



MIDLOTHIAN

OUTDOOR



FESTIVAL



12 – 16 October 2023

Further details:

www.midlothian.gov.uk/outdoor-festival

Call 01875 821716



Midlothian

Midlothian Outdoor Festival

Explore the great outdoors and join us for guided walks, talks, wildlife watching or downhill snow sports through the villages, towns and countryside. Most events are FREE.

The Outdoor Festival is organised by Midlothian Ranger Service.

We would like to thank our event leaders, partners and volunteers who have devised great routes and entertainment that introduce Midlothian's beautiful countryside to you.

Some events are drop in; others require booking. Check listing details. If you're unable to book online, call 01875 821716 Fri - Mon. All walks should be booked by Friday 6th October, 2023.

FOR WALKS PLEASE NOTE:

- Arrive 10 mins before departure
- Bring waterproofs, wear suitable footwear and outdoor clothing.
- If walk spans lunchtime: bring a packed lunch and drink.
- Walks may end 30 mins earlier or later than advertised.

Please inform organiser if you are unable to attend a booking.



NO DOGS ALLOWED ON WALKS

Thursday 12 October

1. Gladhouse from Top to Bottom Talk

7.30pm - 8.30pm on Zoom

Elspeth Smith - Resident Midlothian Council ranger, working in partnership with Scottish Water, will present Gladhouse from top to bottom.

This ranger posting is part of a larger project to 'Enable Responsible Access' to reservoirs in Scotland, following the mass visitation during lockdown 2020.

Elspeth will cover her journey from November 2022 to the present with a little history, nature, recreation and many visitors along the way.

Be prepared for some negative buoyancy and an air curtain finish.

FREE

Register via Esk Valley Trust news and events page www.eskvalleytrust.org



2. Ageing Well Health Walks

**Health walk approx. 60 - 90 mins
Walk and Talk 45 - 60 mins**

10am Loanhead Health Walk

Meet: Loanhead Leisure Centre EH20 9LA

11am Newtongrange Walk and Talk

Meet: Newtongrange Library EH22 4LG

11.30am Woodburn Walk and Talk

Meet: Grassy Riggs, 10, Woodburn Rd, Dalkeith, EH22 2AT

Suitable for ages 50+

Bring water prooffs and suitable outdoor clothing

FREE Just turn up



Friday 13 October

3. Pathhead to Glenkinchie Walk

10am - 4.30pm

This walk starts in the village of Pathhead and then heads off to Whitburgh Estate, with fine views of the Tyne Valley. Following the Moor road will take us into the county of East Lothian via farm tracks and fields, to the small hamlet of Peaston. The final stop of the day is the Lowland whisky distillery at Glenkinchie, where we will enjoy the gardens and a wee dram. A FREE bus will take us back to the start.

Meet: Callendar Park Pavillion, Oxenford Ave, Pathhead, EH37 5YN Grid ref. NT396640

Ascent 135m, 6 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Alan Krumholds

Back marker: Jo Cooke



Cost: **FREE**

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

4. Penicuik Estate and Beyond to Silverburn Walk

10.30am - 1.30pm

A short, pretty country walk offering a variety of scenery from field edges to mixed woodland finishing with a visit to Penicuik House and manicured gardens.

Meet: Penicuik Estate car park, A766 Carlops Road Grid ref. NT219599

Ascent 50m, 3.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Olga MacFadyen

Back marker: Margaret Granger



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

5. Rosewell Circular Walk

10am - 2pm

A café crawl from the Hub in Rosewell with its various ages of housing. A pleasant wooded path and quiet roads takes us to Angelina's café for a cuppa and maybe a cake. We'll return via the recreation ground to the hub and walk past the stunning A-listed Whitehill House to hear stories of some of its residents.

Meet: Rosewell Hub, Carnethie St, Rosewell, EH24 9AA Grid ref. NT289625

Ascent negligible, 2.5 miles, Grade 1

Leader: John Pope

Back marker: Susan Manson



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

6. Woodland Bryophytes Workshop

10.30am - 4pm

An introduction to woodland bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) of SE and central Scotland. The workshop will cover the characteristics of the main groups of woodland bryophytes and the key identification features. Part of the workshop will be held outside in Vogrie Country Park.

