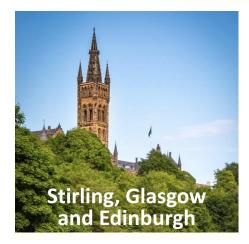
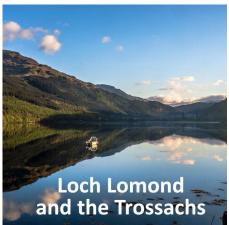
Things to do



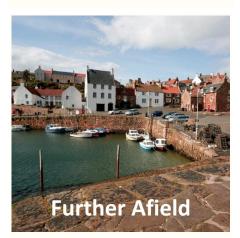


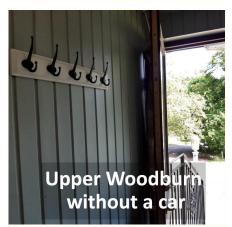












Upper Woodburn without a Car

Getting around by public transport.

The 89 bus from Glasgow stops right at the end of the drive. It goes twice an hour from Buchanan Street Bus Station to our bus stop which is called Auchenreoch Holdings. The journey takes 40 minutes and the bus also stops in Kirkintilloch (5 mins) and Bishopbriggs on the way to Glasgow and, if you travel in the other direction, it goes to Kilsyth (5 mins).



A quicker way into Glasgow, and also with direct trains to Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Stirling is to take the train from Croy. This is a 12 minute taxi ride away and we'd recommend <u>Broomhill Taxis</u> in Kirkintilloch who are very reliable.

Use googlemaps to find out the times for buses and trains.

Car Rental.

There is an excellent and good-value car rental place only a mile and a half away from Upper Woodburn which we have used many many times. <u>AMK</u> (North Glasgow Branch) will rent you a compact car for £38 a day or £190 for the week.

Taxi

Taxi can be a pretty efficient way of getting about to local places if you are a group (and especially to get to the station) <u>Broomhill Taxis</u> are good - but there are also plenty of other local firms.

Days Out By Train

From Croy station some really great days out can be had by train. Here's a few

Linlithgow (direct trains)

Visit <u>Linlithgow Palace</u> and the picturesque town. You can get a bus to the Bo'ness and Kinneil Steam Railway from opposite the Four Marys Pub



Photo from historicenvironment.scot

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling (direct trains)

see the section on what to do in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling

Dunblane and Bridge of Allan (change in Stirling).

Nice walks along the river between the two towns, Dunblane Cathedral and historic town centre. Great restaurants (<u>Friends of Mine</u> in Bridge of Allan and <u>The Riverside</u> in Dunblane)

North Berwick (change in Edinburgh)

Lovely seaside town with walks, the <u>Scottish Seabird Centre</u> to visit (nice cafe), cruises out to Bass rock to see the seabirds in spring and summer.

On Trainline to Inverness (change in Stirling)

Dunkeld and Burnham <u>The Hermitage</u> at Dunkeld is the arboretum of the Dukes of Athol and has incredible trees, waterfalls and the extraordinary Ossian's hall, built to magnify the sounds of the waterfall. Look out for the well-hidden hermitage and walk up the hill to the pine lookout. Birnham has a great <u>community arts centre</u> with café and Beatrix Potter centre for small

kids. Walk along the Tay to see the ancient Birnham Oak (mentioned by Shakespeare) and to Dunkeld's cathedral, shops and pubs. <u>The Taybank</u> Pub is famous for its traditional music and traditional food.

