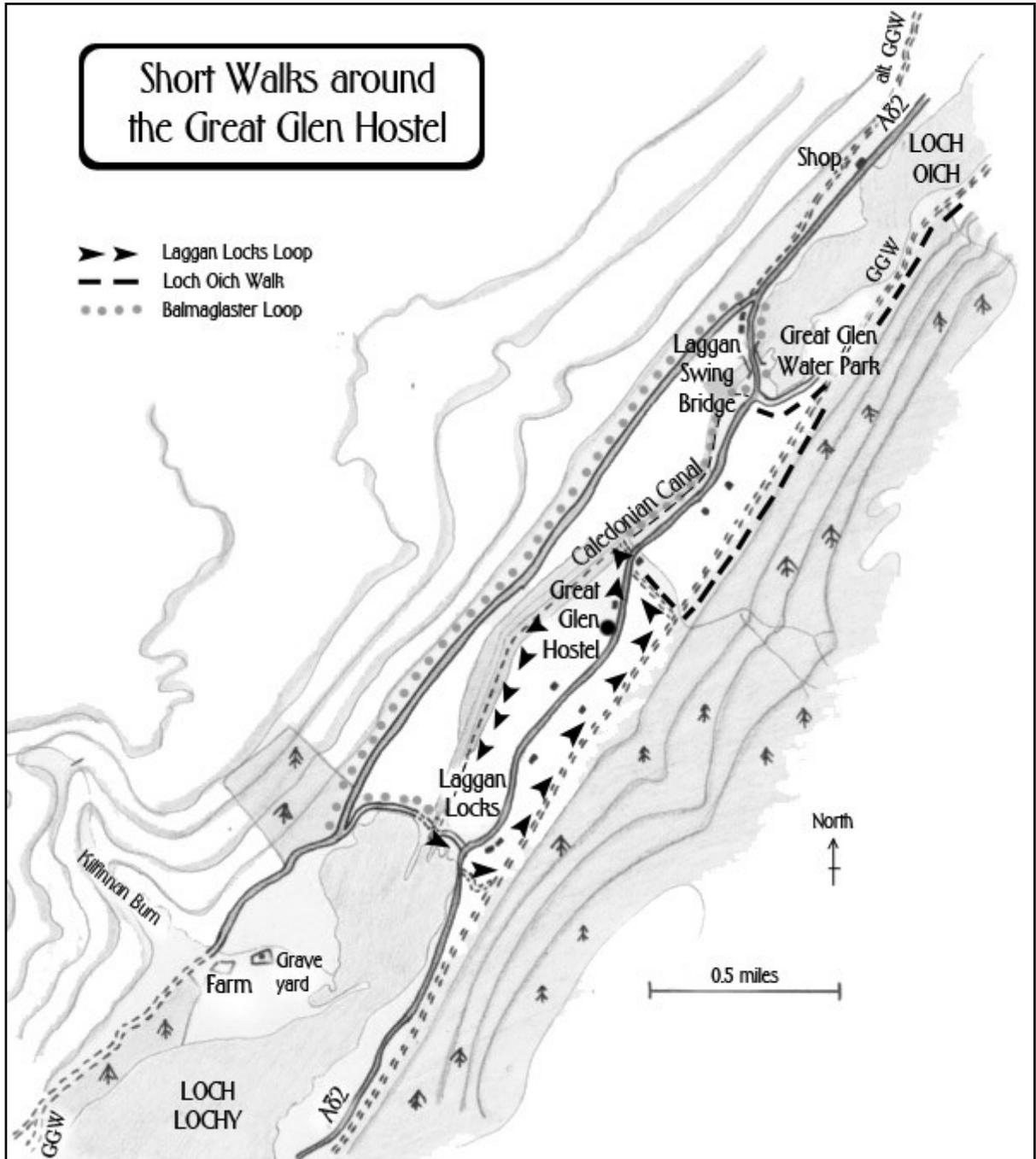


Short Walks around the Great Glen Hostel

- ▶▶ Laggan Locks Loop
- Loch Oich Walk
- Balmagister Loop



Laggan Locks Loop About 2.5 miles - allow 1 hour

Turn left out of the hostel and walk with care about 200m along the A82 to a bend in the road opposite a house. A wide track leads off to the left here towards the canal; take this and turn left off it down a small footpath which runs through woodland along the canal (part of the Great Glen Way). After about 15 minutes the path ends at Laggan Locks.

To complete the loop, bear left on to the sealed road which leads back to the A82. Cross the road and turn right and then left into a turning area. A small path leads away from the road at the back of this clearing and climbs uphill to join a forest road. This track follows the route of the old Spean Bridge - Fort Augustus railway. Turn left here; after about 15 minutes the hostel can be seen, and soon after the track bears left and emerges on to the A82. Turn left again here to return to the hostel.

Loch Oich Walk About 2.5 miles - 1 hour

Begin as for Laggan Locks Loop: turn off the A82 towards the canal but then turn right over the footbridge and follow the Great Glen Way along the canal to the north. After about 10 minutes the track comes out onto the A82 opposite the road leading to the Great Glen Water Park. Cross over and take this road. Bear right at any junctions (following the GGW signposts) and you will soon reach the old Laggan Railway Station - the platform can still be seen to your right. Keep straight ahead - now following the old railway line - and further along take a side track down to an attractive path along the shore of Loch Oich.

This path can be followed all the way to the other end of Loch Oich (about 4 miles); otherwise return to the old railway station and take a little path off to the left at the southern end of the platform. This again follows the old railway line and meets a forest road after about a mile (this last section is very wet underfoot and there may be some fallen trees across the track). Turn right here to rejoin the A82 about 100m north of the hostel.

Balmaglaster Loop About 3.5 miles - 1 hour 30 minutes

Follow the route for the Loch Oich walk as far as the point where the new footpath comes out on the A82 opposite the Great Glen Water Park turning. Turn left on the A82 here and cross the Laggan Swing Bridge (crossing the road to do so), and soon after take the left turn signposted 'Balmaglaster' and 'Kilfinnan'. This attractive minor road undulates gently along the hillside above Laggan Avenue (the name for this section of the Caledonian Canal). After about 1.5 miles take a left fork (at the bottom of a steep hill) that crosses a cattle grid, leads through some chalets and skirts around Loch Lochy to Laggan Locks.

Cross the locks and return along the Great Glen Way on the east side of the canal, reversing the first part of the Laggan Locks Loop walk to return to the hostel.