

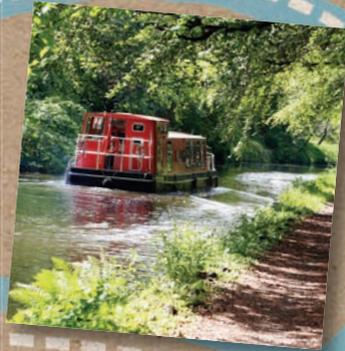


Time Well Spent on Scotland's Canals

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Welcome to Scotland's Canals

From the majestic Caledonian Canal in the Highlands and picturesque Crinan Canal in Argyll and Bute, to the recently restored Forth & Clyde and Union Canals in the Lowlands, the industrial heritage of the Monkland Canal and the iconic Falkirk Wheel, Scotland's 137 mile (220km) network of inland waterways offers visitors a breathtaking array of leisure opportunities.

Over the past few years the 200 year old network has undergone a transformation and today more and more people are discovering that canals are the perfect way of exploring and enjoying Scotland's wonderful countryside – whether going walking, cycling, boating, canoeing or angling. Their history, rich heritage and natural beauty make these inland waterways a refreshing backdrop to any day-out or holiday.

On your bike

There's nothing quite as invigorating or stress relieving as getting on a bike and cycling through miles of beautiful countryside. Cycling on the towpaths of Scotland's Canals has never been easier or safer, and it's the perfect way to keep the whole family fit and healthy. From the leisurely Lowland Canals, the picturesque Crinan Canal and Great Glen Mountain Bike Trails on the Caledonian Canal, there are cycling opportunities for everyone – from beginners and families to world class competition level.

Check out the best for bicycles at www.scottishcanals.co.uk.

Ditch the pavement, try the towpath

A walk along any of Scotland's Canals gives visitors the opportunity to experience all that Scotland has to offer. With breathtaking scenery and so much wildlife, towpath and water activity, there is always something of interest to look at. The canal is a great place to take the family for a walk or relax and unwind by going for a jog.

Walk between Scotland's two largest cities on the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, taking in the Falkirk Wheel on your way, stroll along the picturesque 9 mile Crinan Canal, or hike the Great Glen Way long distance route on the Caledonian Canal, there is something for all ages and all levels.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for ideas of walking routes along Scotland's Canals.

A walk on the wildside

The combination of water, greenery and relative peace and quiet make the Scottish Canals and their banks a haven for wildlife. Look out for otters, swans and ducks on the water and woodland birds among the trees.

Don't forget the water life in the rivers and canals. There's plenty of fish – for otters and fishermen – as well as eels, waterboatmen and freshwater shrimp.

Why not record your wildlife sightings at www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey and help British Waterways monitor, protect and preserve the amazing biodiversity found on our waterways. A downloadable guide to what wildlife can be found along the waterways is also available online.



Paddlesports

Canoeing and kayaking in Scotland is becoming an increasingly popular activity, and where better to paddle than on Scotland's Canals. From the challenging Caledonian Canal to the relaxing Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, there's something for paddlers of all abilities. Paddle for enjoyment, to keep fit or as a family experience.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk to find details of canoe equipment hire and services along the Scottish Canal Network.

Boating

Boating is at the core of what British Waterways Scotland does, and the boats on our canals range from brightly painted narrowboats and barges, to sailboats, cruisers and kayaks. Over 3,500 vessels use Scotland's canals, keeping waterways heritage and traditions alive today.

There are many ways to get on the waters of Scotland's Canals.

You will find lots of ideas in this guide as well as on www.scottishcanals.co.uk.



Waterside pubs

Pubs and canals go back a long way together. So it doesn't take too long to find an atmospheric, historic canalside stop for a bite to eat and a drink. You'll also find restaurants and tea shops making the most of their great locations, with outside seating, peaceful canalside gardens, and gorgeous views.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for a selection of places to eat, drink and relax by the canal.

We promise you will be spoilt for choice.

Get hooked

Whether you're a keen angler or just an enthusiastic dabbler, canal fishing has something to offer everyone. Lovely scenery, a peaceful environment – and plenty of fish; from salmon and sea trout, to roach, pike and perch.

Full details of how to get your angling permit and what types of fish you are likely to see can be found at www.scottishcanals.co.uk.



Places to stay

Discover the joys of a slower pace of life with a relaxing holiday by the water. Stay on a boat, in a cosy canalside cottage or even a luxury hotel.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk to find places to stay along Scotland's Canals.

Events

Scotland's Canals are host to many events throughout the year, from canal and boat festivals to cycling, walking and canoeing challenges, family fun days to music events, and much much more!

Full details of all events taking places on or by the canals throughout the year can be found within www.scottishcanals.co.uk or by emailing enquiries.scotland@britishwaterways.co.uk.

The Caledonian Canal

Slicing through the Great Glen, the majestic Caledonian Canal is considered by many as one of the greatest waterways of the world. Four natural lochs – Loch Lochy, Loch Oich, the famous Loch Ness and Loch Dochfour – all lie in near perfect alignment between Fort William and Inverness making up 38 miles of this 60 mile coast-to-coast channel. The remaining 22 miles being man-made canal linking these four lochs together through spectacular scenery in the heart of the Scottish Highlands.

Widely considered a masterpiece of canal engineering, the Caledonian is on a scale incomparable with almost anything else in Britain. It has survived in part due to its continuing importance in the Highland economy, and partly because it is quite simply spectacular, not to mention the famous Scots hospitality!



A brief history

Various engineers were involved in the building of the Caledonian Canal, but the names of William Jessop and Thomas Telford, who worked together until Jessop's death in 1814, usually head the plaudits for this spectacular feat of engineering – a feat in which their artistic inclinations were permitted to run riot. Its locks, at more than 50 yards (46m) long, were huge by the standards of the time. Many of them are arranged in 'staircases', interconnected locks in which the top gates of one lock are the bottom gates of the next.

The canal's original purpose was to enable naval and other sailing vessels to avoid the treacherous waters of Pentland Firth and Cape Wrath. Wildly overshooting Telford's estimates for both time and finances, it was partly complete in 1822, some 19 years after work started. However a further 25 years were to pass before it was fully complete. By this time, the advent of bigger steamships had diminished the canal's role. It survived, in part, due to its importance in the development of the Highland economy, fostering trade between East and West, as well as with Germany, Holland and the Scandinavian countries. It remains popular today with cruisers, yachts, fishing boats and small naval vessels, using it as a shortcut between the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean.

Find out more about the rich history of the Caledonian Canal from the numerous publications available from your favourite online shop, or by visiting the Caledonian Canal Visitor Centre at Fort Augustus.

