

There's more.

Apart from this trail there is much more to do and discover:

Take a Loch Katrine cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott. You'll learn more about the area's Art and Literature heritage.

Explore Loch Katrine's North Shore Road. There is a separate leaflet that contains a map and information.



How to find us...



The Great Trossachs Forest



TRAIL

For information on public transport services contact:

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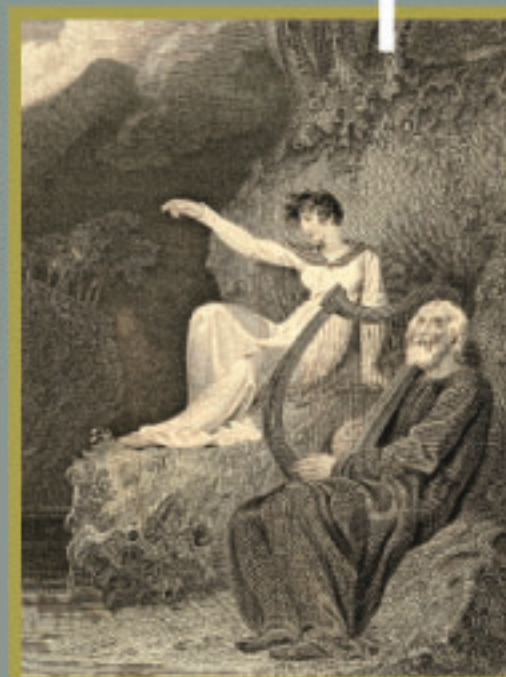
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The Lady of the Lake by Francis Engleheart after Richard Westall

Walk in Their Footsteps

One of the jewels of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Loch Katrine and the surrounding Trossachs have attracted and inspired artists, writers and musicians for hundreds of years. By following this unique Art and Literature Trail you can follow in their footsteps and discover why this area is embedded in the hearts and minds of so many.

Although most of the literature available today is in English, Gaelic writing had been recorded in the area for more than 500 years. *The First Statistical Account of Scotland*, written in 1791 by Callander parish minister Dr Robertson, contained this evocative sentence:

"The Trossachs are often visited by persons of taste, who are desirous of seeing nature in her rudest and most unpolished state."

Was Dr Robertson describing the earliest tourists to this area? He certainly was. In 1803 three great English writers explored the Trossachs. They were William Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy and fellow poet Samuel Coleridge. They were captivated by the area's landscape and aura of romance. Their subsequent writings inspired countless visitors to follow in their footsteps.

One of their 'footstep-followers' was Sir Walter Scott. He had met the Wordsworths in the Scottish Borders after their Trossachs visit. He visited the Trossachs several times and then set his best selling *Lady of the Lake* in and around Loch Katrine.

Published in 1810, the epic poem brought the history and majesty of The Trossachs into readers' homes (25,000 copies were sold in 6 months – huge numbers at that time). Within 10 years it had been translated into 20 languages, theatre plays, musicals and operas.

Scott's highly dramatic prose 'brought to life' the beauty of the Trossachs. It arguably changed forever how people looked at and enjoyed landscape. The floodgates opened. More and more visitors came. Professional and amateur artists carted sketch books along the edge of the loch and even Queen Victoria joined the Lady of the Lake 'fan club'. Scott's publisher wrote:

"The whole country rang with praises of the poet - crowds set off to the scenery of Loch Katrine... every house and inn in the neighbourhood was crammed with a constant succession of visitors."

Early guide books appeared. Although Elizabeth Murray had written *A Companion and Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland* in 1797, the 'next generation' of Scott-inspired publications was started by Patrick Graham in 1810. Its wordy title reveals all:

Sketched Descriptive of the Picturesque Scenery of Perthshire including the Trossachs and that country in which the scene of 'Lady of the Lake' is laid...

In 1817 Scott went on to publish his adventure-novel *Rob Roy*. It romanticised the bandit-hero and further reinforced the appeal of the Trossachs.

Other literary tourists who followed included such famous names as Thomas Carlyle, Hans Christian Anderson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Alexander Smith and Jules Verne, whose book, *The Underground City*, is set beneath Loch Katrine.

© National Galleries of Scotland



Horatio McCulloch
by David Octavius Hill and Robert Adairson

In the summer of 1853, the Trossachs 'magnet' attracted the writer, naturalist and philosopher John Ruskin. He was accompanied by his wife, and the artist Millais. Millais painted his famous portrait of Ruskin at Brig O'Turk. Ruskin was likewise inspired. In his famous 'Art and Landscape Lectures', many references were made to the area and to Sir Walter Scott's 'fiaming prose'.

More painters came. Horatio McCulloch created one of Scotland's best known landscapes here: *Loch Katrine*.

Its dramatic style reinforced the romantic imagery of the Trossachs. Other visiting great painters included Turner, Nasmyth, Knox and Bough. A Brig O'Turk connection with The Glasgow Boys, who included James Guthrie in their group, opened a door into a new era of Scottish contemporary painting.

And musicians were equally inspired. A young Schubert wrote one of his best known pieces, *Ave Maria*, to the words of *Lady of the Lake*. Rossini's opera *La Donna del Lago* was similarly based on the *Rob Roy* and *Lady of the Lake* stories.

William Fox Talbot (known as the inventor of photography) published a hugely popular, pioneering book of photographs that were taken here.

Their collective and creative legacy was the birth of Scottish tourism, as we know it today. It is probably why you are here, reading this leaflet.

