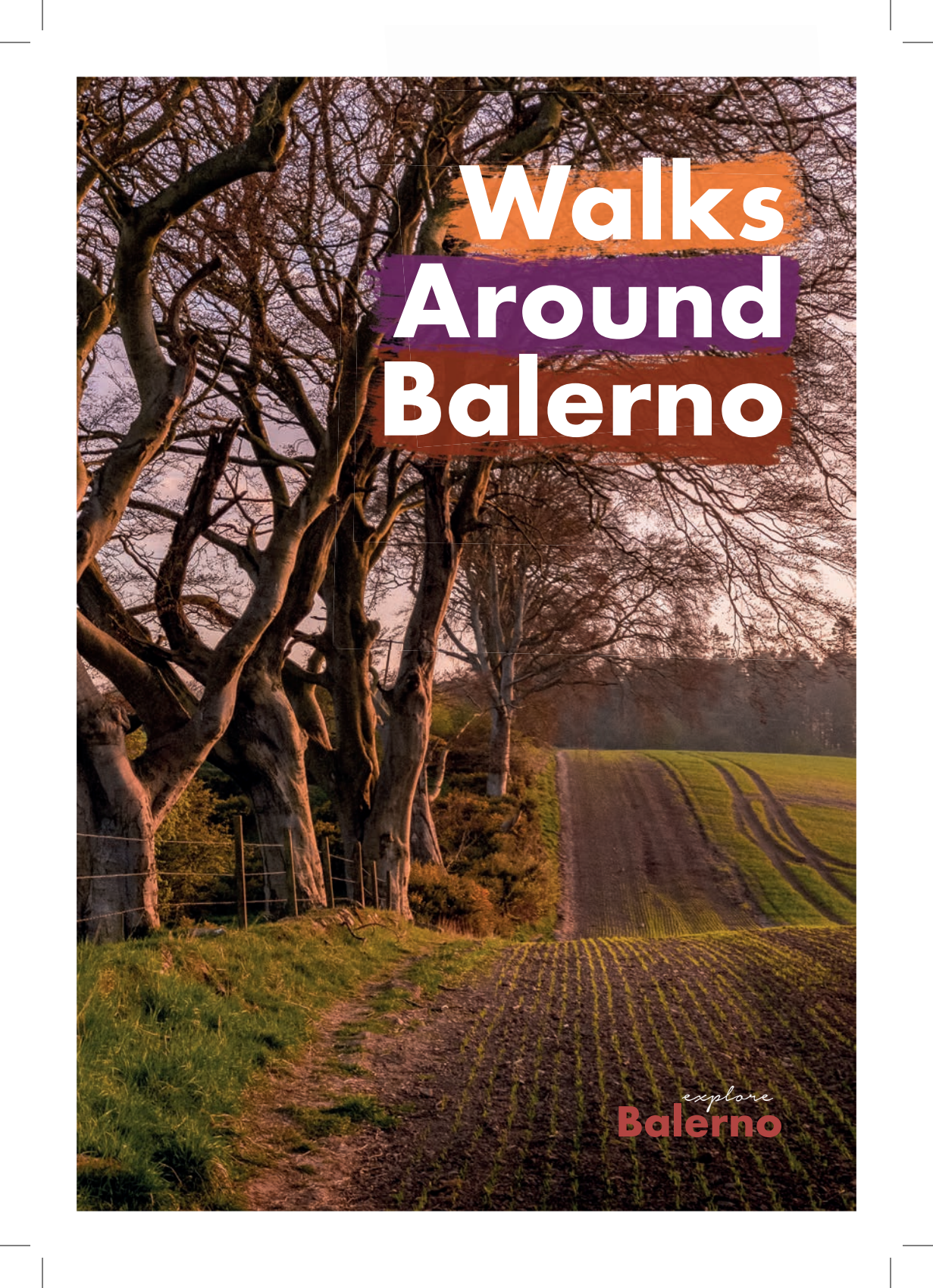
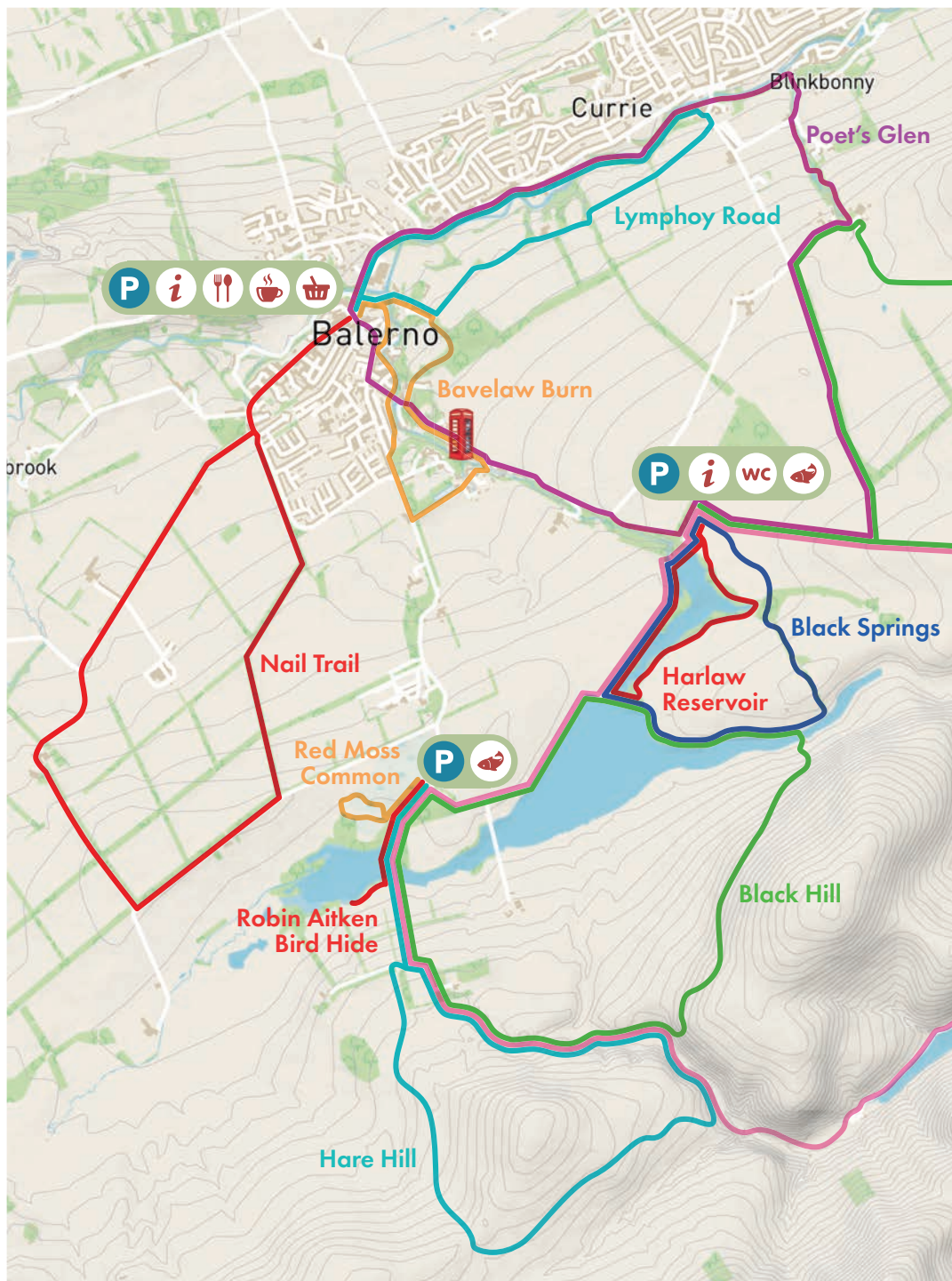