By Bike

The Caledonian Canal provide the perfect route to enjoy a cycle; whether it's a leisurely ride along the towpath or mountain biking along the Great Glen Mountain Bike Trails. To find out more about cycling routes and cycle hire in and around the canal, visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk.



More than just a waterway

The Great Glen is a massive geological fault – a dramatic tear through the underlying rock resulting in deep lochs and fantastic scenery. Add to this a rich cultural and natural history and the result is a world class destination. The three Great Glen Ways – boat, boot or bike – offer a sustainable route through the majestic Great Glen: sail or canoe along The Caledonian Canal, walk the Great Glen Way, or cycle the Great Glen Mountain Bike Trails. Whether completed from coast to coast, or sampled in bite-sized chunks, the three ways offer an unforgettable experience.



Paddling

The Caledonian Canal offers an exciting and varied sea-to-sea challenge for the long distance canoeist alongside many opportunities for attractive day paddles. With over 2,500 paddlers visiting the Caledonian Canal each year, the Great Glen Canoe Trail is being developed to enable paddlers of all abilities to enjoy all that the Caledonian Canal and the Great Glen has to offer.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk to find out details of guided trips and equipment hire and to download our Canoeist's Guide, which contains essential information about canoeing along the Caledonian Canal.



GLASS BLOWING STUDIO

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Where to eat and drink

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www.clachnaharryinn.co.uk

Oakwood Restaurant Tel: 01463 861481
www.spanglefish.com/oakwoodrestaurant

The Bothy Restaurant & Bar Tel: 01320 366710
www.lochnessrestaurant.co.uk

The Lock Inn & Gillegorm Restaurant Tel: 01320 366302

The Eagle Barge Floating Inn Tel: 07789858567
www.theeaglebarge.com

The Moorings Hotel Tel: 01397 772797
www.moorings-fortwilliam.co.uk

The Lochy Bar & Restaurant Tel: 01397 703587
www.thelochy.co.uk

Tradewinds Pub & Restaurant Tel: 01397 772100

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for more pubs and restaurants in and around the canal and lochs.

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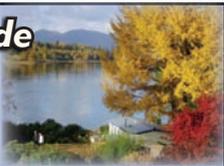
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Michelin Recommended

By Boat

There are a number of ways to get on the waters of the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness. Whether its bringing your own boat, hiring a cruiser or yacht for a canal holiday, taking a day-trip on Loch Ness, staying on a hotel boat or holiday barge, or paddling in a canoe or kayak, the canal offers a unique waterway experience, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy Scotland's busiest canal as it traverses through exciting towns, spectacular lochs and beautiful countryside.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details on operational information, canal licences and to download a copy of the Skipper's Guide.

Hire Fleets

Caley Cruisers Tel: 01463 236328
www.caleycruisers.co.uk
West Highland Sailing, Tel: 01809 501234
www.westhighlandsailing.com
Le Boat Tel: 0844 463 3594
www.leboat.co.uk

Hotel Boats

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www.augusta.uk.com
Lady Kathryn Tel: 07772 447735
Seagull Trust Cruises
(Highland Branch) Tel: 01320 366733
www.stcruises-highland.org.uk

Neptune's Staircase

A remarkably dramatic eight lock flight which lies just north of Fort William at Banavie is little short of breathtaking. Overlooked by Ben Nevis, Neptune's Staircase is a busy staging post for travellers from all directions. This amazing feat of engineering raises the canal 19m (62ft) over a quarter of a mile of continuous masonry. A perfect location to enjoy 'gongoozling' the boats as they travel up and down the lock flight.

By Boot

A walk along any part of the Caledonian Canal gives visitors the opportunity to experience all Scotland has to offer; unspoilt scenery, the famous Scottish hospitality and if you very lucky, sight of the Loch Ness Monster!

There are plenty of different walking routes around the canal for you to enjoy and help you keep fit. With so much wildlife, towpath and water activity there is always something of interest to look at. The canal is a great place to take the family for a walk or relax and unwind by going for a jog, and there are also many forest routes in and around the canal.

The Great Glen Way is one of four official long distance walking routes in Scotland. At 73 miles, the route stretches the length of the Great Glen following sections of the canal towpath and forestry tracks through some of the Highlands' most beautiful scenery and alongside Loch Ness.

Visit www.greatglenway.com to find out more about the route.

Just off the towpath

Merinch Local Nature Reserve

A hidden gem in the heart of Inverness, situated beside Muirtown Basin on the Caledonian Canal, the nature reserve is full of a variety of wildlife inhabiting the very unusual combination of mudflats, brackish pools, small areas of salt water marsh, freshwater pools and a wooded area in the canal embankment.