Meet: Nature Studies Room, Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. Grid ref. NT380632

Suitable for ages 16 to adult

Bring suitable outdoor footwear and warm clothing, lunch, waterprooffs, notepad and pen. Please bring a hand lens if you have one (spares available). Tea/coffee provided.

FREE (TWIC donations welcome)

£2 parking at Vogrie

Booking essential as places limited:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/675393840157



7. Ageing Well Health Walks

Duration approx. 60 - 90 minutes

9.45am Penicuik Health Walk

Meet: St Mungo's Church Hall, EH26 8HS

10am Roslin Health Walk

Meet: The Original Rosslyn Inn, EH25 9LE

11am Mayfield Walk

Meet: The Pavilion café,
Mayfield Park, EH22 5DG

1.30pm Rosewell Walk

Meet: Rosewell Church Hall, EH24 9DN

Suitable for age 50+

Bring water proofs & suitable outdoor clothing



FREE Just turn up

8. Ageing Well Walking Rugby

2.15pm - 3.15pm

It's a slower form of touch rugby developed by Midlothian Walking Rugby along with the Scottish Rugby Union.

Great way to keep active, meet old and new friends and open to anyone over 50 keen to give it a try!



Meet: Walking Rugby at Dalkeith Rugby Club, playing in King's Park, Dalkeith, EH22 3BQ

Suitable for age 50+

Wear appropriate clothing and trainers

FREE Just turn up



Saturday 14 October

9. Ninemileburn to Penicuik Walk via Hare Hill and the Kirk Road

9am - 3pm

The walk visits one of the lesser-known summits in the Pentlands, Hare Hill. A German plane crashed here during World War Two and if time allows we may search for the wreckage. Then it's down into the Green Cleugh and steeply up again over the Kirk Road to Penicuik - the route followed by Balerno folk going to Church on Sundays.

A FREE bus will take you to the start.

Meet: Storehouse Café, Penicuik High St, Penicuik, EH26 8HW. Grid ref. NT 235599

Ascent 525m, 10 miles, Grade 3

Leader: David Jarvie
Back marker: Lynn Youngs



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

10. Vogrie to Preston Hall Circular

9.30am - 4.30pm

This circular route starts at Vogrie House and follows the River Tyne to the grand estate of Preston Hall and a visit to the splendid newly restored walled garden. Our next stop is for lunch above Airfield Farm with spectacular views across the valley and Lammermuir Hills. We then head off on farm tracks and country lanes to the quaint village of Edgehead, before returning to Vogrie for a wee cup of tea and cake.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU. Grid ref. NT380632

Ascent 300m, 9.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Alan Krumholds
Back marker: Jim Arnott



Cost: **£2** for parking at Vogrie

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

11. A Wander through the Bush Estate and Glencorse Woodland

10am - 4pm

A walk around the Bush Estate and Glencorse Woodland. Suitable for all walkers including those with visual impairment. Good paths throughout; most wide enough for visually impaired walkers and their guide. Very little road walking. No fences or styles to climb. No steep ascents or descents.

Meet: Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh Road, Milton Bridge, EH26 ONP, Parking in Grahams Rd Grid ref. NT 247620

Ascent 110m, 7.5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Derek Storey
Back marker: Janet Storey



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



12. Gladhouse Circular Walk

10am - 1pm

This is a circular route around Gladhouse Reservoir, with a mix of shoreline, woodland and farmland. There will be stunning views of the Moorfoot Hills as we walk through these diverse habitats and landscapes on farm tracks and woodland paths. Bring along binoculars for bird watching the wintering geese.

Meet: Roadside grassy layby signed from the west side of the reservoir to Moorfoot Farm. EH23 4TF. Grid ref. NT291528

Ascent 25m, 5 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Elspeth Smith
Back marker: Davy Gray

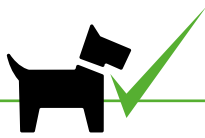


FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



13. Canicross



8am-9am

Canicross is cross-country running with your dog. If your dog is at least one year old, then you can try canicross with our friendly group of volunteers at Vogrie Country Park at 8am. Kit will be supplied.