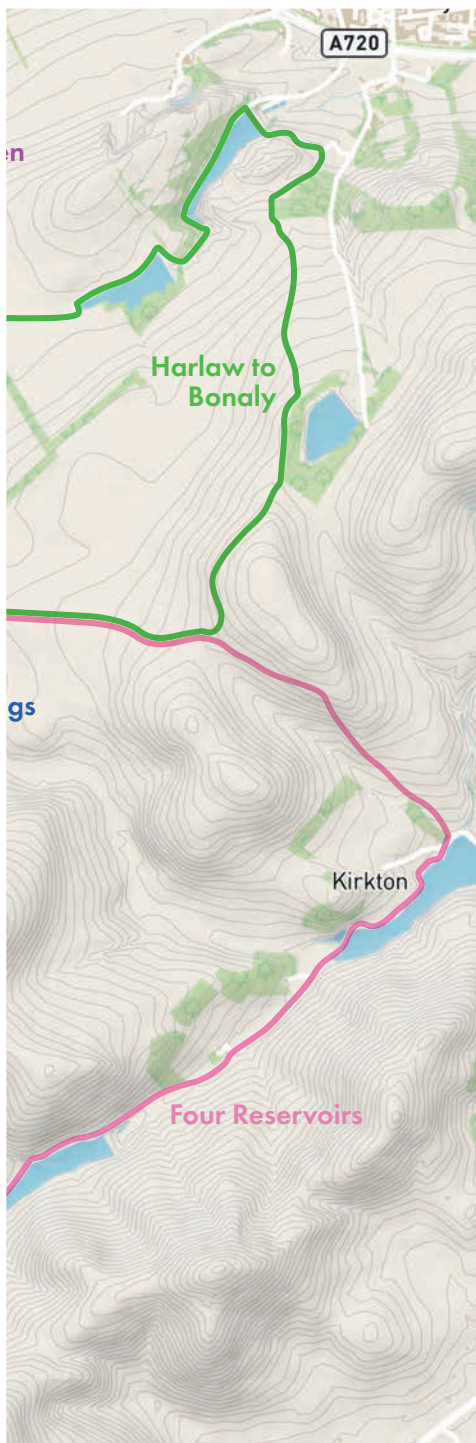




