The Romans in Scotland

The Antonine Wall was a Roman defensive fortification built across the Roman province of Boecia in Scotland. It was built to protect the Roman province from potential attacks from the north. The wall was constructed between 142 and 146 AD and ran from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, covering a distance of approximately 100 miles. The wall was about 4 feet thick and 10 feet high and was made of turf and wood strengthened with earth and stone. The wall had three forts at regular intervals and numerous small forts and watchtowers along its route. The Antonine Wall was abandoned by the Roman army around 182 AD, leaving behind a testament to Roman engineering and military might. Today, the Antonine Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a popular attraction for history enthusiasts and adventurers alike.
VISITING THE WALL

There are restrictions on building new paths on ancient monuments but Croy Hill and Bar Hill are well served with existing paths. Some are level and well surfaced but others are unsurfaced or steep and only suitable for those on foot.

Any number of long or short circuits is possible; those detailed here are just suggestions.

From the summits of Croy Hill and Bar Hill you will get panoramic views of the Kelvin Valley, Cumbernauld and Glasgow.

walk 1 Two Hills Circuit (6½ miles)

Start at the public car park at Auchinstarry Quarry, cross the main road at the western end and pass by the gate onto the path by the River Kelvin.

After about 1½ miles turn left at the road and then right at the T junction. Cross the canal bridge and up the hill into Twechar ¼ mile to the sign-posted track next to the war memorial. At the top of the hill a gate on the left leads to Barhill Fort.

From the fort continue east by following either the Military Way or the ditch (which is very steep). The two routes join a track leading ½ mile to Croy.

Cross the road and through the gate towards Croy. It is a ½ mile ascent to the summit of Croy Hill.

The route down leads east for ½ mile until it reaches a disused railway. Go left and follow the track for ½ mile, then right down a steep path to the canal. Return to Auchinstarry on the towpath.

walk 2 Bar Hill circuit (4½ miles)

Start at Auchinstarry Marina and go east along the south bank of the canal (not the towpath). After ¼ mile leave the canal and continue past a picnic site ½ mile up the hill towards Croy. Turn right through a kissing gate and cross the road to a track sign-posted for Twechar.

After about ½ mile the track comes to an area of mown grass and two possible routes up to Bar Hill Fort.

Route 1 follows the Military Way up the grassy hill in front of you.

Route 2 is steep, Turn right and follow the line of the ditch past Castle Hill Iron Age fort.

Pass through the gate at the southwest corner of the fort then right at the next gate and walk ½ mile down the hill to Twechar. Turn right at the road and follow the canal towpath 1½ miles back to Auchinstarry.

walk 3 Croy Hill circuit (3 miles)

Start at Auchinstarry Marina and go east along the south bank of the canal (not the towpath). After ¼ mile leave the canal and then turn left at the picnic site. Follow the track up the hill for about ½ mile to a path sign-posted on your left.

Follow this path for ½ mile. Shortly after passing a couple of picnic benches you will reach the Antonine Wall and ditch. Turn right and take the well trodden route ½ mile to the summit of Croy Hill.

From the summit keep the ditch close by on your right and the houses on your left and pass through the black gate. Continue on for another ¼ mile. Turn right through a large gate then left to follow the surfaced path back to Auchinstarry Marina.

walk 4 Croy to Castlecary (4½ miles)

This walk follows the route of the wall from west to east through North Lanarkshire and starts at the Croy Miners Welfare Centre at the western end of Croy Village.

The ½ mile ascent to the summit of Croy Hill starts by the Forestry Commission gate, look out for the Antonine Wall logo on fingerposts and way markers.

The route down continues east for ½ mile until it reaches a disused railway. Turn left onto the track and then right through the car park. Follow the road for ½ mile to a tram track. Just before the railway bridge.

Please leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control when crossing farmland.

This track continues for 1 mile past Easter Dullatur Farm, under the railway and through the Westwood golf course to the old farm where Westwood Fort once stood. After this the route follows the line of the wall the way-markers and pedestrian gates will keep you on the best route. It is another ½ mile to Windyard Road and a further ½ mile to the Castlecary House Hotel.

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Legend:
- = = = = = Antonine Wall
- = Featured routes
- = Other paths
- Car Park
- Roman Fort
- Picnic site
- Restaurant/Pub
- Cafe
- Rail Station

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