

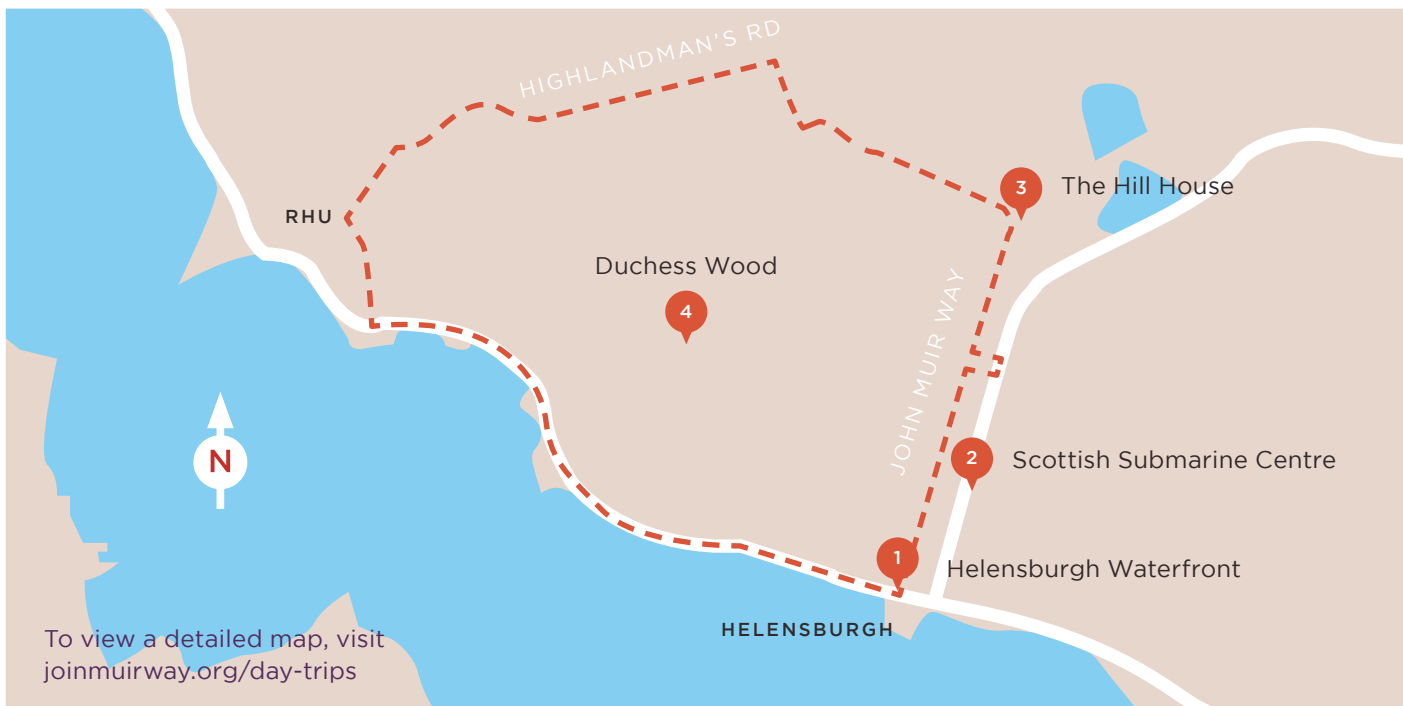
Helensburgh Highlandman's Hike

ROUTE TYPE: Walk

DISTANCE: 6.5 miles/10.5 km

AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE: 2.5 Hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ■■■□ Moderate distance over hilly terrain



THE ROUTE

This short walk is a great way to explore the immediate surroundings of Helensburgh initially along the John Muir Way before joining local footpaths to Rhu.

Starting and finishing at the John Muir Way's western terminus, explore Helensburgh's waterfront and Colquhoun Square before ascending along quiet streets towards the famous Hill House.

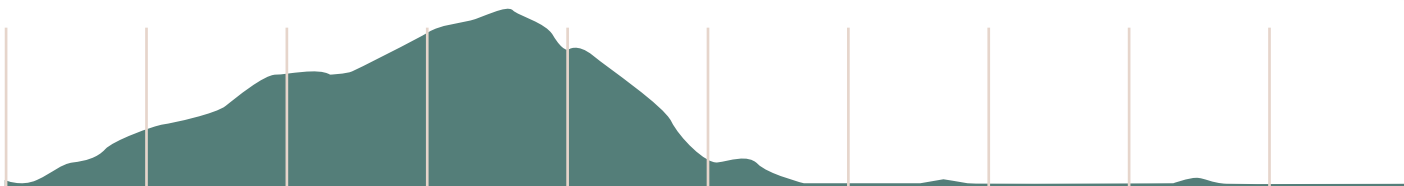
Turning left along the footpath out of the Hill House car park, you'll follow a wooded path until the junction with the old 'Highlandman's Road' track. This descends towards Rhu and Pier Road brings you to the coast at the marina. From there it's a flat stroll along the coast back to Helensburgh along the promenade, where you can take in the views across the Firth of Clyde.



Gareloch from Helensburgh

ELEVATION PROFILE

Total ascent 172m / Highest point 164m



PLACES OF INTEREST

1

HELENSBURGH WATERFRONT

The circular sculpture and seat at the entrance to Helensburgh Pier mark the western end of the John Muir Way and also the start/finish point of this route.

2

SCOTTISH SUBMARINE CENTRE

The route passes close to Scotland's only submarine museum where you can view a Stickleback sub and learn about the exploits of those daring submariners.

3

THE HILL HOUSE

Explore Charles Rennie Mackintosh's finest domestic creation, currently housed inside a protective 'box'. Go on a tour inside and out (even over the roof) and relax in the café.



Route Start – Helensburgh Waterfront



The Hill House

4

DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

If you have time to explore further, a short detour will take you to Duchess Wood. Often known as Bluebell wood, this is a small but rich and diverse woodland with a variety of plant and animal species.

THE INSIDE TRACK

Helensburgh has some great eateries as well as a rich variety of shops to browse. It's well worth building in time to look around the Hill House and take in the views from its protective 'box' as you leave town. You'll also find a few pit stop opportunities at the coast in Rhu.

TERRAIN

This route uses a mixture of pavements, unsealed footpaths and forestry track. The footpath along the northern part of the loop can be rutted with roots so take care. Although it's a relatively short loop, we've graded it 'medium' due to the hill up to the Hill House and a moderately steep descent down Highlandman's Road to Rhu. The return along the coast is entirely flat.

Please enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly.
Visit: outdooraccess-scotland.com

GETTING THERE

BY RAIL: There are regular trains from Glasgow to Helensburgh Central and a less frequent service to Helensburgh Upper.

BY BUS: First Greater Glasgow service 1B operates between Glasgow, Balloch and Helensburgh.

BY CAR: There is free parking at the far end of Helensburgh Pier.

Plan your trip and find more routes at:
johnmuirway.org/day-trips