

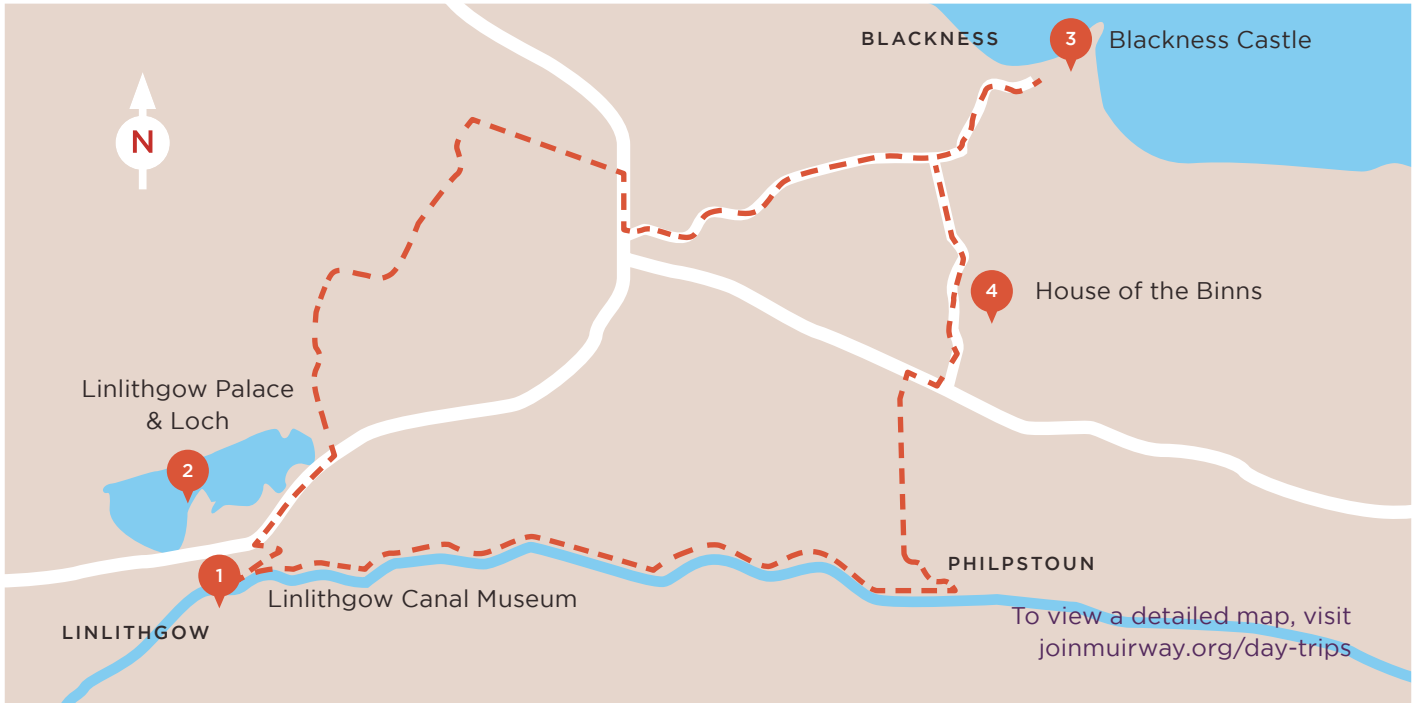
Linlithgow & Blackness Castle

ROUTE TYPE: Cycle

DISTANCE: 10 miles/16 km

AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE: 2 Hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: ■■■□□ Fairly flat, some moderate hills