Other places further afield on the line to Inverness are also possible in a long day (eg Pitlochry, Blair Atholl (highly recommended for <u>Blair Castle</u> and its gardens and the <u>watermill</u> with tearoom) and Newtonmore (for the folk wonderful Highland folk museum and the Highland wildlife park)

The Clyde Coast and Islands

You can also change stations in Glasgow (from Queen Street to Central) to access the Clyde coast and some more ambition day trips. Check the Waverley timetable as this historic paddle steamer still plies the ports of the Clyde in the summer season, or just take the train and ferry. Highlights are Brodick Castle on Arran, Renting a bike and cycling round Great Cumbrae, the Benmore Botanic Gardens near Dunoon (especially in May when the Rhododendrons are out) and Mount Stuart on Bute, the incredible home of the Marquis of Bute. All can be reached by train and ferry

Bus Tours

If you want to see the west coast of Scotland it would be worth taking one of the many bus tours that start from the centre of Glasgow. Rabbies and Discover Scotland have day-tours that start from Glasgow and explore the West coast up to Oban, Glen Coe and Fort William. Expect to spend a long time in a mini-bus!

Glasgow, Edinburgh & Stirling

These three cities are each a short train ride away from Croy station (Glasgow -15 mins, Stirling - 20 mins, and Edinburgh - 35 mins. Each has so much to see but a few of my 'day-out' highlights are below:

Glasgow

The <u>Burrell Collection</u>, Pollok Park and <u>Pollok House</u> - the Burrell, one of the UK's foremost collections of art by an individual, has reopened after an £68 million refurb and Pollok House, a Georgian mansion in landscaped grounds also is home to an extensive art collection.

The Merchant city for the enigmatic <u>Panopticon</u>, the world's oldest surviving music hall, and the <u>Sharmanka Gallery</u>'s incredible and dark kinetic sculptures followed by <u>Café Gandalfi</u> to dine in Tim Stead's amazing interior. If you have time visit <u>GOMA</u>, the Gallery of Modern Art.

<u>Kelvingrove Museum</u>, Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow University and the <u>Hunterian Museums</u> - a whole day of fun to be had, combine with the cafes of the west end and a walk along the Kelvin walkway to the Botanic Gardens

The Transport Museum, the Tall Ship and a ferry to Govan old kirk for the Norse hogback stones: take the free ferry from Zahra Hadid's architectural masterpiece housing 100s of years of Scotland's transport history to historic Govan, the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde to visit the 1000 year-old Govan Stones. Café 13 by Govan underground is a lovely place to visit right by the statue of Mary Barbour.

I've always wanted to do the underground tour of Glasgow Central Station but never got round to it - people tell me it's really good.

Stirling

The old town is tiny but there is loads to visit. Stirling Castle would take the whole day in itself, with museums and a fantastic restoration of the main building where actors dressed as key characters take you though the history of the castle. There are wonderful views and also walks nearby along the steeply wooded sides of the volcanic plug which the castle sits on. The ticket will also get you into <u>Argyll's Lodging</u>, a historic townhouse. Also in the area of the castle is Mar's Wark, a ruined 1570's townhouse, the Church of the Holy Rude and the <u>Stirling Old Town Jail</u>, a restored 1840s prison.

Edinburgh

If you want to spend a day immersed in Edinburgh's history then start with <u>Mary King's Close</u> where you will enter the history of the old town by accessing long-sealed streets and houses cut- off when new houses were built on top in the 18th Century.

Then visit <u>Gladstone's Land</u>, a historic house on the Royal Mile, and of course Edinburgh Castle. For teenagers, the gruesome history of Edinburgh via the Edinburgh Dungeon will be popular.

The <u>Gallery of Modern Art</u> with the landscape sculpture of Charles Jencks outside followed by a walk down the water of Leith walkway will get you away from the busyness of the old town. On the way back to the station, visit the Edinburgh <u>Botanic Gardens</u> and perhaps have one of their famous afternoon teas.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

There are so many day-trips to do in the National Park here are a few:

Balmaha and East Loch Lomond

It's about 30 minutes drive to Balmaha, from here you can walk up conic hill for the classic view of the loch islands, marking out the Highland boundary fault, you can take the short ferry to Inchcailloch where the famous white deer live and take a walk around through the ancient woodland, you can walk up part of the west Highland Way alongside the Loch or even take a ferry to Luss on the other side of the Loch.