Meet: Overflow car park, Vogrie Country Park EH23 4NU

Suitable for ages 11 - 75

Bring your dog and comfortable grippy running shoes or trainers

Cost: £2 for parking at Vogrie. Book by emailing: canisportsedinburgh@gmail.com

14. parkrun



9.30am-10.15am

'parkrun' organise free weekly 5km timed routes around the world. They are open to everyone and are free, safe and easy to take part in. The Vogrie run takes you around fields, woodlands and quiet pathways, with an option of meeting up in the Tree Top Café at the end for a well-earned cuppa.

Meet: House driveway, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU.

Suitable for all ages

Cost: £2 car parking at Vogrie. Please register at parkrun.org.uk and bring the barcode.



15. Tubing and Taster Ski or Snowboard Lessons

Sat 14 Oct. Tubing: 10am - 12:45pm (last ticket sale 12 noon). Ski or snowboard taster lesson: 9:30am - 11:30am

Sun 15 Oct. Tubing: 2pm - 5:45pm (last ticket sale 5pm). Ski or snowboard taster lesson: 2pm - 4pm

Tubing: For an exhilarating slide down the hill and fun for all the family, try tubing.

Tubes are inflatable doughnuts with smooth bases to let them slide downhill.

Sessions will run on the hour for 45 minutes per session.

Taster ski or snowboard lessons

For all first timers. Learn all about the equipment and how posture and balance can help you develop the basic skills needed to take to the slopes for the first time.

Meet: Midlothian Snowsports Centre, Biggar Road, Hillend, Edinburgh, EH10 7DU

Tubing suitable for ages 4+ (must also be min 1m tall); Ski/Snowboard suitable for 8+.

Tubing: We recommend long sleeved tops, trousers and outdoor shoes. We can provide helmets. Ski/Snowboard: We provide all equipment, including helmets and kneepads. We recommend outdoor, waterproof clothing. Gloves are compulsory.

Cost: **Tubing: Child £ 8.60, Adult £10.60, Family £41.00** (5 persons max including at least 1 adult)
Ski or snowboard lesson: Adult £33.50, Junior £23.50

Tubing is bookable on the day at reception
Ski/Snowboard: Please email ski@midlothian.gov.uk or call **0131 445 4433** to book.

■ Sunday 15 October

16. Cousland to Carberry Village Walk with Cuppa & Cake

9.30am - 1.30pm

We walk through Cousland village, then descend into Hadfast valley via Joe's path and cross the Pencaitland Railway walk before climbing to Elphinstone. Ridge tracks with wonderful views to the Lammermuirs and the Firth of Forth lead us to a Mary Queen of Scots' memorial in Carberry woods. Reaching tarmac near Crossgatehall, the village hall awaits with tea and cake.

Meet: Cousland Village Hall, 1 Quarrybank, Cousland EH22 2NT. Grid ref. NT374683

Ascent 100m, 7 miles, Grade 2

Leader: Jean Kirk

Back marker: Gill Aitken



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

17. Mills and Mansions of the Magnificent Esk Valley Walk

10am - 4pm

Many Midlothian mills and mansions muster mellifluously amid the Esk Valleys (which, sadly, include no 'm's). This walk from Auchendinny to Lasswade via Roslin Glen sees vestiges of paper, carpet and gunpowder mills, an architectural jewel (in a sad state), at least two castles, a fine churchyard, a glen carved by glaciers and beautiful ancient woodland. FREE bus will take you to the start.

Meet & Parking: Lasswade Park & Pavillion, Middlemills, EH18 1AY. Grid ref. NT303662

Ascent 100m, 6 miles, Grade 2

Leader: John Oldham

Back marker: Nigel Evans



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

18. Gorebridge to Temple Circular

10.15am - 4pm

We start at Gorebridge Train Station and work our way to the old powder mill. From here we walk along the wooded valley of the Gore Water towards the secluded valley of the South Esk and Arniston Estate to historic Temple.

