



Friday 8 to
Monday 11
August 2014

MIDLOTHIAN WALKING FESTIVAL

Discover Midlothian's beautiful countryside in four days of led walks, a cycle, nordic walking and canicross. Suitable for all ages – all events are FREE!

	TIME	DISTANCE	ASCENT
Friday 8			
1. Mines, Mills and Maidens	9.45am-4.30pm	12 miles	1200ft
2. The Estates	9.30am-5.30pm	11.5 miles	500ft
3. The Monks Road	9.30am-5pm	9 miles	300ft
4. Camps, Castles, Kirks and Countryside	9am-4.30pm	10 miles	1400ft
Saturday 9			
5. Midlothian End to End	9am-5.45pm	13 miles	1200ft
6. A Midlothian Town and Countryside Cycle	10am-3pm	20 miles	1400ft
7. A Bit of Everything and More	9am-5pm	12 miles	1800ft
8. Come and Try Canicross at Vogrie	10am-11pm	1 miles	
9. A Loanhead Introduction to Nordic Walking	10.30am-12pm	2 miles	
10. The Loanhead Nordic Trail	1pm-4pm	5 mile	800ft
Sunday 10			
11. Four Reservoirs	9am-5pm	12 miles	1300ft
12. Cousland Village Historical Walk and Open Day	10.30am-2pm	5.5 miles	550ft
13. From the Middle of Nowhere to the Tea	9.30am-5.30pm	11.5 miles	1100ft
14. A Dalkeith Introduction to Nordic Walking	10.30am-12pm	2 miles	
15. The Dalkeith Nordic Trail	1pm-4pm	5 miles	300ft
Monday 11			
16. Heading to the Hills	9.45am-4pm	12 miles	1200ft
17. A Historic Journey to the Far East	10am-2pm	8 miles	400ft
18. Round the Bend via the Institutes	9am-5pm	10.5 miles	1300ft
19. The Great Down Hill (without skis)	10.30am-3pm	7 miles	500ft
20. Penicuik Estate – Past and Present	2pm-4.30pm	4.5 miles	550ft

Booking is essential for all events

To book a place or for further information please contact Vogrie Country Park on 01875 821716

Bookings must be made by Friday 1 August.

Festival Programme Details at: www.midlothian.gov.uk

Photos by Ian Brown



MIDLOTHIAN WALKING FESTIVAL

The festival aims to provide opportunities to discover Midlothian's beautiful countryside in four days of led walks, a cycle, nordic walking and canicross. The routes are suitable for all ages and are free. The information on this page contains basic descriptions of the routes.

To book a place or for further information please contact Vogrie Country Park on **01875 821 716**. For all events booking is essential and all bookings must be confirmed by Friday 1 August.



Friday 8th

1. Mines, Mills and Maidens! –

Leaders Jean Long & Arthur McKenzie
9.45am-4.30pm • 12 miles • 1200ft



A walk through Midlothian's former mining and mill landscapes with a castle & a tower thrown in too! We begin at Rosewell and take a farmland and wooded loop via the former St Joseph's Hospital, before heading down valley to the River North Esk and Springfield Mill. Continuing downstream we pass near to Mavisbank then on through Loanhead. We return via Bilston Woods and Dryden, to Roslin. (A FREE bus will take you to the start)

2. The Estates –

Leaders Alan Krumholds and Ian Brown
9.30am-5.30pm • 11.5 miles • 500ft

This walk follows the River Tyne from Vogrie downstream into East Lothian. We use small paths along the river and around fields, then a disused coal line to Ormiston. After walking through this pretty village we continue along the Tyne in the mixed woodland of Winton Estate and past Pencaitland to the West Lodge of Saltoun Estate. (A FREE bus will return you to the start)