Lake of Menteith and Queen Elizabeth Forest Park

Inchmaholm Island is in Scotland's only 'lake' The Lake of Menteith (all the others are lochs) Historic environment Scotland runs ferries to the island where there is an ancient priory and a wonderful tranquil atmosphere. If you carry on to Aberfoyle there are numerous cafes and up the hill the Lodge at Queen Elizabeth Forest park is a great place for walks and has a 'Go Ape' aerial adventure course. It's just over the Duke's Pass to Loch Katrine.

Loch Katrine and Ben A'an

Loch Katrine is the romantic settling for a paddle-steamer trip on the Sir Walter Scott You can rent bikes and cycle round the loch on the traffic free road to the fantastic Stronlaclachar café, and then take the Steam-ship back to the car park. If you are still feeling energetic Ben A'an is a small hill with big character and an incredible view of Loch Katrine.

RSPB Loch Lomond and the Dumpling



RSPB Loch Lomond - image from rspb.org

RSPB Loch Lomond is on the south shores of Loch Lomond and has walks and an incredible array of wildlife. As much of the wildlife is hard to spot, it's best to get a guided tour so contact the reserve to find out when these are happening. Afterwards you can walk up the tiny hidden gem, Dumpling Hill in Gartocharn which is just a 15 minute walk but has the best view of Loch Lomond from the top.

Callander and Bracklin Falls

Callander is a great base to explore the Trossachs. The best place to start the Callander Crags and Braklinn Falls round walk is in the car-park in the village (the ones part-way up the hill get very busy) because then you can finish at the Mhor Bread café for some of their classic pastries and cakes. On the way to Callander is the Blair Drummond Safari Park which is rather popular with younger visitors!

Days Out

Falkirk Wheel, the Kelpies and Callander Park

Falkirk has some great visitor attractions - The Falkirk Wheel links the Union Canal with the Forth and Clyde Canal and was built as a millennium project. It is a real feat on engineering and you can get a ride on a canal boat on the wheel. The Kelpies, huge sculptures of water sprites in horse form, a nod to the heavy horses of Falkirk's industrial past by sculptor Andy Scott are set within Helix Park, which also offers walks and a café and small exhibition. Callander House and Park features in Outlander and has woods and grounds. A circular walk will take you through Callander park and then beneath it through the 845yd Falkirk Tunnel built 200 years ago to transport coal. You can cycle to all these attractions along the canal from Twechar (1.5 miles from Upper Woodburn) if you are feeling energetic



The Kelpies at Helix Park - Image from visitfalkirk.com

Bannockburn and the Wallace Monument

<u>Bannockburn</u>, just outside Stirling was the site of Robert the Bruce's 1314 decisive victory against King Edward and has been memorialised with a multi-media interpretation centre and immersive experience. At the centre of the visitor centre is a 3D enactment of the battle in which you stand at the centre while the action goes on around you - a war game where you can take a battalion into battle on the English or Scottish sides follows and is a great way to understand the battle tactics which brought victory to the Scots that day.

Following that you can continue to the <u>Wallace monument</u> where there is a lovely walk through the woods up to the tower which has four exhibition rooms on the way up the climb to the top and the spectacular views.

Culross

A visit to <u>Culross</u> is like a trip back in time. The town was a key centre of power in Scotland in the 17th and 18th centuries and was a central filming location for Outlander. The National Trust for Scotland has restored the buildings and gardens to an incredible condition and provides great interpretation. It is set on the Firth of Forth with interesting history as the site of the first attempt at a tunnel across the Forth. It merits a whole day out, but if you have time afterwards, <u>Charlestown</u>, just along the coast and a planned village and important centre for limekilns is worth a visit.



Jupiter Artland and Roslyn Glen and Chapel

Probably my favourite day out is to <u>Jupiter Artland</u>. It is an incredible sculpture park with such a wide range of international artists such as Charles Jencks, Phyllida Barlow, Christian Boltanski, Helen Chadwick, Andy Goldsworthy, Antony Gormley, and Anish Kapoor, with art works on a truly landscape scale. The art is set in stunning grounds and they also house temporary exhibitions as well as the permanent works. It isn't far from the incredibly pretty <u>Roslin Glen</u> and the <u>Rosslyn Chapel</u>, which had a starring role in The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.

