

FALKIRK WHARF

2020 Holiday Information



DIRECTIONS

BY ROAD ¹ From Edinburgh

- Take the A8 for Glasgow and the West.
- At Newbridge roundabout take the M9 West for Stirling.
- Take the slip road off for Falkirk (Junction 5).
- Signs on the M9 indicate you should continue straight ahead for the Falkirk Wheel, but if you do not leave the motorway at junction 5 you will end up at the wrong car park.
- Once off at junction 5, follow the signs for the Falkirk Wheel/Mariner Centre, which will take you past Falkirk Football stadium and an ASDA distribution centre. This will eventually bring you to the Rosebank Beefeater restaurant at the Forth and Clyde canal.
- At the roundabout take a left and cross the canal (Service and disabled entrance). Signposted for the Falkirk Wheel
- Immediately across the canal at the mini roundabout turn right. ***You will now be driving with the canal on your right-hand side and can follow the yellow AA Falkirk Wheel signs from here.**
- Continue straight through the next two mini roundabouts and then take the first right.
- At the next mini roundabout, turn right to enter the Falkirk Wheel site. Proceed to the barrier and take a ticket (you will not be charged for your parking during your stay). Continue down the hill turning right into carpark 1. At the far end you will see a track heading down through the trees, drive down the track and left which will take you to a carpark. Once you have parked, (please don't start to unload your car just yet) walk along the towpath and into the Falkirk Wheel plaza, our office is to the right "Holiday Hire Boat Centre" We will check you in and give you an update.



BY ROAD ² From Glasgow

- Take the A80, to the north of Castlecary and join the M876 towards Stirling.
- Exit at Junction 1 and follow the signs for Falkirk – (it is a 'severe' left hand bend) take left at the junction.
- You will almost immediately come to a large roundabout and again follow the signs for Falkirk A883 (straight through).
- Approximately 4 kilometres on and you will see the new Falkirk Wheel Park & Ride area to your right and the new roundabout. **THIS IS NOT THE CAR PARK YOU WANT TO BE IN.**
- Continue to drive through into Camelon until you reach the Mariner Centre (on left) and a large roundabout about 100 yards further on. From here drive straight on towards Falkirk town and until you reach the Rosebank Beefeater restaurant/ Premier Inn on your right. At this roundabout go straight through then immediately right, you have now crossed to the correct side of the canal.

***Now follow instructions in previous paragraph (from Edinburgh).**

FROM AIRPORTS

Landing at either **Edinburgh** or **Glasgow** airport you can take a bus to the city centre and then a train as above. From Edinburgh airport a taxi directly to Falkirk takes about 30 minutes.

BY RAIL

From **Glasgow Queen Street** or **Edinburgh station** take a train to either Falkirk High or Falkirk Grahamston station (about 30 minutes). The most frequent service is to Falkirk High Station. Either station in Falkirk is a short taxi journey to the Falkirk Wheel.



You can buy rail tickets online at thetrainline.com or gwr.com

TRAVEL & PLANNING

LOCAL ACCOMMODATION

www.airbnb.com or www.laterooms.com

Oaklands

32 Polmont Road, Laurieston, NR
Falkirk, FK2 9QT
Tel. 01324 610671
www.oaklandsbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Premier Inn Falkirk

Main Street, Camelon, Falkirk,
FK1 4DS
Tel. 0871 5278388
www.premierinn.com

LOCAL TAXI COMPANIES

Bruce's Taxis: 01324 636000 **Express Taxis:** 01324 638000

NEAREST GROCERY STORES

There is a large convenience store in Camelon (3 minutes by car), **two Tesco** stores (telephone 0845 6779282, www.tesco.com) and one **Asda** store (01324 636191) in Falkirk (7 minutes by car).

ADDRESS: Alvechurch Hire Base, Falkirk Wheel, Lime Road, Tamfourhill, Falkirk, FK1 4RS **PHONE:** 01324 627212

E-MAIL: holidayboats@scottishcanals.co.uk **WEB:** www.falkirkwharf.com

IMPORTANT!

Due to the nature of the Scottish Canal system with operating restrictions at the Falkirk Wheel and manned locks and bridges it is very important to advise you of the following information.

It is imperative you bring a mobile phone and a 3-pin plug charger. You will need to contact the Falkirk Wheel staff to arrange passage through the wheel and to contact other **Scottish Canals Boat Movements** staff if and when required. If you do not have a phone, you can rent one from the Falkirk Base at a nominal charge.

Locks and bridges on the Forth and Clyde Canal are also currently operated by Scottish Canals' staff and a phone will allow you to contact them and arrange passage at your convenience.

Scottish Canals staff welcome your assistance with lock operation.

WEST TOWARDS GLASGOW

If you wish to cruise west on the Forth and Clyde Canal or East towards the Kelpies, a week before your departure date you MUST phone Scottish Canals Boat Movements on 07810 794467 and tell them what time you intend to be at Bonnybridge lift bridge (lock 16)

If possible try to be at the base by 1.30pm, thus giving enough time for check-in/handover and cruising out to Bonnybridge - usual bridge booking 4pm.