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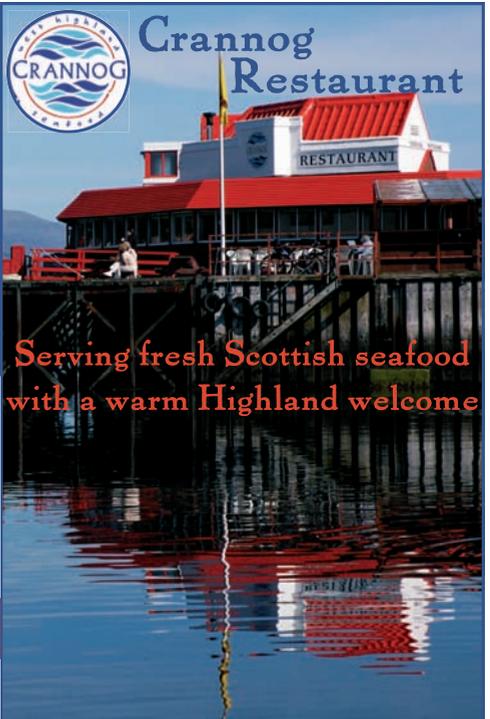
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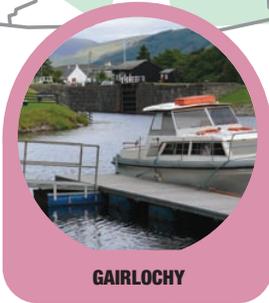
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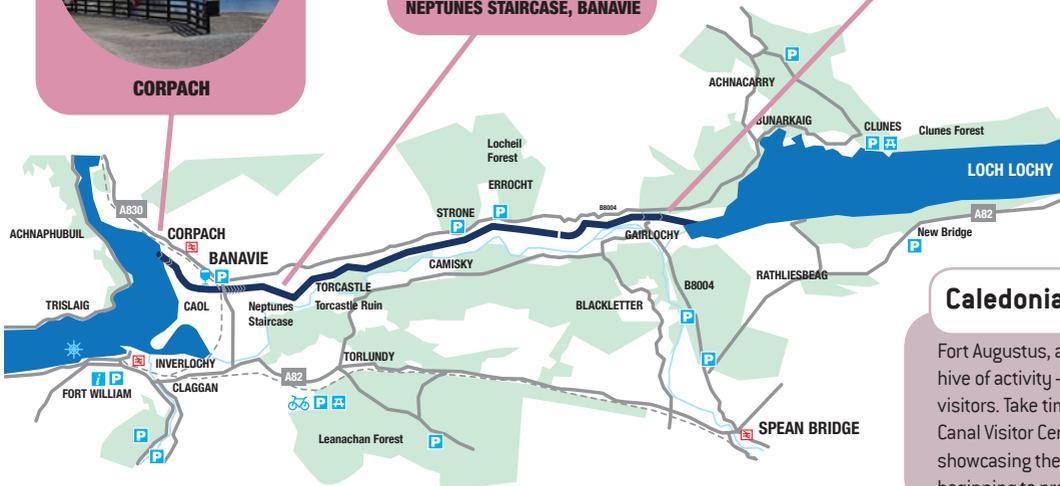
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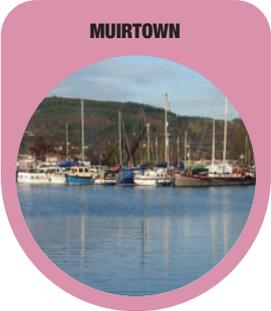
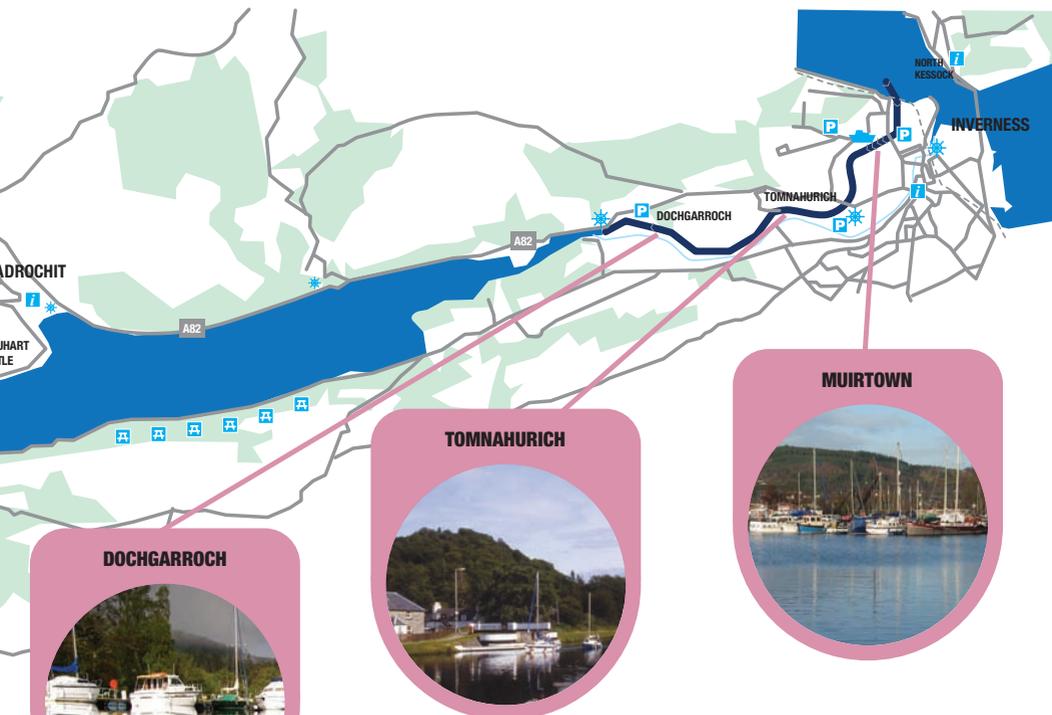


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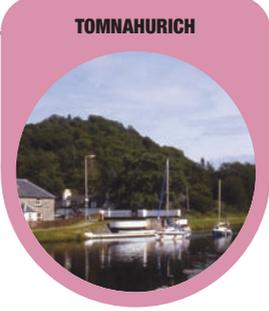


Caledonia

Fort Augustus, a hive of activity - visitors. Take time at the Canal Visitor Centre showcasing the beginning to pre



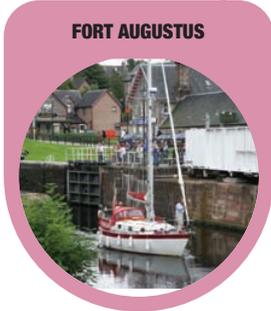
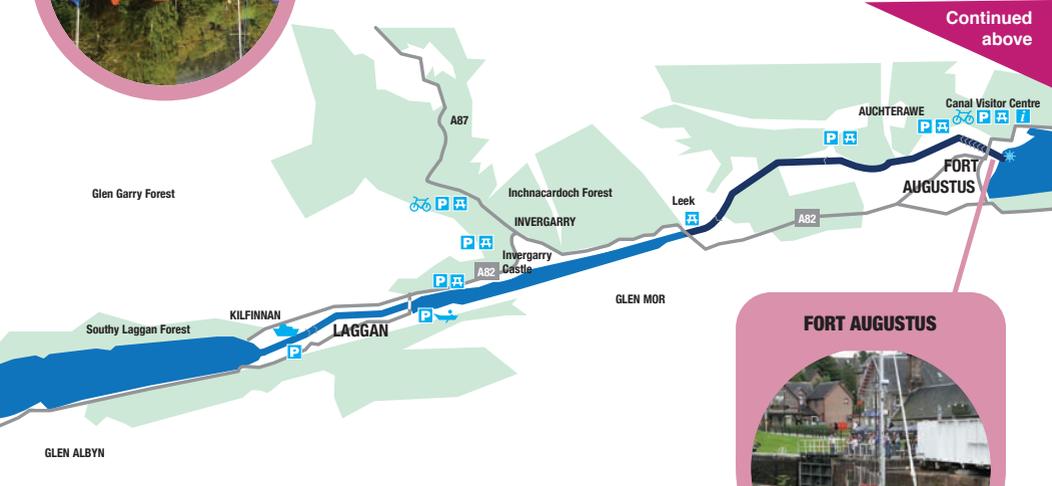
MUIRTOWN



TOMNAHURICH



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FORT AUGUSTUS

an Canal Visitor Centre

at the heart of the Great Glen, is a bustling with boaters, locals and come out to enjoy the Caledonian Centre, a small but unique venue canal's history, from its early present day rejuvenation.

