

# Edinburgh & Glasgow

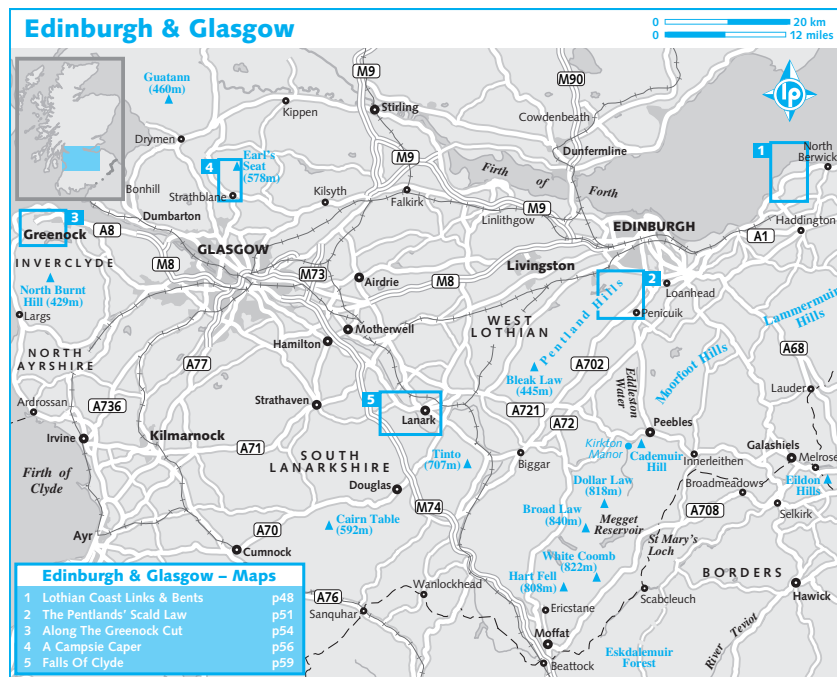
Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, and its largest city, Glasgow, enjoy contrasting settings, with their own distinctive variations on the themes of hills, waterways and the sea. Within easy reach of both is a wealth of walking opportunities, allowing you to explore these themes. Excellent public transport brings the hills and glens within easy reach of the cities. Even so, there's much to be said for prising yourself away from the cities' rich array of charms and lingering in the small towns near the walks, with their particular claims for your attention. Be prepared for some surprises, and many reasons to return with your walking boots to this often-overlooked part of the country.

Beyond the capital, this chapter picks up two of the pervasive landscape themes. The Pentland Hills are Edinburgh's oasis and its wilderness, especially when the weather is wild and windy. To the east, the delightful Lothian coast is a haven for wildlife, with secluded beaches that tempt you to linger. Short walks take you to two of the emblematic basalt hills rising sharply from the surrounding lowlands.

A short ride or drive from central Glasgow there are some fine walks along routes intimately linked to the industrial past. Not only are they rich in historical interest, they are also strong on attractive scenery and enlivened with occasional wildlife sightings. From the pioneering mill village of New Lanark on the River Clyde to engineering feats that brought water to Glaswegians' homes, both south of the Firth of Clyde, and below the Campsie Fells in the north, these walks can spirit you away from the city's chaos to the stress-free open spaces of the countryside.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Waves, rocks, birds and the surprising remoteness of the **Lothian coast** (p48)
- Scaling **Scald Law** (p49), the highest summit in Edinburgh's Pentland Hills
- Exploring the remarkable **Greenock Cut** (p53) along an easy path with great views near and far
- Wandering across the wild and lonely **Campsie Fells** (p55), high above the crowded Clyde valley
- Sharing the awesome spectacle of the **Falls of Clyde** (p56) with poets and artists



## INFORMATION Maps & Books

For general orientation, the OS Travel – Road 1:250,000 map No 4 *Southern Scotland* is fine.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club's *Southern Uplands* by KM Andrew provides good background for a variety of walks.

## EDINBURGH

☎ 0131 / pop 430,000

The thin winding streets of the Old Town and the wide roads of the Georgian New Town, a World Heritage site (see p29) in Scotland's capital, are best explored on foot; reason enough for spending time here. The walks described in this section are all within easy reach by bus or your own wheels.

## INFORMATION Maps & Books

The AA *Edinburgh* street guide, with good clear maps at 1:10,000 and 1:15,000, should avoid the embarrassment of getting lost.

*Edinburgh and Lothians* by Roger Smith describes 25 walks in the city and further afield. *Edinburgh and Lothians* by Brian Conduit and John Brooks has a slightly wider scope with 28 walks in the city, coast and hills. There's little to choose between the maps in these two books.

Lonely Planet's *Edinburgh* guide is your essential companion and is packed with information on accommodation, restaurants, pubs, bars, transport – it even describes five varied walks around the city.

**Waterstone's** (☎ 226 2666; 128 Princes St; ☎ daily) has a good selection of Scottish titles and a reasonable range of walking guides and maps. There's a coffee shop on the 2nd floor.

## Information Sources

The **tourist information centre** (☎ 0845 225 5121; www.edinburgh.org; Waverley Market, 3 Princes St; ☎) is virtually always busy. It stocks a good range of maps, but unfortunately walking-related literature is scarce, as are any similarly themed handouts from the otherwise helpful staff.

## EDINBURGH'S SEVEN HILLS

What do Edinburgh and Rome have in common? Nothing to do with grandiose buildings, chaotic traffic or the cat population. It's the more important fact that each is graced by seven hills adorning its horizons. Apart from the well-known Edinburgh Castle, Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat in and close to the city, they are Corstorphine (150m) to the west, Craiglockhart (175m), Blackford (164m) and Braid (208m). The last three are between Edinburgh and the Pentland Hills to the south.

Each June since 1980 runners and walkers have taken part in the 14-mile (22.5km) **Seven Hills Race** (www.seven-hills.org.uk). The route can be of your own choosing and will inevitably involve 2200ft of ascent, which is not even as high as a single Corbett (p108), so not particularly arduous for fit walkers. Full details of the route are on the website, so you can test yourself against the competitors without the stress of a race.

## Supplies & Equipment

Both **Nevisport** (☎ 225 9498; edinburgh@nevisport.com; 19 Rose St; ☎ daily), at one end of the outdoor shopping precinct, and **Tiso's** (☎ 225 9486; edinburgh@tiso.co.uk; 123 Rose St; ☎ daily), at the other, stock the full range of equipment, books and maps.

The most convenient supermarket is downstairs in **Marks & Spencer** (54 Princes St; ☎ daily).

## SLEEPING & EATING

Consult Lonely Planet's *Edinburgh* or *Scotland* guides or the free *Edinburgh & Lothians Accommodation Guide*, available at the TIC. Alternatively, try **VisitScotland** (☎ 0845 225 5121; www.visitscotland.com), though phone bookings through TICs add £3 to the tariff.

