

Loch Ness is on a fault line which runs over 60 miles from Inverness in the north to Fort William in the south. The fault line has four lochs, Loch Linnhe, Loch Lochy, Loch Oich and Loch Ness. Loch Ness is the largest enclosed loch in the glen. *A "glen" is a narrow valley.*

During the last ice age, a glacier gauged out the trough that loch ness lies in. Loch Ness has straight sides and a flat bottom.

Earthquakes can still be felt around the loch, the most recent one was recorded in December 1997.

Loch Ness is the largest body of fresh water in Britain.

There is more water in Loch Ness than all the lakes in England, and Wales put together.

Loch Ness is around 37,000 meters (twenty three miles) long and between 1600 and 2400 meters (between 1 and 1.5 miles) wide, a depth of 233 meters (754 feet) at its deepest point.

Loch Ness holds 263 billion cubic feet of water which is almost 2 trillion gallons or 7.5 trillion liters of water.

*If Loch Ness were emptied, there'd be more than enough room to hold all of the people on Earth – ten times over!*

The water of Loch Ness averages 42 degrees F year round.

The River Ness flows out of Loch Ness, traveling 11 kilometers (seven miles) through Inverness into the Moray Firth 15.5 meters (51 feet) below the surface of the loch. *A "firth" is a fjord or estuary connected to the ocean, The River Ness connects Loch Ness to the North Sea.*

During a heavy rainfall the lochs level has been known to rise by as much as 2.1 meters (7 feet.)

Loch Ness never freezes over, because as water on the surface chills, warmer water from beneath rises up. Even at the bottom of the loch, water is 42 degrees F or 5.55 degrees Celsius, which is above freezing temperature.

Only the top 9 meters (thirty feet) of Loch Ness have enough light to see fish. Looking straight down into Loch Ness (which is 233 meters or 754 feet deep,) the water appears black.

Studies have estimated the fish population of Loch Ness between 0.9 and 24.5 metric tonnes (1 and 27 Imperial tons) not counting the eels or zooplankton.

The most common fish in Loch Ness are Salmon, Brown Trout, Charr, Sea Trout, Minnow and Stickleback.

The sturgeon is a large fish that may have visited Loch Ness. The biggest Sturgeon caught in British waters was 460 lb. *Sturgeon can grow 8 meters (27 feet) long.*

Catfish may have visited Loch Ness. *Catfish have been caught that weigh over 75 kg (200 lbs.)*

Many eels live in Loch Ness. *Eels can grow 3 meters (10 feet) long.* When ready to spawn they leave Loch Ness for the Sargasso Sea.

In 1987, Operation Deepscan used a row of boats to scan the entire length of Loch Ness with sonar (sound waves.) On the first day 3 strong sonar contacts were recorded from 78 meters (256ft) to 180 meters (590ft) deep. The objects detected were estimated as bigger than a shark, but smaller than a whale.

While, most Nessie sightings are of her in the lake, between 1890 and 1960, 14 people reported seeing Nessie walking on land near Loch Ness.

Otters live near Loch Ness. They feed just before dawn and just after dusk.

Grey seals visit Loch Ness. *Grey seals grow up to 2.1 meters (7 feet) in length.*

Goats live along the east side of Loch Ness, away from the road. You might see them if you are in a boat on the loch.

The Scottish wildcat, sometimes called the Scottish tiger lives around Loch Ness. It grows bigger than a large tabby cat, and will dive into the cold loch to catch fish.

Tammy Van Wisse, renowned long-distance swimmer who swam the length of Loch Ness in 1999 said, "I have to say this is one of the scariest swims I've ever done... the water ... it's completely black!"

In 1688, when the Jacobites were defeated at Culloden, the retreating soldiers threw their gold and jewels into Loch Ness so the King of England wouldn't get them.

In 2000, Jan Sundberg's Global Underwater Search Team reported that they recorded snortings in Loch Ness that sound like snortings they had recorded in a Norwegian lake that is also reputed to have a lake monster.

Many countries around the world have at least one lake in which people have seen a monster.

John Rhodes Cobb raced both cars and motorboats. On Sept. 29, 1952, John broke world speed records for a motorboat while racing on Loch Ness. As he was approaching a speed of 320 kph (200 mph), his boat disintegrated. He was pulled alive from the lake and died later that day at Inverness, Scotland.

