

World-famous Loch Ness



Loch Ness stretches almost 22.6 miles (36.4 km) from Fort Augustus in the south to Bona Lighthouse at its most northerly point.

Covering an area of almost 21.8 square miles (56.4 km²) it is Britain's second largest expanse of freshwater by surface area - Loch Lomond being the first. However, Loch Ness' incredible depth makes it by far the biggest by volume.

With depths of up to 754 feet (230m) the Loch's volume has been estimated

at a staggering 263 billion cubic feet (7.45 billion cubic metres) - plenty of room for our famous inhabitant to lurk beneath the surface!

The Loch is 52 feet (15.8m) above sea level and, below the surface, temperatures sink to a very cold 6°C - only rising to 15°C near the surface. So it isn't just the legend of the Loch Ness monster that puts people off swimming here!

On board navigation and sonar explained

Left hand side

This side of the screen is a bird's eye view of Loch Ness (if you look up in the sky, you can actually see our bird flying above us with a camera in its beak!)

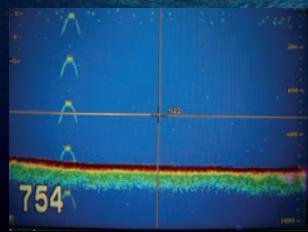
The width of the image is about 2 nautical miles, but can vary depending on the skipper's setting. A nautical mile is a bit longer than a standard mile, but it's much wetter!

The yellow area on the screen is the land around Loch Ness (it looks much nicer in reality!)

You are here! This is our boat, and the red line is the direction in which we are travelling.

The pale blue indicates water that's less than 200ft deep.

But the white area is the deep, deep part of the Loch, where our most famous inhabitant lurks!



Right hand side

This is our sonar. It's clever stuff! Also known as an 'Echo Sounder', it picks up shapes and movement beneath our boat.

The thin red line at the top is the bottom of this boat.

The colourful bit near the bottom is the Loch floor. The harder the surface, the darker the colour. It's the big blue area in the middle that you need to keep your eyes on!

You'll probably see little red dots as fish swim beneath us.

But if you see a very, very big red dot or an inverted V - sound the alarm!

NESSIE IS COMING!!