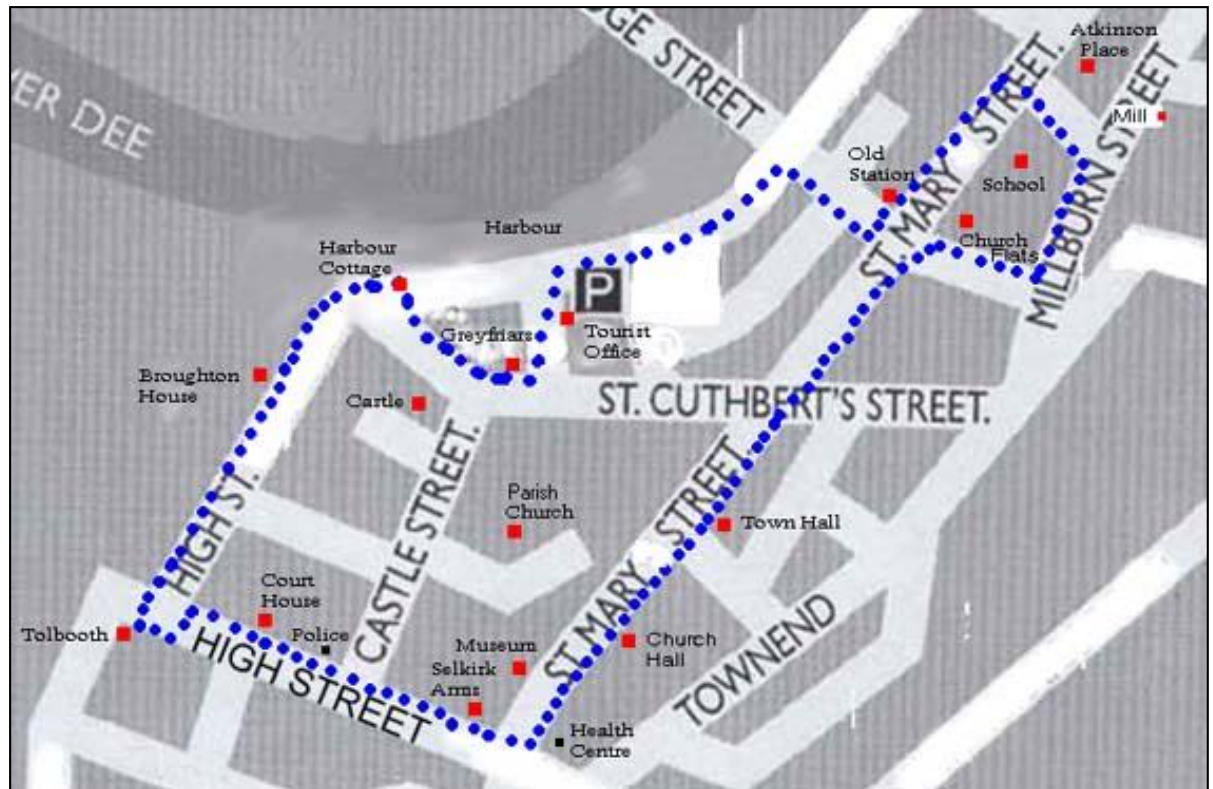


This walk, mainly within the old town, passes many features of historic and artistic interest.

Kirkcudbright was accorded Royal Burgh status in 1455. It has a long and ancient history. The original town was built around the old L-shaped High Street. With its castle, harbour and mote, it prospered over many years; which is evident in many fine houses which survive. The suggested **start** for this walk is at the **Tourist Office** at the Harbour. The walk follows around the town in a clockwise direction.



From the **Harbour**, walk up to the bridge and turn right along Bridge Street. The concrete bridge over the tidal River Dee was built in 1926, and replaced an old iron bridge of 1868. At the end of Bridge Street cross over to the former Station building. *"The railway station is handsome and commodious, with a covered platform, and accommodation in every way suited to the traffic. Opposite to the station is the Free Church, a very handsome new building, with tall tapering well-proportioned spire, and fine stained glass windows. Adjoining it is the Johnson Free School, an elegant stone building, with a centre tower and wings."* - extract from *"Rambles in Galloway"*.