Angus McAskill, the biggest giant who ever lived [2.4 meters (7 feet 9 inches) tall] was born in the Scottish Hebrides in 1825.

Saint Columba made the first reported Nessie sighting in 565. He saw a lake monster menacing a swimmer. He held up his cross and ordered the monster to stop. According to the story the monster obeyed.

Saint Fillan used his healing stones near Loch Ness in the mid-700's. These stones are still in use today. They are at the Tweed Mill beside Dochart Falls near Killin.

Some tales about Merlin the Magician, place him as a wild man living in the woods near Loch Ness.

Urquhart Castle (pronounced "urkut") is on the north shore of Loch Ness. Forts have been built at this location since the Bronze Age. This castle was built around 1200 AD.

The Natural History Museum's scientists have taken mud samples from different sites on the bed of Loch Ness, to a maximum depth of 214 meters, using a deep water corer. Most of the nematodes are found in the top one centimeter of sediment. In just one core, for example, 274 nematodes of 27 different species were recovered, some of which were new to science. Nematodes are tube-shaped organisms of about 1000 cells.

The large model Nessie being used for the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes " sank while being towed into Loch Ness, and was never recovered.

The largest wild animal known to live on land around Loch Ness is the Red Deer. It stands 1.2 meters (4 feet) high at the shoulder.

Urquhart Castle, on the North Shore of Loch Ness was the site of many wars that killed local residents. In 1692 the castle was abandoned and local residents removed stones from the Castle walls to build their own houses.

Urquhart Castle is built of red sandstone, which is a sedimentary rock. While red sandstone often contains fossils, the old red sandstone on the northern side of Loch Ness contains none.

Fort Augustus, at the south end of Loch Ness, was the home to a Benedictine Abbey which was abandoned in November 1998. The abbey itself was built on the remains of a military fort built during the early 1700's.

Loch Ness serves as part of the Caledonian Canal which crosses Scotland from east to west.

An ancient burial mound of stones near Inverness is called the Clava Cairns. In 2000, a Belgian tourist took one of the stones home, but mailed it back, claiming it had cursed his family.

In Glenurquhart, an ancient burial mound of water-worn stones called Corrimony, has an entrance passage, and is surrounded by a circle of twelve large flat stones.

Craig Phadraig is a granite fort built in Inverness in the 4th century BC. It was featured on "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World" because the stones have been partially melted. *To melt granite requires a temperature of at least 1100 degrees Centigrade (2000 degrees Fahrenheit)!*

The Loch Ness Creatures are protected by law - if you catch one, throw it back!

Eight rivers, sixty major streams and hundreds of small streams feed Loch Ness. *It is free from pollution, but these rivers and streams wash down millions of tiny peat particles that account for the black appearance of the water.*

Loch Morar, a clear Scottish lake, also reputedly has a creature dwelling in it's depths. Sightings of this hump-backed monster date back to the 1800's.

Harold "Doc" Edgerton, who invented the strobe light, often visited Loch Ness. *Edgerton invented the strobe while trying to fix an electric motor. In a dark room, sparks could be made to always illuminate the same part even though the motor was spinning at full speed, thus making the moving motor appear to stand still. Edgerton photographed the still image, thus inventing electric flash photography.*

The only snake seen around Loch Ness is the adder or viper. Its bite is poisonous. If bitten, seek medical advice immediately.

In June, at Loch Ness, it is daylight from 3am to 11pm so you can tour, or watch for Nessie, for 20 hours a day!

Loch Ness had its own fortuneteller called the Brahan Seer. The Brahan Seer predicted that ships would sail behind Tomnahurich hill more than a century before the building of the Caledonian Canal that was completed in 1822.

The level of Loch Ness was raised by three meters (9 feet) as part of the construction of the Caledonian Canal, which crosses Scotland from east to west.

Adrian Shine doubts that a monster lives in Loch Ness. However, his ecological research projects are bringing reputable scientists from around the globe to study Loch Ness. If any of them should see Nessie, these scientists would be highly credible witnesses.

Vikings were fishermen as well as explorers and plunderers. Some of their boats may have sunk to the bottom of Loch Ness, with chests of Spanish doubloons.

Ben Nevis, or the 'Ben' as it is fondly known locally, is the tallest mountain in Scotland. It sits majestically at the head of Loch Linnhe, not far from Loch Ness. It towers 1,355 meters (4,406 feet) above the town of Fort William.