3. The Monks Road –

Leaders Margaret Johnstone and Jimmy Innes
9.30am-5pm • 9 miles • 300ft



A linear walk through Dalkeith Country Park by the River Esk to Musselburgh then by the shores of the Forth via the ash lagoons (good for bird watching) to Prestonpans, where we will visit the historic Prestongrange Gothenburg for refreshments. (A FREE bus will return you to the start)

4. Camps, Castles, Kirks and Countryside –

Leaders John Pope & Haydyn Arthurson
9am-4.30pm • 10 miles • 1400ft



Beginning at Vogrie we head up to the Camps, where we will have a fine view across Edinburgh and the Forth to Fife. We then head south to follow the Waverley Line and Gore Water to the castles of Borthwick and Crichton before returning via the Tyne Water for tea.

Saturday 9th

5. Midlothian End to End –

Leaders Alan Krumholds & Ian Brown
9am-5.45pm • 13 miles • 1200ft

Starting with our boots in the Borders at Brothershields, we follow grassy forest breaks onto moorland, with expansive views across the Lothians. We descend past Cakemuir Castle to Crichton Kirk. We will drop into the Tyne Valley and Vogrie for lunch! From here, we head over the Camps and down past Mayfield to the tranquillity of Newbattle Woods. (A FREE bus will take you to the start)

6. A Midlothian Town and Countryside Cycle –

Leaders Judy Cantley & Sylvia Henderson
10-3 • 20 miles • 1400ft

A circular route using quiet roads and cycle tracks will take you from Dalkeith, heading south to Dalhousie and Carrington before crossing the South Esk near Gorebridge. We then head via open countryside to Vogrie for lunch and return via D'Arcy and Cousland to sunny Dalkeith.

7. A Bit of Everything and More! –

Leaders John Pope & Arthur McKenzie
9am-5pm • 12 miles • 1800ft



A circular walk taking in the attractions of Roslin Village before following the North Esk to Auchendinny, where

we head to the Hills. At Castlelow we go underground, to emerge for lunch at Woodhouselee. Fully refreshed, we will head home via Boghall, Damhead and the lofty Bilston Viaduct.

8. Come and Try Canicross at Vogrie –

Cani-Sports Edinburgh 10am-11am • 1 miles

Join us in a taster session and have the most fun on the run ever! This is the sport of running attached and in tow with your dog through the countryside. We will provide the guidance and equipment and lead you on a short run through the soft pathways of Vogrie Country Park.

9. A Loanhead Introduction to Nordic Walking –

Leader Derek Storey 10.30am-12pm • 2 miles

Join our taster session to learn the skills of Nordic walking in a morning's introductory session in Loanhead Memorial Park. This is a fast growing sport that uses both upper and lower body movement to walk your way to fitness.

10. The Loanhead Nordic Trail –

Leader Derek Storey 1pm-4pm • 5 miles • 800ft

If you have taken part in the above, or have had previous Nordic walking experience, join us as we stride out from Loanhead across farmland towards Lasswade, before returning through the wooded valley of the North Esk via The Maiden Castle and the Bilston Viaduct.

Sunday 10th

11. Four Reservoirs –

Leaders Alan Krumholds & Ian Brown
9am-5pm • 12 miles • 1300ft



This walk begins at Eddleston and will take in Midlothian's four southern reservoirs. It's uphill to start, on farm tracks to the tranquil waters of Portmore Loch. From here on it's

cross country over fields and moorland to Gladhouse, where we circle to the south and head down the South Esk to Rosebery. Further farm tracks bring us to Edgelaw and our bus home. (A FREE bus will return you to the start)

12. Cousland Village Historical Walk and Open Day –

Leaders Joe Cardow & Dougie McKenzie
10.30am-2pm • 5.5 miles • 550ft



We start in the lovely village of Cousland and head through the Hadfast Valley and its secluded nature reserve towards Pardivan. Our journey then follows the Pencaitland Railway Walk and returns via Chalkieside to Cousland where teas will be available in the village hall.

