

Which route option?

The route has two branches, the western one via Lochmaben, the eastern via Lockerbie. Our main route description (Part 3) follows the more strenuous Lochmaben branch which includes a superb viewpoint over Annandale from Almagill Hill (217 m/712 ft). Part 4 describes the alternative branch through Lockerbie: it is slightly shorter than the Lochmaben branch, much less hilly, and has the attraction of Eskrigg Nature Reserve.

Although we devote Part 4 to the Lockerbie branch, it is only the last 6 miles/10 km (from Corncockle Wood to Lockerbie) that differs from the Lochmaben branch; from Moffat to Corncockle Wood they are identical. And it is only the first 6 miles/10 km of Part 4:2 that differs from the Lochmaben branch; from Sorrysike Moor southward they are identical. Before deciding which branch you favour, it's worth considering your daily distances and accommodation stops.

If you are a self-reliant walker, you may prefer the Lochmaben route for a further reason: at the price of an 18-mile (29-km) day, you can avoid the need to use a bus by walking from Moffat to Lochmaben in a day. The Lockerbie option is over 3 miles further, measured to the centre of Lockerbie. Not many walkers enjoy the pressure of having to complete 21.5 miles (35 km) in a single day.



The route divide, Corncockle Wood

How long will it take?

Most people take four to five days to cover the total distance of about 56 miles/90 km. Part 3 is divided into four sections, each a feasible day's walk. However, many who walk from Moffat to Lochmaben, and nearly all who chose Moffat to Lockerbie, will prefer to split this very long section over two days using the bus (or by staying at Johnstonebridge): see page 38. When considering daily distances, bear in mind that inevitably you will walk much further in the course of reaching food, drink and accommodation.

In Moffat and Annan there is plenty of accommodation on or close to the route; as of 2016 Lochmaben has only two hotels, both close to the route; and Lockerbie has plenty of accommodation near the town centre. However, unless you wish to camp or rely on lifts from B&B hosts, you may have to walk significant distances elsewhere. For example, to reach the hotel or B&B in Ecclefechan, near Hoddom Bridge, takes a minimum of 1.5 miles (2.4 km) each way. And although the route ends officially at Newbiebarns, in practice you will almost certainly return to Annan on foot – a further 2-3 miles (3-5 km).

Unless you are an experienced walker, avoid committing yourself to overlong daily distances. Not only do you risk turning your holiday into an endurance test, but also time pressure may make you miss wildlife sightings or feel too rushed to relish the views. And although the Way is mostly low-level, be aware of slow going on some challenging terrain, especially in poor weather.

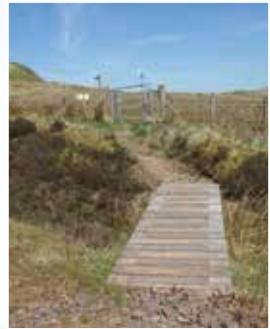
The table shows how to split the overall distance into four or five days. We advise you to give yourself the blessing of at least one extra day unless you are experienced and have severe time constraints. And if you have little or no previous experience of long-distance walking, we strongly recommend that you obtain our *Notes for Novices*: see page 67.

Distances

<i>Via Lochmaben</i>	5-day		4-day		pages
	miles	km	miles	km	
Devil's Beef Tub loop	13-9	22-4	13-9	22-4	26-31
Moffat	8-0	12-8			
A701/Raehills	10-6	17-0	18-5	29-8	32-41
Lochmaben	14-0	22-6	14-0	22-6	43-48
Hoddom Bridge	9-3	15-0	9-3	15-0	49-52
Newbiebarns					
Total via Lochmaben	55-8	89-8			

<i>Via Lockerbie</i>	5-day		4-day		pages
	miles	km	miles	km	
Devil's Beef Tub loop	13-9	22-4	13-9	22-4	26-31
Moffat	8-0	12-8			
A701/Raehills	13-1	21-1	21-1	33-8	55-59
Lockerbie*	8-6	13-8	8-6	13-8	60-61
Hoddom Bridge	9-3	15-0	9-3	15-0	49-52
Newbiebarns					
Total via Lockerbie	52-9	85-1			

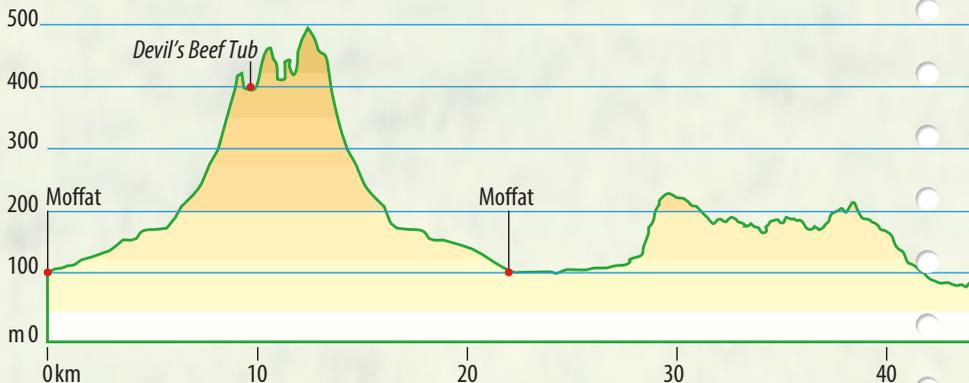
* distance to Carlisle Road, ½ mile south of Lockerbie town centre



Terrain and gradients

The going underfoot varies from riverside and field paths to tracks and minor roads, with roadside verges and some tarmac sections and also some trod paths across fields and open hillside. In places, it can be muddy or boggy, and even in dry summer weather the field-edge paths can be heavy with long, wet vegetation.

Gradients vary, with the Moffat loop having the greatest height gain and also the highest point of the route on Chalk Rig Edge (500 m/1640 ft). The Lochmaben branch also has a stiff climb up Almagill Hill, whereas the Lockerbie branch is generally flatter. South of Hoddom Bridge, the gradients are barely noticeable.



Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

outdooraccess-scotland.com

Find out more by visiting
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or
by contacting Scottish Natural Heritage;
see page 66 for details.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), everyone has the statutory right to access to land for recreational purposes, but access rights must be exercised responsibly. This right applies to most land in Scotland, including that which is privately owned, with the exceptions of gardens, farmyards and cultivated crops.

The route of the Annandale Way has been negotiated with land managers and owners and it is important to respect their rights and maintain their goodwill. Be sure to avoid causing any damage or excessive noise, and read the section below about gates and livestock. Lambing and calving takes place between March and June: never disturb pregnant animals nor approach young or sick animals, even if you think they have been abandoned. If you are seriously worried about a farm animal, try to inform a local farmer.

Think hard before deciding to bring your dog on your walk. Unless you are camping and eating outdoors, it may be impossible to organise your accommodation and meals because your dog (unless an assistance dog) may not be admitted. Some B&Bs accept dogs, others impose extra cleaning charges, restrict dogs to 'very well-behaved' or refuse them altogether: you certainly need to ask before booking. Dogs must be kept under close control, and some create problems on the walk, especially where livestock are in fields. Never allow your dog to approach livestock which are, or may be, pregnant, let alone if they are with young. Always clean up after your dog if it soils the path.