The battlefield of Culloden Moor, where Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated before reaching Inverness, is near Loch Ness.

Alexander II originally built the Eilean Donan Castle in 1220 as a defense against the Vikings.

Loch Ness has three major types of amphibians:  
Frogs (Small species only, reaching 4" or 10cm.)  
Newts (Small species only, reaching 3" or 7.5cm.)  
Toads (Small species only, reaching 5" or 12.5cm.)

Loch Ness is at the same latitude as Hudson Bay, which is north of Ontario, Canada.

Birch is the most common tree on Loch Ness side of Scotland. It was also the first tree to arrive after the last ice age and its pollen has been found in the sediments just above the glacial clays.

In 1972, Sir Peter Scott gave Nessie a scientific name - *Nessiteras rhombopteryx*. Crossword fanatics quickly pointed out that this name formed an anagram of "Monster hoax by Sir Peter S." During a radio program Tony Harmsworth asked Sir Peter about this anagram. Sir Peter replied, "Do you not think that if I was going to do such a thing, that I could have incorporated the C O T T of Scott?"

Applied to the underwater photographs of 1975, Witchell has said: amid tens of thousands of blank frames of film are a few showing fish and a half-dozen showing some peculiar objects, one of them very much like a head, another like a long neck attached to a body with two visible appendages. How strange that the only waterlogged trees carried by hypothetical currents past the cameras on these several separate occasions should so well mimic not just an animal but even one that looks like the usual description of a Nessie.

Many of the inhabitants of Loch Ness are invertebrates or plankton. Scientists have estimated that over 90% of the world's oxygen is produced by four groups of marine phytoplankton, which are the basic food supply for larger plankton and some larger animals.

Philipp Reis, a young German professor, invented the telephone in 1861, but nobody took him seriously, even though he made several popular public demonstrations. One demonstration was in Scotland, at a time that Alexander Graham Bell was visiting. Nobody knows if Bell attended.

The fault line on which Loch Ness formed is a very old feature and has been active since Mid Devonian times (c.400 million years ago).

The present day Loch Ness is about 12,000 years old and dates from the end of the last Ice Age (which lasted more than 20,000 years).

Loch Ness sediment has radioactive isotopes in layers that were deposited during the era of nuclear testing and during the time of the Chernobyl accident.

In a sediment core extracted in 1990, the isotope peaks were at:

1963 nuclear atmospheric testing, 9cms.

1986 Chernobyl accident, 3cms.

The first expedition to study Loch Ness was that of Sir John Murray in 1901. He measured the temperature of the water in Loch Ness at different depths, and discovered layers of water with different temperatures.

Loch Ness is surrounded by mountains. Meall Fuar-mhonaidh pronounced "meel-fovanie", is the highest, 696 metres (2283 feet.) This peak is formed of old red sandstone.

The Loch Ness area averages 3 earthquakes per century at Richter 4. This shows that the fault is still moving and storing enough energy for earthquakes. The epicenters are usually around Lochend and Dochgarroch.

During the last ice age, Loch Ness and the surrounding area was covered by a huge glacier. This glacier eroded the cracked land along the fault line, which accounts for the great depth of Loch Ness – as much as 183 meters (600 ft) below sea-level.

The sides of Loch Ness are smooth and very steep. The bottom of Loch Ness is almost flat, because it is a glaciated fault line.

Macbeth is the villain of Shakespeare's play "Macbeth" but most people in Scotland consider him one of their better kings. King Macbeth's seventeen year rule of Scotland between 1040-1057 was characterized by peace and tranquility. During his reign, Macbeth united south and north Scotland. Shakespeare's play about the king was first performed in 1606.

In 1969, Dan Taylor got permission from the House of Lords to use a harpoon to extract a sample of Nessie's skin. He looked for her in a 20 foot long canary-colored submarine, but didn't see her.

Steve Feltham has been living in a van called Nessie-Sery on the edge of Loch Ness since 1991. He makes little sculptures of Nessie to support himself. He says he may have seen Nessie once.

Core samples from the bottom of Loch Ness show no diatoms. Therefore, Loch Ness has never been connected to the ocean by any passage other than an out-flowing river.

Tony Harmsworth gives daily tours of Loch Ness. One day some pranksters left two dead eels on the shore where Tony parks his bus. The tourists thought this was just a normal part of the tour.