**Edinburgh Mortonhall Caravan & Camping Park** (☎ 664 1533; mortonhall@meadowhead.co.uk; 38 Mortonhall Gate, Frogston Rd East; unpowered/powered sites for 2 £18/20) is over on the southern city fringe, not far away from the Pentland Hills.

**Edinburgh Central SYHA Hostel** (☎ 0870 1155 3255; www.syha.org.uk; 9 Haddington Pl; dm £19) opened in 2006 and is SYHA's Edinburgh flagship, complete with bistro and bar. All the rooms, from singles through to the eight-bed dorms, are en suite. It's only around 10 minutes at a walking pace from Princes St.

**Acorn Lodge Guest House** (☎ 555 1557; www.acornlodge.co.uk; 26 Pilrig St; s/d £50/100), off Leith Walk, is only around 15 minutes' walk from both the train and the bus station. A business-like place, it is tastefully decorated, and is neither bare nor fussy. The street it stands on is nice and quiet, at least by Edinburgh's standards, and the breakfast

is better than you will find in a lot of places.

**Valvona & Crolla Caffè Bar** (☎ 556 6066; www.valvonacrolla.co.uk; 19 Elm Row; mains £9-15; ☎ lunch) is an Italian oasis, ideal for perfecting the art of the long lunch, but only once you've cruised past its deli (Scotland's oldest), the alluring walls of wines and the baskets of the bar's own bread, baked on site. The menu changes daily and features genuine Italian family recipes and fresh Scottish produce.

**Bar Italia** (☎ 0131 228 6379; 100 Lothian Rd; mains £7-10; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner daily) A classic Italian restaurant, complete with checked tablecloths, candles in Chianti bottles and ebullient waiters. If you love Italian food, this is the place, and it's good value too.

## GETTING THERE & AROUND

**National Express** (☎ 0870 580 8080; www.national-express.co.uk) runs coaches from London Victoria to/from Edinburgh (£32, nine hours, three daily).

**GNER** (☎ 08457 225225; www.gner.co.uk) operates train services from London Kings Cross (4¾ hours, at least 20 daily); fares vary widely.

**Scottish Citylink** (☎ 0870 550 5050; www.citylink.co.uk) bus service 900 goes between Edinburgh and Glasgow (£5, 1¼ hours, every 15 minutes).

**First ScotRail** (☎ 0845 755 0033; www.firstscotrail.com) provides a shuttle-train service between Edinburgh and Glasgow Queen St (£10, 50 minutes, every 30 minutes).

For more information on international flight connections, see p304.

**First Edinburgh** (☎ 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) operates local buses in and around Edinburgh.

## LOTHIAN COAST LINKS & BENTS

<b>Duration</b>	2¼–3 hours
<b>Distance</b>	6.7 miles (10.8km)
<b>Difficulty</b>	easy
<b>Start</b>	Aberlady Bay
<b>Finish</b>	Yellowcraig
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Gullane (below)
<b>Transport</b>	bus
<b>Summary</b>	A finely crinkled coastline, a sprinkling of islets, and beaches of sand and shingle, all on Edinburgh's doorstep.

Aberlady Bay (pronounced as if there's a 'y' between the 'a' and 'd') is little more than 10 miles northeast of Edinburgh but is wonderfully wild and natural, a real haven for wildlife. In fact Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve was the first such reserve to be established anywhere in Britain, way back in 1952. It protects a remarkable variety of habitats – mudflats, salt and freshwater marshlands, grassland, sand dunes, sand and shingle beaches and the sea – and is a bird-watcher's paradise. There are intrusions, but the relics of WWII defences are partly overgrown, and the golf course blends with the surrounding landscape. On the OS map you'll see the terms 'bent' and 'links'; the former means rough grass, the latter – if you like – 'unrough' grass. This walk takes you through the reserve, along beaches and through low dunes, with views all the way to Yellowcraig and its popular beach, not far from North Berwick.

## PLANNING MAPS

Either the OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 351 *Dunbar & North Berwick*, or the OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 66 *Edinburgh* cover the walk.

## NEAREST TOWN

The closest settlements to the walk are Aberlady and Dirleton, though the former has just a single shop and the Old Aberlady Inn, while the latter has a two hotels and a shop.

## Gullane

☎ 01620 / pop 2171

This is definitely the place to aim for if you're inclined to linger in the area.

**Kilmory B&B** (☎ 842332; margaret@kilmory.fsbusi.ness.co.uk; Marine Tce; s/d £36/32) has superb views of the beach in a lovely garden setting.

The **Village Coffee Shop** (☎ 842509; 10 Rosebery Pl; light meals £4-9; ☎ 10am-5pm) is the best reason for stopping here. Everything is genuinely homemade and fresh, especially the sumptuous afternoon tea, and you can even have a Scottish beer with your scones.

**Bangkok Thai** (☎ 842233; Rosebery Pl; mains £7-12; ☎ dinner Tue-Sun), near the coffee shop, offers an alternative to the handful of pubs.

There's a Co-op supermarket and a bakery in the main street.

**First Edinburgh** (☎ 0131 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) bus services X5 and 124 to/from Edinburgh stop here (£5, 50 minutes, 12 services Monday to Saturday, 10 Sunday).

## GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

The car park at the nature reserve is beside the A198 Aberlady–North Berwick road, 0.7 miles from Aberlady. **First Edinburgh** (☎ 0131 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) bus services X5 and 124 to/from Edinburgh stop in Aberlady (£4, 45 minutes, 12 services



Monday to Saturday, 10 Sunday), from where a roadside footpath provides safe walking to the car park.

From Yellowcraig, simply follow the minor road from the car park south for one mile to the eastern end of Dirleton. The bus stop is 50m to your left. The same First Edinburgh services stop here.

## THE WALK

From the car park, cross a long footbridge and set out along the wide path. Within five minutes it bends sharply right through a thicket and passes secluded Marl Loch. Beyond, the varied view takes in the Pentland Hills, the Forth road bridge and the Fife coast to the north. About 10 minutes further on, the path widens to a track. Continue straight ahead at an intersection to a warning sign: 'Beware golf may be in progress'. Cross the fairway speedily, aiming to the right of the concrete block on the far side. The track continues across wavy sand dunes and gains a little height, giving fine views of Gullane Sands to the west. The chunky concrete blocks beside the track, among the thorn bushes, are relics of coastal fortifications thrown up during WWII. Cross a crest, following a sign pointing to Gullane Point, and descend, passing a path on the right, to open ground overlooking the coast. Bear right downhill near **Gullane Point** to a narrow path parallel to the shore. If, however, the tide's in your favour, take to the beach. Continue round a point to a wider, longer beach where a sign marks the eastern boundary of the nature reserve. Wander along the beach, past a large black basalt bluff; alternatively, climb a clear path through the marram grass to a crest. Follow a track, cross a golf course then bear left at the green marker along a cliff-top path, which bears inland to skirt the thorn-bush entanglements. Bear left at an intersection and go down to Gullane Bents car park (about 50 minutes from the golf-course warning). There are toilets here and information about the coast.

