

Scotland, the Falkirk Wheel, Edinburgh



All routes are covered in Geo map 25 (see back cover).



The Scottish Lowland Canals are quite different from the canals typical of England and Wales. The Forth & Clyde is much wider than the average English canal. The Union Canal is a contour canal and has no locks at all nor bridges that have to be opened.

British Waterways staff currently operate all of the locks and bridges and boaters are not allowed to operate the locks themselves, although help is happily accepted. Between Falkirk and Glasgow there are 4 locks and 3 road bridges, with a further 18 locks and a number of pedestrian bridges between Glasgow and the Clyde at Bowling.

Both the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals were closed in the early 1960's and it was not until lottery funding was obtained in 1999 that restoration works rejoined the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh by canal. At a quarter of the cost of the overall £84.5 million project, the Falkirk Wheel is the most significant structure by far, but only one link in the scheme involving rebuilding bridges, clearing blockages and cutting new stretches of canal. For more facts and figures visit (www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk / 01324 619888), but in summary the 25m level difference between the canals is traversed via a pair of gondolas which together carry 600 tonnes of water to the 100m aqueduct at the top of the 35m diameter wheel. (TIC 01324 620244 / www.scottish.heartlands.org)

Bowling & return

G25
 > Falkirk 🌙 7 ☀️ 6 📖 48

The Forth & Clyde Canal follows the Clyde Estuary all the way down to the old ship building village of Bowling – a pleasant boating haven. The route has a rich mix of industry old and new, stunning views of the Clyde and relics of the ship building era.

Edinburgh & Glasgow

G25
 > Falkirk 🌙 7 ☀️ 6 📖 14

Twice via the wheel
 Complete the width of Scotland, and back, visiting both cities in a one week holiday. If you are heading east, towards Edinburgh, you will have to arrange your passage via the wheel before you arrive for your holiday. Find out more at (01324 619888 / www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk).

"It was perfect, can't wait till next time."

Edinburgh and Glasgow

short breaks

There is no charge for the Falkirk Wheel but it is advisable to book beforehand (01324 676912). Trips operate approximately every half hour from 9.00am to 7.00pm daily, each revolution taking one narrowboat and the British Waterways trip boat. Information will be sent with your booking confirmation and you can view these details on our website at: www.falkirkwharf.com



© British Waterways Scotland



Weekends: Friday to Monday (3 nights)

Midweek: Monday to Friday (4 nights)

Glasgow & return

G25

> Falkirk 🌙 3-4 🌞 6.5-10 📖 8

Four evenly spaced locks after Bonnybridge take the canal up to the broad, straight section before Auchinstarry. The majestic Campsie Fells rise from the valley that the canal shares with the River Kelvin and the scenery is superb as the canal then follows contours for the rest of its journey to Glasgow.

- The canal arm south towards Applecross Street Basin in Glasgow looks down to where the River Kelvin winds from the university past the museums and botanical gardens.

- A major port with a shipping history back to the 18th century, Glasgow has a wealth of museums and collections.

- The art galleries and museums of Glasgow are never without examples by Charles Rennie Mackintosh - there is even a church designed by him in the city.

- Discover more at www.glasgowguide.co.uk

Edinburgh & return

G25

> Falkirk 🌙 3-4 🌞 7.5-10 📖 6

Twice via the wheel

This cruise starts via the Falkirk Wheel and the new Rough Castle Tunnel, two new locks and a mile of new canal to join the original canal at the site of the summit of the flight of 11 locks that used to join the two canals.

- The stalactites and rock-hewn sections of the Falkirk tunnel, a treat for the budding geologist.

- Amongst the numerous minor aqueducts en route, three to note are the 12 arch, 85ft Avon Aqueduct and the Almond and Slateford Aqueducts, both at 75ft high.

- Beecraigs Country Park (01506 844516 / www.beecraigs.com) and the beautifully preserved remains of Linlithgow Palace on the shore of Linlithgow Loch (0131 668 8600 / www.historic-scotland.net) are within easy reach of the canal.

(TIC 01506 844600)

- Edinburgh is packed with history and the canal entry to the city does not disappoint. The western suburbs are pleasant and spacious and the canal is well used by rowers and pleasure boaters as it nears the city centre. (www.edinburgh.org.uk)