

Looking up Loch Lubnaig under low cloud, cabins along the foot of the far shore

Before you go

One way, 9.2 miles (14.8 km): 4 to 5 hours on foot by Hillwalk Tours' figure. Old trackbed and cycleway, shared with bikes: a sound surface with a few muddy bits, gates and cattle grids, and sharp zigzags above the loch.

Leave the car in the free car park at the south end of Strathyre and take the C60 from the Ben Sheann Hotel to Callander: 9.21am Monday to Friday, 10.26am on Saturday, no bus on Sunday. Check the timetable.

No public toilets on the west shore: Callander's on Station Road open 8am to 6pm from March to October, 8am to 5pm from November to February. Keep a dog on a lead near cattle. From the end of October to February take the 9.21am bus: on 21 December the sun sets at 3.41pm.

After the walk

The Broch Café on Strathyre's Main Street, at the end, welcomes dogs: 10am to 4pm, closed on Wednesdays, and from December to February ring 01877 384612 first.

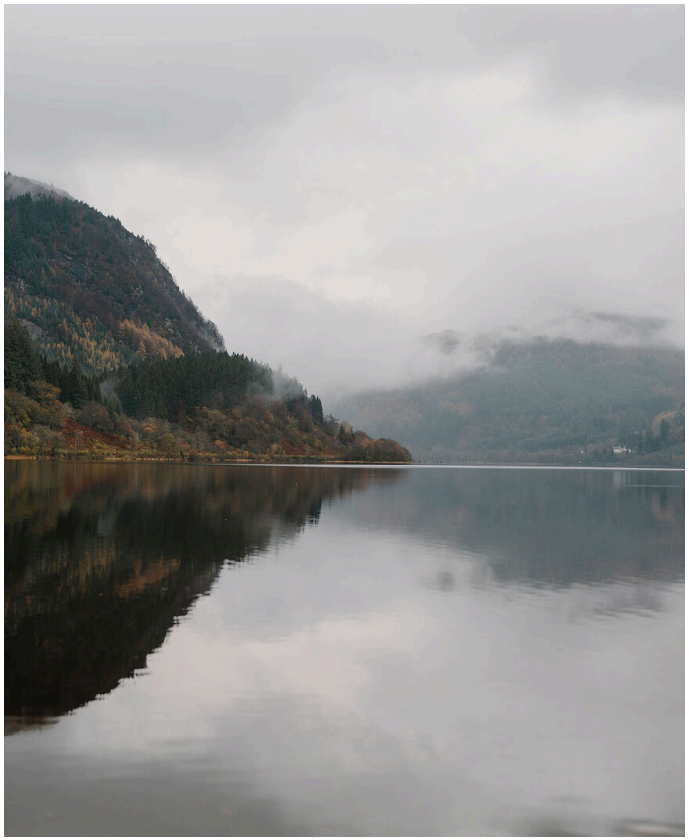
The walk online, with its photographs and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/loch-lubnaig-walk-on-the-old-railway-to-strathyre

It starts at the Meadows in Callander, NN 625 079.