Walk down a path to the beach and along the sand. At the far end, a path leads on through the dunes to a small shingle beach. Continue along the edge of the marram grass, past **Black Rocks** to a sandy beach. The path through the dunes passes a ruined ancient stone chapel, to a sandy beach (25

minutes from the car park). From the far end you then cruise along past a couple more beaches separated by shallow points. Low, rocky Eyebroughy Island is just offshore, and all of Fidra and its lighthouse comes into view. Cross flattish rocks at the base of a line of cliffs; about 75m short of a prominent beacon above the shore, climb a sandy path burrowing through the scrub (35 minutes from the beach beyond the chapel). Pass the beacon and a concrete lookout station (another WWII leftover), and emerge into the open beside a fence enclosing the substantial house **Marine Villa**. A path then keeps you off the shingle. From the eastern end of the next beach follow a path across the point to a beach, with a good view of conical North Berwick Law (p50). The direct route to the car park at the end of the walk is via scrub, open ground and scrub to a wide track in the open. **Yellowcraig** is nearby to the right (30 minutes from the beacon).

## THE PENTLANDS' SCALD LAW

<b>Duration</b>	3¼–4 hours
<b>Distance</b>	8.2 miles (13.2km)
<b>Difficulty</b>	moderate
<b>Start/Finish</b>	Flotterstone
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Edinburgh (p46)
<b>Transport</b>	bus

**Summary** A classic, roller-coasting walk over the highest of the Pentland Hills in Edinburgh's backyard with fantastic vistas far and wide.

Only 7.6 miles (12.5km) south of Edinburgh, the Pentland Hills is a fine, compact range, extending from Bleak Law (445m) in the southwest to Allermuir Hill (493m) in the northeast. Its long and bumpy eastern flank borders the A702, which largely coincides with a Roman road, creating a natural barrier to the long, deep Logan Glen running through the centre of the hills' northern section. Here Loganlea and Glencorse Reservoirs feed Edinburgh's water supply, the former dating back to 1851.

Nearly 16 miles long and 6 miles wide, the Pentland Hills are blessed with more than 60 miles of paths. The greater part of the range is within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, established in 1986, a precious area that attracts crowds of city dwellers

on weekends, intent on enjoying the many walking, cycling and bridle paths. The walk described here, involving 605m of ascent, takes you over Scald Law (579m), the highest summit in the Pentlands, and back past the reservoirs.

## PLANNING Maps

The OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 344 *Pentland Hills* or the Harvey Superwalker 1:25,000 *Pentland Hills* map are ideal.

## Information Sources

**Pentland hills ranger service** (☎ 0131 445 3383; www.pentlandhills.org; Boghall Farm, Biggar Rd) maintains the **Flotterstone Ranger & Visitor Centre** (☎ 01968 677879; Flotterstone). Staff are on hand to answer questions and provide information about the regional park; pick up the *Discover*

the *Pentland Hills Regional Park* brochure, which includes a good map, and check the weather forecast. The centre also has toilets. For details of ranger-led walks, ask for the annual **Outdoor Diary** (www.outdoor-diary.info).

## GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

**MacEwan's** (☎ 01387 256533) bus service 101 from Edinburgh (Waterloo Place) stops at Flotterstone (30 minutes, three a day Monday to Friday).

By car, take the A702 from Edinburgh to Flotterstone. Turn right for the signposted Flotterstone Inn and drive on to the ranger centre and car park, which is usually full on weekends.

## THE WALK

From the ranger centre head west on a path through the woods, past a reconstructed

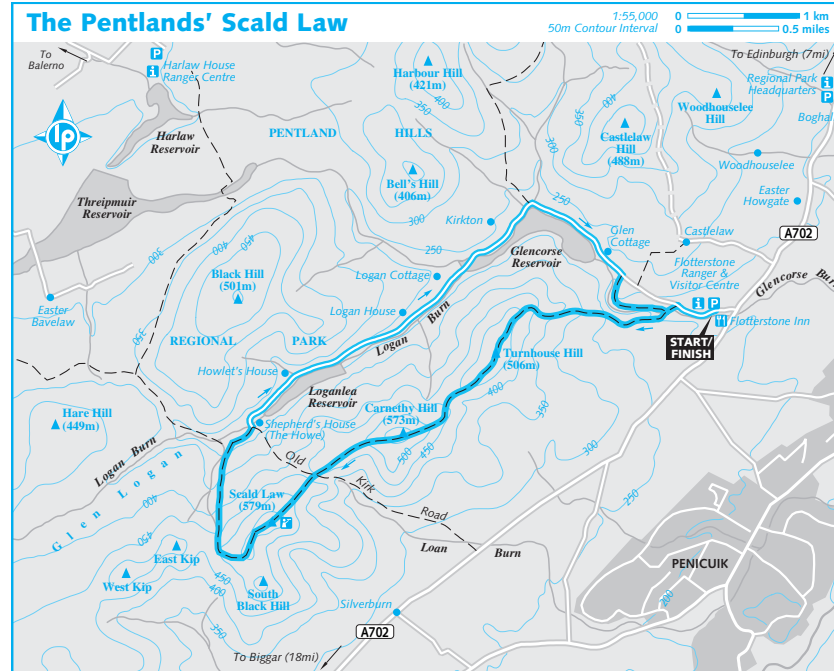
### SHORT EDINBURGH WALKS

You can't possibly visit Edinburgh without climbing **Arthur's Seat** (251m), the unmissable, craggy lump of volcanic rock to the east of the city. It's easy enough to dash up and down, but this longer walk of 3 miles (4.9km) reveals some of its hidden corners and gives plenty of time to absorb the remarkable view. Allow about 1½ hours; consult OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 350. The start, a large car park on Queens Drive just south of Holyrood and the controversial parliament building, is on the route of Lothian Buses service 36, which runs along Princes St.

A flight of wooden steps leads to a rough path on your right (southwest). It climbs very steeply for a few hundred metres then levels out beside Salisbury Craigs. Follow the path down to a junction at the southeastern end of the Craigs. Turn left (north), heading uphill briefly; keep to the left and go down the wide valley of Hunter's Bog. At the northern end, descend to a path below a prominent crag. At the base of some crags on your left, bear right up a stepped path then up the side of a grassy glen. Go right up to a saddle and turn right. Follow steps or hard rocks as far as possible (to minimise erosion) to reach the summit. A direction plate helps with identification of the many features, near and far. Return to the saddle and descend to Dunsapie Loch below. Turn left and follow the path beside Queen's Drive back to the start.