Walks Around Balerno

explore
Balerno





Welcome to Balerno

Just outside the city centre lies one of Edinburgh's gems. Balerno is an historic and rural village set at one of the main gateways to the Pentland Hills and the start of the Water of Leith Walkway, where you might be lucky enough to spot a beautiful kingfisher!

There's something for everyone – whether you're interested in outdoor pursuits, a day out with the family or just spending time relaxing and enjoying good food.

Planning Your Walk

- Check the weather forecasts
- Plan your visit and let someone know where you're going
- Be prepared – bring appropriate clothing, footwear, food and water
- Park responsibly – don't park on verges or block farm access
- Be courteous and share the trails
- Bin or take your litter home
- Keep your dog on a lead when on farmland, moorland or in the Pentland Hills
- Clear up after your dog
- Don't walk through farm yards or on fields with crops or animals

Lymphoy Road ~ 3 miles

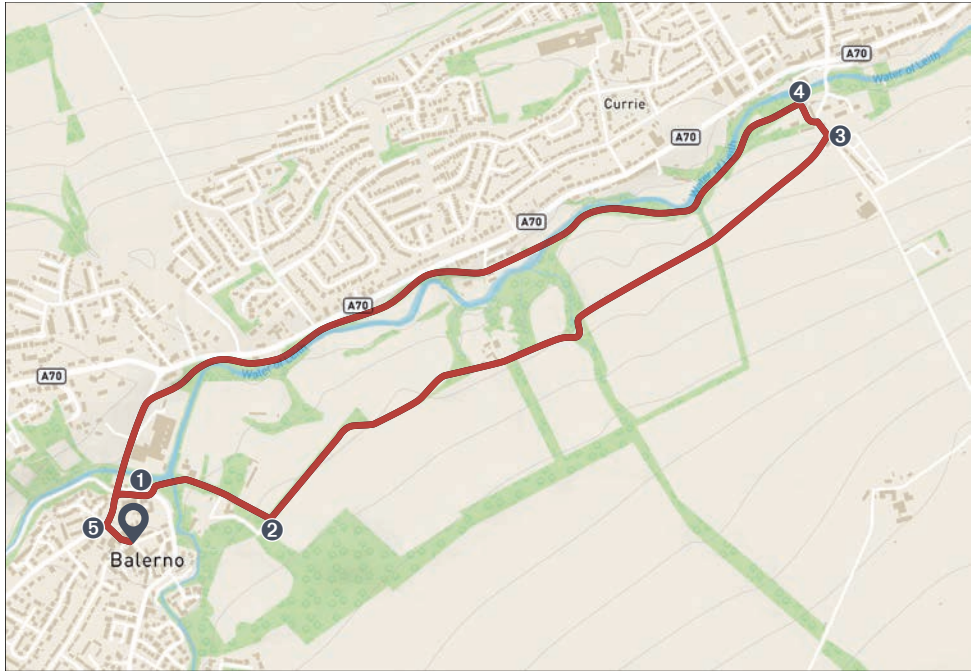


Easy



Main Street

