

01 | Scotland Stirling, Stirlingshire

• Distance 10km/6 miles • Time 3hrs • Type City tour

1 NAVIGATION LEVEL 1 2 FITNESS LEVEL 2



Plan your walk



WHERE: Circular walk around Stirling, visiting many of Scotland's most historic buildings.

START/END: Stirling train station (NS798935).

TERRAIN: Pavement with one short section of field and woodland path. There is a steep climb to both Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle.

MAPS: OS Explorer 366; Landranger 57.

GETTING THERE: Regular ScotRail services link both Glasgow and Edinburgh to Stirling (© 0871 200 2233, www.travelinescotland.com).

EATING & DRINKING: Whistlebinkies, St Mary's Wynd, Stirling (© 0845 8338781, www.whistlebinkiesstirling.co.uk).

SLEEPING: Holiday Inn Express, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling (© 01786 449922, www.expressstirling.co.uk).

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEITH FERGUS



Glasgow and Edinburgh may get more visitors, but it's Stirling that can arguably claim Scotland's greatest historical monuments within its confines – and I am not just talking about Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument. Although this walk visits both of these remarkable and iconic buildings, it is some of the lesser-known ones that stir equal interest. These include little Cambuskenneth Abbey, Stirling Bridge and the 17th-century King's Knot Royal Gardens. Stirling is a beautiful city, very much aware of its heritage, and this route takes full advantage of it – as well as some of central Scotland's finest views.

1. START Facing Stirling train station (NS798935), turn L and walk along the B8052. Turn R into Forth Place to cross a bridge over the A9 and railway. Continue to a mini-roundabout, then turn L (signposted for Cambuskenneth

Abbey) on to Shore Road, which runs parallel to Forth Crescent. The road descends beside the River Forth, crossing a small park that was the site of Stirling Harbour in the 17th century. Once through the park, follow Abbey Road until it swings L to reach a footbridge (NS805941).

2. Turn R, cross the bridge and walk along to the end of South Street. Turn R and follow Ladysneuk Road to Cambuskenneth Abbey (NS808939). The abbey was founded in 1140 by King David I as one of a number of religious communities set up by the monarch to try to modernise the Scottish Church. Retrace your steps out of the grounds and follow Ladysneuk Road by the Abbey Inn to reach a public path opposite Ferry Orchard (NS808943).

3. Turn R on to the rough path, which crosses a field and grants

Continued...

VISITOR INFORMATION:

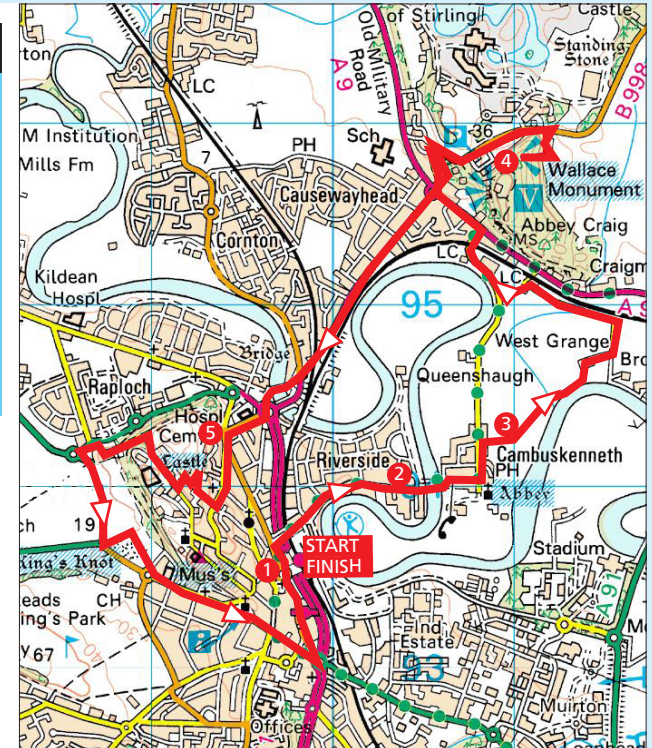
Stirling TIC, Dumbarton Road (© 01786 475019, www.visitstirling.org).

GUIDEBOOKS: *Walks Stirling* by Alistair Lawson (£2.95, Hallowell, ISBN 9781872405520).

LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA: Stirling, Falkirk & District Ramblers (© 01786 841178, www.ramblers.co.uk/groups).

wonderful views of the Wallace Monument. Once over the footbridge, follow the path to cross a stile. Follow the field edge over another stile, then turn L on to a single-track road. Walk along here through open countryside with great views of Stirling Castle. At a cottage, the road swings L to reach Ladysneuk Road. Turn R and continue along a pavement over the railway by a level crossing to reach the A907 (NS808954). Turn L and head straight to a roundabout. Turn R into Logie Road and climb steeply into Hillfoots Road to reach the Wallace Monument car park. Go around the ticket office (purchase tickets if you want to climb the monument) on to a path that climbs through attractive woodland to join a narrow road. A signposted path on the R climbs steeply to the base of the Wallace Monument (NS809957) and some extraordinary views.

4. Retrace your steps back to Logie Road. Cross the A907 and continue straight down Causewayhead Road past some attractive stone villas. Once underneath a railway bridge, cross Cornton Road and pick up a path, which leads to Bridgehaugh Road. Turn L and walk over the wonderful cobble-stoned Stirling Bridge (NS797945) – site of the famous Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, during the First War of



Map not to scale. Representation of OS Landranger MAP 57 1:50,000 www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Scottish Independence. Once across, turn L on to a cycle path, go through two underpasses, then turn R on to Wallace Street. Follow this around to the L and continue along Union Street on to Lower Bridge Street. Turn first R and climb Upper Bridge Street (NS795942), merging into St Mary's Wynd, to reach Broad Road Street. Turn R and follow this to reach Stirling Castle (NS794942).

5. Retrace your steps to The Portcullis and immediately turn R on to a path, which passes Old Town Cemetery to a fork. Turn L then R on to a woodland path and

descend to a minor road. Turn L and descend towards the A811, bearing L to follow a pavement underneath the castle. Just before King's Knot Roundabout, turn L through a gate (NS787937), bear R and follow the grassy path over King's Knot through a gate. The raised, three-tiered, octagonal Royal Gardens are still visible today, 400 years after they were created. Walk along Albert Place on to Dumbarton Road, crossing Corn Exchange Road to reach Port Street. Continue on to Upper Craig and follow this down to the B8052. Turn L and walk back to the start.

Route devised by Keith Fergus