Comrie and Creiff

One of my favourite walks is up to the <u>Deil's Cauldron</u> at Comrie - especially after rain or in winter when the torrents are fierce. You can extend the walk up to the monument and return to the village for a coffee at the Deli or pub grub at the Comrie Arms Hotel. The Comrie Croft has mountain biking, and there is the distillery.

Castles

If you like Castles - there are so many in the area to visit. Of course Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle are essential. Our favourite of the two (and closest) is <u>Stirling Castle</u>.



Stirling Castle did an incredible restoration recently and have actors dressed as various characters from the castle's past who are incredibly friendly and willing to answer questions. The gardens are gorgeous, the view and the walks up to the castle through the old city - also Argyll's Lodging is included on the ticket and the Old Jail nearby is an additional attraction.

It's not a castle but the <u>Wallace Monument</u> is the perfect afternoon out with a walk through the woods on the way up (with interpretive sculptures) and then a climb through history and various rooms with exhibitions, to the incredible view at the top.

For those looking for somewhere a bit more off the beaten track, <u>Dollar Glen</u> and its <u>Castle Campbell</u> is well worth the trip, we love to walk up through the glen and its woods to approach the castle via the steep climb, but you can also park up nearer the castle.



Clackmannan tower - image from <u>historicenvironment.scot</u>

On the way to Dollar you will see signs to various towers along the '<u>Tower Trail</u>' including at Alloa, Menstrie, Alva and Clackmanan Tower, these towers and castles defending the line of the Ochils. And there are also some great walks up into the Ochils from these villages - particularly starting at Alva and Tillicoultry.



Blackness Castle -

image from <u>historicenvironment.scot</u>

A favourite place, once off the beaten track but now much more popular due to Outlander, is <u>Blackness Castle</u>. It sits in an incredible position out on a peninsular into the Forth with views of the Forth Bridges and fantastic birdwatching. It is one of the most atmospheric castles in Scotland with basalt bedrock and a wharf you can walk out onto. There is a lovely <u>coastal walk</u> along from the village and a <u>pub/café</u> with great atmosphere. Drop off at the <u>Bo'ness and Kinneil railway</u>, a steam heritage line with railway museum on the way back.

<u>Doune Castle</u> has been the site of pilgrimage for Monty Python fans for decades (and now Outlander fans) and is a great day out with walks along the river and lovely pubs and shops in the village. While in Doune you should visit the wonderful <u>Argaty Red Kites</u> where you can see a real spectacle of wildlife especially good in winter.

Outlander Locations Nearby

The area around Upper Woodburn is hoatching with sites from the Outlander series including Jamie's home of Lallybroch, the house of the Duke of Sandringham, Fort William where Jamie was incarcerated, Castle Leoch - home to Colum MacKenzie and Wentworth prison.

There is a fantastic interactive map here

https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film/outlander/ with detailed information about each site.



Some of the key filming locations within 30 minutes:

Callendar House - Falkirk (Season 2) Steeped in history, this gorgeously decorated 14th century house, set within the grounds of Callendar Park, is an architectural gem. The authentic Georgian working kitchen was used as part of Bellhurst Manor, the home of the Duke of Sandringham. Open All Year (closed Tuesdays). Falkirk, FK1 1YR www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org.uk

Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway (Season 1) was transformed into a wartime London railway station where Claire and Frank said their goodbyes. Tour this heritage railway and explore Scotland's largest railway museum, before taking the chance to board a preserved vintage steam or diesel-hauled train. Open Mar - Oct. Bo'ness Station, EH51 9AQ www.bkrailway.co.uk

Muiravonside Country Park, Linlithgow (Season 2) Located between Linlithgow and Falkirk, the park lent its backdrop to the dramatic Battle of Prestonpans, and doubled both as a British encampment and the English countryside. Open All Year. Whitecross, EH49 6LW www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org.uk