To fully explore and enjoy this trail you should visit the places shown by this map. At each point you'll 'find out more'. You will not only be **Walking in Their Footsteps** but personally experiencing the emotions that have inspired so many for centuries.

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Sir Walter Scott

Loch Katrine

Take a stroll along the banks of Loch Katrine and discover answers to the questions:

How did writers, poets, musicians and artists make Loch Katrine the 'Birthplace of Scottish Tourism'?

Who was the Lady of the Lake and why did she play such an important role in Trossachs Tourism?

And what's the musical connection with the President of the USA and with Schubert's Ave Maria?

See the main map for the key interpretive locations.

Inversnaid

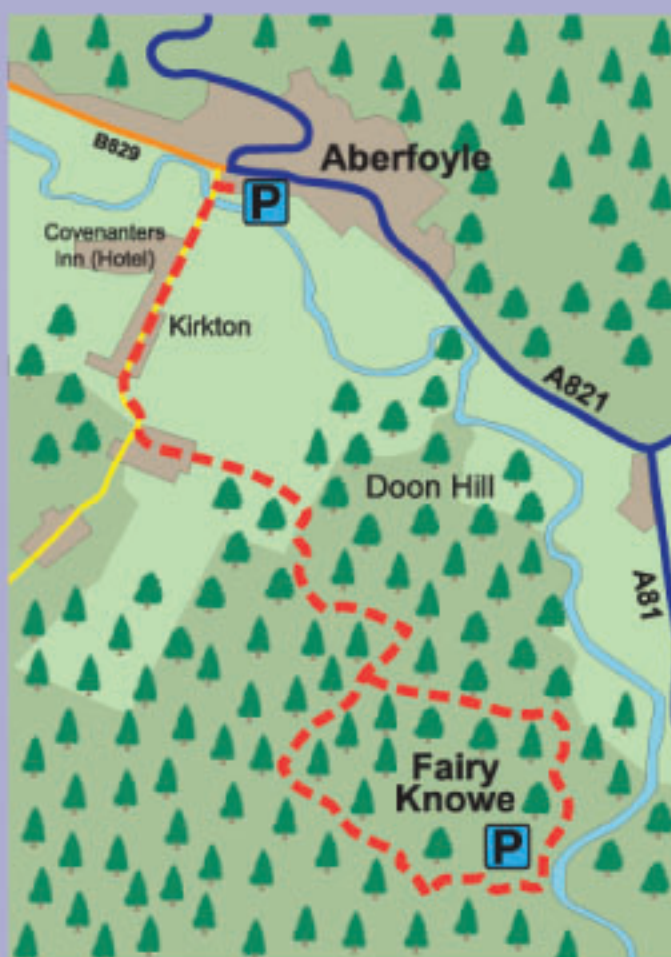


By the waterfall at the end of the Hotel, did a middle aged Wordsworth fall in love with a ferryman's daughter, or was he yearning for his lost youth?

What did another entranced poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, write about Inversnaid's waterfalls and tumbling burns?

Who were the Gaelic authors who preceded them?

Aberfoyle



Climb up Doon Hill and ask yourself, did Reverend Robert Kirk write his own death warrant? And was an Urisk responsible?

The Reverend Robert Kirk was a minister in the town. In 1691 he published his famous book *'The Secret Commonwealth of Elves and Fairies.'* It was subtitled *'an essay of the nature and actions of the subterranean (and for the most part) invisible people heretofore going under the names Elves, Fauns and Fairies.'*

Not long after that he mysteriously disappeared.

In spite of his religion, like most people in the 17th Century he believed in witchcraft, spirits and pagan rituals. In fact he was so obsessed by the study of fairies (known as Urisks) that he described their appearance, ways, habits and secrets in his book. That was probably his big mistake. Local people believe that by revealing their closely guarded secrets he annoyed the spirit people and they killed him!

The 'murder' took place on Aberfoyle's Doon Hill, which is a strange, knoll-like mound. The Reverend's body was found there on 14 May 1692, dressed only in a nightgown.

You can walk up to the top of Doon Hill from the town. Look for an ancient pine in the middle of a clearing. It's thought to be a doorway to an underground Fairy Queen's palace, where Robert Kirk's soul is still held captive.

Brig o' Turk



Walk from the Woodland Trust's car park to the river and learn how the poet, author and social thinker, John Ruskin, gained a famous portrait and lost a wife. Return via Brig o' Turk and discover the Glasgow Boys and how they turned traditional Scottish painting on its head.



Loch Katrine by Horatio McCulloch



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Kinlochard

Walk up the trail beyond the farm and see the sight that enraptured Sir Walter Scott.

Ledard farm plays a strong part in Sir Walter Scott's writings. Behind the farm is a waterfall, which Scott used in his novels *Waverley* and *Rob Roy*. He described the waterfall as:

"I never saw any thing which I admired so much: the height is not remarkable, but the accompaniments are exquisitely beautiful."

In *Rob Roy*, Helen MacGregor encounters Bailie Nicol Jarvie and his party at Ledard. In *Waverley*, Flora MacIvor sits by the waterfall, and sings a lovely song which begins *"There's a mist on the mountain..."*

In 1821 Glasgow bookseller, Thomas Atkinson, published a witty account of a Hairst Kirn, a three-day harvest festivity at Ledard. Called *Three Nights in Perthshire* it's a 'spoof' of a typical 'journal' that literary visitors to the Trossachs kept.