Conical **North Berwick Law** (187m) in East Lothian is a prominent landmark for miles around so it's not surprising that the summit yields an amazingly wide view. An easy 1.3-mile (2km) walk of around 50 minutes up to the summit starts and finishes at a car park at the end of an access track 0.9 miles (1.4km) southeast of North Berwick town centre. Follow the A198 to Law Rd, from where signs show the way to North Berwick Law. **First Edinburgh** (☎ 0131 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) bus services X5 and 124 link Edinburgh and North Berwick (£5, one hour, 12 services Monday to Saturday, 10 Sunday). OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 66 helps with finding your way to the start of the walk.

From the car park go through a gap in the stone wall and turn right along the signposted 'Public Footpath'. An information board here outlines the Law's long history, dating back to the Iron Age. After about 200m, bear left up a narrower path. Where it levels out, follow a wider grassy track bending left, uphill. Follow it around the southern flank to a small waymarker. Turn left; take your pick from multiple paths as you near the summit (187m). This small space is crowded with a trig pillar, a WWII defence lookout, an iron-fenced enclosure, ruins of a small building and a detailed direction plate for the features in the panoramic view. Retrace your steps to the car park.



sheep stee (pen), to a road. Follow it for 30m then turn left along a track signposted to Scald Law. About 100m along bear left with another sign for the Law. Go through a gate, across a bridge and up a muddy path to start the climb. The clear path rises along a broad, grassed spur; cross a couple of stiles, pass through a copse of wind-whipped trees then continue steeply up to the main ridge and on to the summit of **Turnhouse Hill** (506m) reached in about 50 minutes.

Charge down, over a minor bump, to a saddle then tackle the steep slope up to the sprawling cairn on **Carnethy Hill** (573m), 30 minutes from Turnhouse Hill. The next descent starts steeply and soon eases but becomes boggy, down to the saddle. Crossing the pass is the once-busy Old Kirk Rd, formerly providing Bavelaw and Loganlea churchgoers with a convenient passage to Penicuik. The main objective is now directly above you, with another steep pull to the bare summit of **Scald Law**, marked by a trig pillar (40 minutes from Carnethy Hill). The vista embraces a huge armful of hills to

the south and the Firths of Clyde and Forth to the north.

Keeping on the northern side of the slope, descend southwest to the col at the foot of East Kip. Turn northeast and follow a rather faint track down, across a minor burn, and soon through a gateway. Steer away from the small plantation ahead and descend to a cluster of sheep pens. Go through a gateway and turn right. Follow the track through another gateway, near which is the tall Shepherd's House (The Howe) and a junction with Old Kirk Rd, which you crossed up in the hills (30 minutes from Scald Law). Cross the burn and bear right along a vehicle track that shortly becomes a road. Follow this for the length of **Loganlea Reservoir** and right around boomerang-shaped **Glencorse Reservoir**. Leave the road to follow a signposted path to Flotterstone via the filter beds; it leads down through woodland to a path parallel to a small stream, and on to rejoin the outward route at a Scald Law sign. It's not far back to the ranger centre (1½ hours from the Shepherd's House).



The nearby **Flutterstone Inn** (☎ 01968 673717; mains £9-15; ☺ lunch & dinner) is just the place for a post-walk beer, coffee or meal in a traditional-style bar with Belhaven beers on tap.

## GLASGOW

☎ 0141 / pop 629,600

Glasgow, once the second city of the British Empire, has a rich industrial heritage that is proudly celebrated in its several excellent museums. The lively city is also a great place to begin your education in eating well in Scotland, with many fine restaurants, and bars where you can sample delectable Scottish beers. Then, it's not far by train or bus to the walks described in this section, each with its own take on the industrial heritage of the city and area.

### INFORMATION Maps & Books

The Collins 1:10,000 *Glasgow Streetfinder Colour Map* is the best city map.

The best-known local walks are covered in *25 Walks In and Around Glasgow* by Alan Forbes. The Pathfinder series guide *Glasgow, Ayrshire, Arran and the Clyde Valley* is also good. **Waterstone's** (153-157 Sauchiehall St) is well stocked with local and Scottish titles.

### Information Sources

**Glasgow TIC** (☎ 204 4400; [www.seeglasgow.com](http://www.seeglasgow.com); 11 George Sq) is very helpful but, apart from stocking maps and books, has very little of specific interest for walkers.

### THE RIVER CLYDE

A popular local saying claims that Glasgow made the Clyde, and the Clyde made Glasgow. This city would have remained a rural backwater had it not been for the cathedral, which during medieval times attracted pilgrims, prestige and power. Much later, during the Industrial Revolution, the river was at the heart of Glasgow's growth into a major port and the greatest industrial city in the British Empire.

Scotland's third-longest river, the Clyde flows for 105 miles from its source in the Lowther Hills, tumbling down about 2000ft as it winds through the Clyde valley and Lanarkshire to the centre of Glasgow. It enters the sea in the broad, 28-mile-long Firth of Clyde.

Looking at the Clyde from Glasgow's docks and knowing that 35,000 ships were launched from its once-productive shipyards, it's hard to believe that in the 1700s it was too shallow for the passage of even a rowing boat in places. In the 1690s the city's harbour was 20 miles downstream at Port Glasgow. During the late 18th century the river was dredged and its banks strengthened and development of the port took off.

### Supplies & Equipment

Both **Nevisport** (☎ 332 4814; [www.nevisport.com](http://www.nevisport.com); 261 Sauchiehall St; ☺ daily), in Glasgow's best, tongue-twisting, shopping street, and **Tiso's** (☎ 248 4877; [glasgow@tiso.co.uk](http://glasgow@tiso.co.uk); 129 Buchanan St; ☺ daily) stock the full range of equipment.

For self-catering supplies, the **Tesco Metro** (36-38 Argyle St; ☺ daily) is the most central.

### SLEEPING & EATING

Consult Lonely Planet's *Scotland* for excellent suggestions on Glasgow accommodation and dining. Alternatively, try **VisitScotland** (☎ 0845 225 5121; [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)), though phone bookings add £3 to the tariff.

**Craigendmuir Park** (☎ 779 4159; [www.craigendmuir.co.uk](http://www.craigendmuir.co.uk); Stepps; unpowered/powerd sites for 2 £12/15) is the closest camping ground to the city, about 4 miles north; it also has chalets and static caravans.

**Glasgow SYHA Hostel** (☎ 0870 004 1119; [www.syha.org.uk](http://www.syha.org.uk); 8 Park Tce; dm £16) offers quality accommodation in a historic building; all rooms have their own bathroom.

**Old School House** (☎ 332 7600; [oschoolh@hotmail.com](mailto:oschoolh@hotmail.com); 194 Renfrew St; s/d £40/60) is a small detached villa, stylishly decorated and excellent value for money.

**Bothy** (☎ 334 4040; 11 Ruthven Lane; lunch/dinner mains £8/12; ☺ lunch & dinner) is light years removed from any bothy you've visited out in the hills. The menu features traditional fare, including pot roast and steak pies, with a uniquely Scottish flavour.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

**National Express** (☎ 0870 580 8080; [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)) runs coaches to/from London Victoria

to Glasgow's Buchanan St bus station (£32, 8½ hours, three daily).