Blackness Castle (Seasons 1 & 2) Standing looking out over the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh is the impressive Blackness Castle, often referred to as 'the ship that never sailed' due to its ship-like shape. This 15th century fortress provided the setting for the Fort William headquarters of Black Jack Randall, and also featured in the heart-wrenching scene of Jamie's incarceration. Open All Year. Blackness, EH49 7NH www.historicenvironment.scot

Gray Buchanan Park, Falkirk (Season 4) - Known locally as Parkhill, the site has pretty woodland areas alongside the meandering Polmont Burn, and large rolling parkland areas with mature tree avenues. This is where Jamie and Young Ian buried Gavin Hayes after he was hanged for stealing in Charleston, South Carolina. Please note there is no graveyard in the park. Polmont, FK2 0XR www.falkirk.gov.uk

Linlithgow Palace (Season 1) - The entrance and corridors of this ruined palace were used as Wentworth Prison where Jamie was imprisoned. Once a favoured royal residence of the Stewart kings and queens and the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots, this wonderful 15th century site, with its elegant courtyard, still oozes charm. Open All Year. Linlithgow, EH49 7AL www.historicenvironment.scot

Loch Katrine - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park - (Season 2) Soak up the peace and tranquillity of the area, and discover the roads travelled by Roger and Brianna when they first became friends after meeting in Inverness. Open all year. Boat trips from the Trossachs Pier. Callander, FK17 8HZ www.lochkatrine.com

Doune Castle - (Season 1) plays a leading role in the show, substituting for the fictional Castle Leoch - home to Colum MacKenzie and his clan in the 18th century. It also features in the 20th century episode when Claire and Frank visited the castle in ruins on a day trip. Open All Year. Doune, FK16 6EA www.historicenvironment.scot

Deanston Distillery, Doune (Season 2) Housed in a former cotton mill, Deanston Distillery provided the setting for Jamie's cousin Jared's wine warehouse at the docks in Le Havre. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the distillery to discover the centuries-old tradition of whisky distilling. Open All Year. Doune, FK16 6AG www.deanstonmalt.com

Loads of places in Glasgow including: Pollok country Park, Kelvingrove Museum, George Square, Glasgow University, Glasgow Cathedral

Culross (Season 1 & 4) an incredibly historic little town on the forth that was a centre for trade in the 17th and 18th Centuries, beautifully preserved buildings and gardens run by the National Trust for Scotland. Culross was used as Cranesmuir, and the location for Gellis Duncan's house. https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culross

Stirling University (Season 2) The University is situated on the site of the historic Airthrey Estate. The walkway between the university buildings doubled as the walkway at Boston Airport where Brianna met Roger and the Pathfoot Building was used as Inverness College, where Brianna meets Geillis. Open All Year. Stirling, FK9 4LA www.stir.ac.uk

Beecraigs Country Park (Season 4) this 913-acre country park is a great place for enjoying the countryside and visiting the red deer and Highland cattle at the animal attraction. Have fun at the play area or stay for longer at the caravan & camping site. The park doubled as the North Carolina wilderness which Jamie and Claire rode through after leaving River Run. On the journey through the forest, they became separated during a thunder storm and Claire was haunted by the ghost of Otter-Tooth. Linlithgow, EH49 6PL www.westlothian.gov.uk

Hopetoun House (Seasons 1,2,3,4) is the setting for the home of the Duke of Sandringham. The rear of the House was the location for the dual between the Duke and the head of the McDonald clan, and the courtyard behind the Stables Tearoom features regularly as a Parisian street location in Series 2. Midhope castle, in the grounds of Hopetoun, is Lallybroch, Jamie's home. https://hopetoun.co.uk/estate/outlander-at-hopetoun/