Browse through the range of unusual gifts on display in our gift shop; find out why, when and how the canal was built; and purchase one of the many canal books on offer. The Visitor Centre also has information and maps for walkers, cyclists and tourists. Open Easter to October, free admission.

A room with a view

Rhiw Goch

Fort William, Scotland

Rhiw Goch is situated on the edge of the Caledonian Canal in the village of Banavie, a few miles from the centre of Fort William.

- stunning south facing views over the canal
- comfortable seating area
- three rooms all with en-suite facilities

Canoeing at Rhiw Goch

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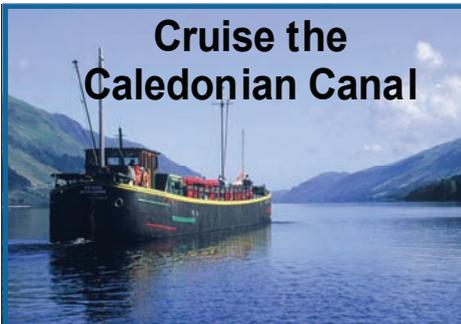
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Outside a new patio has been created with a protective glass screen that has outstanding views across the loch – we look forward to welcoming you to the pub for breakfast, a coffee and cake, lunch or dinner or if you would like to stay in Dores there are superb B & B'S and self catering accommodation available and also the opportunity to drop anchor and row in.



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The Crinan Canal

Revelling in the title of “Britain’s most beautiful shortcut” you’d be hard pressed to find a more picturesque stretch of water than the Crinan Canal. At just nine miles long it links Loch Fyne at Ardrishaig with the Sound of Jura, creating a pathway for ships through the Kintyre Peninsula on their way to the Western Isles. The Crinan Canal is both an engineering marvel and an idyllic

part of Argyll & Bute. Every year up to two thousand vessels, mostly pleasure craft, pass through the Canal. But you don’t need a boat to appreciate what it has to offer. Visitors can watch boats negotiating the 15 locks along the canal, or perhaps walk or cycle and enjoy the tranquility and breathtaking scenery to be found in this part of the west coast.

A brief history

The Crinan Canal opened in 1801 saving coastal shipping a 100 mile journey around the dangerous long finger of the Kintyre Peninsula. Designed by civil engineer John Rennie, construction began in 1794 but wasn't finished until 1801; over budget, two years late and not properly completed.

Government loans and additional funding finally allowed the canal to be finished in 1809.

John Rennie's original design had unfortunately, numerous engineering faults. Early problems, particularly with locking and water levels meant parts of the nine-mile canal had to be redesigned – a task that fell to the ubiquitous Thomas Telford in 1816. New sea locks were constructed in the 1930s making the canal accessible at any state of the tide, and in 1962 the Crinan Canal became the responsibility of British Waterways.

The Crinan Canal is well used even today, although primarily by pleasure craft and fishing vessels, travelling between the Firth of Clyde and the west coast of Scotland. This is a far cry from the early days when the canal formed a vital supply line to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. At a time when there were no railway links – only military roads – the Crinan Canal was an essential cog in Scotland's transport system. For many years, some of the most prominent sights on the canal were the Clyde Puffers - little cargo vessels that designed to fit the Forth & Clyde and Crinan Canals. They delivered coal to the West Coast, bringing back whisky and other produce. You can still see one of these puffers, the Vic 32, on the Crinan Canal today.

Find out more about the rich history of the Crinan Canal from the numerous publications available from your favourite online shop.

On the water

The Crinan Canal is one of the most beautiful waterways to sail in the UK offering sailors uninterrupted views of Scotland's breathtaking and rugged natural landscape. Bring your own boat through the canal, charter a yacht from Bellanoch Marina, or take a holiday on the last seagoing coal fired steam 'Clyde Puffer'.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details on operational information, canal licences and to download a copy of the Skipper's Guide.

Yacht Charter

Argyll Yacht Charters Tel: 01546 603500
www.argyll-yachtcharters.co.uk

Puffer Holidays

Vic 32 Tel: 01546 510232
www.savethepuffer.co.uk

On bike

The canal towpath, which runs the complete 9 mile length of the canal, is ideal for cyclists as it meanders through unspoilt scenery rich in heritage and wildlife. For the more adventurous, there are many trails on Forestry Commission land around the canal, and Sustrans NCN Route 78 follows the canal towpath on its way from Campbeltown to Oban. The Dalriada Project has also developed several cycle trails in and around the canal.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details of cycle hire along the canal.



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CAIRNBAAN HOTEL ON THE CRINAN CANAL

This little gem of a hotel has been delighting the people visiting our area for over 200 years. Whether you are enjoying the canal, following whisky, seafood and castle trails or just here to enjoy our unique variety of wild life including the Beaver (which has just been reintroduced) you will be made to feel truly welcome in one of Scotland friendliest hotels.

Available for July and August we are offering Dinner Bed & Breakfast for just £168.00 per couple per night (min 2 nights)

To book just call 01546 603668

Check out our new web site Cairnbaan.com

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AA ***
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Founder member of
"The Seafood Trail"

