

Easter Holidays day 2, Loch Lomond

Hi all

We've arrived at the stunning Loch Lomond. Man, I really adore this place! This is the third year running we've stopped off here, we can't get enough. Every time we get past Glasgow and cross the magnificent bridge we both start getting excited! Today was no exception!

Last night we had a great night courtesy of Brit Stops. We loved the location, the chilled out ness, the lady was friendly, it was perfect. Jazz however struggled to relax, mainly

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due to our neighbours (in the cow shed). The sounds and smells coming from the shed confused him massively and as a result between the hours of about 0230 and 0400 he was huffing and gruffing (thankfully not loud enough to stop our sleep too much) and fidgeting and generally being a pain in the bum. Eventually he decided whatever it was out there wasn't trying to get in and even if it were he were too tired to care, so settled, and that was that until the loud cockerels awoke us with their glorious song around 8am.

We went to investigate the ice cream parlour and to say thank you, but unfortunately we were unable to get in to buy some ice cream until 11am, and we were keen to move on as

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we knew we had a long journey ahead of us. We will however definitely return there, and are already discussing maybe a cheeky week round the Ripon area at the start of the summer hols!

We managed to hit the road for half 8 and had a very pretty journey through the Dales heading towards Asgarth and Hawdraw.

Keith was keen to visit Hawdraw falls, apparently the highest waterfall in England, and also one of the places they filmed Kevin Costner dancing around in water for Robin Hood back in the day. It was a nice waterfall, but I wouldn't say it was one of the finest I've seen. There was a nice gauge with some impressive icicles hanging down, and there was a fair amount of snow on the ground, but for

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me it didn't have the same energy or charm as some of the others we visited on our travels.

We hit the road towards Sedburgh, it's such a pretty route through the Dales towards Cumbria. We always stop for a piccie near Gosforth, and today the hill tops were covered in icing sugar and glinting in the sunshine. We soon joined the M6 northwards and before we knew it we were passing Glasgow. We arrived at Loch Lomond at around half 3, tonight we are wild camping in one of Loch Lomond's deep laybys right on the waters edge. We stayed here last year too- and it was packed! This year, we are the only van here. We have seen a few drive past on the the A82 but they don't seem to be stopping

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here.

We walked up to the Inverbeg Hotel, where we had a whiskey sesh last year. I have been looking forward to sampling a Loch Lomond malt here since then, as I loved it. Unfortunately this year they didn't have any on stock, and after about 15 mins and 3 different bar men dealing with me, I returned to Keith with a local ish malt that I've forgotten the name of and a dram of Glen Keith (which I'm not ashamed to admit I picked because of the name!) I was a bit disappointed with the service at this self titled whiskey bar today, I've got to be honest. The three bar men who dealt with me obviously had no idea about whiskey, and I'm by no means an expert. There didn't seem to be as large a

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choice as last year, and the detailed whiskey menu we got last year had been replaced by a very confusing whiskey bible, half of which they didn't stock! When I got back to our table (outside as they wouldn't let Jazz in) I said to Keith I feel like I've been trying to have a conversation with 3 blokes about tampons! However, I must say my random choices of whiskey were actually very nice and we made our way merrily back to Bluebell and sat on our private beach with a G+T watching the sun go down.

The weather has been glorious and according to both our phone weather apps this big round yellow thing is due for the next few days, so we've crossed Jazz's paws and will see what Mother Nature has in store for us to-

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morrow!

Until then

Lx



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