

Dunblane Paths



Dunblane Cathedral

Dunblane Cathedral dates mainly from the 13th century although David I established the bishopric in 1150. All that remains of the 12th century church is the square Romanesque tower which although differently aligned, has

been built into the south wall of the later nave. This tower is six storeys high, of which only lower four are original.

The Cathedral was superbly restored in the 19th century and has some very fine carved woodwork and stained glass windows.

The Cathedral is open to the public throughout the year. As the parish church of Dunblane, it is in regular use. The magnificent Flentrop organ was inaugurated in 1990 and can be heard each Sunday and at the series of concerts and musical events that occur throughout the year.



Baxter's Loan

4.8 km / 3 miles / 1h 30 min

A circular walk around Dunblane with views west over the Braes of Doune and east to Sheriffmuir

From the Cathedral go down the High Street to cross the river at the Stirling Arms Hotel (now Riverside). Bear right through Bridgend and continue by a footbridge over the railway. Cross the road and take the steps between two houses to join the Doune Road (A820) at Springfield Terrace. Cross to the telephone box in the Old Doune Road and follow the road uphill for 1 km passing Dunblane High School on your left. (1.6 km / 1 mile). Continue slightly downhill for 50m to a Public Footpath leading off to the left, known as Baxter's Loan. Continue along the loan for 1 km and turn sharp left at the way-marked sign

near Wanderwrag Cottage. (Note: This section of the path can be very muddy especially after rain)

Continue downhill and past the small housing development at the former Hillside Farm. (3 km / 2 miles). Some 30m past the houses follow the way-marked path, Argyle Way, on the left to a metal gate into a field. Continue along the top of the field, which is often muddy, and cross a stile before heading downhill to the Church of the Holy Family. To return to the Cathedral bear left along Claredon Place, right at Sunnyside and left at the traffic lights. Follow the road over the railway. Turn left into Stirling Road and downhill to the High Street, and back to the Cathedral

2 Sheriffmuir

8.44 km / 5.25 miles / 2 hours 15 mins

A ramble to the historic Sheriffmuir, with spectacular views over Dunblane and the Ochils.

From the Cathedral, go left along Kirk Street then right into Sinclairs Street to join Smithy Loan at a T-junction. Turn left and then right at the Perth Road. Cross the road, go past the entrance to the Doubletrees by Hilton Dunblane Hydro, then left into Newton Loan. Follow this road which becomes a footpath, where it meets Ochiltree, cross it and go straight on up the narrow tarmac path to reach another cul-de-sac.

Bear right across the road to join a tarmac path to Newton Crescent. Bear right again across the road and head uphill to the start of Leighton Avenue. Take the track on the right signposted "Sheriffmuir" and follow it uphill to Dykedale farm steading - don't forget to look at the views behind you. Bear right and follow the way-marked path uphill along the field edge, through a kissing gate and then mixed woodland. The woodlands here are part of the Kippendavie Estate which is active in forestry and game management. Please keep dogs under control. Continue until you meet a track, bear right to reach a way marked path between two conifer plantations. Follow this path and eventually the views open out to the Ochils on your right. At the end of the track you reach the MacRae Monument. (4.08 km / 2.54 miles).

Gathering Stone From the monument follow the sign leading back along the footpath across the heather moorland for some 600 m (10 min) to the Gathering Stone.

To return to Dunblane either retrace your steps or turn right at the monument and head down the Sheriffmuir Road to the junction with the Glen Road. Turn right and follow the Glen Road down to the Fourways roundabout and back to the Cathedral (4.36 km / 2.71 miles)



3 Old Doune Road and Kilbryde

8.45 km / 5.25 miles / 2 hours

A stroll along part of the old road to Doune returning via Kilbryde Chapel

This walk follows the same route as Walk 1 until you pass Dunblane High School. Continue past the Baxter's Loan sign down to the footbridge over the A9 then down to a small burn. This crossing is known as Murdoch's Ford and, traditionally, is where Regent Murdoch Stewart, Duke of Albany (1362 - 1425) was captured, taken to Stirling and beheaded for treason.

Continue straight on to Greenyards Farm. Some 500m past the farm turn right down a track to join the Doune Road (A820) (3.42 km / 2.13 miles).

Take care crossing the A820 and take the minor road straight ahead followed by a right-hand fork signposted to Kilbryde. This passes Auchenteck Farm and leads to a cross-roads. Kilbryde Chapel and churchyard are some 100m straight ahead. A village once stood near the church. In 1800 it had a population of 700 or so and remained occupied until the 1920s but all trace of the houses have now gone. After exploring the churchyard return to the crossroads, turn left and follow the road to its junction with the A820, passing over the disused Dunblane-Callander-Oban railway line, closed in the 1960s. Turn left at the A820 crossing over the A9 and head back to Dunblane. (Take care crossing the slip roads leading to, and from, the A9)

Turn left into Kilbryde Crescent at the foot of which bear left then right before the Old Mill building to cross the Allan Water by the Faery Bridge. Once over the river follow the path to the right and return to the Cathedral.