**Virgin Trains** (☎ 08457 222333; [www.virgintrains.co.uk](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk)) link London Euston and Glasgow Central (5¼ hours, at least 15 daily); fares vary widely.

**Scottish Citylink** (☎ 0870 550 5050; [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)) bus service 900 links Edinburgh and Glasgow (£5, one hour 20 minutes, every 15 minutes).

**First ScotRail** (☎ 0845 755 0033; [www.firstscotrail.com](http://www.firstscotrail.com)) shuttles between Glasgow Queen St and Edinburgh Waverley (£10, 50 minutes, every 30 minutes).

For international flight and ferry connections, see p304.

### ALONG THE GREENOCK CUT

<b>Duration</b>	3–3¼ hours
<b>Distance</b>	6.5 miles (10.5km)
<b>Difficulty</b>	easy
<b>Start/Finish</b>	Cornalees Bridge
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Inverkip (right)
<b>Transport</b>	private
<b>Summary</b>	Explore an early-19th-century engineering marvel in the Inverclyde hills, with magnificent sea and mountain views across the Firth of Clyde.

Serving as the western gateway to Glasgow, the district of Inverclyde includes the major port and industrial towns of Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock, as well as the coastal villages of Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, further south and west. Inland, two large reservoirs, Loch Thom and the Gryfe, and an extensive area of rolling moorland are highlights of the 30,000-acre Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, a popular park in the Renfrewshire hills.

The Greenock Cut walk snakes across north- and west-facing hillsides above the maritime centres, affording superb views of the Firth of Clyde and beyond. Five miles of the walk follow the now-disused aqueduct know as the Greenock Cut, built between 1825 and 1827 to carry water from the Great Reservoir (later renamed Loch Thom) to a booming Greenock. Robert Thom headed this engineering feat, subcontracting the work to teams that excavated countless tons of earth and rock and built 23 bridges. A great deal of work has

been done in recent years to clear the aqueduct of masses of vegetation, to improve the path and to repair bridges and the stone bothies where the workmen who de-iced the aqueduct were housed.

### PLANNING Maps

The OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 341 *Greenock, Largs & Millport* covers the route.

### Information Sources

**Cornalees visitor centre** (☎ 521458; [www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk](http://www.clydemuirshiel.co.uk)), at the start of the walk, houses a small display about the surrounding area and sells drinks and snacks. Pick up a leaflet about the Greenock Cut.

### NEAREST TOWN Inverkip

☎ 01475 / pop 1598

Once a whisky smugglers' stopover on runs from Argyll and the islands, the conservation village of Inverkip, 2.8 miles from the Cornalees visitor centre, is a quiet haven from the city.

### SLEEPING & EATING

**Foresters House B&B** (☎ 521433; [www.forestershouse.com](http://www.forestershouse.com); Station Rd; s/d £35/24, cottage s/d £26/40) extends a very friendly welcome to its superbly appointed rooms, or the Forester's Cottage with bunkhouse-style accommodation.

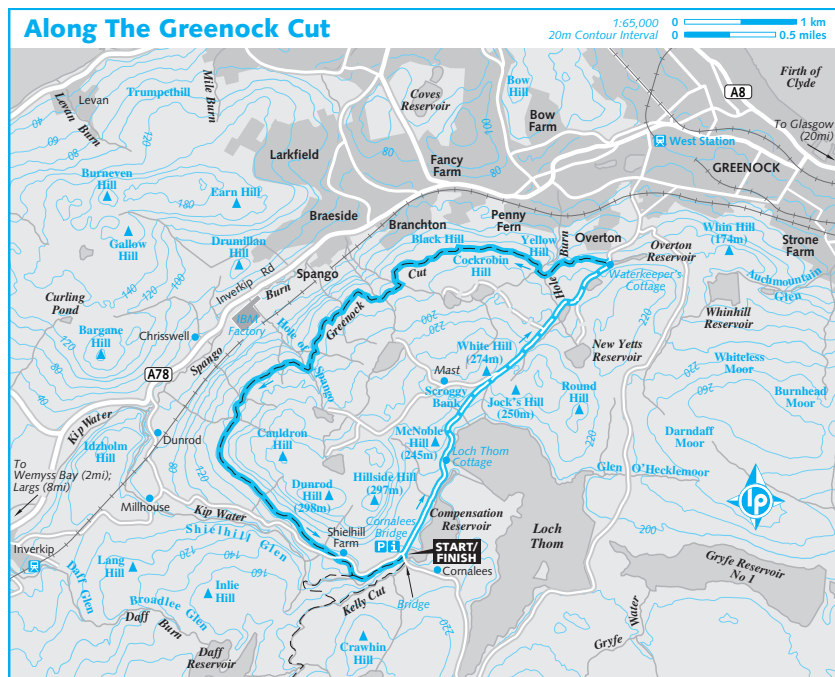
**Inverkip Hotel** (☎ 521478; [www.inverkip.co.uk](http://www.inverkip.co.uk); Main St; s/d £45/68, mains £8-17; ☺ lunch & dinner), in an old coaching inn, has comfortable rooms. In the dining room (popular with the locals), the extensive menu includes traditional and an unusually imaginative vegetarian selection.

**Kip General Store** (Main St) does sandwiches as well as the usual groceries. There's a **Londis** (A78) supermarket at the northern end of the village.

### GETTING THERE & AWAY

**Strathclyde Passenger Transport** (SPT; ☎ 0141 332 6811; [www.spt.co.uk](http://www.spt.co.uk)) has a suburban train service from Glasgow Central to Wemyss Bay that stops at Inverkip (£7 cheap day return, 50 minutes, at least 12 daily).

It's a 40-minute trip by car from Glasgow, via the M8 (A8) west to Greenock then the A78 to Inverkip.



## GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

There are no bus services to the start of the walk. From Inverkip train station it's a 3.5-mile walk along rural roads. Walk down Station Rd to the main street, turning right and right again after 200m up Langhouse Rd. Veer left along Millhouse Rd, past a cemetery, to a junction. Continue in the same direction along Millhouse Rd. Turn right at a T-junction and continue to Cornalees visitor centre.

By car, turn left from the A78 into Clyde-Muirshiel Park, 4.2 miles from Greenock (north of Inverkip). Drive 2.5 miles further to the Cornalees Bridge Visitor Centre.

## THE WALK

From the Cornalees visitor centre set out northeast through a kissing gate beside a cattle grid and along the road. It follows the shore of Compensation Reservoir (linked to the much larger Loch Thom) to an iron gate, then winds uphill to Loch Thom Cottage. Go through a kissing gate and continue on a gravel road, soon passing a small fountain (drinkable), built by the WWI Gallipoli-

bound 5th Battalion Argyll and Southern Highlanders who trained here. Pass a road to the left, though it's worth the 20 minutes or so needed to reach the top of **Scroggy Bank** (topped by a communications mast) for wide views.

