



PILGRIM JOURNEYS

Exploring Scotland's Sacred Places

Routes of Inspiration

St Columba Pilgrim Journey - - Inverness to Dornoch (optional Fearn peninsula loop)

Why Pilgrimage?

Follow in the footsteps of saints and sinners, discovering the legacy of Scotland's Celtic Saints by travelling routes that explore some of the country's most beautiful sacred places and scenic areas.

Experience the journey... feel a new sense of awe... be inspired on one of Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys.*

This Pilgrimage

An inspiring route from Inverness to Dornoch which forms part of one of St Columba's many journeys. His epic travels by sea and land from Ireland to Kintyre, through Argyll to Iona, then following the Great Glen to Tain and Portmahomack reveal the dramatic scenery, culture and geography of Scotland.

This 66-mile section features thirteen beautiful churches and sacred sites dating from the 13th to the 20th Centuries. Highlights include Wardlaw Mausoleum with its monument to the 10th Lord Lovat, the last man in Britain to be beheaded, the lavish stained glass of Dornoch Cathedral and the Pictish stones at the former Tarbat Parish Church. The route includes the option to include a loop of the stunning Fearn Peninsula, which is home to an additional four churches.

The Route

The route can be followed in either direction and could be completed in a day or include an overnight stay (Inverness or Dornoch)

Approximate drive-times to Inverness from near-by cities:

Edinburgh 3hrs 30mins, Aberdeen: 2hrs 30mins, Stirling: 2hrs 45mins, Perth: 2hrs 20mins, Dundee 2hrs 40mins.

Approximate Pilgrimage Journey Time

Inverness to Dornoch – 66 miles - Approx 1hr 45mins (by car)

(Approximately 5hrs by bicycle)

Additional loop (30 miles – approx 1hr by car)

Allow plenty of extra time to visit the churches along the way. Few of the working churches along this route have regular opening hours, apart from Sunday services, but all are open to visitors by arrangement. Website details are provided for each church where you will find a telephone number and/or email address that can be used to arrange a visit to the church. We've also highlighted some other attractions, cafes, bars, restaurants and hotels that you may want to include on your visit. ** Please phone in advance to avoid disappointment. See www.visitscotland.com for more information on the area.

For further information on the churches highlighted, and on Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys, visit www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com or read Donald Smith's book, Pilgrim Guide to Scotland, published by St Andrew Press.

Directions:

By Road

Leave Inverness westwards following the A862 through Beaully, stopping to view the priory. Bear right after Windhill, and then turn right on to the A832. Follow this by way of Fortrose and Rosemarkie to Cromarty. Leave Cromarty westwards on the B9163. Follow this road until you reach the A9, turning right to cross the Cromarty Bridge. Stay on the A9 until you enter Tain. Continue on the A9 turning right onto the A949 to

Dornoch (or from Tain, add an additional loop of the Fearn Peninsula by following the minor road to Portmahomack, then taking the B9165 from Portmahomack to Nigg. Take the B9175 back to Arabella and then on the minor road to reconnect with the A9 for Tain.)

By Cycle

Cyclists can follow the route westwards from Inverness, which is for the most part on minor roads, to Beaulieu and its Priory. Bear right after Windhill, turning right at Drynie Park. After 2 miles you meet NCN 1. Turn right on to this. Follow NCN 1 through Munloch as far as Killen. Turn right for Fortrose. Now go northward to rejoin NCN 1. Follow NCN 1 to Cromarty. Leave Cromarty westwards on the B9163. Follow this initially, but instead of keeping on the road to Balblair go straight ahead on minor roads. Rejoin the B9163. Bear left on the B9169 through Culbokie. Keep on until you meet NCN 1, turning right. Now follow NCN 1 all the way to Tain.

Cyclists wishing to include the additional Fearn peninsula loop would follow the same instructions as for drivers. It would be advisable for cyclists to finish their journey in Tain or follow the A836 then A949 to Dornoch instead of taking the busier A9.

On Foot

A short, attractive section of the route can be walked.