For Kelpies transit, please liaise directly with Falkirk Marina and Scottish Canals. Scottish Canal staff may ask to vary your time slightly depending on other craft in transit.

On your return journey you will need to have passed through Bonnybridge lift-bridge by 5pm. (this varies depending on day light hours and could be earlier).

Before your departure date you need to decide which direction you wish to travel from the base at the Falkirk Wheel. **EITHER EAST** through the Falkirk Wheel and on to the lock-free Union canal towards Edinburgh. **OR WEST** along the Forth and Clyde Canal towards Glasgow. (East to the Kelpies & Helix Park)

EAST TOWARDS EDINBURGH

You do not need to book your outgoing passage through the Falkirk Wheel as your passage will be booked by the Falkirk marina staff as part of your handover. As soon as you are ready to leave, they will put you in whatever queue there might be for the Wheel.

The wheel closes at 6.00pm in June, July and August. From March to May and September, October the wheel continues to close at 6.00pm on Fri/Sat/Sun but 5.00pm Mon – Thu. However all boats must be in the system by 5pm and 4pm respectively

On your return journey it is important to remember that at the Glen High (Laughin'/Greetin') Bridge you will need to call the Falkirk Wheel on 01324 676912 to arrange your travel back through the wheel (approx. +2 hrs cruising time from Falkirk).

In order to arrive back in good time you will have to be back at base the evening before you disembark. This means **being at the top locks at 4pm** ready to transit back down the Falkirk Wheel that evening. **This is due to the Falkirk Wheel not operating before 10.00am, as daily safety checks are carried out before hand.**

Falkirk Wheel

As the World's first and only rotating boat lift The Falkirk Wheel is an astonishing feat of engineering and a must-see attraction.

Also offering much more, with hands-on interactive displays, walks and cycle paths, fantastic outdoor play areas for children of all ages and a stunning visitors' centre with a welcoming café and gift shop.

www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk

! IMPORTANT

Please make sure you have the Falkirk Wheel number (01324 676912) saved on your mobile / cell phone before leaving the boat as there is no pedestrian access over the canal after 8pm and so access will be made available to you on demand.



FEATURED ROUTES 7 Nights +

EDINBURGH & GLASGOW, 7 Nights

Cruising Time Per day: 6 Hrs • **Total:** 39 Hrs • **Locks:** 14

(Twice via the wheel)

- Complete the width of Scotland, and back, visiting both cities in a one week holiday.
- You will cruise the Union Canal to Edinburgh Quay, over aqueducts, through tunnels and past tranquil scenery as well as the Forth and Clyde canal to Glasgow.

NB: If you are choosing to do this route you will probably need to contribute more for fuel than the deposit amount.

BOWLING & RETURN, 7 Nights

Cruising Time Per day: 6 Hrs • **Total:** 33 Hrs • **Locks:** 44

- The Forth & Clyde Canal follows the Clyde Estuary all the way down to the old ship building village of Bowling- a pleasant boating haven.
- The route has a rich mix of industry old and new, stunning views of the Clyde and relics of the ship building era.

SHORT BREAKS 3/4 Nights

GLASGOW & RETURN, 3 Nights

Cruising Time Per day: 6.5-10 Hrs • **Total:** 18 Hrs • **Locks:** 8

Four evenly spaced locks after Bonnybridge take the canal up to the broad, straight section before Auchinstarry. The majestic Campsie Fells rise from the valley that the canal shares with the River Kelvin and the scenery is superb as the canal then follows contours for the rest of its journey to Glasgow. The canal arm south towards Applecross Street Basin in Glasgow looks down to where the River Kelvin winds from the university past the museums and botanical gardens.

A major port with a shipping history back to the 18th century, Glasgow has a wealth of museums and collections. The art galleries and museums of Glasgow are never without examples by Charles Rennie Mackintosh- there is even a church designed by him in the city. Discover more at www.glasgowguide.co.uk

EDINBURGH & RETURN, 4 Nights

Cruising Time Per day: 6-10 Hrs • **Total:** 22 Hrs • **Locks:** 6

This cruise starts via the Falkirk Wheel and the new Rough Castle Tunnel, two new locks and a mile of new canal to join the original canal at the site of the summit of the flight of 11 locks that used to join the two canals. The stalactites and rock-hewn sections of the Falkirk tunnel, a treat for the budding geologist.

Amongst the numerous minor aqueducts en route, three to note are the 12 arch, 85ft Avon Aqueduct and the Almond and Slateford Aqueducts, both at 75ft high. Beecraigs Country Park (01506 844516 / www.beebraigs.com) and the beautifully preserved remains of Linlithgow Palace on the shore of Linlithgow Loch (0131 668 8600 / www.historic-scotland.gov.uk) are within easy reach of the canal. (TIC 01506 844600). Discover more at www.edinburgh.org.uk.

Scottish Canals

! Rover Ticket

If travelling from Falkirk, a **rover ticket will be charged by Scottish Canals for use on the canals**. This will be a flat charge of £25 for any holiday over three nights. If your trip is three days or less, you will be charged £15. This ticket will be administered by Scottish Canals and payable on the first day of your holiday via the Falkirk Office.



ROUTES MAP

