

LOCH TROOL CIRCULAR

- Circular lochside and forest walk**
- 8.5km/5½ miles**
- Allow 3 hours**
- Hard surface paths and tracks. Beaten earth, soft in places, and steps to narrow bridge .**
- Strenuous**
- Boots recommended**

PARKING From Newton Stewart, follow the A714 towards Girvan, turning right at Bargrennan to Glentrool village. Follow signs to Glen Trool visitor centre. Go past the visitor centre and continue to follow the road for 3km/1½ miles. Take the first tarred road on your right and follow it to reach a car park just before a bridge.

START From the car park, follow the green waymarkers.

Follow the Southern Upland Way (SUW) past Caldots House, through remnants of the ancient woodlands that once covered most of Glen Trool. Continue uphill into conifers on the steep southern side of Loch Trool. Along the way, viewpoints offer fantastic vistas over the loch to the Fell of Eschoncan and Buchan Hill, foothills of the Merrick.

Near the head of Loch Trool, you pass the site of the Battle of Trool. At this spot, in March 1307, Robert the Bruce defeated a 1500-strong English army led by Sir Aymer de Valence. Bruce's army numbered only 300 men but, by luring the enemy along the steep sides of Loch Trool, he managed to ambush them and knocked them into the water with boulders.

At the bridge at the head of Loch Trool, leave the SUW to follow the northern shores of the loch. The route winds through Buchan and Glenhead woods, passing waterfalls and burns rushing down from the hills above. Both are excellent examples of oak woodland and are home to a variety of wildlife, from roe deer to redstarts.

Soon you come to a car park where a short detour takes you to Bruce's stone. This large, granite boulder was erected to commemorate the Battle of Trool and sits on a commanding viewpoint overlooking the loch. From here, continue to follow waymarkers back to the car park.



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Leave gates as you find them - Keep dogs under close control at all times - Keep to paths across farmland - Take care on country roads
Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls - Respect farm livestock, crops and machinery - Take your litter home with you
Protect wildlife, plants and trees - Guard against risk of fire - Make no unnecessary noise.

GLENTROOL TO MARTYRS' TOMB

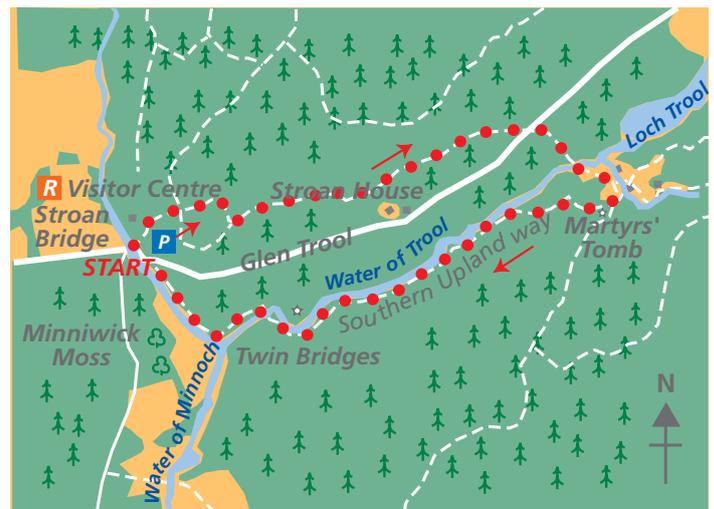
- **Circular forest and woodland walk**
- **7km/4½ miles**
- **Allow 2½ hours**
- **Minor road and hard surface path and track.
Beaten earth, soft in places.**
- **Moderate**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**

PARKING From Newton Stewart, follow the A714 towards Girvan, turning right at Bargrennan to Glentrool village. Follow signs to the large car park at Glen Trool visitor centre (open from April to the end of October).

START From the visitor centre, follow the yellow waymarkers. The trail winds through the forest with small numbers of more exotic species such as grand fir amongst the Sitka and Norway spruce. Continue through the forest, passing Spout Head waterfall and enjoy views to Lamachan and Larg hill as you approach Caldons House.

Pass by the house through ancient, native woodland. A short detour takes you to the Martyrs' Tomb. This memorial commemorates six Covenanters who were shot when caught at prayer. Covenanters were Scottish Presbyterians who refused to accept the Episcopalian system introduced by King Charles I, which demanded they sign an oath of allegiance to the King rather than God. Known as the 'Killing Times', many died for their beliefs.