Spectacular views open up as the track descends northeast past two small reservoirs. You can see Greenock's busy port with its towering cranes, the Firth of Clyde, Helensburgh and the southern Highlands beyond, including the flattish top of Ben Lomond. Continue to **Overton** and the former waterkeeper's cottage, at the walk's lowest point (50 minutes from the start). Turn left (west) onto Greenock's famous **aqueduct**; just keep to the serpentine footpath for the next 5 miles. The first major feature (10 minutes from Overton) is **Hole Burn** with a sluice gate. About 200m further on, pass the first of Greenock Cut's bridges, which gave access to the now-fallow pastures.

As Greenock recedes from view the sprawling IBM factory begins to dominate the panorama below (30 minutes from Hole Burn). After a while the path crosses

the stream hiding in the **Hole of Spango**, a deep and lush valley incised into the hillside. A bit further along, the large tower of a power station near Inverkip appears. The oil-powered station, a 30-year-old eyesore has, disgracefully, only worked once, when a four-day coal-miner's strike coincided with a cargo of oil sitting in the harbour. Beyond the tower the hills on the Isle of Arran (p97) provide a pleasing contrast.

Go on to the road at **Shielhill Farm**, cross and continue along the aqueduct, soon heading through some fine old oaks. A short flight of steps leads to the road, only 50m from the Cornalees visitor centre (two hours from Hole Burn).

## A CAMPSIE CAPER

<b>Duration</b>	4–4½ hours
<b>Distance</b>	8.9 miles (14.4km)
<b>Difficulty</b>	moderate
<b>Start/Finish</b>	Blanefield
<b>Nearest Towns</b>	Glasgow (p52,)
<b>Transport</b>	bus
<b>Summary</b>	A glorious half-day excursion over the grassy Campsie Fells on Glasgow's gentle northern doorstep, with superb panoramic views.

There are undoubtedly plenty of advantages to living in Glasgow, and one must surely be the proximity of the Campsie Fells. This broad, undulating spread of grassy hills, intersected by deep, peaty glens, sprawls east-west above the city's northwestern suburbs and separates the Clyde valley from that of the River Endrick, which flows into Loch Lomond. Popular on weekends, during the week it feels remote and breezy, and you'll probably have the hills to yourself. Knobbly Dumgoyne stands at the western end of the range, while the highest point, Earl's Seat (578m), the objective of this walk, sits in the western reaches. In the east the hills are broad, with some forested and others bare and grassy. The views north to the edge of the Highlands are inspirational, and there's a keen sense of being on the threshold of real hills. The first part of the walk follows a track that harks right back to Glasgow's boom era in the 19th century (see the boxed text, p57).

## PLANNING Maps

The OS Explorer 1:25,000 map No 348 *Campsie Fells* and OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 64 *Glasgow* cover this walk.

## GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

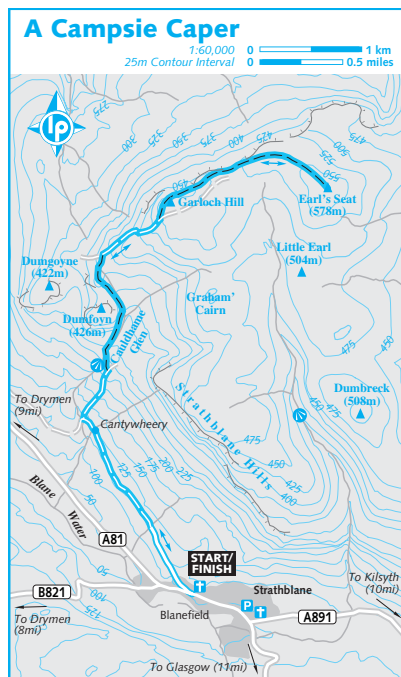
The walk starts at the corner of the A81 and Campsie Dene Rd, beside a war memorial. About 150m east of here, on the A81, you'll find the **Pestle & Mortar** (☎ daily), a popular deli-coffee shop, a small Spar supermarket and the **Blane Valley Inn** (☎ 01360 770303).

**First Edinburgh** (☎ 0131 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) operates bus service 10 from Glasgow Buchanan St bus station to Balfour via Blanefield (£5, 40 minutes, 14 services Monday to Saturday, eight Sunday).

By car, Blanefield is on the A81 Glasgow–Aberfoyle road, 0.5 miles west of the A891 junction in Strathblane. There is very limited roadside parking right at the start of the walk; alternatively, turn right in front of the 'No Entry' sign along a narrow lane that leads to a large car park behind a church.

## THE WALK

Set out along Campsie Dene Rd (a private road, closed to vehicles); beyond the large houses and extensive gardens, the road becomes a vehicle track through farmland. It passes a few stone-walled enclosures surrounding exposed sections of the trunk pipeline (see the boxed text, p57). Beyond the third gate across the track, as you start to gain some height, glance down to the left to catch sight of an aqueduct carrying the canal across a burn. Around 200m further on you pass **Cantyweery** farmhouse, cross a stream and turn right through a kissing gate (about 30 minutes from the start). The grassed track gains height straightaway. With a burn nearby to the west, cross a channel and continue on a grassy path, parallel to the burn and still climbing. About 30m above the top of a small wooded gorge sheltering a slender waterfall, ford the burn and cross a stile on the far side of the stone wall ahead. Continue on a lesser path, steeply uphill, more or less northwards, through bracken for a while. Use the fence between you and the burn in Cauldham Glen as a guide to the line of the path across the steep slopes of Dumfryn and up to a wide shallow valley. Here the



panoramic view takes in all of Glasgow and the Clyde valley, Loch Lomond and its surrounding hills to the west, and the Trossachs and many other hills to the north.

The return is simply a matter of retracing your steps, but with a completely different outlook, dominated by Loch Lomond and, from varying angles, the hills to the north and west. Where the track turns north at a saddle, head south to cross the eastern side of the grassy hill east of prominent Dumgoyne; descend to the stile crossed on the way out, continue down to the vehicle track at Cantyweehy and back to Blanefield.

## FALLS OF CLYDE

<b>Duration</b>	4–4¼ hours
<b>Distance</b>	8.5 miles (13.7km)
<b>Difficulty</b>	easy
<b>Start</b>	Crossford
<b>Finish</b>	New Lanark
<b>Nearest Town</b>	Lanark (opposite)
<b>Transport</b>	bus

**Summary** Follow the surging River Clyde upstream to the pioneering village of New Lanark and the stunning Falls of Clyde.

fence turns east; desert it and strike out independently, northwest across the hillside, up to the amorphous ridge on the skyline. Here, close to the escarpment, you'll find a path leading northeast. A vehicle track comes up to the ridge at a saddle and leads northeast between two prominent knolls. This is your route for the next couple of miles (one hour from Cantyweehy).