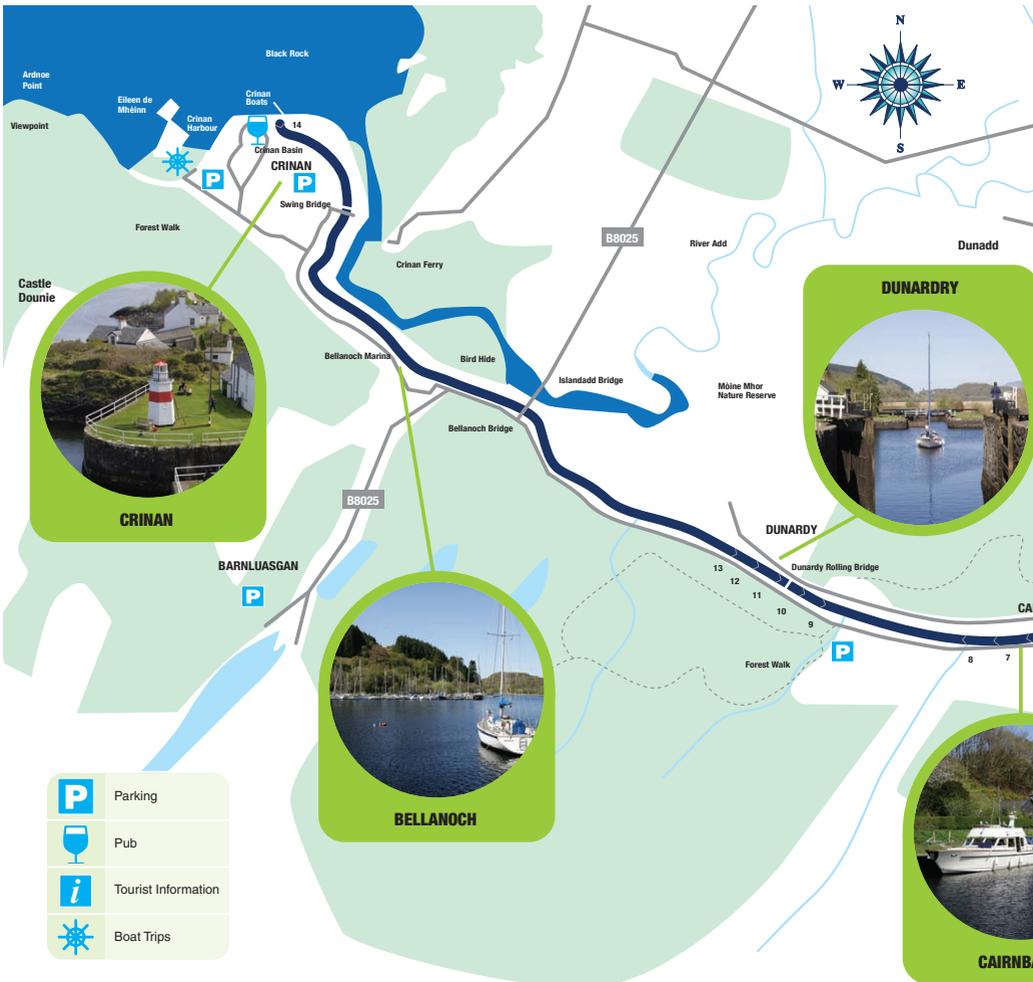


On foot

A waterway of great beauty, the Crinan Canal makes for an excellent walk suitable for all ages. At only nine miles long you can enjoy a pleasant un strenuous stroll along the towpath with lots to see and do along the way. Look out for the informative Dalriada Project interpretation panels along the way and why not download a podcast guide to your walk, available from the Dalriada Project interactive information hubs at either end of the canal, as well as the www.scottishcanals.co.uk and www.dalriadaproject.org websites.

The area around the canal is abundant with nature and woodland walks, archaeological and historical walks, and even the opportunity to walk through a temperate rainforest!





Where to eat and drink

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Argyll Arms | Tel: 01546 602352 |
| The Royal Hotel | Tel: 01546 606017 |
| www.royalhotelargyll.com | |
| Cairnbaan Hotel | Tel: 01546 603668 |
| www.cairnbaan.com | |
| Crinan Hotel | Tel: 01546 830261 |
| www.crinanhotel.com | |

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for more pubs and restaurants in and around the Crinan Canal



Just off the towpath

Ardishaig Auto Waster

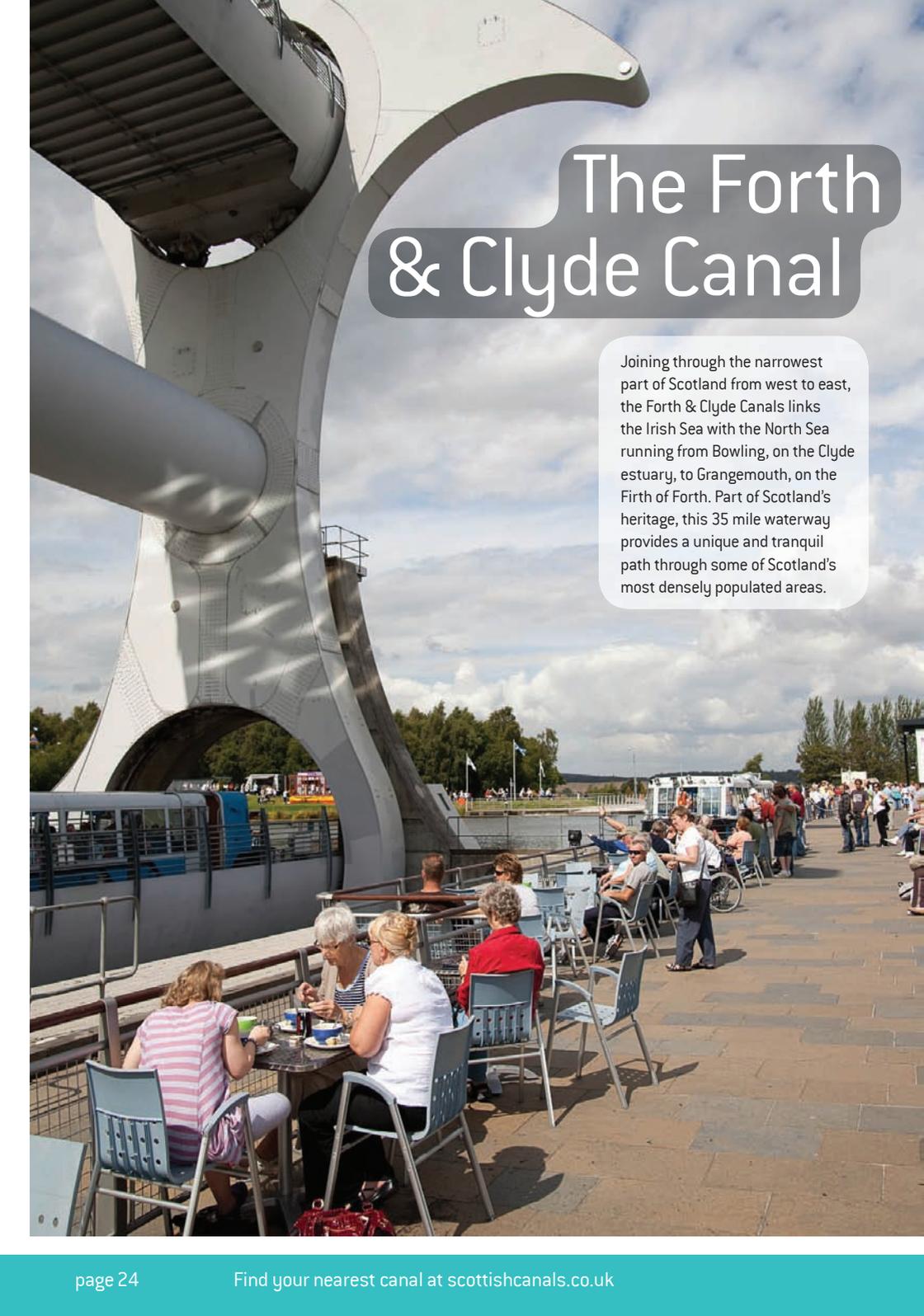
Completed in 1895, this unique system maintains a safe water level in the canal. Excess water fills a bucket on one end of a rocker mechanism, the weight of which unseats a plug attached to the other end, discharging water into the sea.