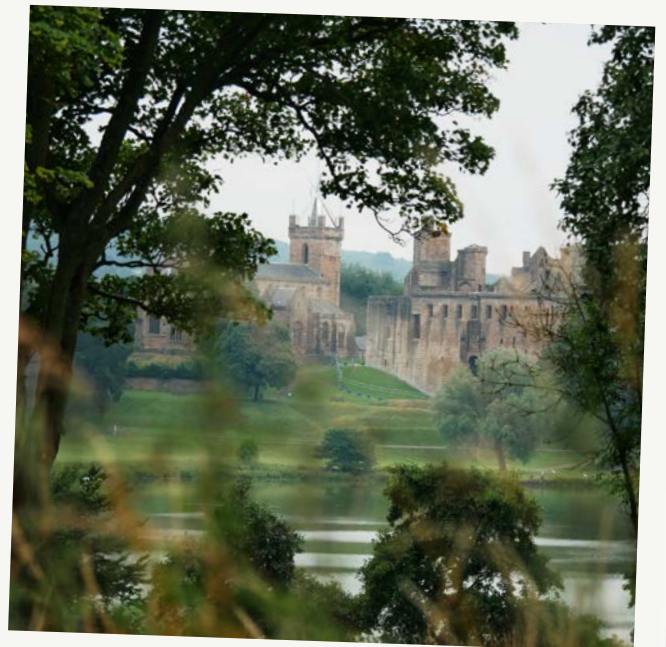


THE ROUTE

Setting off from the historic town of Linlithgow, historically the county town of West Lothian, this loop route gives a true insight into the area's rich history.

Beginning close to Linlithgow Palace, the birthplace of James V and Mary, Queen of Scots, the route heads east along the Union Canal, before turning northwards towards the village of Blackness on the banks of the Firth of Forth.

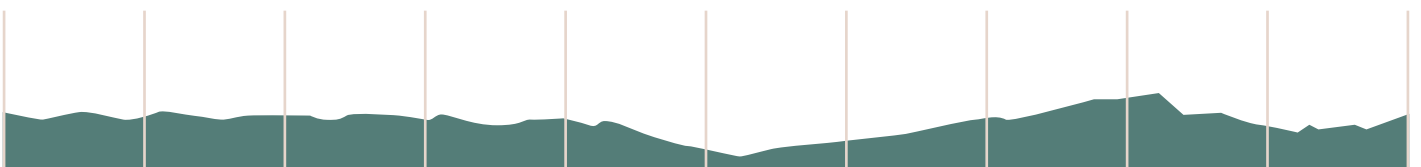
Explore the long and bloody history of Blackness Castle, which dates back to the 15th Century, before riding the gentle, uphill roads back to Linlithgow.



Linlithgow Palace & Loch

ELEVATION PROFILE

Total ascent 157m / Highest point 104m



PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 **LINLITHGOW CANAL CENTRE**
Learn about the Union Canal's history in the museum or take a boat trip to the Avon Aqueduct. The centre also offers canal boat hire and has a tearoom.
- 2 **LINLITHGOW PALACE & LOCH**
Famous as the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots and often used as a film location, these magnificent ruins are set in a park beside a loch rich in wildlife.
- 3 **BLACKNESS CASTLE**
This imposing 15th century castle has hosted garrisons, prisoners and many a film crew. Climb the towers for fantastic views of the Forth.

*Coastal Path near Blackness**Blackness Castle*

- 4 **HOUSE OF THE BINNS**
Set in beautifully landscaped parkland overlooking the River Forth, this fascinating laird's house has been the home of the Dalryells for over 400 years. The estate is open all year but please note the house itself is closed.

THE INSIDE TRACK

Much of this route follows minor roads and canal towpath. However, if you plan to do this with a young family, be aware that there are some short sections on main roads and some major road crossings to navigate.

TERRAIN

The initial section is flat, following the Union Canal towpath. There are some hills to negotiate, particularly at the coast. Surfaces are tarmac roads and unsealed towpath, so a bike with reasonably wide tyres is recommended.

GETTING THERE

BY RAIL: Linlithgow sits on the Edinburgh-Glasgow train line

BY BUS: The X38 bus service links Linlithgow and Edinburgh.

BY CAR: Parking is available in Linlithgow beside the Burgh Halls and some free spaces are available beside the loch. Avoid starting this route in Blackness, where parking and congestion can be an issue.

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

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