Follow the Southern Upland Way along the meandering Water of Trool. There are good views to the hills on both sides of the glen as you approach the 'Water of Trool Bridge'. To the south, Craignaw sits in front of the higher peaks of Larg and Lamachan hill. Leaving the SUW, the path crosses over the river via the bridge and returns to the car park, passing by the attractive rapids and falls at Stroan Bridge.



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WATER OF MINNOCH

- **Circular riverside, woodland and forest walk**
- **11.5km/7 miles**
- **Allow 3½ hours**
- **Hard surface path and track. Grass path and beaten earth, soft in places. Stiles and steps.**
- **Moderate**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**
- **WARNING: Once or twice a year, usually in winter, this route may flood. Under these conditions it is best to avoid it altogether.**

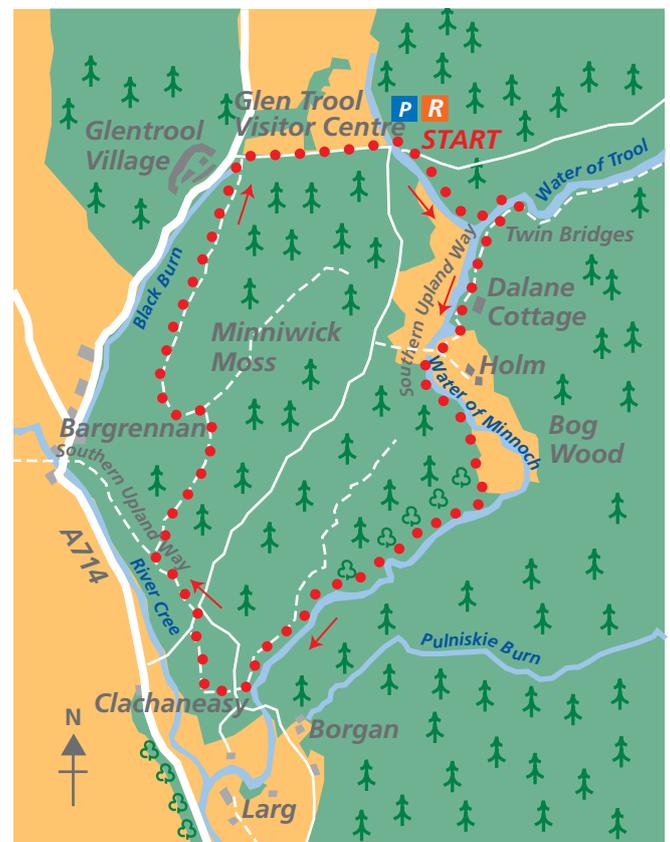
PARKING From Newton Stewart, follow the A714 towards Girvan, turning right at Bargrennan to Glentrool village. Follow signs to the large car park at Glen Trool visitor centre (open from April to the end of October).

START A National Cycle Network signpost stands at the start of the path along the Water of Minnoch. Follow the path through woodland to the bridge across the Water of Trool then turn right onto the Southern Upland Way. Soon you reach the junction of the Water of Trool and the Water of Minnoch. Continue along the path to the bridge at Holm of Bargrennan.

Follow the Way into woodland with trees such as birch, oak and hazel. The path heads deep into the woods then crosses a dyke to re-join the river at an attractive, rocky section.

Continue through conifer forest to reach a track. Follow waymarkers, continuing straight ahead at the crossroads. Ignore the next SUW waymarker, indicating a path to the left. Instead, stay on the track and follow cycle route waymarkers.

As you head uphill you are rewarded with good views to Lamachan hill. The track winds through the forest before heading down to meet the road. Turn right and follow the pleasant road back to Glen Trool visitor centre.



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MURRAY'S MONUMENT

- **Circular forest walk**
- **Hard surface path and track**
- **2.5km/ 1 ½ miles**
- **Allow 1 ½ hours**
- **Strenuous (steep climb to monument)**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**

PARKING From the A75, just east of Newton Stewart, follow the A712 to the Galloway Forest Park. After approximately 11km/6½ miles, the car park for the Grey Mare's Tail is on your left.