Gravel & Tarmac



This is a great sheltered walk under big trees, with lots of animals along the way - you can see sheep, horses, ponies and even alpacas - returning by the Water of Leith - where you can see dippers, heron and the occasional kingfisher!

1 From Main Street, walk towards Malleny Park and follow the signs uphill to Malleny Garden car park. **2** At the T-junction, turn left along the farm road and follow it all the way to the tarmac road at Kirkgate. **3** Turn left and then take the next left almost immediately after the small wooden church building but before the cottages, following the small path to the Water of Leith walkway. **4** Turn left on the Water of Leith walkway and follow this until you reach Bridge Road. **5** Turn left at the roundabout to return to your starting point on Main Street.

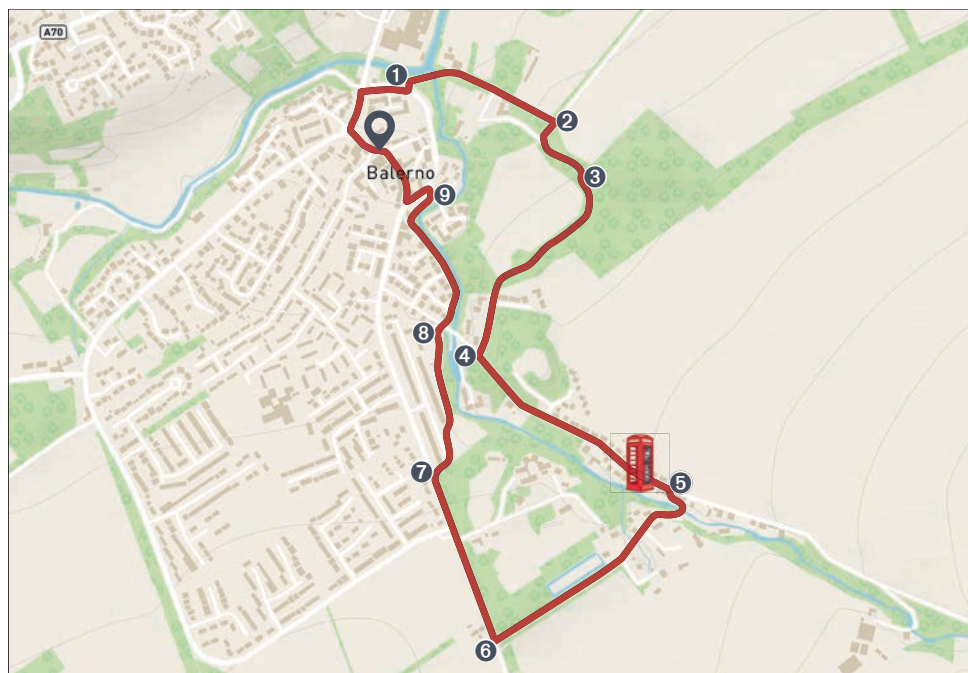


2.3 miles ~ **Bavelaw Burn**

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac

📍 Main Street

📊 Easy



A lovely walk through some of the local woodlands around the east of Balerno.