In 2001, Jan Sundberg put a long eel trap 7 meters (23 feet) long and 1 meter (3 feet) wide in Loch Ness, hoping to catch a baby Nessie. He pulled the trap up empty.

In 1977, an American flatworm with 13 mouths was found in Loch Ness. Researchers think it came to Loch Ness accidentally on some monster hunting equipment. It was 2 centimeters long.

The animals most commonly photographed on the WebCam at Loch Ness are birds.

Over 1000 sightings of a monster in Loch Ness have recorded seeing at least one hump.

*<http://www.lochness.scotland.net/camera.cfm>*



Swans swim in Loch Ness. Their shape is sometimes mistaken for a monster with one hump.

The Royal Airforce stopped flying over Loch Ness for three days in 2001 so Jan Sundberg could use his hydrophone to record underwater sounds without interference from the sound of airplanes overhead.

In 1975 Dick Raynor and Ike Blonder thought they had recorded crustaceans in Loch Ness. It turned out to be teleprinter noise transmitted by a nearby transatlantic cable.

Deer sometimes swim in Loch Ness. They are most often seen in August when the Roe Deer antlers are "in velvet." *While antlers are growing they are covered by a furry skin covering called velvet. The growing antlers and the velvet are supplied with oxygen and nutrients by a network of blood vessels. The velvet dies, dries up, and peels away. Antlers are shed during winter. Deer grow new antlers in spring.*

Irregularities in wind patterns across the lake sometimes cause water to spout up from the surface.

Sometimes a family of diving ducks (Mergansers) swimming in a row will be mistaken for humps of a monster on Loch Ness.

The Loch Ness Investigation Bureau did not count sightings of humps within half an hour of a boat passing by, because the wake from a boat often appears as a series of dark humps in the water.

At the Benedictine Monastery beside Loch Ness, several monks reported seeing Nessie. Father Benedict Seed said that when folks claimed to have seen Nessie, it told you nothing about the monster, but plenty about them.

In 1993, Christian Spurling, nephew of the flamboyant movie maker and big game hunter "Duke" Wetherell, admitted he'd made the "monster," used in the so-called "Surgeon's photo" of Nessie, out of some plastic and tin toy submarine.

At one time Nessie was thought to be a Kelpie -- a sea monster that took the form of a horse. When children climbed on the horse's back hoping for a ride, the monster was supposed to dive to the bottom of the lake and eat them.

On April 23, 1960, Tim Dinsdale took a 16 mm film of something moving across Loch Ness that appeared to be an animal. Film enhancement techniques of the 80's convinced many that it was actually a boat with a man in it, but others are still sure that the film shows Nessie.

During the first half of the 20th Century, the Austrian government attempted to 'expose' Nessie as a British plot to steal tourists from Austria.

In the 1700's a preacher was conducting a religious ceremony near Invermoriston. Some local youths heckled him. The preacher prophesied that no grass would ever grow on the spot where he stood. To this day, despite attempts to plant grass seed, the preacher's footprints are clearly visible.

An English musician believed the soothing strains of his piano was the perfect way to lure Nessie to the surface. Unfortunately this 'water kelpie' didn't fancy his romantic offering, and ignored his musical call.

Nicholas Witchell, BBC Royal correspondent, got his start as a journalist collecting stories about Nessie sightings, which he published as The Loch Ness Story.

In the 1st Century A.D., the Romans journeyed to northern Scotland, where they met the Picts who made carvings of animals in standing stones, some of which still exist today. They were very detailed in the carving and all could be easily identified, except for one -- a strange beast with an elongated beak or muzzle, a head locket or spout, and flippers instead of feet.

Every year bookmakers William Hill offers a prize of 500 pounds for convincing proof that Nessie exists. Prizes are awarded by the Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club. In 2001, two photographers won prizes.

To travel by car around Loch Ness is a journey of 113 km (70 miles.) In comparison, Lake Michigan has more than 2575 km (1,600 miles) of shoreline.

In 1969 the Vickers Oceanics submarine Pisces made contact with a large object about 16 meters (50 feet) off the bottom which then disappeared when the craft drew near.

In 1966, the Belgian Count Lichtervelde saw Nessie and said, "It was the most wonderful thing that could have happened to me. Nobody will believe me when I return to Belgium and say, I have seen the famous 'Monster.'"

Nessie  
Fun Facts

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