



Walk With Me...

Pitlochry Fish Ladder and around Loch Faskally.

Distance - 3.25 miles.

Time - 1.5 - 2 hours.

Ascent - 100m, with some steps.

This is a good family walk with children. It is over well defined paths and some minor roads with lots to see and some stunning scenery along the way.

The walk starts in Pitlochry's main street (Atholl Road) at Ferry Road, this is lowest point in the main street where you will see **Victoria's** on the corner. Turn down Ferry Road, past **Fern Cottage**, under the railway bridge and follow the road as it curves left, passing **Drummonds**. You will then pass the sports field and turn down a path, on the left, sign-posted for the Festival Theatre and Fish Ladder, then cross the bouncy Port-na-Craig suspension bridge, where the kids can count the 'love-locks'. (Port-na-Craig means ferry by the rock, see if the kids can spot the rock)

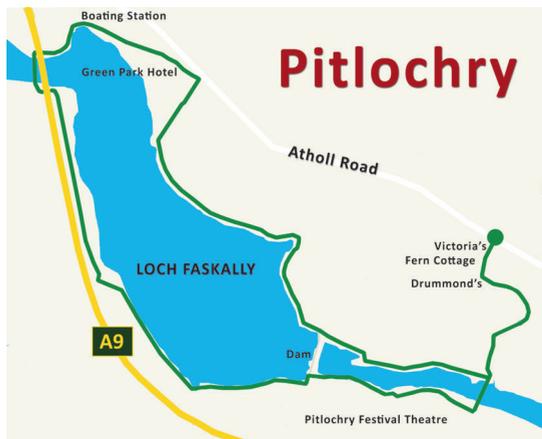
Over the bridge turn right past Portnacraig Inn, the Festival Theatre will be above you on the left. The Explorer's Garden is at the rear of the car park at the entrance to the theatre. Keep on this minor road, pass the Theatre and you will come to the hydro-electric dam which has created Loch Faskally. There is a visitor centre here as well as observation chambers for the salmon ladder which allows the fish to swim upstream through a number of tunnels to bypass the dam. If lucky, you might see one pass through. An electronic counter records how many fish pass through each year and is usually in excess of 4,000.

Climb up the steps next to the fish ladder to the top of the dam, then keep left up a few more steps to start the path around Loch Faskally. Soon head right at a fork to some steps down to the shore and follow the clear path. At one point you will go down steps, cross a bridge and climb a longer flight of steps up the other side. The path now climbs away from the water towards the A9. Stay in the woods and you will pass a house at Balmore before emerging onto a minor road. Turn right there and follow this road downhill, under the A9 bridge then immediately turn

right down a path leading to a footbridge signposted for the **Boating Station**. Over the bridge turn right to follow the path around the other side of the Loch.

You will soon reach the Boating Station where boats and fishing tackle can be hired. There is also a café with lovely home-made cakes. Don't forget to feed the ducks before heading up the road, back towards Pitlochry, passing the **Green Park Hotel** on the right. Then take the next right Lagreach Brae (a new housing estate) where in the bottom right corner there is a signed path on the right that leads back down to the loch and the dam. Always keep to the main path near the water and ignore any other paths and tracks coming in from the left.

Go through a gap in the fence and down steps towards the dam. Cross the minor road, climb steps on the far side and continue through woodland. The path emerges onto grass and then continues between the river and some houses before reaching the path leading down to the suspension bridge with the padlocks. Turn left here and retrace your steps back to the main street.



For more walks, keep an eye on our website at www.pitlochrylife.co.uk/getout