1 From Main Street, follow the signs to Malleny Garden car park. **2** At the T-junction turn right, and after 50 yards turn left up the foot path. **3** Cross the small bridge, following the path to the gate. **4** Continue to the T-junction at Harlaw Road and turn left. **5** When you reach the 30mph signs, turn right and follow the dirt track down onto Malleny Millgate. **6** Follow the road to the T-junction at Mansfield Road and turn right. **7** 150 yards after Harmeny School, turn right, cross Malleny Avenue, and follow the grassy path down behind the houses. **8** Continue across the field with Bavelaw Burn on your right. In the far corner drop down the bank (watch your step) and cross Harlaw Road next to the bridge, continuing down the footpath. **9** At the T-junction turn left onto Bavelaw Road, crossing it to Main Street, returning to your starting point.



Nail Trail ~ 5 miles



Intermediate



Main Street

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac



A popular walk surrounded by farmers fields. The trail can be muddy when the ground is wet! Reverse direction advisable to cyclists.

1 Walk up Johnsburn Road to just past the corner with Cockburnhill Road. **2** Opposite the bus stop on the left ('Crosswood Crescent') is a large wooden gate – go through and follow the path in the woods that runs parallel to Cockburn Crescent. **3** When the path opens out follow the right hand fork. **4** When the path opens out again follow the left hand fork. **5** Cross the wooden foot bridge and continue up the hill to the tarmac road and turn right. Follow this road and take the next right to turn down the hill. **6** At the T-junction take the right hand fork and follow it back to the T-junction with Johnsburn Road. **7** Turn left and follow the road back down to your starting point.



6 miles ~ **Poet's Glen**

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac

📍 Main Street



Intermediate



A walk through the picturesque Poet's Glen, returning along the Water of Leith.

1 Walk up Main Street, continuing on Bavelaw Road before turning left onto Harlaw Road. **2** At the sharp left turn near the top follow the little path on the right marked Harlaw Reservoir. **3** At the top turn left towards the car park. **4** Then turn right and follow the wide path marked Glencorse up the hill. **5** At the second gate turn left and follow the downhill path marked Currie. **6** At the crossroads after the metal gate, turn right and follow the road to Torpin and Bonaly. **7** Just after the small stone bridge turn left following the path marked Currie by Poet's Glen (lower section rough under foot). **8** When you reach Blinkbonny Road turn right. After 150 yards turn left down steps to the Water of Leith Walkway. **9** At the bottom turn left and continue to the end. **10** Turn left onto Bridge Road and left at the roundabout to return to your starting point.



Harlaw Reservoir ~ 1.7 miles



The easiest and most popular walk around Harlaw Reservoir. Accessible toilets, picnic tables, wildlife garden, wildlife cameras, dog waste bins and maps can be found at Harlaw House Visitor Centre.

① From the car park, follow the path south through the trees until you reach Harlaw House Visitor Centre. ② Simply follow the path around the reservoir – either direction is great. The main path is set back from the reservoir's edge, but there are informal paths through the trees that take you closer.



2.5 miles ~ **Black Springs**

Gravel

📍 Harlaw Car Park

📶 Easy



A quieter variation of the Harlaw Reservoir loop that takes you to Black Springs at the foot of Black Hill.

- ➊ From the car park, follow the path south through the trees until you reach Harlaw House Visitor Centre.
- ➋ Follow the path along the side of Harlaw reservoir dam marked Threipmuir Reservoir.
- ➌ When you reach the small arch bridge, cross it and turn left along the path marked Black Springs at the base of the Threipmuir Reservoir dam.
- ➍ At the end of the dam turn right and follow the path around the reservoir to Black Springs.
- ➎ Turn left at the gate and follow the path up and over the small hill.
- ➏ When you reach the gate next to the stone wall at the top of Harlaw reservoir, go through it and follow the farm road back to your starting point.



Harlaw to Bonaly ~ 7 miles



Intermediate



Harlaw Car Park

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac



An exposed route, but perfect in good weather, with magnificent views across the city.