Moine Mhor Nature Reserve

The Great Moss, north of the Crinan Canal between Dunardy and Crinan is one of the last expanses of raised mire in Scotland. Developed over thousands of years from the accumulation of the un-decayed remains of sphagnum moss and other wetland plants, Moine Mhor once covered a vast area. Now covering an area of some 486ha [1200 acres], it is one of the few remaining raised peat bogs in Britain today and was declared a National Nature Reserve in 1987 to safeguard this fragile ecosystem from change by agriculture and forestry.

Kilmartin Glen

One of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland, Kilmartin Glen is recognised as an area of outstanding archaeological importance. There are at least 350 ancient monuments in the area, of which around 150 are prehistoric. They include burial cairns, rock carvings, and standing stones, as well as the remains of the fortress of the Scots at Dunadd, several of which are within close proximity of the canal. A good place to start your exploration of Kilmartin Glen is Kilmartin House Museum.



The Forth & Clyde Canal

Joining through the narrowest part of Scotland from west to east, the Forth & Clyde Canals links the Irish Sea with the North Sea running from Bowling, on the Clyde estuary, to Grangemouth, on the Firth of Forth. Part of Scotland's heritage, this 35 mile waterway provides a unique and tranquil path through some of Scotland's most densely populated areas.

A brief history

When work began on the Forth & Clyde Canal in 1768, the plan was for the waterway to progress steadily westwards from the Forth via the River Carron to Stockingfield (Maryhill), in Glasgow. However, nine years later work stopped due to lack of funds. Eight years passed before money, forfeited from the Jacobite Estates became available, allowing the canal to continue its journey to the River Clyde.

In 1790, at 35 miles long, and wide enough to accommodate sea-going vessels, the Forth & Clyde opened. The canal was bought by Caledonian Railway in 1867 (as a condition of buying the Port of Grangemouth and remained under railway management until 1948 when it was taken over by the British transport Commission.

Rights of navigation were extinguished by Parliament in 1963, however, the canal was triumphantly reopened in 2001 as part of the £78m Millennium Link – the largest canal restoration ever in Britain. The project incorporated the construction of the iconic Falkirk Wheel which, when opened in June 2002, reconnected the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals for the first time in over 70 years.

Find out more about the rich history of the Forth & Clyde Canal from the numerous publications available from your favourite online shop, or by visiting The Falkirk Wheel.

On foot

There's only one way to walk from one side of Scotland to the other in a safe and tranquil manner – via the Forth & Clyde Canal. But you don't have to trek it's full length in order to appreciate the scenic beauty and abundance of wildlife. A short stroll or even a jog along any stretch of the 35 mile towpath will allow you to experience the serenity of canal life while getting a healthy workout at the same time. The Forth & Clyde Canal towpath makes for an excellent walk suitable for all ages. Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for ideas of walking routes along the canal.



On the water

The Forth & Clyde Canal enables boats to once more sail between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde offering a unique and tranquil path through some of Scotland's most densely populated areas. Join the Union Canal at The Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boat lift, and continue into the heart of Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh.

Travel from sea to sea using the canal as a shortcut through the heart of Scotland; hire a narrowboat for a canal boat holiday; or take a boat trip along the canal and on The Falkirk Wheel.

Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details on operational information, canal licences and to download a copy of the Skipper's Guide.

Narrowboat Hire

Alvechurch Waterway Tel: 0330 3330 590
Holidays

www.alvechurch.co.uk

Black Prince Narrowboat Tel: 01527 575115
Holidays

www.black-prince.com

Capercaillie Cruisers Tel: 01324 627212
www.capercailliecruisers.co.uk

Marine Cruises Tel: 01244 373911
www.marinecruises.co.uk

Boat Trips

Forth & Clyde Canal Society Tel: 0141 772 1620
www.forthandclyde.org.uk

Peccadillo Barge Tel: 07779 787122
www.peccadillo.biz

Seagull Trust Cruises Tel: 0141 777 7165
(Kirkintilloch)

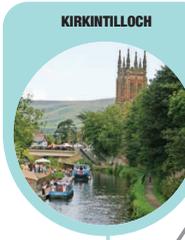
www.stcruises-kirkintilloch.org.uk

Seagull Trust Cruises Tel: 07554 063911
(Falkirk)

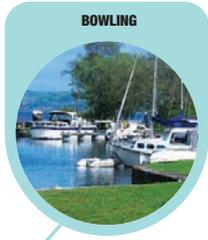
www.stcruises-falkirk.org.uk

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KIRKINTILLOCH



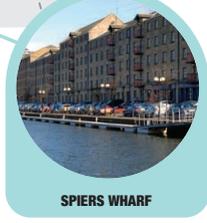
BOWLING



DALMUIR



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The healthy heart of Scotland

The 35 mile Forth & Clyde Canal passes through large vibrant towns, busy thoroughfares and tranquil country locations. With multiple access points to the canal along its banks, many providing free parking on-site or nearby, and a variety of attractions, facilities and amenities along the way, the Forth & Clyde Canal gives visitors the opportunity to experience all that Scotland has to offer as it weaves from one side of the country to the other.

On bike

There's nothing quite as invigorating or stress relieving as getting on a bike any cycling through miles of beautiful countryside. Cycling the Forth & Clyde Canal towpath has never been easier or safer, and it's the perfect way to keep the whole family fit and healthy. The 35 miles of towpath has been restored with the cyclist in mind – it's safe, traffic and pollution free and an ideal route for cyclists of all levels, and with Sustrans Route 754 following the canal towpath from Bowling to Edinburgh, you can cycle across Scotland. Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details of cycle hire along the canal.

Forth and Clyde Canal Glasgow

A good place
to start



Maryhill

The canal links the River Clyde in the west and the Firth of Forth in the east.

The perfect place to enjoy many of life's simple pleasures. Whatever the time of year, whatever the weather.



Help yourself to a handful of wild fruit.



Over 3 million tonnes of goods and 200,000 passengers were transported along the canal every year. It's rather quieter these days!

