



Loch Leven

Loch Leven is a sparkling jewel surrounded by rolling hills and fertile farmland. It brims with natural beauty, wildlife and history.

This picturesque loch is a National Nature Reserve with a remarkable range of wildlife, including tens of thousands of breeding and wintering birds.

Loch Leven has been a home for monks, the scene of sieges and the setting for a queen's escape. It has welcomed generations of anglers and hosted huge curling tournaments.

Enjoy a waterside visit along the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. That way you can discover its delights and savour its stories.

Need to know

Loch Leven is a haven for wildlife, much of which is sensitive to disturbance. Please help to keep this place special by going quietly in wildlife sensitive areas.

Dogs can frighten birds and other wildlife. Please keep your dog under control at all times and on a short lead or at heel in wildlife sensitive areas. You also need to clean up after it – it's the law.

The Trail is used by walkers, cyclists, people with disabilities, children and dogs, so please go carefully and be considerate.



More...

Contact Kinross Tourist Information Centre to find out what else you can see and do around Loch Leven – 01577 863 680 / www.visitscotland.com

Contact Perth & Kinross Countryside Ranger Service about the Loch Leven Heritage Trail – 01738 475 000 / www.pkc.gov.uk

Contact Scottish Natural Heritage about the Loch Leven National Nature Reserve or the Trail – 01577 864 439 / www.lochleven-nnr.org.uk



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LOCH LEVEN HERITAGE TRAIL



Creative management and writing by Aaron Lawton Associates, design by EC Design Studio, map by Fitzpatrick Woolmer, illustration by Richard Bonson, photos by Laurie Campbell, Lorne Gill/SNH & Jamie Montgomery, © TRACKS 2008.



Loch Leven Heritage Trail

The Loch Leven Heritage Trail takes you to some of the most attractive parts of the loch, so you can experience its remarkable history, nature and beauty at first hand.

Near Kinross, you'll pass the parklands of Kinross House and marvel at the finely carved stonework of the 'Fish Gate'. Further afield, you'll be at one with nature among tranquil woodlands, lush farmland and secluded sandy beaches.

Panoramic views will open up across the loch to the hills beyond. Wildlife hides make it easy to spot birds, but you'll see creatures everywhere if you're quiet. Stop off for a coffee or a bite to eat at a nearby café, and remember to come again soon.

Way to go

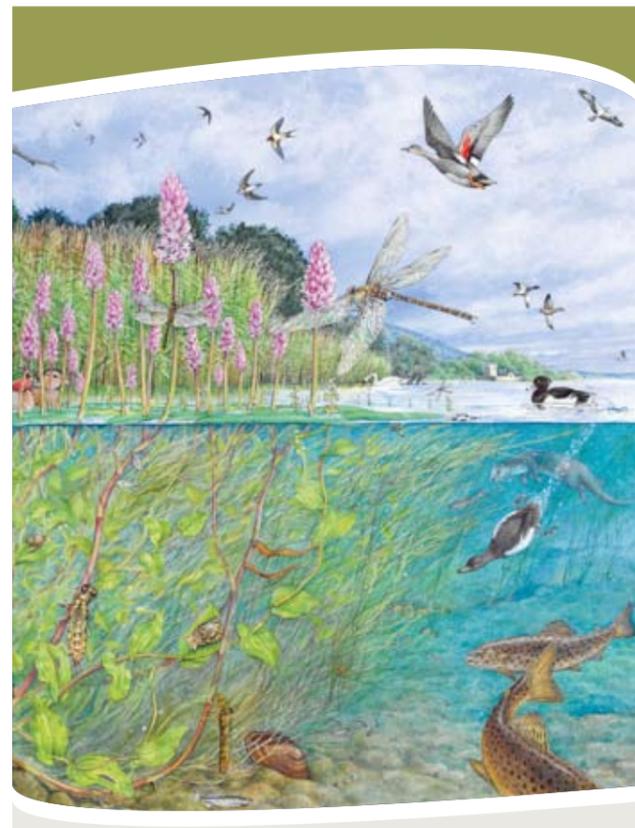
The Loch Leven Heritage Trail is a traffic-free path linking Kinross with Vane Farm. It's well signposted, so you won't get lost, and nearby cafés can provide refreshments.

Distance: 12.5 km (8 miles)

Start & finish: Travel between Kinross Pier and Vane Farm or join the Trail at Mary's Gate, Burleigh Sands, Channel Farm, Grahamstone or Findatie. Buses may be available – please check times with the operator.

Terrain: The path is mostly level and barrier-free, making it suitable for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users of all abilities. However, access at Vane Farm is by a flight of steps and at Findatie by a long slope (1:12).

Refreshments: There are hotels, restaurants, cafés and shops in Kinross, with more cafés at Kinross Pier (seasonal), Channel Farm and Vane Farm.



Water wonderland

Loch Leven's size and depth make it special. Most of it is no more than two metres deep, so sunlight reaches the bottom over a large area. Plants and insects flourish in the bright water, providing food and shelter for enormous numbers of fish and birds.

Loch Leven is a National Nature Reserve that's important on a global scale. It's home to large numbers of breeding ducks and a stopover for thousands of migrating geese and ducks flying south for the winter.

The islands are frontrunners in Europe's duck nesting league, with up to 1,000 pairs of tufted duck and mallard, amongst others. Over 20,000 pink-footed geese – nearly one in ten of the entire world population – form part of the loch's autumn throng.



Key

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|----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Parking | Refreshments | Loch Leven Heritage Trail | National Nature Reserve |
| Bus stop | Information centre | Other paths | Castle ferry (summer only) |
| Toilet | Wildlife watching | | |