- 1 From the car park, follow the wide path marked Glencorse, up the hill.
- 2 At the saddle, before the gate, turn left onto the grass trail, taking the left fork. Follow this, around the hill and to the left.
- 3 Go through the gate at the edge of Bonaly reservoir woods and take the path downhill.
- 4 Go through the gate and follow the path ahead, down through the woods for 100 yards.
- 5 Bear right and follow the path down to the trail crossroads.
- 6 Turn left and merge onto the main path to Torduff reservoir.
- 7 Cross the dam, turn left and follow the tarmac road up to Clubbiedean reservoir.
- 8 Follow the farm track to Easter Kinleith farm, turn left and follow the tarmac road to Harlaw Road.
- 9 At the crossroads turn left through the gate and follow the track to Glencorse.
- 10 At the T-junction turn right to return back downhill to your starting point.

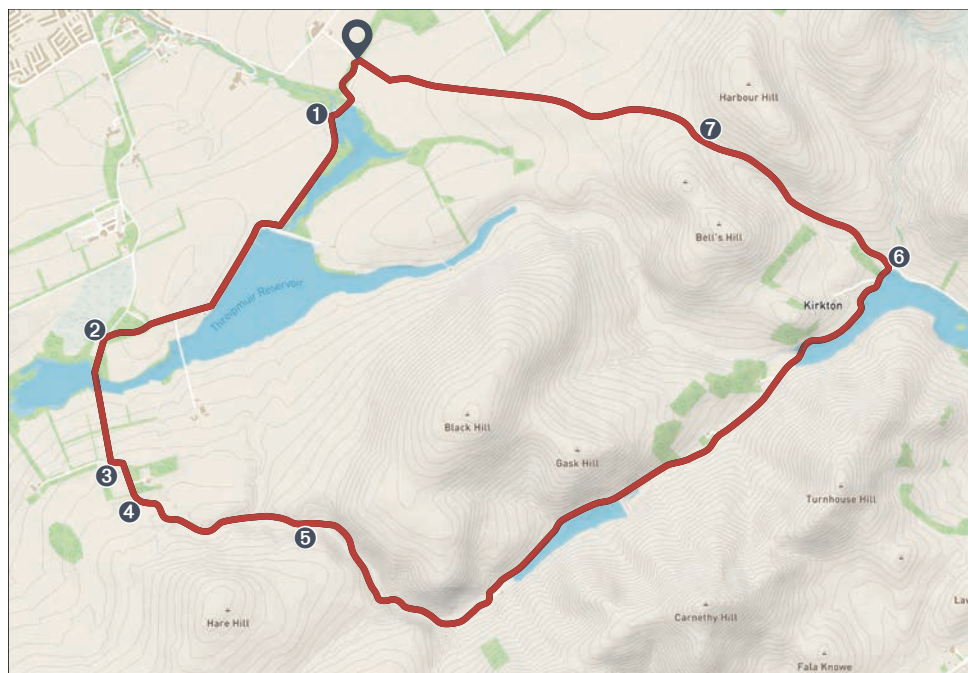


8.4 miles ~ **Four Reservoirs**

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac

📍 Harlaw Car Park

 **Hard**



A classic Pentlands route, taking in Harlaw, Threipmuir, Loganlea and Glencorse reservoirs. This can be an exposed route in places, but is good in most weathers.

1 From Harlaw car park, follow the path along the banks of Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs to Threipmuir car park. **2** Turn left when you reach the tarmac road to Nine Mile Burn and Glencorse. **3** At the top of the tarmac road turn left. **4** At the metal gate take the left path to Penicuik and Glencorse. **5** Follow this down between the hills, through Green Cleugh, to The Howe Farm and then follow the road to Flotterstone by Glencorse, past Loganlea reservoir and down to Glencorse reservoir. **6** Continue until you see a wooden gate on your left with a sign for Balerno by Harlaw. **7** Take this path, up Maiden's Cleugh and over the hill to return to your starting point.