This is just one of many waterside routes.
Take some time out with nature and explore your local canal or riverside.
For inspiration go to snh.gov.uk/simplepleasures



You may spot swans with their cygnets and mallards with their ducklings. Come back again soon and you'll see how quickly their young grow.

Lambhill



The bankside is always buzzing with wildlife in the summer months. Look out for bumblebees, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies.

Go this way to Lambhill...

Did you know the canal is over 200 years old and 35 miles long.



The canal is ideal for a cycle ride, away from the busy roads.



Water lilies can be seen on the canal. Can you spot any frogs?

or go this way to Ruchill

Ruchill

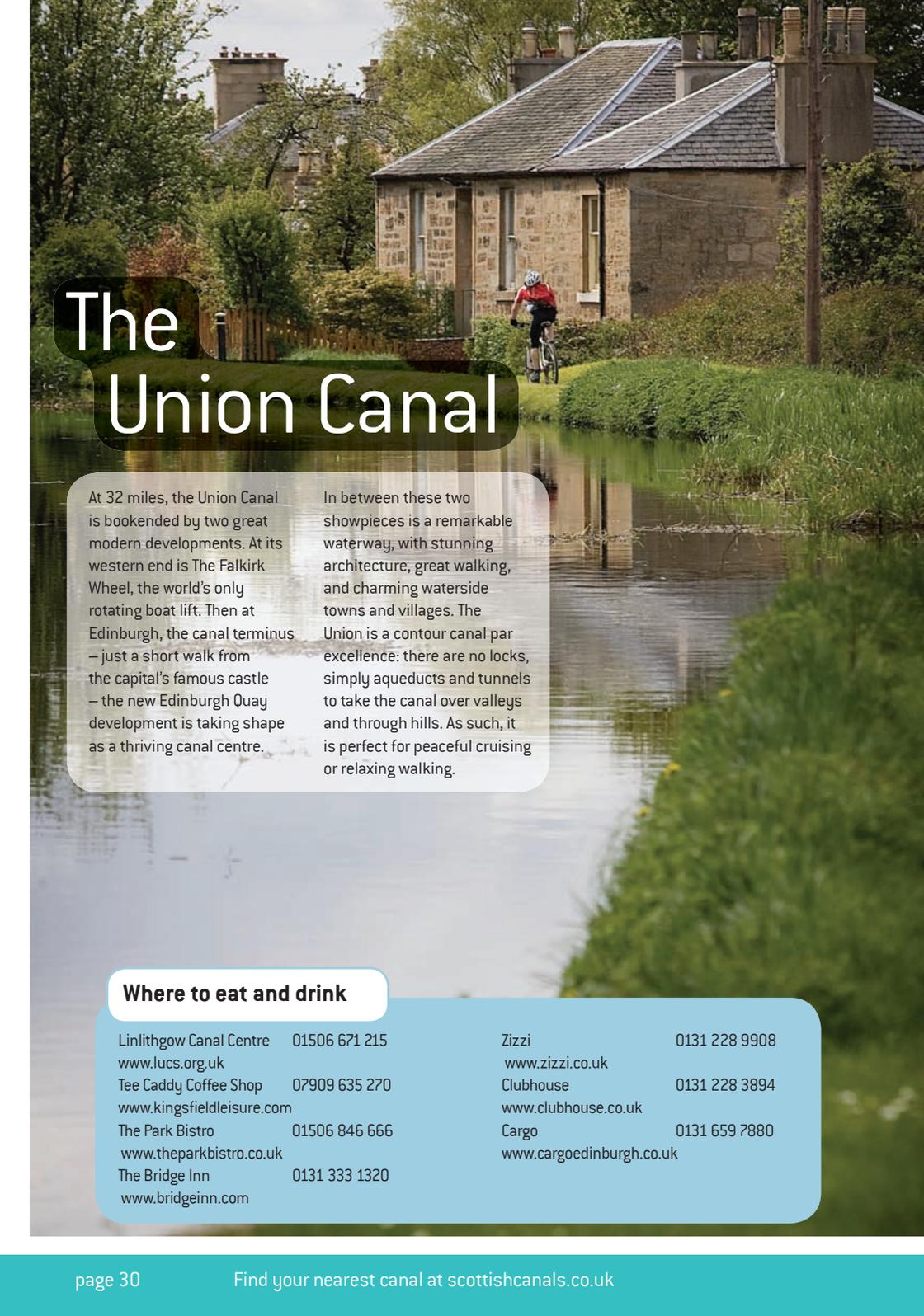
RUCHILL STREET

In the 1800s the canal was a vital trade and transport link.

Simple pleasures, easily found.



Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland



The Union Canal

At 32 miles, the Union Canal is bookended by two great modern developments. At its western end is The Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boat lift. Then at Edinburgh, the canal terminus – just a short walk from the capital's famous castle – the new Edinburgh Quay development is taking shape as a thriving canal centre.

In between these two showpieces is a remarkable waterway, with stunning architecture, great walking, and charming waterside towns and villages. The Union is a contour canal par excellence: there are no locks, simply aqueducts and tunnels to take the canal over valleys and through hills. As such, it is perfect for peaceful cruising or relaxing walking.

Where to eat and drink

Linlithgow Canal Centre 01506 671 215
www.lucs.org.uk
Tee Caddy Coffee Shop 07909 635 270
www.kingsfieldleisure.com
The Park Bistro 01506 846 666
www.theparkbistro.co.uk
The Bridge Inn 0131 333 1320
www.bridgeinn.com

Zizzi 0131 228 9908
www.zizzi.co.uk
Clubhouse 0131 228 3894
www.clubhouse.co.uk
Cargo 0131 659 7880
www.cargoedinburgh.co.uk

A brief history

The carriage of coal provided the impetus in the late 18th century for the Union Canal. Although war with France saw its construction delayed, Parliament eventually gave the green light in 1817, with construction starting in 1818 and the canal finally opening in 1822.

An eleven-lock flight connected the canal with the Forth & Clyde Canal at Falkirk, thereby offering a direct inland connection between the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh which originally included a regular passenger service.

The Canal's profitability was greatly diminished by the opening of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway in 1842. Following a period of steady decline, the Union Canal was abandoned in the 1960s. Its fate had been obvious since the lock flight connecting it to the Forth & Clyde was demolished in the 1930s.

In 2001, the canal was rejuvenated and triumphantly reopened as part of the £78m Millennium Link – the largest canal restoration ever in Britain. The project incorporated the construction of the iconic Falkirk Wheel which, when opened in June 2002, reconnected the Union and Forth & Clyde Canals for the first time in over 70 years.

