

Paths Around Fort Augustus

1 Kytra Lock

This serene walk follows the Great Glen Way along the northern canal towpath to Kytra Lock, one of the prettiest locks on the canal. It is surrounded by trees and set against a dramatic backdrop of hills that border Loch Ness.



Kytra Locks

Allow 2 hours 30 mins – 8 km / 5 miles
Easy – sensible footwear
Parking – village car park

2 The River Oich walks

You can follow three different waymarked trails through this Forestry Commission forest. Further details can be obtained from the District Forest Office just before the River Oich car park.

Nursery Walk & Pine Tree Circuits (Green and Red Walk / Cycle Circuit)

From either car park follow the trails through the pine woods also used for orienteering. Part of the forest was once used as a tree nursery.

Allow 1 hour 30 mins walking, 30 mins cycling – 5.2 km / 3.2 miles

River Walk (Yellow Walk) This riverside walk takes you along the bank of the pretty River Oich. See if you can spot a red squirrel among the Scots Pine trees.

Allow 2 hours – 7 km / 4.35 miles

Tòrr Dhùin (White Walk) From the Tòrr Dhùin car park and picnic site follow the pine tree trail to this Iron Age hill fort. Excellent views across Kytra Loch towards the Corrieyairack Pass.

Allow one hour – 3 km / 1.9 miles

All walks moderate – waterproof footwear
Parking – River Oich and Tòrr Dhùin car park

3 Caledonian Canal & Loch Ness

Caledonian Canal completed in 1822 offers a lovely walk down to the loch shore. The Abbey grounds are on the opposite bank. Look out for the Pepperpot lighthouse at the mouth of the canal - reputedly the UK's smallest lighthouse. Return to the locks and follow the south tow path along the canal, passing the edge of the golf course returning via Market Hill through the camp site along the A82 to the car park.



Caledonian Canal

Allow 1 hour 20 mins – 4.8 km / 3 miles
Parking – village car park

4 Kilchumein Burial Ground & River Tarff

Kilchumein cemetery is worth a visit for the historic graves. Follow the A82 towards Fort William for 1 km. The path continues towards and through the cemetery then uphill along a track overlooking the River Tarff. On reaching the Ardachy Road, turn left, cross the bridge and turn left again (bearing right) after the bridge to follow a delightful farm track back into Fort Augustus. One of the best views of Loch Ness can be obtained from the B862 opposite Borlum.

Allow 1 hour 30 minutes – 5 km / 3 miles
Moderate – waterproof footwear
Parking – village car park, also limited parking at the burial ground.



View of Loch Ness

5 Allt na Criche

This waymarked (white) forest walk starts from the car park and climbs steeply up the side of the Allt na Criche burn. The lower part of this circular route is along the Great Glen Way. You will be rewarded by magnificent views over Loch Ness giving a real feeling of the scale of the glen. Looking onto the loch, you can see Cherry Island, the only island on Loch Ness. It was built about 3000 years ago by local people, perhaps as a defensive structure. These artificial islands are called crannogs.

Allow 1 hour – 3 km / 2 miles
Moderate – waterproof footwear
Parking – Allt na Criche car park

6 Jenkins Park forest circuits

Circular Walk

From Jenkins Park follow signs for Wade's road and climb up the old military road. This road was built in 1755 by Major Caulfield, General Wade's successor, and forms part of the route between Fort Augustus and Bernera Barracks at Glenelg. The views are tremendous. Return on Forestry tracks to Jenkins Park.

Allow 2 hours – 6 km / 3.75 miles
Moderate – waterproof footwear

Walking / Cycle circuit

Follow the Great Glen Way/cycle route to Allt na Criche car park and return along the forest roads to Jenkins Park. It is strenuous but well worth the effort as the views are exceptional. Walkers can follow the same route back from Allt na Criche (Walk 5), but have the option to take the military road as in the circular route above. The Forestry Commission manages this forest.

Allow 4 hours walking / 1 hour 30 mins cycling – 13 km / 8 miles
Strenuous – waterproof footwear
Parking – village hall



Fort Augustus from Borlum Hill

