



Dundurn Hill

Distance: 3½ miles (5½ km)
Time: Allow 2 hours
Grade: Strenuous
Colour Code: Blue

An historic walk, starting beside the Loch and River Earn, crossing St Fillans Golf Course and passing beside an ancient Chapel and Graveyard. This walk culminates with a climb of about 400ft (100m) to St Fillans Seat at the summit of Dundurn Hill. From the vantage of this Hill Fort site, spectacular views can be enjoyed in all directions.

Starting on easy paths and tracks, then across an open meadow to a narrow, faint and steep hill path. Please note: the grass slopes and rocks on Dundurn Hill can be very slippery when wet – good grip footwear is recommended. Care should also be taken to avoid the dangerous and precipitous crags on the east side of the hill. (It is not an easy climb up the hill when the bracken reaches full summer maturity).

Starting at the Village Information point, cross the footbridge spanning the River Earn and immediately turn right. Follow the path to the South Loch Road and there, turn left for about ½ mile, past the weir on your left and St Fillans Golf Club on your right. Just before the road bends left (to go over the old Dundurn Bridge), take the track to the right onto the golf course. Look both ways and take care crossing two fairways (please give way to golfers playing across the track). Keep to this track, which then skirts the golf course. Turn left through a farm gate, down a straight tarmac 'road' with the walled boundary of the golf course on your left. Half way along this track (on your right) are the ruins of the Pre-Reformation Church, St Fillans Chapel and its Kirk Yard.

These ruins date back to the 1300's and the burial ground is the traditional resting place of the Stewarts of Ardvorlich. Access can be gained via a gate (or steps built into the wall) at the far corner of the site.

Continue along the track and go straight on through the farm gate at the far end, with the wastewater treatment plant on your right. Just into the field, turn right and walk along the top of a small embankment until you come to a small burn. Cross the burn via some stepping-stones and then angle left across the field towards a stile at the base of Dundurn Hill. Climb the stile and bear left, then follow a faint path that slowly angles up to the right. The route to the top is steep, making one corkscrew turn from base to summit. Follow the path up grassy slopes and rocks. The path becomes even fainter towards the top, on the far side, but grassy ramps lead round to the summit. The exposed rock at the west end of the summit is known as St Fillan's Chair or Seat and the wonderful panoramic views of the valley below make it obvious why this was once a strategic Iron Age and then Pictish Hill Fort. Return to the village by retracing your steps to the golf course and then by crossing the road bridge (which is straight on as you exit the golf course) and back to the village, using the main road.