

Luss Village Paths



Four walks set off from the visitor centre by the car park, leading you through the village and the surrounding countryside. They include two short, all-abilities paths that are suitable for walkers, wheelchair-users and buggy-pushers.

LOCHSIDE PATH (15 minutes) explores the village and the lochside by the pier, which has welcomed cruise boats since 1850.

RIVER PATH (30 minutes) follows the banks of Luss Water past the meadows where sheep graze.

QUARRY PATH (30 minutes) strikes a line up into the hills, where Luss water tumbles by one of the old mills and the quarry where men cleaved the rock to roof the tenement houses of 19th century Glasgow.

LUSS HERITAGE PATH (1 hour) brings all the walks together to form a full circuit of the village, the river and the surrounding countryside. It offers some stunning views as well as a good walk. Afterwards, reward yourself with a drink and something to eat in one of the cafés or hotels.

THROUGH THE GLEN If you want a longer walk, follow the Luss Glen road up to the hills. Leave your car in the village and follow the Quarry Path in an anti-clockwise direction to the foot of the glen, using the footbridge to cross the A82 behind the school. Then follow the road up into the glen.

LUSS GLEBE LOOP Where the Lochside, Riverside and Heritage Paths meet behind Luss Church turn left onto a bridge for a short loop around Luss Glebe's meadows, oakwoods and loch shore.

WONDERFUL WOODLANDS

Once woodlands like these covered most of Scotland, but now they cover only a small area. The oak woodlands are very old and go most of the way around the loch.

Villagers used to cut the trees in a 24-year rotation known as coppicing. The trees were cut and a single shoot was allowed to regrow. Their bark provided tannin, which softened leather used in machine belts.



The present church was built in 1875, but the graveyard is much older. The earliest stones date from the 7th or 8th century. Look out for the 11th century Viking hogback grave.

A rich seam of blue-grey slate runs through the village and many villagers worked in the slate quarries.



FLOCK AND FLEE

In 1747, blackface sheep were introduced to Glen Luss and it was noted how well they did. Soon landlords all across the Highlands were evicting their tenants to make way for sheep in one of Scotland's most heart-rending stories – The Clearances.

Look out for the Tupp Bridge which bears a sculpted sheep's head and the inscription 'Wm Johns Built this Bridge 1777'.

Sheep still graze on the surrounding hills, so please keep dogs under control at all times and leave them at home in the lambing season.



- National Park information
- Parking
- Toilets

Remember, the houses are private homes – please respect the residents' privacy.

- Lochside Path** (15 minutes) explores the village and the shore on flat even surfaces.
- Riverside Path** (30 minutes) follows the banks of Luss Water on flat even surfaces.
- Slate Quarry Path** (30 minutes) passes one of the old mills and a slate quarry with some steep sections and steps.
- Luss Heritage Walk** (1 hour) is a full circuit of the village, the river and the surrounding countryside with some steep sections and steps.



The neat rows of cottages were built by the laird around 150 years ago to house the workers in the mills and slate quarries.

Water Bus
Luss Pier

Luss has a long sandy beach which is ideal for picnics and paddling. The water quality is tested regularly during the bathing season as part of the EU Bathing Waters Directive.

But be warned – the water is cold all year round!



GETTING HERE IS EASY

BY CYCLE, BUS, BOAT OR CAR

Luss is on the A82 from Glasgow to Fort William. It's 8 miles north of Balloch on the West Loch Lomond Cycle Path and is readily accessible by bus from Glasgow, Balloch, Crianlarich and Argyll. Water bus services to and from Balmaha and Balloch operate from Luss Pier. See separate leaflet for details.



For more information on public transport services contact Traveline Scotland on tel: 0871 200 22 33 or www.travelinescotland.com.

REMEMBER

Please remember that the houses in the village are private residences set in a working landscape.

- Please respect residents' privacy
- Avoid disturbing livestock
- Keep dogs under control at all times
- Take your litter home
- Avoid all risk of fire
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, walls and hedges

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment.**

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

outdooraccess-scotland.com

A NATIONAL PARK FOR EVERYONE

It's the nation's park. To discover, to explore, to enjoy. It's all about finding your own space. And then choosing what you do with it...

There is so much to enjoy in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park – woods and forests, wild flowers and wildlife watching, watersports, climbing or just taking in the view.

There's always something to do. Whether you love adventure or prefer more passive pastimes, you'll find an activity to suit.

If you would like further information about paths in the National Park please contact:

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
National Park Headquarters, Carrochan
Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG
Tel 01389 722600
email: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org
web: www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

**Large print version of this leaflet
is available on request**

This leaflet was produced with the cooperation of numerous organisations and individuals. We would like to thank everyone for their help including: The Clan Colquhoun Museum, Luss Estates, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Enterprise and Landart.

Luss Village Paths



Explore this
conservation village
on a range of walks
taking 15 minutes
to 1 hour

Please pass this leaflet on when you have finished with it!



Welcome to Luss

Through village and glen...

On the banks of Loch Lomond, overlooking tranquil wooded islands, the ancient settlement of Luss was rebuilt in the 19th century. One hundred years earlier, the introduction of sheep to Luss Glen changed the fate of Highlanders forever.

Luss Village Paths explore this conservation village, with its pretty streets bedecked with flowers, long beach and ancient graveyard. They range from a level 15-minute stroll through the village to a 1-hour walk through the village and surrounding countryside.

Why not take some time to get to know it?



OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Around 1,500 years ago an Irish missionary, St Kessog, arrived here bringing Christianity to the shores of Loch Lomond. He settled on the nearby island of Inchtavannach. At that time Luss was known as Clachan Dhu – the dark village – because it lay in the shadow of the surrounding hills. The saint was martyred and his body embalmed in sweet herbs. Legend has it that the herbs grew and covered his grave, giving rise to a new name for the village from the Gaelic word *lus*, meaning herb.

The present church dates from 1875, though there's probably been a church here for many centuries. Look around the churchyard – some of the stones are very old. The earliest are the two 7th or 8th century slabs with simple crosses at the entrance to the church. There's also an 11th century Viking hogback grave.

SLATES, MILLS AND COTTAGES

Luss folk, like others in the Highlands, belonged to the extended family of the clan. By the late 18th century the chief had become the laird and many villagers worked for him. There were several mills here including a corn-mill, a sawmill and even a cotton-mill. Around 1850, the laird cleared their old, turf-thatched cottages and built a new model village for his workers.

A rich seam of blue-grey slate runs through the village and many villagers worked in the slate quarries. You'll still find the slates on the roofs of many Glasgow tenements. As you walk along the Quarry Path, look out for mounds of slates. These were the ones that the workers threw away.

