



Newton Stewart Walking Festival

8 – 14
May 2026

Welcome to the WalkFest 2026 programme

Here is a summary of the 30 walks and other events which make up the festival programme.

More detail on each walk or event is available on the festival website www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com,

where online bookings can be made now. Any amendments to the programme will be advised via the website.

Friday 8 May 2026

Walk 1-1 Into the wilderness: Cairnsmore of Fleet

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 17.5km (11 miles) Ascent: 850m

Walk 1-2 Round the North Rhins

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 14.5km (9 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 1-3 Gatehouse by the Back Door

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 9.5km (6 miles) Ascent: 200m

Welcome Buffet at The Belted Galloway

Saturday 9 May 2026

Walk 2-1 Into the fire: Merrick circuit

Difficulty: very strenuous Distance: 24km (15 miles) Ascent: 1600m

Walk 2-2 Into solitude: Millfore

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 13km (8 miles) Ascent: 550m

Walk 2-3 Mt Pigma, Kenlum and the Boreland Hills

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 14.5km (9 miles) Ascent: 550m

Walk 2-4 The Glenkens: Mossdale to New Galloway

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 12km (7.5 miles) Ascent: 200m

Walk 2-5 Castle Kennedy Estate

Difficulty: easy Distance: 10.5km (6.5 miles) Ascent: 250m

Evening talk: The native forests of Glen Trool

Sunday 10 May 2026

Walk 3-1 Bagger's Delight: Shalloch on Minnoch

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 13.5km (8.5 miles) Ascent: 550m

Walk 3-2 The southern Stewarty Hills

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 21 km (13 miles) Ascent: 850 m

Walk 3-3 The Wheely Brig and the Gem Stone

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 10km (6 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 3-4 Kilsture and Bladnoch

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 10km (6 miles) Ascent: 50m

Walk 3-5 The nature of the Wood of Cree

Difficulty: easy Distance: 5km (3 miles) Ascent: 200m

Walk 3-6 Sunset on Cairnsmore

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 13 km (8 miles) Ascent: 750m

Thanks to our financial supporters



Programme is subject to change. This version was produced on 8 March 2026.

The latest version is available on our website at www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com

Monday 11 May 2026

Walk 4-1 Game on: Mochrum Fell

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 18km (11.5 miles) Ascent: 450m

Walk 4-2 Wild west coast to Portpatrick

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 12.5km (7.5 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 4-3 Supper walk: Bruce's Stone-Glentrool (mod)

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 12km (7.5 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 4-4 Supper walk: Bruce's Stone-Glentrool (easy)

Difficulty: easy Distance: 8km (5 miles) Ascent: 50m

Tuesday 12 May 2026

Walk 5-1 King of the gypsies

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 20km (12.5 miles) Ascent: 1000m

Walk 5-2 Fells, woods and lochs

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 14km (8.5 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 5-3 The 39 steps, and then some!

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 15km (9.5 miles) Ascent: 150m

Walk 5-4 Pilgrim's Way: Glasserton to Isle of Whithorn

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 13km (8 miles) Ascent: 100m

Evening talk: Lawrie Johnston's Galloway stories

Wednesday 13 May 2026

Walk 6-1 Round the lochs

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 17.5km (11 miles) Ascent: 950m

Walk 6-2 Larg and Knockeans Hills

Difficulty: moderate plus Distance: 14km (9 miles) Ascent: 450m

Walk 6-3 Needle's Eye and the Muckle Lands

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 10km (6.5 miles) Ascent: 250m

Walk 6-4 Kilsture and Night

Difficulty: easy Distance: 1.5km (1 mile) Ascent: 50m

Thursday 14 May 2026

Walk 7-1 Into the past: Cairnsmore of Carsphairn

Difficulty: strenuous Distance: 18km (11 miles) Ascent: 800m

Walk 7-2 Kirk, castle and coast

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 13km (8 miles) Ascent: 200m

Walk 7-3 Gem Rock and Creetown's quarries

Difficulty: moderate Distance: 12.5km (8 miles) Ascent: 350m

Walk 7-4 Discovering Penninghamme Pond

Difficulty: easy Distance: 1.5km (1 mile) Ascent: 50m