi.
- The Sir Walter Scott is operated by the trading arm of The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, established in April 2005 to take responsibility for control of the visitor facilities at Loch Katrine.
- Over 300,000 visitors come to Loch Katrine each year, and over 80,000 passengers travel each season on the company's cruises on Loch Katrine.
- Sir Walter Scott was born in Edinburgh in 1771, and he is credited with having put The Trossachs on the international tourist map with his epic poem 'The Lady of the Lake' (published in 1810) and his novels 'Waverley' and 'Rob Roy'.
- Queen Victoria visited Loch Katrine in 1859 to officially open the Loch Katrine Water Supply Scheme, the principal water supply for the city of

Glasgow. Loch Katrine is still the principal water supply for the city of Glasgow, with capacity to deliver up to 134,000,000 gallons per day.

- Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER financially supported the eco camp development and is funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Union and the Scottish Government to support the development of rural Scotland.