

The Mull of Ross

Distance: 4 miles/6.5 km Map: OS explorer 312 Kirkcudbright & Castle Douglas - D&G Core Path 223

Walk 2



— - Walk
- - - - Alternate Routes

- Leave gates as you find them
- Walk to the edges of crop fields, not across the middle
- Keep dogs on leads, especially if there is livestock in the field
- Cows with calves can be aggressive
- There is a large tidal range in the Solway Firth. Be careful if venturing into the tidal zone.

Disclaimer: This route was correct at time of writing. However, alterations can happen if development or boundary changes occur, and there is no guarantee of permanent access. These walks have been published for use by site visitors on the understanding that neither HPB Management Limited nor any other person connected with Holiday Property Bond is responsible for the safety or wellbeing of those following the routes as described. It is walkers' own responsibility to be adequately prepared and equipped for the level of walk and the weather conditions and to assess the safety and accessibility of the walk.

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Distance: 4 miles/6.5 km **Map:** OS explorer 312 Kirkcudbright & Castle Douglas - D&G Core Path 223

This is a coastal walk with impressive views of the sea cliffs and Ross Island with its infamous lighthouse. The route is generally well signed with marker posts and has walkers' gates to negotiate walls and fences. There are often cows and sheep in the fields along this route so please be careful not to disturb them and to keep dogs under close control.

Start: East side of Brighthouse Bay, 5 miles from the Coo Palace (GR 637455)

Footwear: Trainers in dry weather, boots in wet weather

Refreshments: Coffee shop at Brighthouse Bay Golf Club, Borgue Hotel

Terrain: Farmland and rocky coast

Please help future walkers by notifying us of any errors in the walk description or any suggestions for improving the directions.

WALK

1. Start from a car parking area at the end of the road along the east side of Brighthouse Bay. Alternatively, there is a larger car park and public toilets at the head of the bay and you can walk across the sandy beach to reach the same point. Follow the path that leads along the shore below Rockvale house. Just beyond the house, the path goes up through gorse bushes onto a more open, grassy area then contours along to reach Mull Point with a prominent cairn. On a clear day you can get a good view across to the Isle of Man.
2. Follow the path roughly parallel to the coast with kissing gates to negotiate walls and fences. You may need to take some diversions to avoid patches of spiky gorse that can sometimes grow over the route. After a kilometre you will reach another gate that gives access to the shore at Fauldbog Bay. Make your way around the bay either on the pebbly shore or the grass higher up (sometimes rather boggy).
3. At this point it is possible to take a short cut across a track to Ross farm if you would like a shorter walk, but it is much better to continue round the more spectacular coastline of Meikle Ross. Follow the path climbing steadily above the sea cliffs that increase in height to around 50 metres as you get to Slack Heugh Bay.
4. At Slack Heugh Bay, the waymarked path turns inland to cut across the shallow valley between Meikle Ross and the Ree of Ross. It is possible however to follow the edge of the cliffs around the headland of the Ree of Ross over to Fox Craig for a closer view of Little Ross Island and to see the impressive cliff formations that are popular with local rock climbers. The cliffs are composed of steeply angled beds of sedimentary rocks called "greywacke". There were formed in the Silurian period about 420 million years ago and extend most of the way across southern Scotland.

Peregrine falcons are known to nest on these cliffs so watch out for them in the breeding period which runs from April to July. You may also see seals and porpoises in the coastal waters.

5. Little Ross Island and its lighthouse are notorious for an event that took place over 50 years ago. One of the two lighthouse keepers was murdered by the other one in August 1960. The murder and subsequent court case grabbed the attention of the national media, generating lurid headlines and much misinformed speculation. The lighthouse has been automated and unmanned since 1961. In 2017, Little Ross Island was sold to a private buyer.
6. Continue along the path through gates and along a track down to Ross Bay. There are good views towards Kirkcudbright up the estuary of the River Dee. Follow the unsurfaced road to Ross Farm where you should see footpath markers indicating a left turn up a track past the farmhouse. The path goes up quite steeply, keeping to the left of a fence as it climbs over a ridge before dropping down through fields back to the starting point.

This walk can be extended by combining it with the Brighthouse Bay/Borness route (Walk 3)