Find out more about the rich history of the Union Canal from the numerous publications available from your favourite online shop, or by visiting The Falkirk Wheel.

On foot

Flanked at both ends by modern developments, visitors to the Union Canal have a unique opportunity to either indulge in the hustle and bustle of city and town life or walk a few miles into peaceful countryside. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery and abundance of wildlife that this picturesque waterway has to offer.

A short stroll along any part of the 32 mile towpath will allow you to experience the serenity of canal life while getting a workout at the same time. Scotland's only canal tunnels can also be walked through, just remember to take a torch! Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for ideas of walking routes along the canal.

A new experience around every corner

This 32 mile contour canal travels from The Falkirk Wheel to the heart of Edinburgh. Leave behind the hustle and bustle of city and town life and enter the calming surrounds of open countryside and picturesque woodland where local wildlife abounds – from deer to foxes, herons to swans and even the odd hawk can be seen swooping low over the fields looking for prey.

Along the way there are a number of popular features including the Avon, Almond and Slateford Aqueducts, which are amongst the finest in Britain, and the 'Laughin' Greetin' bridge at Glen Village, famous for its carved faces on the keystones. The impressive Falkirk Tunnel is 631 metres long and cuts through solid rock. It was constructed because a powerful landowner objected to the prospect of being able to see the canal from his house, the beautiful Callender House.

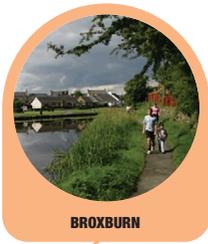


On bike

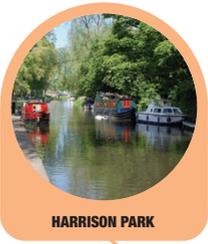
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The 32 miles of towpath has been restored with the cyclist in mind – it's safe, traffic and pollution free and an ideal route for cyclists of all levels, and with Sustrans Route 754 following the towpath from Edinburgh to Bowling, you can cycle across Scotland.

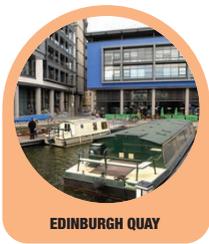
Visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk for details of cycle hire along the canal.



BROXBURN



HARRISON PARK



EDINBURGH QUAY

Just of the the towpath

There are some hidden gems along the Union Canal, so make sure you plan your visit around them:

The Falkirk Wheel

As the world's first and only rotating boat lift, The Falkirk Wheel is an astonishing feat of engineering and a must-see attraction rolled into one. A day at The Falkirk Wheel offers so much more, with relaxing boat trips, hands-on interactive displays, walks and cycle paths through beautiful countryside, a fantastic outdoor play area for kids of all ages and a stunning Visitor Centre with a welcoming café and gift shop. The only way to truly experience this icon for Scotland is by sailing into the air aboard a boat trip. To book your trip today or find out more, visit www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk.

Edinburgh Quay

Edinburgh," said the writer Robert Louis Stevenson "Is what Paris ought to be." Paris has the Seine, Edinburgh has the Union Canal, and Edinburgh Quay brings alfresco waterside dining to the historic streets of Scotland's capital. Once unknown to all but the local waterway aficionados, Edinburgh Quay at Lochrin Basin is now an attractive place to meet friends, to eat, drink or take a canal-

side stroll and watch the colourful boats. Edinburgh Quay is also the venue for the newly established Edinburgh Canal Festival in June each year.

Linlithgow Canal Centre

Run by the Linlithgow Union Canal Society, the Linlithgow Canal Centre offers boat trips along the Union Canal and on The Falkirk Wheel, and boasts Scotland's only Canal Museum. August sees the annual Fun Day and Cardboard Boat Race, a great day out for all the family. Visit www.lucis.org.uk to find out more.

Aqueducts and Tunnels

All along the Union Canal you will find historic canal structures, from the Slateford Aqueduct taking you over the Water of Leith in Edinburgh, the Almond Aqueduct over the River Almond near Ratho and the Avon Aqueduct, Scotland's longest and tallest aqueduct, near Linlithgow. Many of the stone bridges have carvings, from the coat of arms of Edinburgh and Glasgow, to the faces on the 'Laughin' and Greetin' Bridge' near the eastern entrance of the impressive 631 metre long Falkirk Tunnel. Take a stroll along the canal towpath to see these magnificent sights for yourself.



RATHO



The Monkland Canal

The Monkland Canal is no longer available for navigation but is, nevertheless, a vital part of Scotland's canal system. It provides the main water supply to the Forth & Clyde Canal and is locally important as an amenity for the community. James Watt began cutting the Monkland Canal on 26 June 1770. For three years the workforce inched toward Glasgow until funding finally ran out. More money had to be raised in 1780 to continue with construction, and improvements were also carried out between 1790 and 1793. Locks were built at Blackhill to join the upper and lower levels, and the canal was extended to the Forth & Clyde Canal at Port Dundas. The development of the iron industry in Coatbridge in the 1830s generated so much business that the

growth of railways caused barely a blip in the canal's profits - even the passenger services continued to thrive.

The Forth & Clyde Canal Company bought the Monkland in 1846, and in 1867 these canals were in turn bought by the Caledonian Railway. Fierce competition for the iron business forced trade off the canals and onto the railways. Within 20 years traffic had halved, and by the mid 1930s the canal was disused, finally being abandoned in 1950. In the 1960s much of the canal was filled in, with the section from Townhead to Easterhouse being buried beneath the M8 motorway. However sections of the canal survive in water today, and are prized as an amenity by local people as well as the local wildlife!

Just off the towpath

Drumpellier Country Park

Drumpellier, situated in Coatbridge, is an attractive country park with lots to offer a great family day out. With 2 lochs and the Monkland Canal at the southern end of the park, this is a great place for wildlife, especially the large number of water birds. Take a stroll around the lochs or along the canal, keep the children entertained in the play areas, take to the water on a hire boat, or take a train tour around the loch. Visit www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk to find out much more.

Summerlee – Museum of Scottish Industrial Life

Set in 22 acres based around the site of the

nineteenth century Summerlee Ironworks, the museum has many attractions for all the family including Scotland's only electric tramway and recreated mine and miners' cottages and playpark and much more. Visit www.visitlanarkshire.com/summerlee

The Time Capsule

A unique leisure experience where you can swim through dinosaur infested waters, ride the river rapids, or skate in snow storms. The Time Capsule is a great day out for all the family with a swimming pool, ice rink, gym and fitness centre, and much more.

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to find out more and thank you for your support

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