Soon you pass the scant remains of some stone cottages and climb steeply, past a cluster of broken basalt columns. About 10 minutes further on, the track forks; continue along the path northeast up to a small cairn on **Garloch Hill**. The way ahead reveals itself and you can see Earls Seat to the east, distinguished by a fence and pillar. The path drops down, past a tiny lochan among the peat hags nearby. Ignore a track to the right at the start of the next rise, unless you feel like saving some energy and skirting the hillock ahead. On the far side, cross a comparatively wide saddle, keeping to the northern edge of the peaty ground and turn southeast to gain the top of **Earl's Seat** (45 minutes from the two knolls). The

The Clyde Walkway, a 40-mile-long (65km) footpath stretching from Glasgow's centre to the Falls of Clyde above New Lanark, has transformed and made accessible the banks of this beloved river (see the boxed text, p52). The most spectacular section links the villages of Crossford and New Lanark through heavily wooded gorges. The clearly waymarked route winds upstream past the once-great Stonebyres Linn (21m high), now harnessed for its power, to New Lanark, a cotton mill village founded in 1785. Hugely successful, it became Scotland's largest mill village in 1799. Visionary Robert Owen introduced revolutionary labour management practices and workers' conditions in what he called his Millennium Experiment. Now a World Heritage site, New Lanark has excellent visitor facilities and a history museum.

The walkway culminates along an 18th-century trail that ascends past Dundaff Linn (3m high), Corra Linn (28m) and, finally, three-stage Bonnington Linn (11m). Ice melt created the gorges and falls 10,000 years ago, carving up the 400-million-year-

## KEEPING GLASGOW HEALTHY *Peter Wilkes*

Glasgow's population grew rapidly during the first half of the 19th century, putting an unbearable strain on its water supply. Polluted water caused outbreaks of cholera that killed thousands. Glasgow's city fathers called on John Frederick Bateman, one of the foremost civil engineers of the day, to come up with a plan to provide clean water for Glaswegians. His solution was a large dam that raised the level of Loch Katrine in the Trossachs, 26 miles of trunk pipeline to carry the water to a storage reservoir and a network of pipes to distribute the water around the city. The scheme was officially opened in 1859 by Queen Victoria and is still in use. The Earl's Seat walk follows part of the trunk line, along the road built for its construction. On the road you can see several examples of the various structures of the main aqueduct.

old red-sandstone base. Romantic painters, including JM Turner and Andrew Nasmyth, and the famous writer Sir Walter Scott were enthralled by the falls, especially Corra Linn. According to legend, Corra was a princess who catapulted over the falls on horseback; she became the subject of numerous works. Since the 1920s the Bonnington Power Station has captured the falls' collective force.

The importance of conserving the area surrounding the falls has been recognised in the creation of the Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, cared for by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).

## PLANNING Maps

The OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 72 *Upper Clyde Valley* covers the area.

## NEAREST TOWN Lanark

☎ 01555 / pop 8253

Lanark wouldn't score highly for charm or beauty, being cruelly compromised by busy roads. Nevertheless, it can serve as a convenient base for exploring its utterly different neighbour, the World Heritage village of New Lanark. The original cotton mill buildings have been superbly restored and the village is a comparatively quiet haven, despite its well-deserved popularity. **Lanark TIC** (☎ 661661; lanark@visitscotland.com; Horsemarket, Ladyacre Rd) is close to the train and bus stations.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust's **Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre** (☎ 665262; New Lanark; admission £3) has a display about the Wildlife Reserve and sells books about Scottish wildlife. **New Lanark Visitor Centre** (☎ 661345; www.newlanark.org; admission £6) commemorates Owen's

work; pick up a village heritage trail leaflet to guide your exploration of the superbly restored village.

## SLEEPING & EATING

**Summerlea B&B** (☎ 664889; 32 Hyndford Rd; s/d £30/50) offers superbly appointed rooms in a central location.

**St Catherine's B&B** (☎ 662295; 1 Kenilworth Rd; s/d £30/54) is in an impressive building not far from the town centre.

In New Lanark you can stay at **New Lanark SYHA Hostel** (☎ 0870 004 1143; www.syha.org.uk; Wee Row; dm £14), which occupies a former mill building overlooking the river, or in distinctly upmarket **New Lanark Mill Hotel** (☎ 667200; www.newlanark.org; New Lanark Mills; s/d £70/110), in a superbly restored cotton mill.

**Prego** (☎ 666300; 3 High St; mains £13-16; ☺ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun), specialising in Italian cuisine, is definitely the place to eat in Lanark.

**Mr A's Cafe** (☎ 663797; 90 High St; mains £5-8; ☺ lunch & dinner) is a very friendly place, popular with the locals. It's not exactly stylish but servings are generous and it's licensed.

The **Mill Pantry** (New Lanark; snacks & light meals to £5; ☺ 10am-5pm) is a cafeteria-style place in former Mill No 3; choose between Broughton ales and Fairtrade coffee.

For self-catering supplies, there's a Somerfield supermarket near the TIC.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

**Strathclyde Passenger Transport** (SPT; ☎ 0141 332 6811; www.spt.co.uk) trains connect Glasgow Central and Lanark (£5, 55 minutes, half-hourly Monday to Saturday, hourly Sunday).

## GETTING TO/FROM THE WALK

**McKindless** (☎ 01698 386990; www.mckindlessgroup.co.uk) bus service 31 links Lanark and



## NEW LANARK – BIRTHPLACE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

New Lanark is incontestably one of the must-see places when you come to Scotland. It's a piece of good fortune that the village is right on the Clyde Walkway. A superb example of an 18th-century planned industrial village, New Lanark became a Unesco World Heritage site in 2001.

The village was founded by David Dale and Robert Arkwright in 1785 to harness the River Clyde's abundant water to power cotton mill machinery. In its heyday the mill was one of the largest in Scotland, employing 2500 people. In 1800 Dale's son-in-law Robert Owen and some business partners purchased the mill and Owen moved into the manager's office, a post he held for 24 years. In 1813 he formed a new company to give him freer rein to put more of his ideas into practice.

Dale had hired hundreds of children, mostly orphans, to help run the mills; Owen abolished child labour and opened a village school (around 50 years before education became compulsory in Scotland) where corporal punishment was forbidden. He introduced free health care, a crèche for working mothers, a cooperative shop and evening classes for adults. As an astute businessman, he also introduced working methods that improved the quality of the cotton produced. Happily, most of Owen's reforms were maintained by his successors.

Towards the end of the 19th century the mill diversified, mainly into rope production. However, it was imprisoned by its site in the narrow, rugged valley, which made expansion or redevelopment prohibitively expensive. The mill closed in 1968. Salvation came with the establishment of the New Lanark Trust in 1974. Restoration of the austere handsome terrace houses and the mill buildings began and the village has never looked back. New Lanark now welcomes thousands of visitors annually. For more information go to [www.newlanark.org](http://www.newlanark.org) and [www.robert-owen.com](http://www.robert-owen.com).

