

# Fort Augustus Heritage Trail



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- 1 *Absurd* Bridge
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- 7 Gunpowder Store

We hope that you enjoy these sights and the remainder of the village and that you have a memorable stay in Fort Augustus

# Fort Augustus Heritage Trail



The Highland Club (former Abbey + Fort) from the canal towpath

This leaflet is designed to give you a look at some of the more hidden points of interest in the highland village of Fort Augustus. The walk is flat and should take approximately one hour at a leisurely pace, although we think you should take your time and relax in our beautiful surroundings.

**Abbey Cottage Bed and Breakfast 2010**  
[www.abbeycottagelochness.co.uk](http://www.abbeycottagelochness.co.uk)



Start facing the 200 year old **Abbey Cottage Bed and Breakfast** (1), outside on the main road, turn left and walk to the white swing bridge, then right onto the canal tow path. At the end you will see the **Pepper-pot lighthouse** (2) which is reputedly the smallest light-house in the UK. It guides ships into the canal but early one morning in the 1930's it's carbide battery blew up, frightening half the village.



Retrace your steps and cross the swing bridge then right onto the other towpath to the **Pier/Viewpoint** (3) and relax amidst its spectacular views. Follow the path to the left and around the **Barrack-Master's house** (4) (now Inveroch house) which has stood for more than 3 centuries. Here once stood the bakery and brewery, for the Fort.

Continue to the **Old Oich Bridge** (5) which prior to the floods of 1849 was "a stone bridge of three arches", two of which were washed away and replaced by the thick beams you see today.



Next is an out of place **Absurd Bridge** (7) which originally carried the railway line over the tow path, and to the right is the railway viaduct of which only the stone piers survive. Cross over the fifth loch gate and marvel at the lochs running 40 feet below to Loch Ness beyond.



Continue along the road, then over the A82 until you come to the **British Waterways Heritage Centre** (6) where once the horses who towed the canal boats were stabled.

Go across road junction and though the cut to **Lovat Terrace** (8) which was reputedly built by Lord Lovat as almshouses for workers on his land in the late 19th Century. It later housed railway workers.



Swing around the bend and onto the main road footpath. Follow this into the Lovat Arms car park. Keep left passing the modern chalets, and nearly hidden from view is the tall stone wall of the **First Military Barracks** (9). The gun-loops are still clearly visible. The builders of this fort were unable to pronounce the village name (Cill Chuimein) and thus called the barracks "Kilwhimman".



Walk down the hill on the main road footpath and at the bottom you will notice the solitary **Coronation Lamp-post** (10) in the middle of the grass island. This was dedicated to the 1911 coronation and is the last remnant of the original electric lighting which the south side of the village enjoyed from the monks at the monastery. However the north side did not have this as the Canal Company would not let the dangerous electric cables over or under the canal.



Facing the Lamp-post is the reputed oldest building, the **Old King's Inn** (11) which was once the scene of the Glengarry Chieftain assaulting the local doctor despite him being the County Sheriff!



Follow the road to the left and just before the swing bridge on your left is the **Jubilee Fountain** (12) dedicated to Queen Victoria who passed through on her steamship and commented on the "very rude" people peering in whilst she ate on board.



Around the corner on the left is the **Old Gunpowder Store** (13) with its rooftop compass and weathervane. This and the restaurant site were originally in the middle of an island in the River Oich prior to the canal being built.