

# visitfalkirk

and the surrounding area

free visitor map inside!



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and the surrounding area

Whether you're planning a day trip, weekend away or a longer stay, the Falkirk area has plenty to keep you entertained. Mid way between Edinburgh and Glasgow, Falkirk is right in the heart of Scotland, just off the M9 with excellent rail links and two international airports close by.

Boasting historic houses, a World Heritage Site, a ship shaped castle, numerous heritage monuments and family friendly attractions including the Falkirk Wheel and Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway, your only problem will be deciding what to do first!

And with many attractions being free of charge (see our map overleaf) you'll be pleasantly surprised how far your money goes. If you're thinking of holidaying in the UK this year, consider Falkirk the answer.

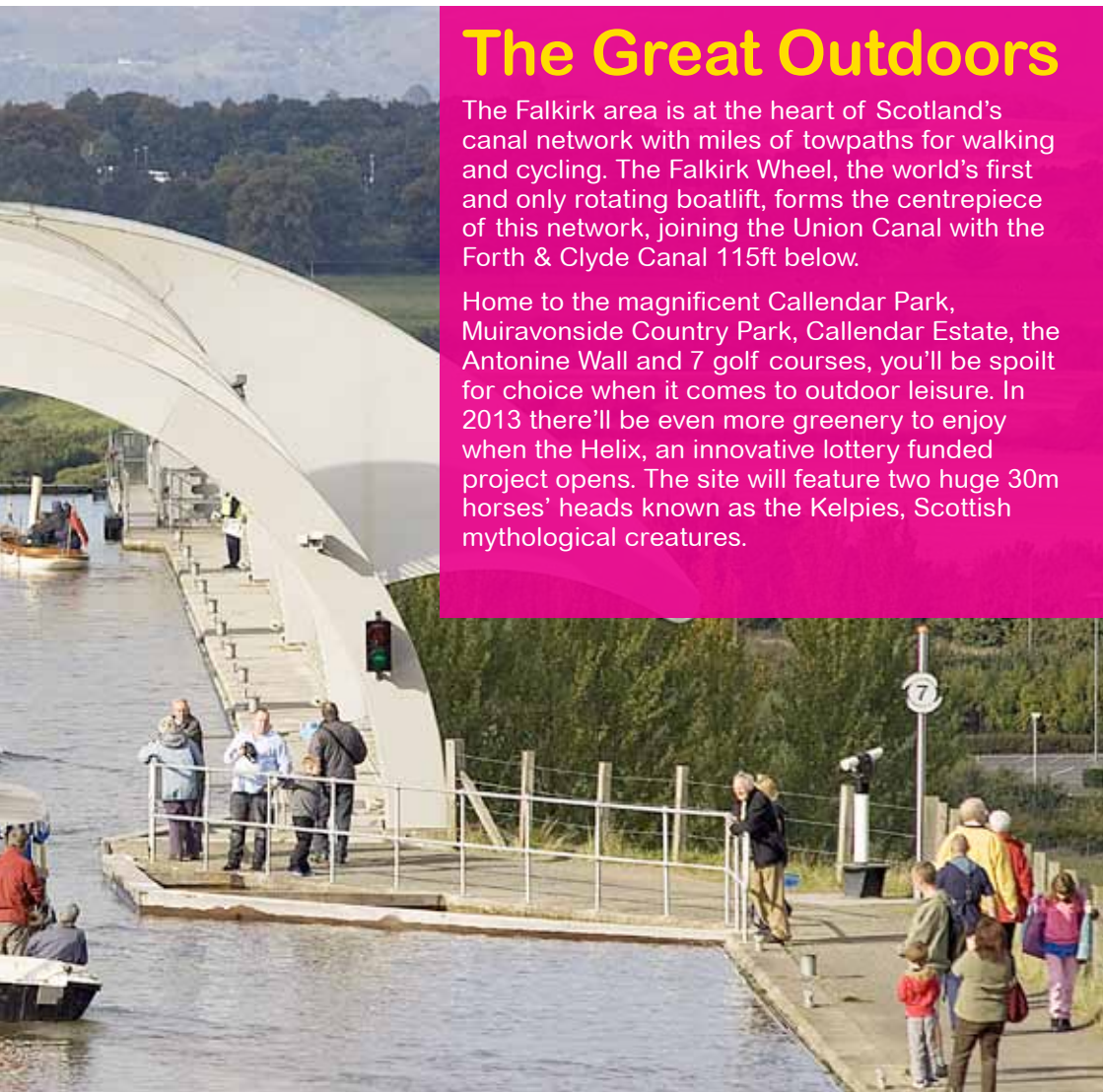




## The Great Outdoors

The Falkirk area is at the heart of Scotland's canal network with miles of towpaths for walking and cycling. The Falkirk Wheel, the world's first and only rotating boatlift, forms the centrepiece of this network, joining the Union Canal with the Forth & Clyde Canal 115ft below.