From Fortrose a circular walk can be made to Chanonry Point and Swallows Den -
<http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochness/Chanonry.shtml>

This could be followed by walking on from Rosemarkie to Cromarty -
<http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochness/Cromartycoast.shtml>

Once in Tain, commanding views over the Cromarty and Dornach Firths can be had from Tain Hill and Pulpit Rock. This is a short and easy walk, but starts 1.5 miles outside Tain itself. -
<http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/ullapool/tain-hill.shtml>

Route Summary

Inverness to Beaulieu (A682), Beaulieu to Tore, (A832), Tore to Fortrose (A832), Fortrose – Cromarty (A832), Cromarty – Cromarty Bridge (B9163), Ardullie – Tain (A9), Tain – Evelix (A9), Evelix – Dornoch (A949).

The Churches En-route ***

Kirkhill (Wardlaw) Parish Church (Near Beaulieu)

The parish of Kirkhill, in Moray, Scotland, was formerly called Wardlaw, because the garrison of Lovat was accustomed to keep watch or ward on the law or hill. The parish kirk was built on its present site in 1790.

Located: St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill

<http://www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk/>

Wardlaw Mausoleum or Lovat Burial Aisle, Kirkhill (Nr Beaulieu)

From 1632 Wardlaw Mausoleum was the burial place of the Lovat Clan Chiefs. The Mausoleum, completed in 1635, was attached to a church, but the church was later demolished. The interior is dominated by the monument raised by Simon, the Red Fox, to his father Thomas, 10th Lord Lovat, the last man in Britain to be beheaded.

Located: Wardlaw Mausoleum, Wardlaw Road, Kirkhill

Visiting: Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, April – September, 11am-12pm and 12pm-4pm. Admission free.

www.wardlawmuseum.com

Fortrose Cathedral

The south aisle of the nave and chapter house survive at this beautiful red sandstone cathedral at Fortrose. The cathedral was built in the first half of the 13th century, though it was extended and altered in the 14th and 15th centuries. This property is now in the care of Historic Scotland.

Located: 32 High St, Fortrose, Ross-Shire

Visiting: Keys available locally 9.30-5.30 in Summer and 9.30 and 4.30 in Winter. Tel: 01667 460232

http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/propertyresults/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL_137

Rosemarkie Parish Church

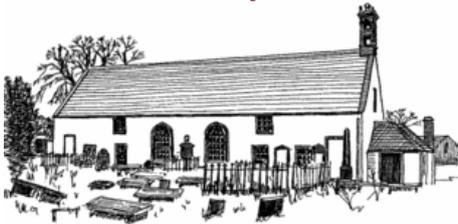


Overlooking the Moray Firth, Rosemarkie Church was built in 1821 and is rectangular with tall windows and a pinnacled square tower at the west end. The church has a pitch-pine interior with galleries dating from 1894 by John Robertson; the pulpit incorporates the 1821 crown-shaped canopy. The congregation united with Fortrose in 1967 and services alternate between the two church buildings.

Located: off the High Street in Rosemarkie, A832

<https://www.scotlandchurchestrust.org.uk/church/rosemarkie-parish-church>

The former Cromarty East Parish Church



This beautiful and fascinating church lies in the interesting town of Cromarty on the Black Isle. It has been described as "One of the finest 18th century parish churches in Scotland" but its roots go much further back. The East Church reflects the history of the community it served through the centuries. The church was founded in medieval times and was altered and reorientated after the Reformation. The north aisle was added 1739 to create a T-plan church and there were further alterations in 1756 and 1798. The interior dates principally from the 18th century with galleries added to accommodate the growing congregation, the most elaborate being the Cromartie loft of 1756. The box pews are of the 18th and 19th centuries, some of which display original painted decoration. Several fine monuments. The surrounding graveyard contains a number of memorials carved by the geologist, writer and church reformer Hugh Miller (1802-1856). Cromarty East Church is owned and maintained by the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust.

Located: Church Street, Cromarty

<https://www.scotlandchurchestrust.org.uk/church/east-church-cromarty>

The former Gaelic Church, Cromarty

In the late 18th century the local landowner developed Cromarty as a centre for linen manufacture and rope-making. This attracted many Gaelic-speakers from the eastern Highlands, and this church was built as their place of worship.