4 Darn Road

6.9 km / 4 miles / 2 hours 15 mins.

A walk by the banks of the Allan Water along the ancient "Dobhran" (Old Gaelic: Water Road) route to Bridge of Allan.

From Dunblane Cathedral go down the High Street, up Beech Road and across the B8033 (dual carriageway). From here the route is signposted some 20 metres north of the bus stop. The first section runs along the edge of Dunblane Golf Course, continues through woodland then downhill following the wall behind Kippenross House. (Note: This section is very rough and can be

very muddy) and then crosses the Wharry Burn via a wooden footbridge (2.3 km / 1.5 miles)

From this point there are several options:

Option 1

Take the track on the left which leads uphill for some 600 metres. At a junction a driveway leads to the left to Drumdrulls House, but bear right downhill until you meet the Glen Road. Then either turn left and return to Dunblane through part of Kippenraik Glen, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and into Dunblane via the Glen Road to the Fourways Roundabout (3.91 km / 2.43 miles) OR turn right and follow the road downhill into Bridge of Allan (1.61 km / 1 mile).

Option 2

Bear right and follow the track along the river bank for some 150 metres, past the metal bridge. Ahead you can see a cave in the hillside

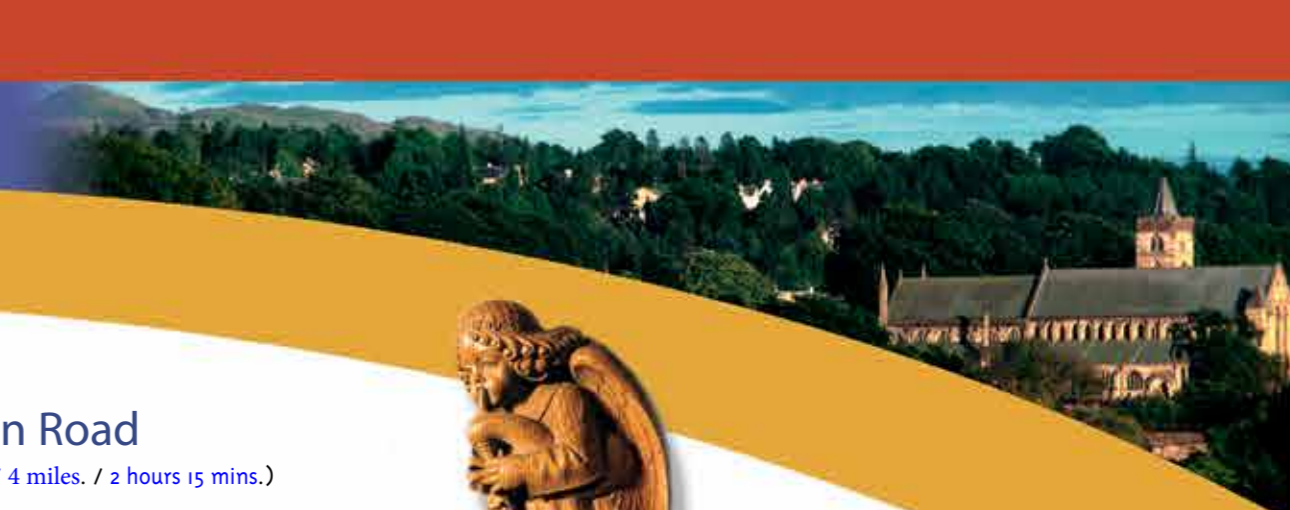


known as Robert Louis Stevenson's cave. He described it as 'a cavern by the side of a wide meadow which has been part of me these last twelve years or so' and it is thought to be the inspiration for Ben Gunn's cave in Treasure Island. The path beyond the cave is CLOSED. [Storms in 2012 washed away the bridge over Cock's Burn. This route to Bridge of Allan is NOT recommended. As of January 2013, the path was still closed]. Retrace your steps to the metal bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left.