Walks Nearby

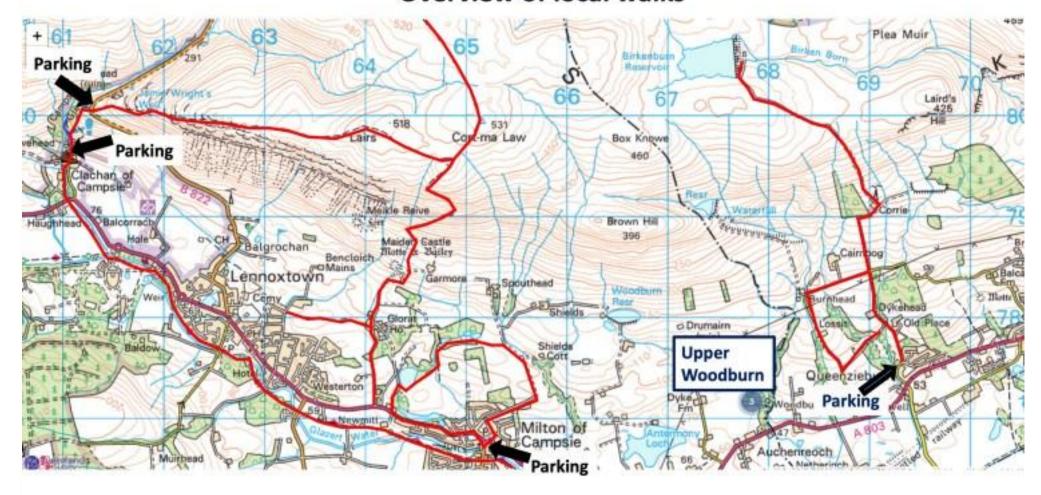
If you don't already use the **Walk Highlands website** - then it is amazing. There is a section on walks in the area <u>here</u>

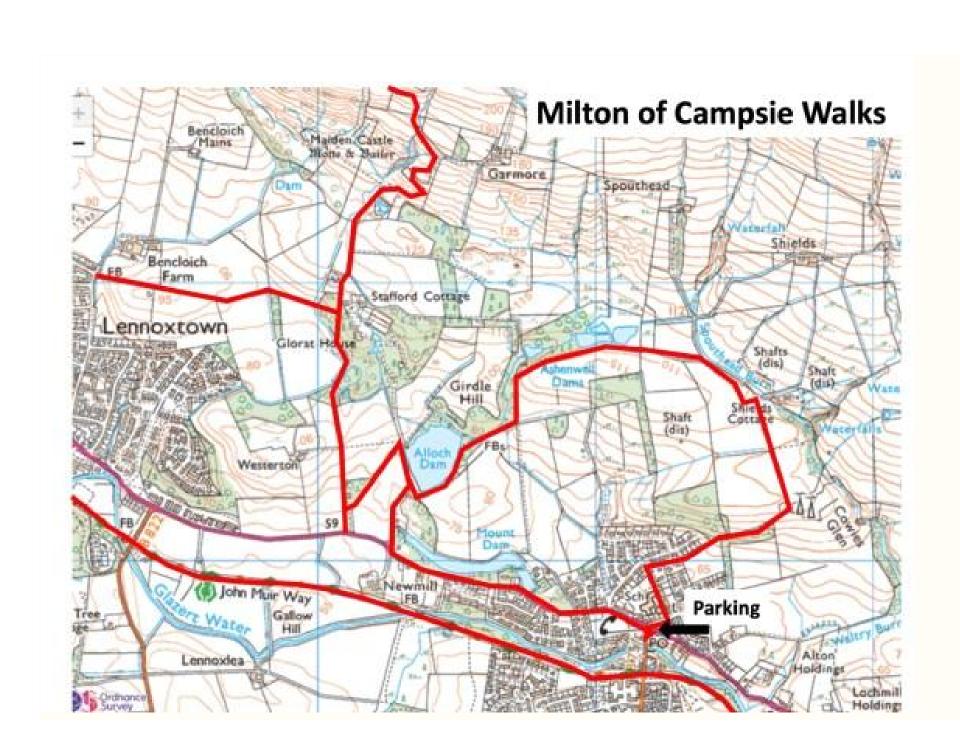
You can walk up the Campsie hills from Queenzieburn, Milton of Campsie, Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie

Queenzieburn is the village a mile East of Upper Woodburn. Park in the village and take the Dykehead road steeply up. At the top it turns to a track straight ahead and continue up this track to a hill farm. The track goes straight through the farm but in lambing season there are diversion signs to take you through the wood and back to the track above the fields. This track will take you to a reservoir on the top of the Campsies and further on to Meikle Bin. On the way back you can turn right when you get back to Dykehead road and walk down the parallel road until you get to a footpath cutting across back to Dykehead Road.

