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.

ELEVATION PROFILE
Total ascent 172m / Highest point 164m
**PLACES OF INTEREST**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

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