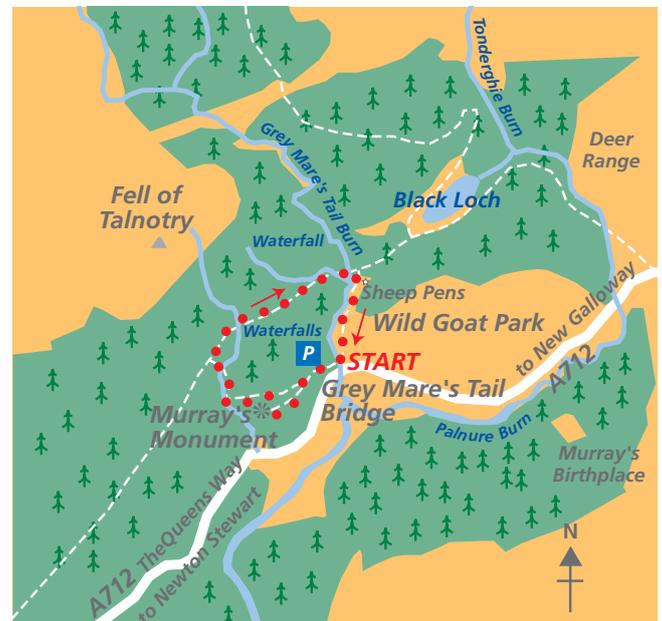
START From the car park, follow the red waymarkers along the Talnotry Trail.

The stretch of the A712 through the Galloway Forest Park is known as the Queen's Way, in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee. It is a very scenic stretch of road, winding through forests and moorland with rugged hills rising on either side. Other attractions include the Red Deer Range and the Goat Park, large areas of hillside fenced off to contain some of the red deer and wild goats that roam these hills, and Clatteringshaws visitor centre on the shores of the loch (open April to October).

The steep climb up to Murray's Monument is well worth the effort. The monument was erected in 1835 in memory of Alexander Murray, a local shepherd boy who later became professor of oriental languages at Edinburgh University. It stands in a prominent position on the hillside with commanding views of the valley and the northern slopes of Cairnsmore of Fleet.

The trail continues through the forest, be aware the trail joins one of the mountain bike trails for approximately 250m before it joins the old Edinburgh Road, once used by pilgrims on their way to Whithorn. After crossing the Grey Mare's Tail burn follow the path downhill, through old sheep pens where eerie faces await you. These unusual carvings, set into the stone walls of the pens are part of the Galloway Forest Park arts programme.

Follow the path down craggy, heather clad slopes to the car park. A viewing point here is the best place to see the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall as it cascades over rocks before meeting the Palnure burn.



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PENNINGHAME ALL ABILITIES

Circular forest walk

1 km/¾ miles

Allow ½ hour

Hard surfaced path.

Easy

Everyday shoes can be worn throughout

Suitable for wheelchair users

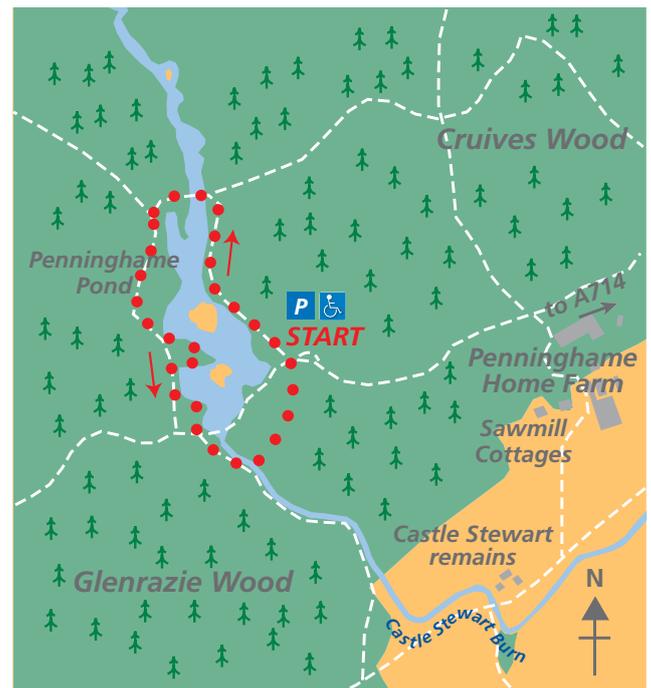
PARKING From Newton Stewart, follow the A714 towards Girvan. After approximately 5km/3 miles turn left at the sign for Penninghame Pond. Follow the track to reach the car park.

START Follow the waymarked trail round the pond, through the forest and back to the car park.