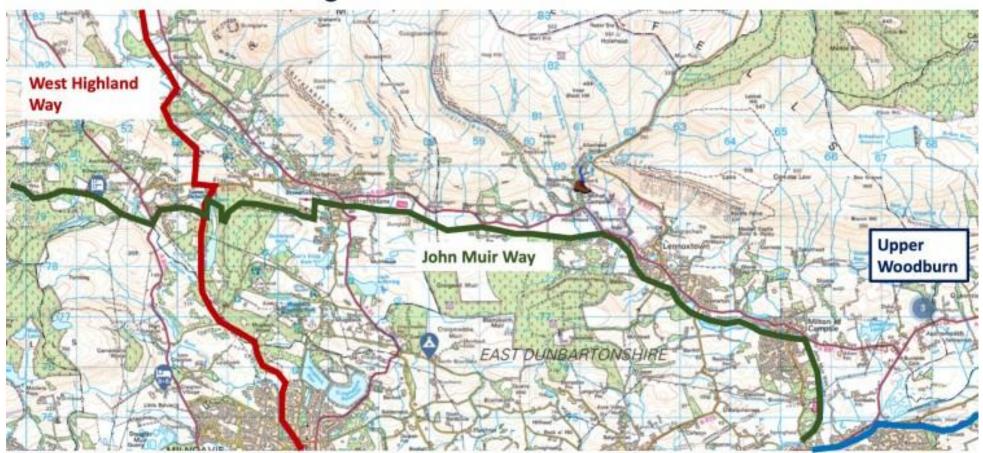
There is a fantastic walk up from Clachan of Campsie (parking in the village square) up the Campsie Glen (divert straight on for the waterfalls and then back-track to climb up the hill). Cross the Crow Road at the car park and head straight up the ridge of the Campsies to Cort-ma-Law.

Overview of local walks





Long Distance Routes



Forth and Clyde Canal

Milton of Campsie Walks

There are nice walks in the woods and round the Dams near Milton of Campsie. You can access these from the village centre, parking opposite the Fells Café. There is a signpost on the main road for the footpath. The long-distance path - The John Muir way follows the route of the Glazert water/Strathkelvin Railway Path and is a great way of joining other paths to a circular route.

There is a country park at <u>Colzium House and castle</u> just the other side of Kilsyth. There is a visitor centre and café.

Just south of Queenzieburn you reach the canal and from here can cycle all the way into Glasgow (1hr 20mins) or to Falkirk and the Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel, and even Edinburgh (for the fit). It runs parallel with the Antonine Wall which is a world heritage site and the remains of the Roman wall at the north-most reach of their empire. You can visit the fort at Barr Hill from Twechar and walk along the line of the wall, returning via the canal (walk is on the WalkHighland website). Some amazing artifacts were discovered on the Antonine wall and many are in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow which is well worth a visit for learning about the Roman history of the area, and also visiting the Macintosh House, and other treasures.

Long Distance Routes

The whole area near to Upper Woodburn is intersected by some of Scotland's most interesting long-distance footpaths. So if you like walking but want to stay on the level rather than climbing hills, you will find great day walks along these routes.