Located: on the north side of The Paye in Cromarty

<http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/965806>

The former Kiltearn Parish Church

Roofless T-plan church of 1790 incorporating medieval detail. On the outside of the east wall of the church, part of a former arch can be seen, probably belonging to an earlier church. There are several 17th and 18th century gravestones in the graveyard.

Located: near Kiltearn House Evanton

(Turn off for Evanton - turn left here and go under a Railway Bridge, continue up this road until you see a sign for Kiltearn Burial Ground, turn right here and continue down this single track road.)

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/13651/kiltearn-parish-church>

Invergordon Parish Church

Gothic, cruciform church, dominated by a very tall spire, over 140 feet high. The church was designed by Ross and Joass, 1859-61

Located: Castle Rd, Invergordon

www.invergordonparishchurch.org.uk

Tain

Tain was a famous medieval burgh and royal pilgrimage centre. It was the birthplace of St Duthac, who was an important figure in the Celtic Church in Ireland, and who remains the town's patron saint. His remains were first buried in St Duthac's Chapel and after this was burnt down, in St Duthac's Collegiate Church, which became popular with pilgrims, including King James IV who visited many times.

The former Tain Parish Church

Late Georgian Gothick building, designed by James Smith, 1811-15.

Located: Shandwick Street, Tain

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/109521/tain-shandwick-street-tain-parish-church>

Tain Parish Church

Italianate Church by A Maitland and Sons, 1891/92. This rectangular church has an ornate pedimented frontage to Queen Street and tall open campanile. It also features a rich galleried interior with original fittings.

Located: Queens Street, Tain, Tel: 01349 852273

www.tainparishchurch.org

St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church, Tain



A simple rectangular Gothic revival church designed by Ross and Macbeth and built in 1887 to replace an earlier corrugated iron structure. The earliest stained glass, by Ballantine & Gardiner, was moved from the earlier church. Other features of the church include glass by A L Ward 1910, and W Wilson 1955 and 1961 and a fine organ by Hamilton & Muller, which was restored 1986. The forward altar was designed and carved from American oak by Peter Bailey of Skye in 1995. St Andrew's features lancet windows, a steeply pitched roof and timber bellcote with spire.

Located: Manse Street, Tain

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/st-andrews-tain>

Dornoch Cathedral



Dornoch Cathedral shot to international fame in 2000 as the location for Madonna's wedding to Guy Ritchie. The cathedral was founded by Bishop Gilbert de Moravia in the 13th century and the first service in the building was held in 1239. The medieval masonry of the chancel and the crossing piers remains mostly intact today. The nave was destroyed by fire in 1570, the transepts and choir were reroofed 1616, and the nave rebuilt 1837. In 1924 the interior stonework was exposed. Lavish display of stained glass, including several windows by James Ballantine, others by Percy Bacon, and the St Gilbert window by Crear McCartney 1989. Located: High Street, Dornoch

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/dornoch-cathedral>

(Additional Fearn Peninsula loop)

The former Tarbat Parish Church, Portmahomack

Scotland's only Pictish Monastic National Monument. Long, low T-plan white-harled church of 1756 incorporating some earlier work. Square stumpy ashlar belfry with ogee roof on the west gable apex. The building is now used as Tarbat Discovery Centre featuring archaeology displays including Pictish stones, and a place for private prayer in the crypt. An adjacent archaeological dig is ongoing.

Located :Tarbat Discovery Centre, Tarbatness Rd, Portmahomack, Tain
Phone:01862 871351)

Visiting: See www.tarbat-discovery.co.uk for visiting times and admission charges.

Tarbat Parish Church, Portmahomack

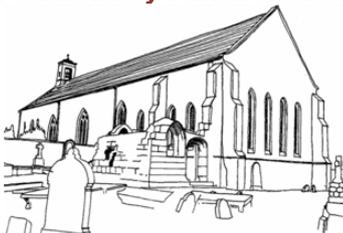


Simple rectangular building with Arts & Crafts touches. Built in 1908 for the United Free Church building, the architects were Andrew Maitland & Sons.

