



The footbridge over the river in the autumn grass, the castle small on its point beyond

Before you go

The castle is about 0.8 km (half a mile) from Inver; with the turn to Kilmorie Chapel, about 200 metres each way, it is about 2 km (1¼ miles) there and back. The Lachlan Trust gives about an hour for the walk to the Old Castle. A woodland path, a boardwalk, a footbridge and a farm track, never more than about 10 metres above the sea, with gates to close.

Start at Inver, on the single-track B8000 about six miles south of Strachur; the Trust also names a car park by Kilmorie Chapel. No bus comes nearer than Strachur.



The walk online, with its photographs and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/a-walk-to-old-castle-lachlan-from-inver

It starts at Inver, at the head of Lachlan Bay on the B8000, NS 006 949.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for the police.

There is no toilet on the path, and the Trust names none. Keep dogs under control, as the Trust asks: the path crosses private farmland, and sheep graze the field in front of the new castle. The Trust says access may be limited for people who have difficulty walking. On 21 December it is light only from about 8.51am to 3.46pm.

After the walk

Waders and ducks are on the bay in every season, most often oystercatchers, herons and mallards. Inver, at the start, is a restaurant with rooms rather than a café: book a table on its own website.

A WALK TO

Old Castle Lachlan



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Inver round Lachlan Bay to the Ruin

Old Castle Lachlan is a 15th-century ruin on a rocky point in Lachlan Bay, on Loch Fyne. The walk goes from Inver, at the head of the bay, round the bay to the castle, with a short turn to Kilmore Chapel, where the clan's chiefs are buried, and back the same way.

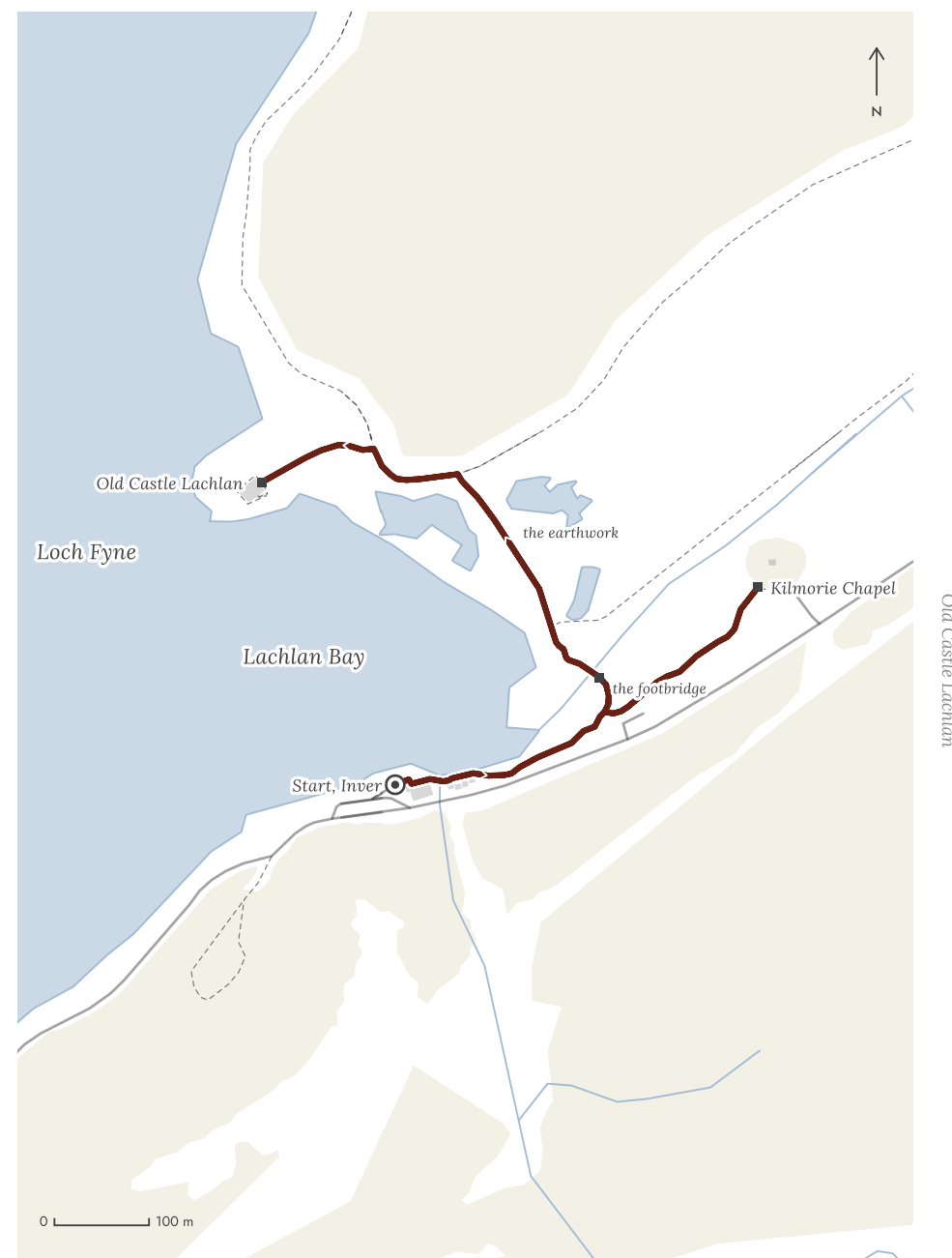
words // Hidden Scotland photography // Simon Hird

Start at Inver, at the head of Lachlan Bay on the B8000, about six miles south of Strachur. Inver began as a croft whose tenants paid part of the rent in fish; in 1968 Marjorie Maclachlan of Maclachlan, the clan's only woman chief, made it a restaurant. Silver birch and rowan line the first stretch of path; the rowan is Clan Maclachlan's own tree.

At the oval deck the right fork leads about 200 metres to Kilmore Chapel, one of the last medieval church buildings in the west of Scotland. Every chief since the 15th century lies here except three who died in battle, and Marjorie at the entrance; the Lachlan Trust saved it from collapse in 2006. Back at the fork, cross the Lachlan River by the footbridge: it runs dead straight, put in

a channel in the 19th century. Past a bench the path runs along the top of the old earthwork round the bay, built to drain the marsh. Please close the gates along the path.

Turn left on the farm track. Both castles are in view: the old fortress on the shore, and New Castle Lachlan inland, where the chief's family still lives. A short path leaves the track for the ruin. A castle has stood on this rocky point since at least 1314; the one here now is 15th-century, with one small door in its curtain wall and a tower house on each side of the courtyard. The chief was killed at Culloden in 1746, and the castle was never lived in again. Come back the same way to Inver.



One path from Inver round Lachlan Bay to Old Castle Lachlan and back, with the turn to Kilmore Chapel: about 2 km, or 1¼ miles.

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