- The <u>West Highland Way</u> goes through Strathblane, and links to Milton of Campsie by the Strathkelvin Railway path/ John Muir Way.
- The <u>John Muir Way</u> links Helensburgh with Dunbar and comes past along the Strathkelvin Railway and the Canal and over the Antonine wall from Croy
- The <u>Great Trossachs Path</u> takes you from Inversaid on Loch Lomond through to Callander and then picks up the Rob Roy Way (cycle friendly)

- The Rob Roy Way runs from Drymen to Pitlochry with a famous section between Callander and Killin along the disused railway (passing Mhor 86 a favoured café/restaurant of ours)
- The Forth and Clyde Canal (cycle friendly)

There are some good resources for local walks <u>here</u>: <u>www.thecampsies.co.uk</u>

I recommend looking at the Walk Highland website to find some good walks in the Trossachs and nearer by in the Campsies.

This map shows paths and so is is useful for exploring

Further Afield

If you have travelled from far away to come to Scotland you might be interested in some longer days out. Here are some special places I love and would heartily recommend.

Dunkeld and Birnham



The Hermitage, Dunkeld - Photo K. Jones

In September to November, <u>the Hermitage</u> at Dunkeld is our go-to place to see leaping Salmon, the vibrant colours of autumn and to walk along rushing riverbanks. The Duke of Athol built the extraordinary Ossian's hall to magnify the sounds of the waterfall. Look out for the well-hidden hermitage and walk up the hill to <u>Pine Cone Point</u>.

Birnham has a great <u>community arts centre</u> with café and Beatrix Potter centre for small kids then walk along the Tay to see the ancient <u>Birnham Oak</u> (mentioned by Shakespeare) and to Dunkeld's shops and pubs. The Taybank is famous for its traditional music and traditional food. Also the Cathedral and arboretum walk along the Tay. 1.5 hours drive or train from Croy (via Stirling)

The East Neuk of Fife



Crail Harbour. image from visitscotland.com

Fife has some incredibly picturesque fishing villages. Elie has a lovely beach and the 'chain walk' a coastal scramble that should only be attempted at low tide and is assisted by chains attached to the rocks. Anstruther has its famous fish and chip shop and the ferry to the <u>Isle of May</u> which is highly recommended April-July for the seabirds (especially puffins). On the way there you can stop at <u>Falkland Palace</u> - the onetime home of Mary Queen of Scots and drop in for coffee and cake at the <u>Pillars of Hercules Organic Farm</u>. Fife is also home to the <u>Secret Bunker</u> - Scotland's nuclear command bunker.

Arran, Dunoon, Bute or Great Cumbrae

If you have a good day and want a bit of an adventure involving a ferry, you could venture out west. Check the Waverley timetable as this historic paddle steamer still plies the ports of the Clyde in the summer season, or just take the train and ferry. Highlights are <u>Brodick Castle</u> on Arran, Renting a bike and cycling round Great Cumbrae, the <u>Benmore Botanic Gardens</u> near Dunoon (especially in May when the Rhododendrons are out) and <u>Mount Stuart</u> on Bute, the incredible home of the Marquis of Bute. All can be reached by train and ferry

Kilmartin Glen



Achnabreac Cup and Ring-Marked Rocks - Image from kilmartin.org

This is the richest Neolithic site on the mainland of Britain. I just love this magical and very much un-discovered gem. With dozens of stone circles, forts, and cup and ring marked rocks, you can spend a whole day exploring the various sites. The Kilmartin Museum is undergoing a redevelopment and when it is done will be the place to orientate yourself in this ancient landscape and find excellent coffee and cake (if the old café is anything to go by...). There is a great Self Guided trail

On the way you can stop at the picturesque planned village of Inverary (with a historic jail to visit and Inverary Castle) and on the way home stop at Crinan, the end of the Crinan canal which has a lovely hotel and restaurant.

Burns, Alloway and the Brig o Doon

If Burns is your thing then a visit to some of his haunts in Ayrshire will be essential. The National Trust for Scotland have created a fantastic multi-media <u>visitor centre</u> in Alloway, Burns' birthplace. The house he was born in is set up as it would have been and you can retrace the steps of Tam O'Shanter to the Old Kirk and over the Brig o Doon. There are also museums or Burns visitor attractions in If you have time while you are in the area a visit to <u>Dumfries House</u> near Auchinleck is completely amazing - some incredible treasures in the house and some great places to explore in the gardens.