

INVERARAY - ancient R

IT ISN'T often a town is on the move but that is just what happened with the Royal Burgh of Inveraray. The town was already 300 years old when the Duke of Argyll decided to build his principal seat, Inveraray Castle, on its site – so he simply moved the town to where it is today at its idyllic setting on Loch Fyne - that was in 1744.

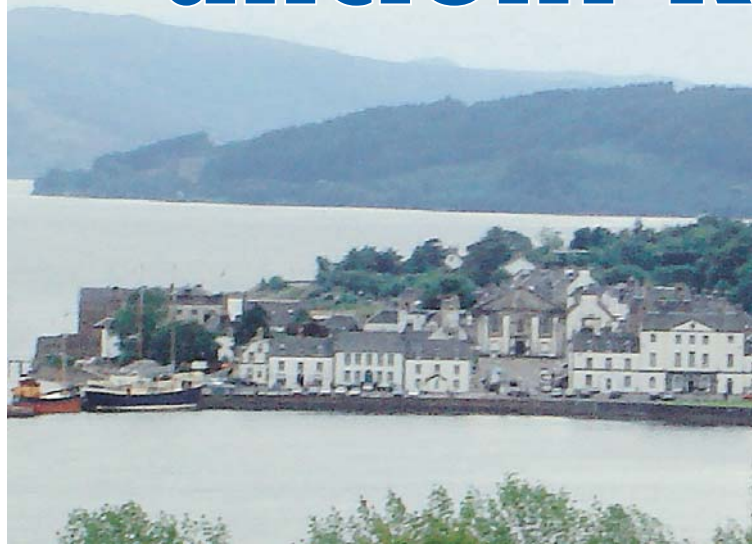
The town then became the administrative centre of Argyll with a courthouse and 43 pubs, obviously not the quiet location it is today. Inveraray is unrivalled in its location. It looks down Loch Fyne and across the mountains and moorland, which is why it attracts visitors in their tens of thousands each year.

The three-hundred-year-old courthouse and the nineteenth century Inveraray Jail are among the top attractions in Scotland and if you want to know what it feels like to be 'banged up' with no privileges then the jail can easily grant you your request. As well as being the duke's main seat, Inveraray Castle is open to the public from April to October and on display is a splendid array of family heirlooms and other artefacts which are well worth a look. The castle was designed by Sir John

Vanbrugh who was also the architect for Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard. It was planned for the second Duke of Argyll and incorporates influences from the baroque, palladian and gothic periods. Its castellated towers are mounted by spires and at the time of construction the castle was the first of its type and size to be built in a remote part of Scotland. Vanbrugh died six years after he first sketched the castle in 1720 for his basic design. It was Roger Morris and William Adam who oversaw the work and after they died Adam's sons completed the project in 1789 for the fifth duke.

Inveraray town enjoys a reputation of being one of the prettiest in Scotland and its shops offer all kinds of souvenirs including whisky and tartan. Its floral hanging baskets hung along its many lanes and roads in the summer add charm to the place and draw praise from visitors.

If you ever wondered what life was like in a nineteenth century prison then Inveraray can offer you that in a realistic fashion. Spending a day at Inveraray Jail, viewing a trial and then visiting the prison complex in the company of warders and prisoner guides in the uniforms of the day will really open your life to being 'banged up'.



The original Jail and Courthouse opened in 1820 and remained unchanged until 1843 when the Airing Yards were built to provide a secure place where prisoners could be exercised in the open air.

In 1848 the New Prison, or Men's Prison, was completed. This was a model prison for its day with 12 individual cells, a water closet on every floor, accommodation for warders, a store room and an indoor exer-

INVERARAY JAIL

Face the Judge
Get locked up
Sample the
punishments



A visit you'll never forget!

"One of the best attractions we have ever been to!! First class"

"A superb experience!"

"Excellent, what else can I say"

"Brilliant and fun"

OPEN ALL YEAR April to October 9.30 – 6.00pm, November to March 10.00 – 5.00pm, last entry 1 hour before closing.

**Inveraray Jail, Church Square, Inveraray. Tel 01499 302381
email: info@inverarayjail.co.uk www.inverarayjail.co.uk**

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