Crossford (£1.50, 15 minutes, hourly Monday to Saturday) at the start of the walk. Here, from the intersection of the B7056 (Braidwood Rd) and the A72, walk south-east along the latter for 650m to a river-bank car park.

By car from Glasgow, take the M74 then the A72 south to the B7056 (Braidwood Rd) intersection. Turn right towards Crossford. At a T-junction in the village, turn left along the A72 and continue for 650m to the car park on the left.

**Stuart's Coaches** (☎ 01555 773533) operates a service between Lanark and New Lanark (£1, 10 minutes, hourly Monday to Saturday, half-hourly Sunday). A well-signposted minor road branches from the A73 just west of the Lanark TIC.

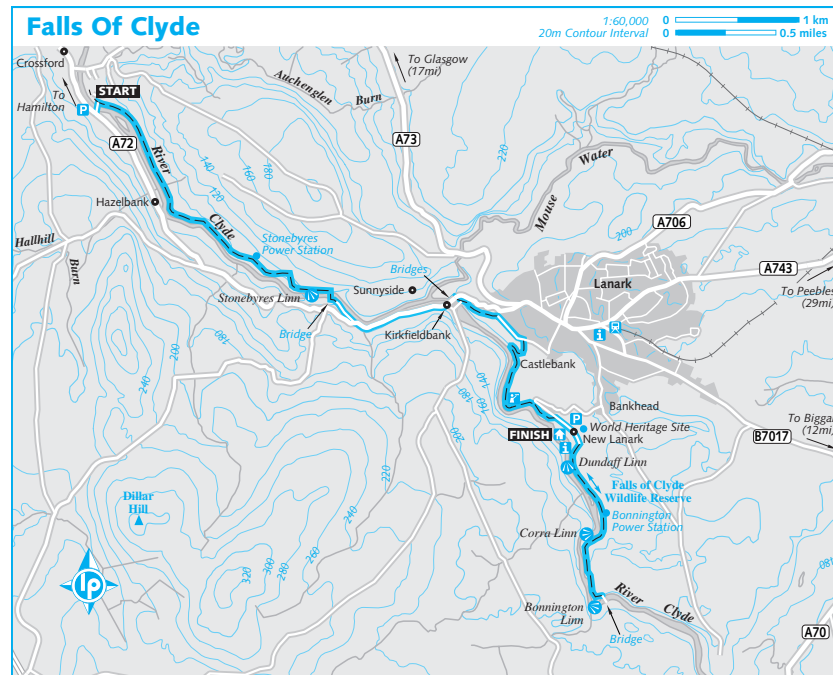
## THE WALK

Cross the footbridge over the River Clyde to join the Clyde Walkway; the path parallels a miniature railway for a few hundred metres, then leads on through quiet countryside. After about 35 minutes you close in on the **Stonebyres power station**, and the path skirts steep cliffs. Pass a large water tank and descend to cross the river on the sluice gates. Continue along a path beside a minor road to a junction with the A72.

A road-side path leads into the village of **Kirkfieldbank** (10 minutes from the sluice gates). There are toilets beside the village hall on the right; the Tavern serves snacks and meals and there's a small shop.

Go through the village and, at the threshold of the bridge over the Clyde, continue down Riverside Rd for 30m to a right bend. Turn left across the old bridge above an island in the river. Walk up past some houses and back to the road-side path, uphill. Take the first turn right (not waymarked at the time of research) and walk down the road towards the water treatment works, then left up a Walkway signposted path. This leads to a minor road, which takes you to the edge of **Castlebank Park**. Turn right along a minor road for about 75m, then right again along a path about 60m short of **Castlebank House**. The path winds down almost to river level; further on, climb steps with New Lanark in view, soon coming to a viewing platform (45 minutes from Kirkfieldbank). More steps lead to a road-side path, whereupon you reverse the trend and go downhill into another world at **New Lanark** (15 minutes from the viewing platform).

Go down steps beside the visitor centre to Mill No 3, housing the Mill Pantry. Turn left towards the Falls of Clyde



visitor centre, soon passing Robert Owen's school. Bear right to the visitor centre. To continue on the Walkway, go through an archway ahead, up steps, with small **Dundaff Linn** nearby, and follow first a path then a boardwalk through trees, close to the river. Continue past a house then go right at a junction past Bonnington power station and up to the lookout for **Corra Linn**, which, at 28m, is the highest of the three falls.

Further on, you may find the SWT's 'peregrine watch' outpost: special fences made of small branches are erected to provide a screen between peregrine falcons nesting on the cliffs opposite and interested passers-by. Then you come to **Bonnington Linn**, perhaps the most impressive of the falls, with at least five separate cascades surging into a large pool (40 minutes from New Lanark).

## SHORT GLASGOW WALK

Legend has it that the unusual geological formation known as the **Whangie** was created by the devil flicking his tail as he fluttered past. The long east-west cliff encrusts the northern slope of Auchineden Hill (357m), a few miles south of Drymen. The views of Loch and Ben Lomond and a host of other hills are absolutely superb, even stopping Queen Victoria in her tracks many moons ago. The walk starts and finishes at Queens View lookout, signposted on the A809 Glasgow-Drymen road; you'll need a car for this one. Allow 1¼ hours for the easy 3.2-mile (5.2km) walk. Consult OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 64. The nearest town is Drymen (p92).

From the car park, cross a stile over a stone wall, follow a boardwalk to a broad, well-trodden path angling up the hillside and on to the base of the cliffs. Here the going becomes rougher, but the path is clear, right along the length of the cliffs. After about 30 minutes, go up through a gap to the moorland plateau and continue west to a trig pillar on the hill's summit for more view feasting. Retrace your steps to the start.



To return to New Lanark, retrace your steps to the house below the power station and 50m further on, bear right along a track marked to New Lanark. This leads to the road in the village, conveniently close to the Village Store, which specialises in Scottish sweets. Access to the bus stop and upper car park is signposted further on, to the right.

## MORE WALKS

### GLASGOW Campsie Fells

Towards the eastern extremity of the Campsies, **Cort-ma Law** (531m) is easily accessible and affords amazingly wide-ranging views beyond the Clyde valley, including Edin-

burgh's Pentland Hills in one direction and the Arran peaks in the other.

A 6.6-mile (10.4km) walk with 400m (1312ft) ascent starts from the village of Clachan of Campsie, just north of the A891 road, which runs along the foot of the fells from Milton of Campsie, north of Kirkintilloch to Strathblane, a few miles north of Milngavie. **First Edinburgh** (☎ 0131 663 9233; www.firstedinburgh.co.uk) bus service 175 operates between Glasgow and Clachan (£3, 50 minutes, 20 daily). OS Landranger 1:50,000 map No 64 covers the walk. Don't leave without dropping in to the **Aldessan Gallery coffee shop** (☎ 01360 313049; mains to £5; ☎ 11am-5pm), a friendly place with artworks decorating the walls and an excellent line in homemade cakes.