Penninghame pond was developed to create an all abilities trail, providing an ideal opportunity to get out and enjoy the countryside. The path has been specially constructed to allow access by wheelchair users and is great for anyone wishing a short, pleasant stroll. There are also interpretation panels and picnic areas along the way.

Follow the trail along the water's edge through attractive woodland. There are several viewpoints where you can stop and soak up the scenery or spot wildlife. Mallard and moorhen are common in this type of habitat and in the bushes along the edges of the pond you may see the occasional goldcrest, our smallest breeding bird.

Continue through the trees, mainly conifers planted in the 1950s. Soon you reach a bridge from where you can enjoy good views over the whole pond. Pike occur naturally here and are large, voracious predators, often known as 'freshwater tigers'. After crossing the track, the path loops through the forest before returning over a bridge to the car park.



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BLACK WATER TRAIL

- **Circular riverside and forest walk**
- **2.5km/1½ miles**
- **Allow 1 hour**
- **Hard surface path and beaten earth**
- **Easy**
- **Stout shoes or boots recommended**
- **There is a ticket machine at each end of the Raiders Road forest drive, charging a small fee**

PARKING (APRIL TO OCTOBER) From the A75, follow the A762 to New Galloway. Just north of Mossdale, a Forestry Commission sign indicates the entrance to the Raiders Road forest drive. Follow Raiders Road to a car park on your left at Stroan Viaduct. Two trails start from here.

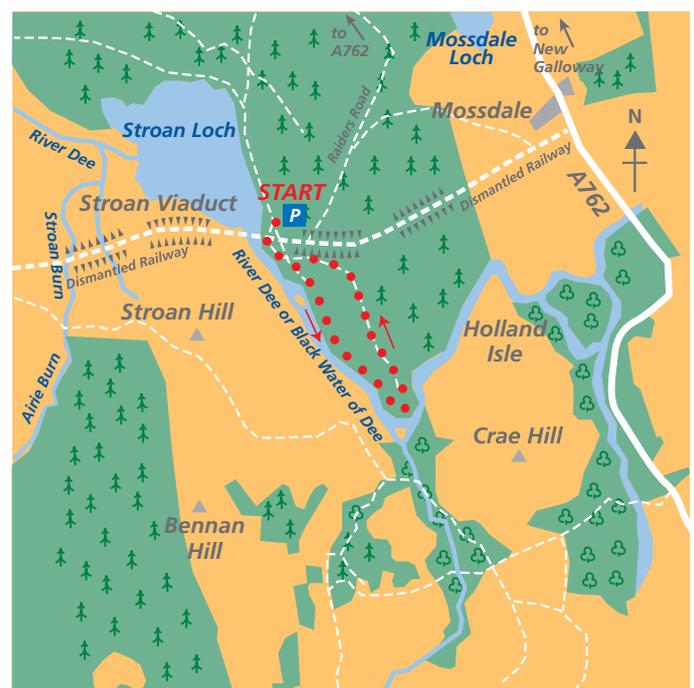
PARKING (OCTOBER TO APRIL) When the Raiders Road is closed there is sufficient parking for two or three cars just before the ticket machine and barrier at the start. Please take care not to block the entrance. Walk to the start of the route. This adds a total of 5km/3 miles.

START The start of the Black Water Trail is just before the viaduct. Follow the path along the Black Water of Dee, returning through the forest. This trail is no longer waymarked but is easy to follow. The route can be shortened by following a forest ride half way along the trail.

The Raiders Road runs between Clatteringshaws and Mossdale for 10 miles, following the course of an old drove road. Stroan viaduct, situated just off it was built in 1863 as part of the Portpatrick to Dumfries line. Last used in 1965, it is now home to Daubenton's bats and provides an attractive backdrop to Loch Stroan.

The surrounding countryside is rich and varied. Hills, moors and heath support a variety of wildlife. Teal and goosander frequent wetlands, while up on the moors, skylarks take cover amongst the purple moor grass. There are plenty of opportunities to stop and appreciate the rugged scenery along the River Dee or Black Water of Dee, named after its dark, peaty water.

The route returns through quiet, shady, conifer forest. Here birds such as crossbills feed on the cones, using their specially adapted beak to extract seeds. Roe deer also live in the forest but are very elusive and difficult to spot. Continue straight ahead through the trees, ignoring the path off to your left and soon you head back under the viaduct to the car park.



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