

# Top beaver spotting tips



In the Heart of Argyll a rare sight can be seen: wild beavers back living in Scotland. Use these top tips to help you spot a beaver during your visit to Knapdale Forest.



## The perfect spot

The Dubh Loch in Knapdale Forest is the ultimate beaver spotting destination. The beaver family resident on this loch has been the most prolific in demonstrating their top engineering skills and are frequently seen by visitors swimming or feeding on the loch. Parking is available at the Barnlusgan Information Centre where details of the latest beaver sightings can be found on the notice board.



## Before sunrise; after sunset

The best time of day for beaver spotting is either at dawn or dusk. This is because beavers are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at first light or once the sun has started to set. During late spring and summer evenings the beavers emerge from their lodges whilst it is still light enough to capture a glimpse of them swimming across the sheltered waters of the Dubh Loch.



## Be prepared

The most important thing to bring with you when beaver spotting is lots of patience! You may be sitting for a couple of hours so we suggest bringing along a camping seat, warm and waterproof clothing, and a head midge net for comfort. Avoid wearing perfumes/aftershaves and strong scents as beavers use their keen sense of smell for navigation and sourcing food, and an alien smell could be distracting. Please be quiet and avoid bringing pet dogs along with you in order to increase your chances.



## Stop, look and listen

Position yourself in one spot with a clear view across the loch and simply wait...

Look out for ripples in the water and then the very top of a beaver's head and body as they swim by. Also listen out for splashing water and gnawing sounds as the beavers snack on plant matter and tree bark – they're very noisy eaters!



## Neighbourhood watch

Whilst observing the beavers please do not disturb the environment around the loch or clear away foliage to get a clearer view; keep your distance and remember, the best wildlife experiences are those when you see nature at its most natural. Look out for some of the beavers' neighbours, too, including otters, dragonflies and water birds.

Best of luck and please do share your beaver spotting experiences with us: [scottishbeavers.org.uk](http://scottishbeavers.org.uk)

*The Scottish Beaver Trial is a partnership project between the Scottish Wildlife Trust, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and host partner Forestry Commission Scotland. Scottish Natural Heritage, appointed by the Scottish Government, is coordinating the independent scientific monitoring of the Trial.*