The **Station building**, opened 1864, is currently a beauty parlour: the former **Free Church** opposite has been tastefully converted into flats.



[Harbour Cottages](#)



[Former Station](#)



[Parish Church](#)



[Tolbooth](#)



[Broughton House](#)



[Greyfriars](#)



[Mote Brae](#)

The **Johnston School** of 1848, next to the church still caters for infants. Just a few yards from the school, at the next junction, is a group of almshouses named **Atkinson Place**, after its benefactor. At the telephone box, turn right and walk along to Millburn Street. This older part of the town was originally a hamlet outside the Burgh. Across the road, and to the left, is the Old Mill Pottery, which occupies a former corn mill. Turn right and walk up and across the B727 to high Millburn Street; part of the original road to Dumfries.

Continue to the Bowling Green and take the footpath down to the right onto Church Row and walk along to the **Town Hall** on the corner. The Parish **Church** (1838) and grounds are opposite.

The sandstone Town Hall opened in 1879 and originally housed the Museum & Library. Turn left along the main street, passing the Bowling Green, Church Hall and tennis courts. The Stewartry **Museum**, built in 1893, is on the other side of the road.

It was refurbished in 1996 and specialises in local history. It is open most days and admission is free. At the cross roads, turn the corner into High Street and along to the **Selkirk Arms**, where Robert Burns is said to have stayed in 1794. Just beyond the hotel, stones are set in the road marking the position of one of the pillars of the Meikle Yett (town gate); a plaque is attached to nearby railings. From here to the far end of High Street is the oldest part of the town. Walk along noting the colour washed facades of the old houses, and cross Castle Street, passing the Police Station, to the imposing Sheriff **Court House** (1868); of which the tallest castellated tower was the former town gaol.

Opposite the Court House the dwellings with small windows and low doors are some of the oldest in the town. In the corner is the **Tolbooth**, dating from 1629; the Mercat Cross at the top of the external stairs is dated 1610. The Tolbooth, originally the Council's meeting place, court and prison, was refurbished in 1993 and opened as an Arts Centre. The story of Kirkcudbright artists is shown in an audio-visual display, with some of their best paintings hanging in the gallery. Continue along High Street, a mixture of elegant and homely houses, where some of the 20th. century artists known as the "Glasgow Boys" were resident. Here is the home of Hornel.

Hornel lived at **Broughton House** (NTS). The house with his studio and gallery, plus the Japanese-style riverside garden are open most days. At this end of High Street are the **Harbour Cottages**, **Mote Brae**, **MacLellan's Castle**, the **War Memorial** and **Greyfriars Church**.

The **Harbour Cottage** Gallery is located in an old harbour-side cottage. The gallery, on two floors, offers an exhibition programme by local artists and craft workers throughout the year. On the **Mote Brae**, a Franciscan Friary situated, a relic of which is incorporated into **Greyfriars Church** (restored 1922). The Friary stones were used to build **MacLellan's Castle** (1582), now ruined, a good example of a Scottish tower house. The War Memorial is located on the footway between the Castle and Greyfriars Church.

The bronze sculpture, of man and boy, on top of the **Memorial**, was made in 1921 at Gorgie, Edinburgh. From Greyfriars Church return to the Tourist Office at the harbour. The current **Harbour** was built in 1912, but has since been extended and modified. The main trade is from fishing boats. There is a large tidal range in the Dee estuary which influences the movement of shipping. Considerable amounts of silt are deposited in the harbour and these need to be cleaned away on a regular basis. Periodically, at very high tides, in the winter, the water rises above the top of the harbour wall.

Follow the "[Castledykes Walk](#)" to explore the Kirkcudbright's maritime connection.

More information about the history of Kirkcudbright and the surrounding area can be obtained from the Stewartry Museum, tel. 01557 331643, and found on www.old-kirkcudbright.net - an internet browse through the history, topography and genealogy of the ancient Parish and Burgh of Kirkcudbright.

Sponsored by [Skye House](#) Kirkcudbright, a self catering town house at 108 High Street.