13. From the Middle of Nowhere to the Tea! –

Leaders Arthur McKenzie & John Pope
9.30am-5.30pm • 11.5 miles • 1100ft



We begin at Boston Cottage and cross the Boston Burn, way out west on the A70, north of Redford Bridge. We then head across open moorland via Left Law to cross both the West and Medwin Waters before passing North Muir Hill. At North Slipperfield we are nearing tea in the village of West Linton. (A FREE bus will take you to the start and return you there)

14. A Dalkeith Introduction to Nordic Walking

Leader Derek Storey 10.30am-12pm • 2 miles

Join our taster session to learn the skills of Nordic walking in a morning's introductory session in Waterfall Park. This

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is a fast growing sport that uses both upper and lower body movement to walk your way to fitness.

15. The Dalkeith Nordic Trail –

Leader Derek Storey 1pm-4pm • 5 miles • 300ft

If you have taken part in the above, or have had previous Nordic walking experience, join us as we take in the Newbattle Abbey Estate, with its beautiful 16th century stately home, ice house, formal gardens and policies. We head to the Lothianbridge Viaduct and return along the north side of the Esk Valley through woodlands and the far reaches of Dalkeith.

Monday 11th

16. Heading to the Hills –

Leaders Arthur McKenzie and Jean Long

9.45am-4pm • 12 miles • 1200ft

Beginning from Carlops we skirt Mount Maw before turning at Stonypath to Baddingsgill Reservoir. From here it's open country via the Cauldstane Slap to make the ascent of East Cairn. We are afforded fine views from the summit ridge to the Borestone where we make our descent via the North Esk Reservoir.

17. A Historic Journey to the Far East –

Leaders Jimmy Innes & Margaret Johnstone

10am-2pm • 8 miles • 400ft

This walk begins near Pencaitland, at the Black Wood, which leads us towards the Big Wood and onwards through fields via Saltoun West Lodge to Spilmersford Bridge. Here we head east through Pencaitland to join the railway walk home, with many historical tales en route.

18. Round the Bend via the Institutes!

Leaders Jo Cooke & Ian Brown

9am-5pm • 10.5 miles • 1300ft

We escape via the Moat and head for Dolly the Sheep at the Roslin Institute, where the walk will head to the Great Indoors for a quick tour. All aglow we will continue through the science parks at the Bush to the outskirts of Penicuik at Beeslack Woods. Here, the ancient oak woodlands lead us to Dalmore. Onwards to Rosslynlee, we will discover tales of someone who has been there! Leaving our last institute behind, we head via Roslin Glen back to the village watering hole.

19. The Great Down Hill (without skis)

Leaders John Stirling & The Friends of the

Pentlands 10.30am-3pm • 7 miles • 500ft

This walk begins high in the Pentland Hills at Harlaw Reservoir and uses farm tracks to make our way to Bonaly before a slow descent via Torduff and Swanston, home to Robert Louis Stevenson. We will end appropriately at Hillend, home of the dry ski slope! (A FREE bus will take you to the start)

20. Penicuik Estate – Past and Present –

John Pope and Ranger Service

2pm-4.30pm • 4.5 miles • 550ft

We begin in the town of Penicuik and head upstream, following the River North Esk taking in views of Ramsay's Monument, using woodland tracks and estate paths. After leaving the river we head north, past the Low Pond to reach Penicuik House, where we will take an historic journey from the 1800's to the present day. The Knights Law Tower is our next stop en route to Penicuik, via the Loan Burn. Listen out for a Cuckoo on the way, a bird which lends its name to the town.

Midlothian Walking Festival is organised by Midlothian Ranger Service. We would like to pass our very best thanks to our 15 event leaders who have made no charge for their contributions and have spent many an hour devising great routes that bring Midlothian's beautiful countryside to you. More walks can be found in Midlothian Council's free 'Explore Midlothian Guide', which is available on www.midlothian.gov.uk.

All start points should be accessible by bus.

Traveline can be contacted on 0871 200 2233.



Midlothian