Home to the magnificent Callendar Park, Muiravonside Country Park, Callendar Estate, the Antonine Wall and 7 golf courses, you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to outdoor leisure. In 2013 there'll be even more greenery to enjoy when the Helix, an innovative lottery funded project opens. The site will feature two huge 30m horses' heads known as the Kelpies, Scottish mythological creatures.





**Blackness Castle**



## Bringing History to Life

The Falkirk area is rich in history, with World Heritage Site the Antonine Wall, Callendar House, the Faw Kirk graveyard, Kinneil House and Blackness Castle all highlighting the area's heritage over 2000 years.

Callendar House is one of Scotland's finest baronial mansions, built in the style of a French Chateau. The working Georgian Kitchen features costumed interpreters and the house itself has connections to great historical figures such as Mary Queen of Scots, Oliver Cromwell and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Within the house is the Park Gallery which hosts contemporary exhibitions.



**Callendar House**



Falkirk Town Centre

## About Town

Falkirk is a historic town centre with a traditional high street and conservation area. Enjoy the many speciality shops and the town heritage trail alongside the convenience of major high street brands.

The Steeple is a notable landmark on the High Street dating back to 1814. Overlooking the High Street is Falkirk Old and St Modan's Parish Church, known as the 'Faw Kirk' from which Falkirk is believed to take its name. The graveyard contains memorials and graves from the Battle of Falkirk including those of William Wallace's companions.

A fine selection of coffee shops, pubs, bars and restaurants will keep you refreshed by day and night while Falkirk Town Hall will entertain you with its programme of comedy, drama, music and family orientated events.





## Where to Stay

A warm welcome awaits you at a wide choice of hotels, guest houses and B&Bs, including over 600 Visit Scotland quality assured rooms.

With something to suit every taste and pocket, you'll also find some beautifully situated and well-appointed self-catering houses, cottages and chalets in the area.

Search for accommodation at [www.falkirk.gov.uk/](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/) visitfalkirk or [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

## How to Get Here

By car - From Carlisle and the South it's motorway all the way via the M6, M74, M73 and M80. Equally well connected are Edinburgh from the M9, Glasgow via the M80 and Stirling, Perth and Inverness via the M9/A9.

By train - there are direct day and sleeper services from London, a fast and frequent service from Edinburgh and Glasgow and from the north there are services from Stirling, Perth and beyond.

Falkirk itself has 2 rail stations - Falkirk High and Falkirk Grahamston and there are numerous others throughout the district, including Larbert, Polmont and Camelon (see map overleaf).

By air - Edinburgh Airport (19 miles), Glasgow Airport (33 miles) and Prestwick (56 miles)

Local public transport - [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com) has information on bus and train services within the area and travelling to/from other parts of Scotland. Tel: 0871 200 22 33 (24 hour)



The Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway

## Bonnie Bo'ness

Bo'ness is a beautiful historic town nestled on the Firth of Forth with lovely views of the Ochil Hills and the Forth road and rail bridges.

With impressive architecture, it boasts many interesting buildings, including the pre-art deco Hippodrome Cinema which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and screens an interesting mix of the latest releases, classics and silent films.

The Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway takes you back to the days of steam power with a leisurely ride along the Firth of Forth. Bo'ness Station hosts memorabilia of 100 years of railways in its Scottish Railway Exhibition and numerous special events are held throughout the year including visits from Thomas the Tank engine.

The Antonine Wall originally stretched 37 miles from Bo'ness to the Firth of Clyde. Today, you can see a replica Roman distance marker at Kinnigars Park and you can find out more about the Roman occupation at Kinneil Museum. Kinneil House and Estate has a fascinating history and many sites of interest including a Roman fort and the inventor James Watt's cottage.

Bo'ness Motor Museum houses a collection of vehicles from TV and film, from James Bond to Harry Potter. Blackness Castle, a short drive from Bo'ness, is a 15th century structure right on the River Forth, known as the ship that never sailed.