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

A WALK BY

Loch Lubnaig



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

On the Old Railway from Callander to Strathyre

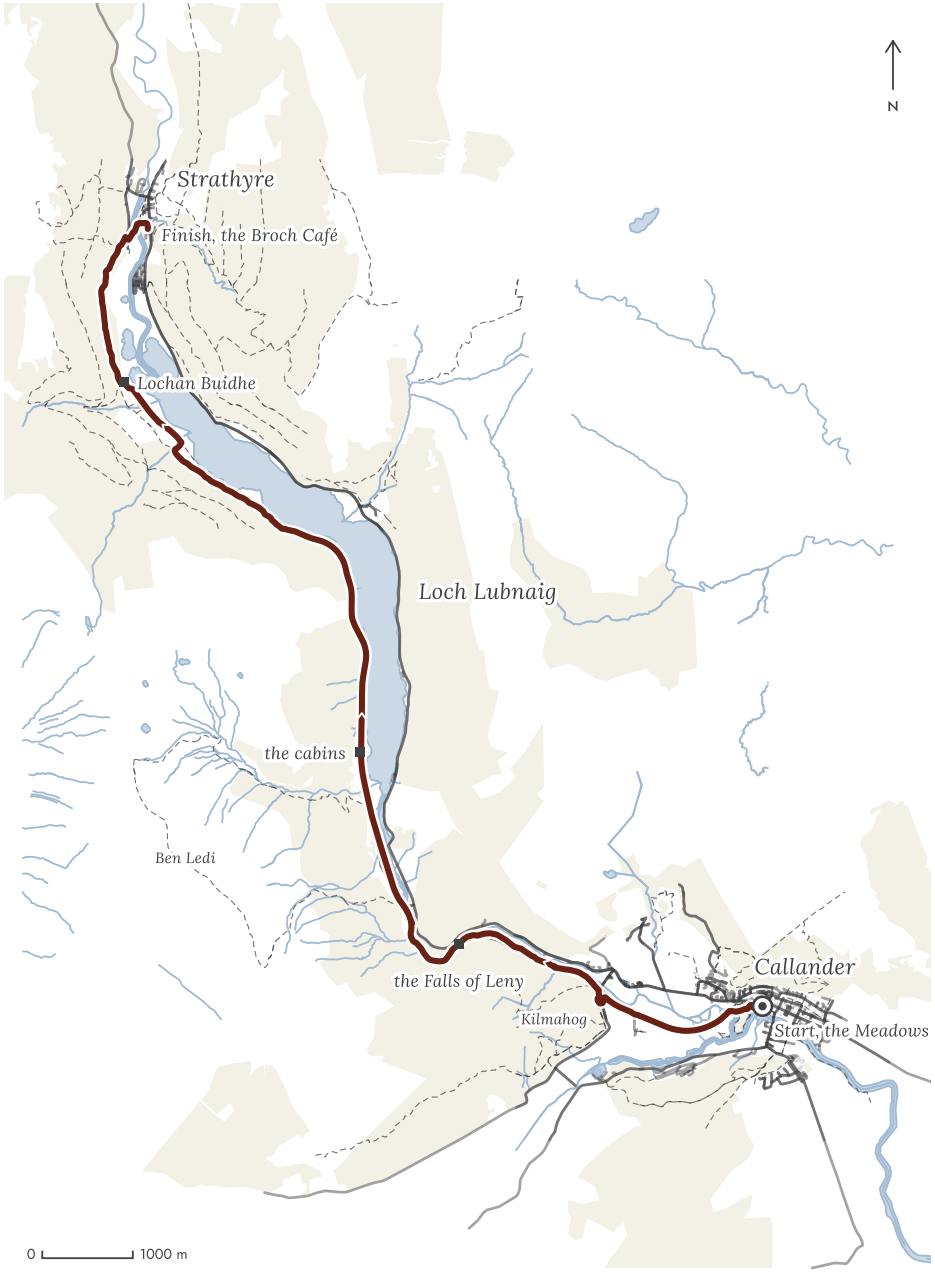
The railway from Callander to Oban closed in the 1960s, and its trackbed along the west shore of Loch Lubnaig is now a path for walkers and bikes. A morning bus runs from Strathyre down to Callander, and the walk comes nine miles back, through the Pass of Leny and up the whole length of the loch, to the village and a café at the end.

words // Hidden Scotland *photography* // Hidden Scotland and Simon Hird

The C60 from Strathyre sets you down at the Dreadnought Hotel in Callander, and the path starts at the Meadows by the river. It is National Cycle Route 7 and the Rob Roy Way, and bikes share it all the way. West of the town it crosses a farm road at Bochastle between pairs of gates and cattle grids: close each gate behind you. The low banks of a Roman camp lie between the track and the river, and at Kilmahog the Lade Inn is a short way off the path.

In the Pass of Leny a small detour leads to the Falls of Leny, a run of white water where the river crosses the Highland Boundary Fault. After a mile or so the river opens into Loch Lubnaig, and the old railway turns north up its west shore under steep forested hillsides. About 7 km from Callander it passes the Forest Holidays cabins, which have a café: ring 01877 330 323 to check it serves walkers, or carry lunch. Red squirrels are best seen there in the morning or late afternoon, Forest Holidays says.

The track drops to the loch shore, with a picnic table by the water, then climbs sharply by zigzags to a higher track with views up and down the loch. It runs above Lochan Buidhe, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and more zigzags lead up to a private tarmac road. The path comes into Strathyre over a suspension bridge, a minute from the Broch Café, and the car is in the car park at the south end of the village.



One way on the old railway, Callander to Strathyre: 9.2 miles, or 14.8 km, by the Rob Roy Way. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors