

Balloch Castle Country Park



Getting around the Park

Within the park are 3 waymarked circular routes which can be used individually or joined up for a longer visit.

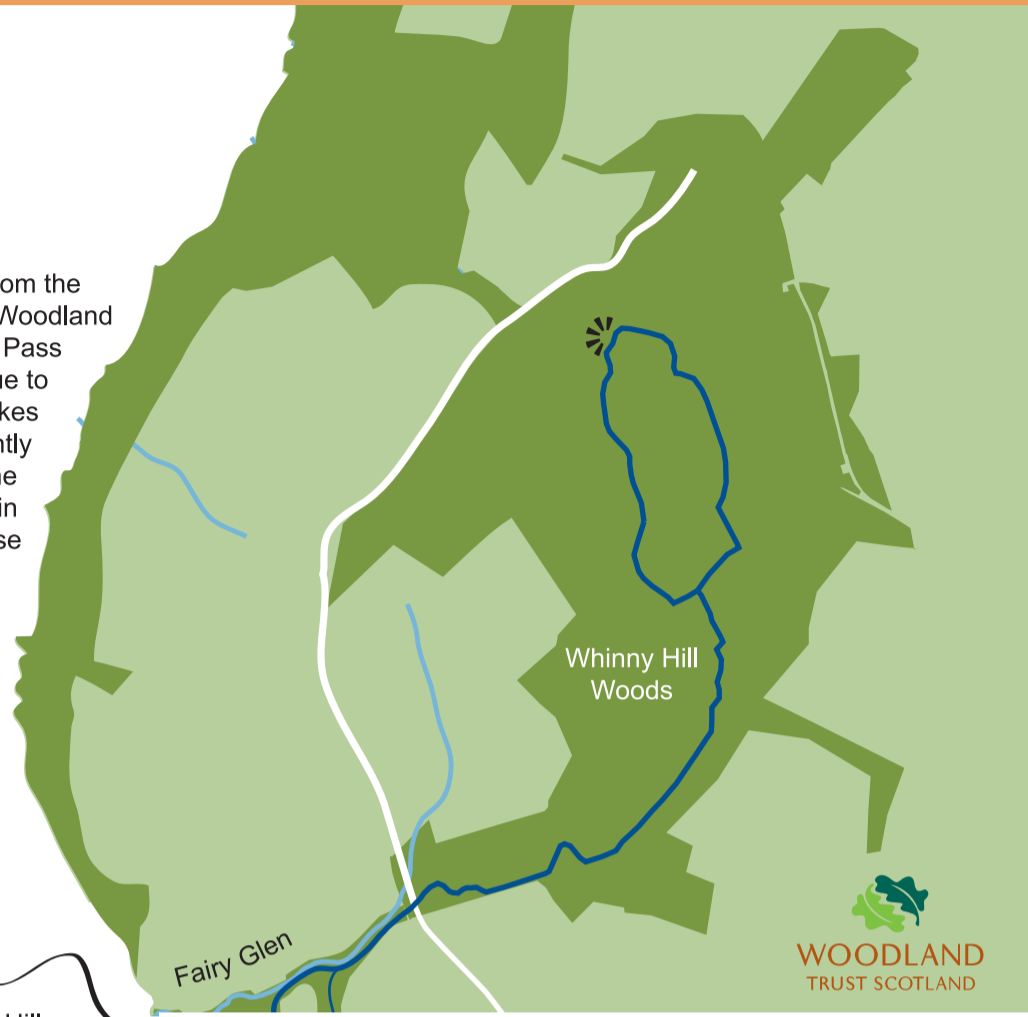
- **Yellow Route 3km circular route.** Start from the main entrance or visitor's car park. This route passes the Walled Gardens, Old Castle site, shore, teenage and children's playparks, boathouse kiosk and Balloch Castle.
- **Red Route 2km circular route.** Start from the visitor's car park. This route encompasses Balloch Castle, shore, children's play parks, boathouse kiosk and Fairy Glen. Whinny Hill circular can be picked up from this route.
- **Blue Route 1.5km circular route.** Start from the visitor's car park. This route passes through the more natural wooded area of the park and leads you to join the red route at Fairy Glen.
- - - **NCN7 Cycle Route Glasgow to Loch Lomond**

Whinny Hill 3km circular route.

Follow either the red or blue routes from the visitors car park and look out for the Woodland Trust waymarkers to Boturich Road. Pass through the wooden gate and continue to follow the waymarkers. This route takes you through some 200 acres of recently planted native woodland owned by the Woodland Trust. This route is steep in places and muddy underfoot so please wear appropriate footwear.

Please use the public car park within Balloch Castle Country Park and do not park in front of the gate at Boturich Road.

All routes offer spectacular scenery of Loch Lomond with good views of Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly Munro.



Link to path Whinny Hill



- Visitor Information
- Parking
- Toilets
- Gardens
- Picnic Site
- Bus Station
- Castle
- Viewpoint
- Public Slipway
- Archaeological Feature
- Play park
- Railway Station

Wildlife in the Park

When exploring in the park take a look in the undergrowth and see what bugs and insects you can find, millipedes, centipedes and slaters are hiding all around you. Check out any ponds you come across, many are loaded with frog spawn in the spring followed by thousands of tadpoles. Watch for the Herons looking for any easy snack! For something a little prettier, the grassy meadows are great areas for beautiful butterfly and dazzling dragonfly displays on a sunny afternoon.

Springtime sees a frenzy of activity in the park as nesting season begins, blue tit, great tit, greenfinch, bullfinch, chaffinch and tree creepers are all getting busy for the breeding season. Listen for the drill of the Greater spotted woodpecker or the twit twoo of the Tawny owl in the twilight hours. Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel are frequent visitors.

House martins and Swallows arrive from northern Africa to breed here, look out for the mud nests on any of the buildings. Other summer visitors descend too, listen for the 'chiff-chaff' announcing his arrival. You might be lucky and see the Osprey coming to fish near the shore.

In the Autumn months look out for the migratory Redwing, Waxwing and Fieldfare eating all the berries. The numbers of Siskin, Starling and Woodcock also increase through the winter months. From the shore you might spot Goldeneye, Slavonian grebe, Whooper swan and large number of Canada geese.

Let's not forget our furry friends. Roe deer can be found in the woods although they are shy creatures. Woodmice, Voles and Moles are all present, watch out for the mole hills. Foxes, Rabbits and Grey squirrels are also found in the park.

