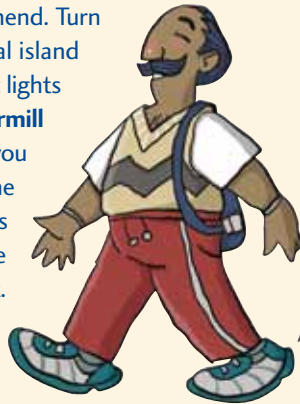


Saucel Hill

Directions

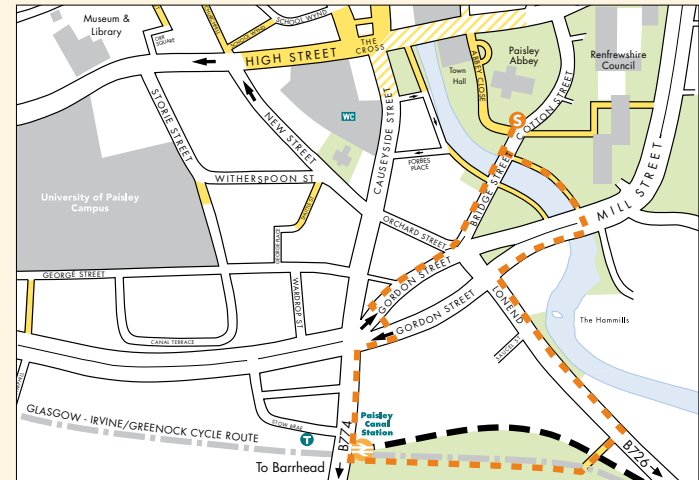
Start at the junction of **Cotton Street** and Abbey Close. Walk across Abbey Bridge away from the Abbey. Cross the bottom of **Orchard Street** and continue along **Gordon Street**. After passing the red sandstone church and the old fire station on your left use the pedestrian crossing to cross both parts of **Gordon Street**. Head up **Causeyside Street** away from the town centre. At **Canal railway station** turn left down the steps onto the platform. Take the cycle path which heads up onto a **grassy hill** behind the platform. Take the path left around the base of the hill. (For a great view over Paisley and north, climb up the grass hill on your right). Continue along the cycle path to the end, turn immediately left into **Patrick Street**. Walk to the end, cross the bridge over the railway line and take the narrow path down to the **dual carriageway** - Lonend. Turn left, cross the road using the central island and continue down hill. At the traffic lights turn right across the front of the **Watermill Hotel**. When you come to the river you will see the **Hammils** waterfalls on the right. Continue across the river, cross the road carefully or alternatively use the underpass via steps on your right. Head towards the Abbey.



Saucel Hill

walking to health

Distance: 2.1 kms Approximate time: 30 mins



A little local knowledge

From the vantage point of **Abbey Bridge** above the White Cart Water look over the bridge to spot some of the wildlife that frequents this part of the river. At any time of year you may see **Mallard Ducks**, **Swans** or a **Grey Heron**. In the summer watch out for **Swallows** swooping across the surface of the water to drink or catch small flies. The Paisley Coat of Arms can be seen on the bridge it depicts St Mirin with the red roses of the Hamilton family and the covered cups of Abbot Schaw who raised Paisley from a village to a burgh in 1488.

Whilst walking along **Gordon Street** remember the plight of two medieval brothers who made a pilgrimage to Paisley. Legend has it that the monks refused to let them in until they had served a penance. The two brothers dug a cave in this area and the monks supplied them with food. Tragedy struck when both brothers caught the plague that was raging through Paisley at the time. It is said that the brothers died together in the cave and the monks buried them where they lay.

From the cycle path you will have an elevated view of some of the town, but for a real bird's eye view stroll across the grass to the top of the hill. You will see Paisley laid out before you and on a good day the Kilpatrick hills and the Highlands beyond.

The cotton thread industry in Paisley was dominated by two families, the Coats and the Clarks. James Clark was brought up as the son of a weaver and entered the trade at the tender age of seven. From such humble beginnings he and his brother built up an empire in this area of Paisley. The **Anchor Mills** were founded by James and his brother John in 1812. The large red brick mill building by the river was once the Domestic Finishing Mill, and just a small part of the vast area that made up Anchor Mills.

At one time the water of the White Cart was so polluted that it was suggested that the **Hammils** should be blown up so that the foul water would leave Paisley more quickly. Nowadays the water is much cleaner with an increasing number of **Salmon** moving up the river each year. The river is tidal to this point and fishermen have been known to catch **Bloaters** below the Hammils. Many industries used the river as a source of power - part of the Watermill Hotel was originally used as a corn mill owned by the Earl of Glasgow.