The Dunmore Pineapple

## And Finally...

Some other local gems include the Barbara Davidson Pottery at Larbert where you can pick up a hand thrown pot or choose from a whole range of beautifully made items from a potter with over 40 years experience.

The Dunmore Pineapple is a quirky, striking piece of architecture, built in 1761 as a garden retreat. Visit the grounds to marvel at the spectacular design and enjoy a walk in the surrounding woodland.

For activities, Xtreme Karting at Larbert offer a 5 star indoor karting experience whilst the Mariner Leisure Centre has a tropical wave pool with slides and chutes and Polmonthill Ski Centre offers skiing and snowboarding lessons.



[www.falkirk.gov.uk/visitfalkirk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/visitfalkirk)

Falkirk Council

## What's On

There's plenty to see and do all year round in the Falkirk area with many events and festivals held. To see what's on when you're visiting, please check [www.falkirk.gov.uk/visitfalkirk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/visitfalkirk)

The Falkirk area is part of The Forth Valley, which also covers Stirling and Clackmannanshire. The Forth Valley What to See and Do guide is available at VisitScotland Information Centres or tel: 01324 620244.



The Bo'ness Children's Fair



**1 Antonie Wall**  
Built by the Romans around AD142 as the frontier of their Empire, the Antonie Wall is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Substantial lengths of this remarkable monument can still be seen at various sites across the Falkirk area.  
[www.falkirk.gov.uk/antoniwall](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/antoniwall)  
**Free**



**2 Avon Gorge Trail (near Muiravonside)**  
Explore 9 miles of spectacular scenery between Avonbridge and Linlithgow passing through Muiravonside Country Park and under the Avon aqueduct which carries the Union Canal.  
[www.cofl.co.uk](http://www.cofl.co.uk) Photograph courtesy of GP Landscape Architects  
Tel: 01501 822017  
**Free**



**3 Barbara Davidson Pottery**  
A working pottery which has been run by Barbara Davidson for over 40 years. There is a pottery shop and a gift shop in the old farm buildings.  
Muirhall Farm, Larbert, Falkirk, FK5 4EW  
[www.barbara-davidson.com](http://www.barbara-davidson.com)  
Tel: 01324 554430  
**Free**



**4 Blackness Castle**  
Shaped like a ship and situated on a promontory which juts out into the Forth, this 15th century castle is known as the ship that never sailed.  
Blackness, EH49 7NH  
Price: See website  
[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01506 834807



**5 Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway**  
Central Scotland's steam railway by the Firth of Forth, now with an extended 10 mile round trip calling at Kinneil Halt, Birkhill Station and over the River Avon viaduct. Don't miss the Scottish Railway exhibition at Bo'ness Station and look out for special events, including visits by Thomas the Tank engine.  
Bo'ness Station, Union Street, Bo'ness, EH51 9AQ • [www.rps.org.uk](http://www.rps.org.uk)  
Tel: Station 01506 822298  
Office (weekdays) 01506 825855



**6 Bo'ness Motor Museum**  
A private collection of over 20 vehicles ranging from a Baby Austin A30 to a Grand Tourer Aston Martin. Enjoy a snack in Miss Moneypenny's diner and keep the young ones amused in the soft play area, the Little Monsters Fun Factory.  
Bridgeness Road, Bo'ness, EH51 9JR.  
[www.motor-museum.bo-ness.org.uk](http://www.motor-museum.bo-ness.org.uk)  
Tel: 01506 827007



**7 The Bridgeness Slab**  
A Roman legionary distance marker stone was found in Bo'ness in 1868. One of the best examples of its kind, it is displayed at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and a replica has been installed at Kinnigars Park.  
Kinnigars Park, Harbour Road, EH51 9LD  
**Free**



**8 Callendar Estate Cycle Trails**  
19km of single track cycle trails through mature woodland offering a great day out for all the family. The trails are graded from beginner to advanced providing something for every one.  
Greenrig Car Park, Lochgreen Road, Falkirk  
[www.callendaresta.co.uk](http://www.callendaresta.co.uk)  
**Free**



**9 Callendar House and Park**  
Over 2000 years of history are waiting to be discovered. Don't miss the Georgian kitchen with costumed interpreters bringing history to life, and leave time to explore the magnificent park and woodlands, including a section of the Antonie Wall.  
Callendar Park, Falkirk, FK1 1YR  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 503770  
**Free**



**10 The Dunmore Pineapple**  
This unusual structure was built in 1761 by an unknown architect as a garden retreat. View the exterior from the walled garden and orchard. Explore the surrounding woodland and ponds which team with wildlife.  
Near Airth, Falkirk, FK2 8LU (Signed from the A905)  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)  
Tel: 0844 493 2132  
**Free**