Visiting: Please ask for key at village shop (50m). Shop hours only

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/tarbat-church-portmahomack>

Fearn Abbey Parish Church



'The Lamp of the North'. Originally a monastery of Premonstratensian monks of the Order of St Augustine, it is one of the oldest pre-Reformation Scottish churches still in use for worship. The core of the building is 13th century, with 18th and 20th century alterations.

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/fearn-abbey>

The Former Nigg Parish Church



Medieval structure largely rebuilt in 1626 and again in 1723-5. The north aisle and belfry were added in 1730-1. Alterations 1779-84. In 1878 the north gallery was removed and the east and west galleries partitioned. Important late-8th century cross slab now indoors. Now in the care of Nigg Old Trust. Located: on the south-west of the village of Nigg

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/nigg-old-church>

Cafes, Coffee Stops & Tea Rooms

Some cafes and coffee shops, bars and restaurants where you may want to refuel during your Pilgrimage...

Many more suggestions can be found at: www.visitscotland.com

So Coco

1 High St
Inverness, Inverness-shire
IV1 1HY
01463 229734

The Manna House

48 Huntly St
Inverness, Inverness-Shire
IV3 5HR
01463 710710

The Old School Shop and Café

High St
Beauly, Inverness-Shire IV4 7BX
01463 783273
www.oldschoolbeauly.com

The Coffee House

Seaforth Rd
Muir of Ord, Ross-Shire
IV6 7TA
01463 871127

Sunflowers Coffee Shop

18 High Street
Tain IV19 1AE
01862 892458

Luigi's

1 Castle St
Dornoch IV25 3SN
01862 810893
www.luigidornoch.com

Bars and Restaurants

Rocpool Restaurant

1 Ness Walk
Inverness, Inverness-Shire
IV3 5NE
01463 717274
www.rocpoolrestaurant.com

Rocpool Reserve (Chez Roux)

14 Culduthel Road,
Inverness
IV2 4AG,
01463 240089
www.rocpool.com

The Store House

Foulis Ferry
Evanton
Dingwall, Ross-Shire
IV16 9UX
01349 830038
www.thestorehouseathome.com

Greens Market Restaurant

4 Market St
Tain
IV19 1AR
01862 893874
www.greensmarketrestaurant.com

Dornoch Inn

Castle St
Dornoch IV25 3SD
01862 810376
www.dornoch-inn.com

Near-by Attractions

Other near-by places well worth a visit.

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

Castle Wynd, Inverness, Highlands IV2 3EB
01463 237114
www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-museum-and-art-gallery

Tain Through Time

Tower Street, Tain IV19 1DY
01862 894089
www.tainmuseum.org.uk

Glenmorangie Distillery,

Tain

Ross-shire,

IV19 1PZ

01862 892477

www.glenmorangie.com

Places to Stay

If you want to break your journey and make a weekend of it, here are few local hotels and B&Bs.

Many more suggestions can be found at: www.visitscotland.com

Rocpool Reserve (Chez Roux)

14 Culduthel Road,

Inverness

IV2 4AG

01463 240089

www.rocpool.com

Heathmount Hotel

Kingsmills Road, Inverness

IV2 3JU,

01463 235877

www.heathmounthotel.com

Links House at Royal Dornoch

Golf Road, Dornoch, IV25 3LW

01862 810279

www.linkshousedornoch.com

Dornoch Castle Hotel

Castle Street, Dornoch, IV25 3SD

01862 810216

www.dornochcastlehotel.com

At No. 9

9 High Street,

Dornoch

IV25 3SH

www.atno9.co.uk

01862 811739

Amalfi B&B

5 River Street, Dornoch

IV25 3LY

01862 810015

www.amalfidornoch.com

* Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys is a collection of 14 routes developed by Scotland's Churches Trust exploring Scotland's sacred places. This Route contains some of the highlights but much more is waiting to be discovered. See www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com and www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk for more information.

** The amenities highlighted along the route are suggestions only and are not endorsed by Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys/Scotland's Churches Trust.

***The information about the churches highlighted on this route has been provided by congregations or taken from the Historic Scotland list and published sources, the Buildings of Scotland volumes and the RIASS Illustrated Architectural Guide. It is not authoritative and if you know of any errors or omissions, please contact Scotland's Churches Trust.