

GOPA EUROPE

OBAN/NORTH CONNEL

16 - 19 MAY 2024

We invite you to join us for the GOPA European meeting which will take place at Oban/North Connel, Scotland, from Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 May 2024.

Oban, the main ferry gateway to many of the Hebridean islands, with sweeping views to Kerrera and Mull, is a bustling waterfront town set on a delightful bay, on the west coast of Scotland. Connel is a small settlement five miles north of Oban. It is situated on the southern shore of Loch Etive. One feature in the village is Connel Bridge, a large cantilever bridge built by the Caledonian Railway in 1903, that spans Loch Etive at the Falls of Lora. The airport is situated across the bridge in North Connel.

We have planned what we hope will be an enjoyable weekend enjoying the stunning scenery, wonderful food and beverages, and the great hospitality that Scotland has to offer:

Thursday 16 May

Arrival and refreshments. Shuttle service from North Connel airport to the hotels.

Welcome dinner at the Falls of Lora Hotel.

Friday 17 May

Suggested Coach outing to Inveraray Castle for those who wish. This will depart at 10am and will be a scenic drive to Inveraray, where a guided tour of the castle will be on offer. There will be time to explore the picturesque village of Inveraray before returning to Connel. There are limited spaces available for this, and an additional charge. (approx GBP £30 per person)

Saturday 18 May

Proposed flying day. Take the opportunity to visit a variety of airfields in the area, including Glenforsa airfield, Isle of Mull, or Plockton, Loch Carron. Glenforsa has an hotel on the airfield offering bar meals and refreshments. The picturesque village of Plockton a short walk from the airfield and has a selection of hotels serving food. Other sights worth overflying include Iona and Staffa with the famous Fingal's Cave.

We would encourage pilots to offer spare seats to those who are without an aeroplane.

A Scottish Gala Dinner at the Oyster Inn.

Sunday 19 May

Guests depart

Price for the weekend is still to be confirmed but will include:

Arrival dinner and drinks Thursday

Gala dinner and drinks Saturday

What will not be included in the price:

Hotel room reservations

Airport landing and parking fees

Lunch and Dinner Friday

Lunch Saturday

Coach trip to Inveraray.(see above)

Hotel Information:

There are rooms available at two hotels in Connel:

The Falls of Lora Hotel has blocked 30 rooms for us. The rooms are all different, ranging from small cabin rooms, small doubles with or without sea views, standard double or twin rooms with or without sea views, to luxury rooms, with prices ranging from £79 to £290 per night bed and breakfast. Cancellation will be allowed up to one week prior to your booking, We negotiated at 15% discount from the rates quoted above. Please quote GOPA when you make your booking in order to get the discounted rate.

The Oyster Inn has 19 rooms at £129/139 bed and breakfast. There is a 14 day cancellation policy.

They are not able to offer any discount off their standard rate.

The Falls of Lora is a traditionally Scottish, family run hotel. www.fallsoflora.com

The Oyster Inn is the former Ferry Inn now much modernised. www.oysterinn.co.uk

They are located 10 minutes walk apart, and we will be using both hotels - The Falls of Lora for dinner on Thursday, and The Oyster Inn for the Gala dinner on Saturday night.

Travel Information:

Oban/North Connel Airfield OBN/ EGEO was built in 1941 to support a flying boat base at Oban.

It is VFR only and has a tarmac runway of 1264m. Avgas 100L will be available from a new self service facility.

www.obanandtheislesairports.com

The three hour scenic train journey from Glasgow runs around six times per day direct to Connel Ferry Station, a short walk from both hotels. www.scotrail.co.uk

A coach service from Glasgow to Connel runs three times per day in just under three hours.

www.citylink.co.uk

All regular car hire companies are available at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness Airports.