**11 Falkirk Stadium**  
Home to Falkirk Football Club and Café Westfield with panoramic views, open daily.  
Falkirk Stadium, 4 Stadium Way, Falkirk, FK2 9EE  
[www.falkirkstadium.co.uk](http://www.falkirkstadium.co.uk)  
Tel: 01324 618740



**24 Xtreme Karting**  
Experience the thrill and adrenaline of indoor karting at its best at Scotland's only 5 star karting centre. (Rated by VisitScotland)  
Leathlands Business Park, Larbert, Falkirk, FK5 3WD  
[www.xtremekarting.co.uk](http://www.xtremekarting.co.uk)  
Tel: 01324 579797



**23 Polmont Hill Ski Centre**  
All year round skiing and snowboarding with 100m long artificial ski slope and 20m nursery slope. Lessons available.  
Polmont Farm, Polmont, Falkirk, FK2 0YD  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 503835



**22 Muiravonside Country Park**  
170 acres of woodland, parkland and gardens with nature trails, picnic sites and a Visitor Centre. In and around the restored farm buildings you can see ponies, pigs, goats, ducks and chickens.  
The Loen, By Linlithgow, EH49 8LN  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01506 845311  
**Free**



**21 The Mariner Leisure Centre**  
Lagoon-shaped leisure pool with beach area and wave machine, plus soft play area and lots more.  
Glasgow Road, Camelon, FK1 4HJ  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 503750



**20 Kinneil House, Museum & Estate**  
A historic house, open on selected days and surrounded by parkland and woodland which includes remains of a Roman fortlet and the Antonie Wall. Kinneil Museum displays 2,000 years of history from Roman times to the present day.  
Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness, EH51 0PR  
[www.kinneil.org.uk](http://www.kinneil.org.uk) • Tel: 01506 778530  
**Free**



**19 Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre**  
The Scottish Wildlife Trust has created 10 acres of wildlife gardens and habitats including wetlands, woodlands and meadows.  
Wood Street, Grangemouth, FK3 8LN  
[www.swt.org.uk](http://www.swt.org.uk)  
Tel: 01324 486475 or 07739 428293  
**Free**



**18 The Hippodrome Cinema**  
Scotland's oldest picture palace beautifully restored in 2009 and screening the latest releases, classics and silent films. It's 100 years since it opened so look out for special film-based activities for all the family throughout the centenary year.  
10 Hope Street, Bo'ness, EH51 0AA.  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 506850



**17 The Helix**  
Currently under construction, the Helix is a Lottery funded project that will transform under-used land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a thriving urban greenspace of 300 hectares. Due for completion in 2013, you can follow the project's progress at the website.  
[www.thehelix.co.uk](http://www.thehelix.co.uk)



**16 Grangemouth Athletics Stadium**  
Venue for local, national and international athletics events.  
Kersiebank Avenue, Grangemouth, FK3 8EE  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 504590



**15 The Faw Kirk**  
The graveyard at Falkirk Old and St Modan's Parish Church contains important historical memorials from the era of William Wallace, the Battle of Falkirk in 1298 and the second Battle of Falkirk in 1746.  
Manse Place, Falkirk, FK1 1JN  
[www.toasmpc.org.uk](http://www.toasmpc.org.uk)  
Tel: 01324 611017  
**Free**



**14 Falkirk Wheel and Tourist Information**  
The world's first and only rotating boatlift, the Falkirk Wheel offers a unique experience, designed to connect the Union Canal with the Forth and Clyde Canal 115ft below.  
The Falkirk Wheel, Lime Road, Falkirk, FK1 4RS • Tel: 08700 500208  
[www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk](http://www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk)  
Tourist Info: 08707 200614  
[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)  
**Free**



**13 Falkirk Town Hall - Theatre, Music and Cinema**  
Carefully selected range of live music, drama, dance, comedy and film, with activities for families, workshops and exhibitions.  
West Bridge Street, Falkirk, FK1 5RS  
Price: See programme online for details.  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 506850



**12 Falkirk Steeple and Visitor Information Point**  
A local landmark since the late 15th century, the Steeple housed the town lock up and today serves as an information point and box office for Falkirk Town Hall, The Hippodrome and other local venues.  
High Street, Falkirk, FK1 1NW  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org)  
Tel: 01324 506850  
**Free**