Red Moss Common ~ 1 mile

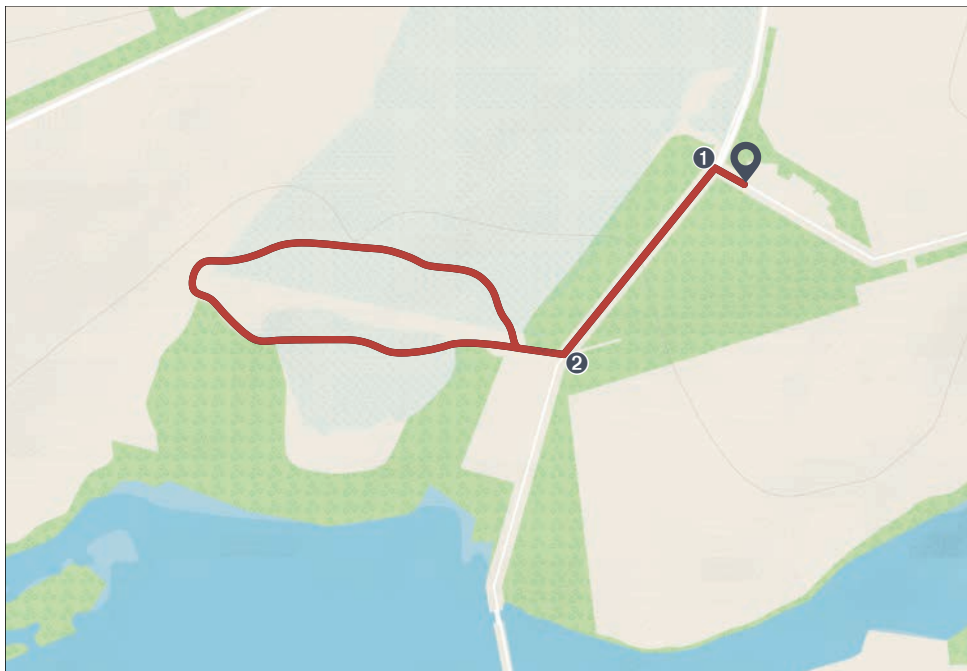


Easy



Threipmuir Car Park

Tarmac & Board Walk



Red Moss Common is the only raised bog in Edinburgh. The deep peat layer has accumulated over thousands of years and in summer and autumn, the peatland is covered in a blanket of pink-purple heather, sundews, ragged-robin and Sphagnum mosses. This is an easy and entertaining board walk through the nature reserve – look out for lizards!

① From Threipmuir car park, turn left on the tarmac road. ② After 200 hundred yards, take a right onto the board walk path. The circular walk starts here and it is well sign posted, with information boards.



1 mile ~ **Robin Aitken Bird Hide**

Tarmac & Board Walk

📍 Threipmuir Car Park

📶 Easy



A fantastic place to watch wildlife from, Robin Aitken Bird Hide is situated on the edge of Bavelaw Marsh and Threipmuir Reservoir. It's quite common for you to see geese, swans, moorhen and other aquatic life. Nearby bird feeders also provide a great opportunity to see smaller birds up close and personal.

❶ From Threipmuir car park, turn left and follow the tarmac road. ❷ Just after crossing the bridge between Threipmuir reservoir and Bavelaw Marsh you will see a wooden gate on your right. Follow the path through the gate and continue along the boardwalk. ❸ At the end of the board walk is the bird hide. In this comfortable shelter you can find educational materials including an interactive children's board!