Follow the path along the river to a small open sandy area. From here follow the way-marked path uphill to the railway line. Cross over the line via the footbridge then bear left and follow the path to reach Milsey Bank House. This path was once part of the main path to all of the mills on the river between Dunblane and Bridge of Allan. Milsey Bank was the bank for these mills. Bear right at the house and follow the road past Lecropt Nursery until the junction with the A9. Turn left and follow the road downhill into Bridge of Allan. (2.06 km / 1.28 miles from Wharry Burn)

Public Path
Ashfield ¾
Dunblane 2

Return to Dunblane either by:
a. retracing the outward route
b. public transport (bus or train)





Dunblane Paths



Dunblane



Walk your way to health

- Walking requires **no specialist equipment, but strong waterproof footwear is recommended**, or expense and is the most accessible way for people from all walks of life to become **more active**.
- The greatest increase in health benefit comes to inactive people who start to take regular **moderate physical activity**, such as brisk walking, cycling, dancing, swimming or gardening.
- Physical inactivity is one of the most common **risk factors for heart disease** in the UK. People who are active have a better quality of life and a greater chance of **living longer**.
- Walking can therefore play a **positive role** in creating a healthier lifestyle overall.



Walk your way to health

What are the Benefits of Being Active ?

- Regular physical activity can lead to a **stronger, healthier heart**, which can help protect against heart disease, stroke and some cancers.
- Regular walking can **reduce** your risk of diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and osteoporosis.
- Walking can **increase** confidence, improve stamina and increase energy levels.
- Can also help **weight control** and promotes a more positive frame of mind.

Useful Information

- Traveline Scotland** - 0871 200 22 33
Scotland-wide public transport information
www.travelinescotland.com
- Dunblane Health Centre **01786 822595**
- General information on Dunblane places to eat, to stay and to visit in Dunblane
www.dunblane.info
- Weekly led walks**
Active Stirling - 0300 028 0101
www.activestirling.org.uk
- Maps**
OS Landranger sheet 57
OS Explorer sheet 366

Annual Events

- Doune & Dunblane Fling**
- last weekend in May
- Doune & Dunblane Agricultural Show** - 1st Saturday in July
- Dunblane Civic Society** - New Year Walk 2nd January
- Dunblane Market** - Monthly - 1st Friday of every month, except January & February Victoria Hall

Healthy Living Enjoy your Walk



Know the Code before you go... Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to :

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment.

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



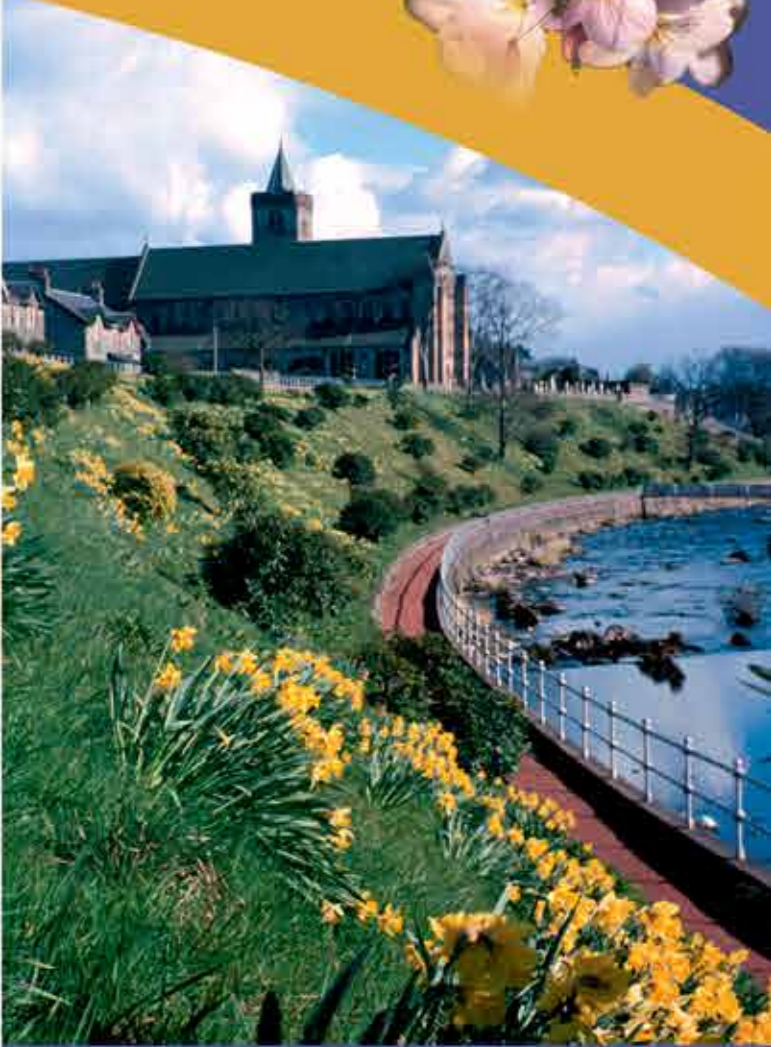
Acknowledgements

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If you have any comments or suggestions please contact:
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Community Paths