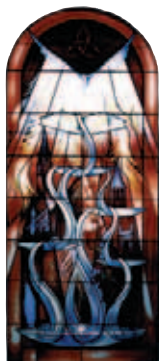


High Street Walk

This walk follows the purple line on the map above. It's easy to follow if you look out for the buildings and places highlighted.

Modern sculptures will occupy **County Square** around which the County Buildings – with their castle-like turrets – and the town prison, once stood. The sculptures are designed to reflect the architecture of the square and include a 'rain tower'.



St John's Church, the Congregational Church, **Oakshaw Trinity (11)** (the **High Church**), and the Gaelic Church are all on **School Wynd** and **Oakshaw Street**. Only the Oakshaw Trinity is still used for services.

Paisley is a town of churches. If they disagreed with the style of worship, Buddies voted with their feet and founded a new one. The mills attracted workers from elsewhere who brought their own religious views, and other churches, to the town.

Coats Observatory (4) on **Oakshaw Street** was a gift to Paisley's Philosophical Institution – a group of amateur scientists and scholars – from Thomas Coats in 1883. His family owned thread-making factories at Ferguslie in the west end. You'll see as you walk around what an impact the thread-making families of Coats and Clark had on the town.



Follow the yellow line on the map to explore this extension of the High Street Walk which will add half an hour to your walk. Or continue on the High Street Walk.



Paisley's weaver-poet Robert Tannahill, who died in 1810, lived here in **Tannahill's Cottage (9)**, **Queen Street** from 1775. His father, a weaver also, built it as a house and workshop, and Robert learnt his trade here.

Nearby is Gallow Green, the site of the town gallows and a burial place for criminals. Six Paisley 'witches' were burned here in 1696 and their ashes buried at the crossing of two tracks – marked by a horse-shoe to keep evil away from the town. A horseshoe is still set in a junction on George Street to safeguard the townsfolk!

Castlehead Cemetery in Canal Street contains **Robert Tannahill's grave** (the cemetery is often locked). He suffered from depression and committed suicide at the age of 36.

Rejoin the High Street Walk at Wellmeadow Street.

A strange story is connected with the corner of **Lady Lane** and **Wellmeadow Street**. In 1928, Mrs Mary Donoghue found a snail in a bottle of ginger beer bought in a cafe on this site and successfully sued the lemonade company, D Stevensons. This case set the precedent for all cases of negligence pursued since!

The Coats Memorial Church (5) was built in memory of Thomas Coats. It's been called the 'Baptist Cathedral of Europe'. It certainly looks more like a cathedral than the wee Storie Street Baptist Church where its congregation came from.



The Museum and Art Galleries (3) and the **Library** were another Coats family gift. The museum, designed by John Honeyman, was the first publicly-run museum in Scotland. As well as local history displays, and the world's finest collection of Paisley shawls, there is a rare collection of contemporary craft pottery.

Orr Square Church was built in 1845. The minister wanted to make its tower taller than the High Church's but ran out of money for the spire! It is now private flats. The town's first hospital, the Wee Steeple, was founded in **Orr Square** in 1618.

The town's Tolbooth – jail, town hall and courtroom – stood on the corner of **Moss Street** and the **High Street**. It became like the Leaning Tower of Pisa and had to be demolished in 1868 after its foundations were undermined.

The **High Street** was the medieval 'King's Highway' from Glasgow to the south-west.