



Two walks around the Abbey

Directions

Start the walk from the junction of **Abbey Close** and **Cotton Street**. With the Abbey on your left and the Council offices on your right walk along **Cotton Street** to Gauze Street. Follow the road round to the left onto **Gauze Street**. Head towards **Paisley Cross** passing the **Town Hall** on your left. After passing the **Coats brothers' statues** at the entrance to Dunn Square turn left along **St Mirren Street**. For the short walk take the second road on the left, **Forbes Place**, this will take you into a narrow cobbled street. At the end of this street you will come to the **White Cart Water** turn right along a pedestrian way. At the bridge turn left and return to the Abbey.

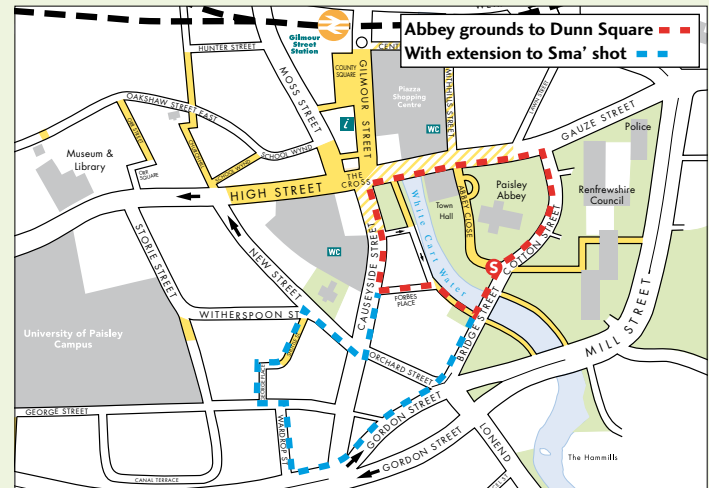
For the longer route continue along **Causeyside Street**, crossing over and then turning right up **New Street**. Cross over and take the first street on the left, **Shuttle Street**. Follow the road round into George Place (the **Sma' Shot Cottages** are on your right) and then left into George Street. Cross over and walk down **Wardrop Street** to the junction with **Canal Street**. Turn left and cross Causeyside Street, carry straight on along **Gordon Street**, bear left across the end of **Orchard Street** and walk back towards the Abbey over **Abbey Bridge**.



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walking to health

Walk - - Distance: 0.8kms Approximate time: 10 mins
Walk - - Distance: 1.5kms Approximate time: 20 mins





A little local knowledge

The names of streets can often provide a clue to an area's history. Paisley's past is firmly recorded in the street names along this route. Cotton Street, Gauze Street and Shuttle Street all reflect the industrial heritage of the town. When you reach Abbey Bridge you can look along the White Cart Water to the old finishing mill - part of the former Anchor Mills complex.

At the top of Dunn Square, statues to the Coats brothers, commemorate the most successful thread family in Paisley. Take a longer look at the base of each statue. Set in four niches around the base of Sir Peter Coats are female figures representing Art, Agriculture, Industry and Literature. The panels around the statue of Thomas Coats represent his virtues of generosity, prudence, perseverance and honour.



Forbes Place gets its name from one of Paisley's corks. These men were weaving manufacturers. They were the 'middle men' as they paid the weavers and dealt with the distributors. Forbes Place was purpose built in 1835 to provide warehouses and showrooms in which to demonstrate the weavers' wares.

A restored 18th Century weaver's cottage and a 19th century mill foreman's house form the industrial folk museum - the Sma' Shot Cottages. Here you can find out more about the Paisley weaving industry and the lives of those who made it work. (Open Wednesday & Saturday afternoons August until the end of September.)