Hare Hill ~ 5 miles

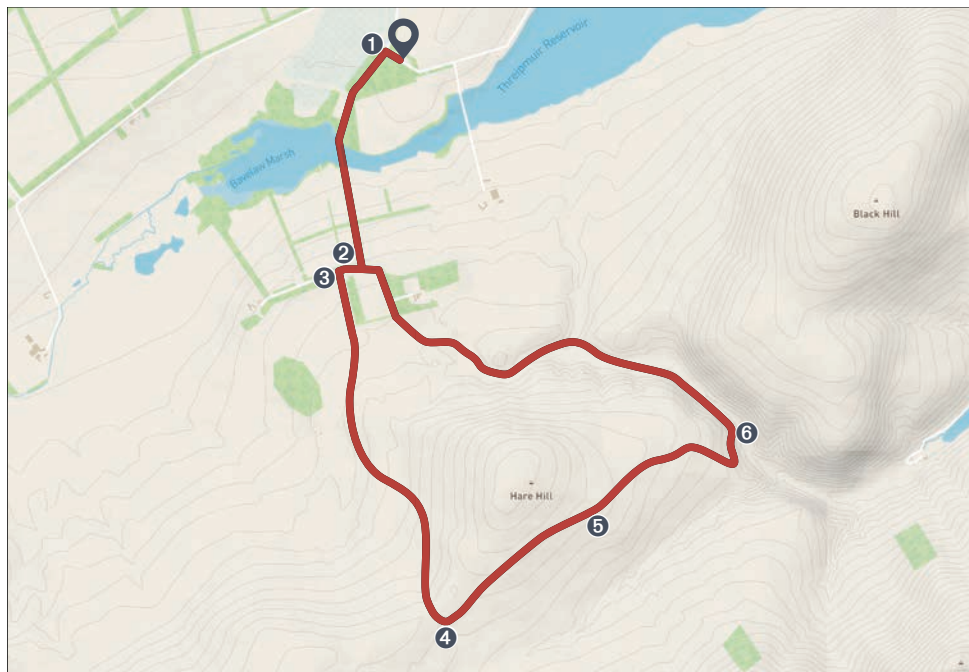


Intermediate



Threipmuir Car Park

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac



A popular, exposed route, with very wet sections across the back of Hare Hill in winter, but great in good weather.

➊ From Threipmuir car park, turn left onto the tarmac road to Nine Mile Burn and Glencorse. ➋ Towards the top of the tarmac road, turn right. ➌ Take the next left, through the gate, and follow the path to Nine Mile Burn up the hill, keeping Hare Hill on your left. ➍ About 50 yards after the metal gate at the top, take the grassy path to the left – don't go up the hill. ➎ Follow the path across the hillside and then steeply down to meet the gravel path in Green Cleugh. ➏ Turn left and follow the path to take you back to your starting point.



4.5 miles ~ **Black Hill**

Gravel, Dirt & Tarmac

📍 Threipmuir Car Park



Intermediate



Another popular, exposed route, that's very wet in winter, but great in good weather with excellent views to the north and west.

1 From Threipmuir car park, turn left onto the tarmac road to Nine Mile Burn and Glencorse. **2** Towards the top of the tarmac road, turn left. **3** At the metal gate take the left path to Penicuik and Glencorse. Follow this down between the hills. **4** At the second high metal gate in the deer fence, turn sharp left and follow a smaller, steep, path up the hill that runs almost parallel to a stone wall. **5** At the end of the wall follow the path to the left. Follow this across and down Black Hill keeping the fencing on your left. **6** As you reach the bottom there is a small pump house. Cross the stile. **7** Turn left across the dam and follow the path around Threipmuir reservoir. **8** Cross the metal bridge, turn left to Threipmuir car park and follow the path back to your starting point.



Local Amenities

Harlaw House Visitor Centre Harlaw Reservoir, Harlaw Road, EH14 7AS

Carlyle's Bar and Kitchen Post Office, 36 Main Street, EH14 7EH

Balerno Inn 15 Main Street, EH14 7EQ

Grey Horse Inn 20 Main Street, EH14 7EH

The Mill at St Joseph's Cafe Balerno Parish Church, 4 Main Street, EH14 7EH

Ying Chinese Takeaway 44 Main Street, EH14 7EH

Balerno Fry 57 Bavelaw Road, EH14 7AA

Scotmid 6 Main Street, EH14 7EH (large shop) & 49-53 Bavelaw Rd, EH14 7AA

Balerno Pharmacy 24 Main Street, EH14 7EH

Getting Here

By Public Transport

Balerno is serviced by Lothian Buses 44, which runs between Balerno and Wallyford, passing along Lanark Road West and through the centre of Edinburgh. The local railway station is at Curriehill, two miles from Main Street.

By Bicycle

Balerno is accessible from any direction by bicycle on a number of paved and unpaved paths including the National Cycle Network Route 75.

By Car

Balerno is easily accessible by road from Edinburgh City Centre using the A70, the City Bypass and the M8. There are car parks in the village centre and surrounding area, however these are often busy, and use of public transport is encouraged.

By Foot

There are many routes into Balerno by foot, including along the beautiful Water of Leith Walkway and Pentland Hills.