Returning we pass Arniston House and mixed farmland, to a welcome refreshment at Stobsmill Inn, a short distance from the station.

Meet: Gorebridge Railway Station, Station Rd, Gorebridge, EH23 4JX Grid ref. NT345615

Ascent 245m, 8.25 miles, Grade 3

Leader: Pam Forbes

Back marker: Grahame Forbes



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



19. Castles, Kirks and Quarries Walk

9.15am - 4.30pm

We begin beside the Gore Water to reach Borthwick Castle and Kirk. Then we head via Currie Woods to Crichton Glen. Passing the castle and kirk continue to Vogrie Country Park and Café, before returning via Camp Woods to Gorebridge.

Meet: Gorebridge Railway Station, Station Rd, Gorebridge, EH23 4JX Grid ref. NT345615

Ascent 255m, 11.5 miles, Grade 4

Leader: John Pope.

Back marker: Jo Cooke



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

20. Nordic Walking Introduction

10.30am - 12 noon

Nordic walking is a means of walking with poles that improves walking ability and provides exercise for the entire body.

Poles will be provided. Wear loose, comfortable clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather. Boots are alright but walking shoes preferred.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU Grid ref. NT 380632

2 miles

Leader: Derek Storey
Back marker: Janelen Storey



£2 for parking at Vogrie

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



21. Vogrie Nordic Walk to the Countryside on Our Door Step

1pm - 4pm

A walk through the countryside near Vogrie Park. Good paths throughout. A short distance on a quiet country road. No fences or styles to climb. No steep ascents or descents.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge. EH23 4NU. Grid ref. NT 380632

Ascent 190m, 6 miles, Grade 1
Leader: Derek Storey
Back marker: Janelen Storey



Cost: £2 for parking at Vogrie

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

22. Vogrie Miniature Railway

1pm - 4pm

Join Eskvalley Model Engineering Society volunteers for a train ride on scale model locomotives. The journey takes you through woodland and beautiful parkland at Vogrie.

Suitable for all ages. (Children must be old enough to sit on carriage seats)

Vogrie Country Park, Midlothian EH23 4NU
Suitable for ages 7+. Bring bike, helmet & snack

Cost: **£1 per child, £2 per adult**
£2 for parking at Vogrie. Just turn up

23. Vogrie X1 Geocaching

1pm - 3pm

The Vogrie Cachers are delighted to invite you back for the eleventh caching event in the beautiful Vogrie Country Park. Old and new cachers are very welcome and there will be a taster event if you just want to find out more. And there will be cake as usual.

In front of Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU

Bring phone or GPS
Suitable for all ages



Cost: **£2** parking. Just turn up

24. Ageing Well Health Walk

1.30 - 3pm

Bonnyrigg Health Walk.

Meet: Lasswade High School Centre, EH19 2LA

After-walk chat with coffee/tea in Lasswade Centre café.

Duration: approx. 60-90 minutes

Suitable for ages 50+

Wear suitable clothing for the weather



FREE

Book: **AgeingWell@midlothian.gov.uk**

Monday 16 October



25. Sheep Farming in the Pentland Hills Walk

9.30am - 1pm

Find out about the working day on a family farm in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Eastside Farm is a sheep farm which has diversified into agrotourism. The walk is strenuous in places and involves stiles.

Meet: Nine Mile Burn free car park, Biggar Road A702, EH26 9LZ
Grid ref. NT 177577

Ascent: 200m, 5 miles, Grade 3
Leader: Tommy McMannon



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



26. Carrington Circular Walk

10am - 3.30pm

This circular route commences at Carrington. We visit Whitehill Aisle and then Carrington Barns Farm which produce oil seed rape oil. We then follow the picturesque South Esk Valley to Temple Kirk and Edgelaw Reservoir and up to Redside Farm (with a visit of their rural businesses) before returning to Carrington with views over the Forth and to Fife.

Meet: Village green, Carrington, EH23 4LP.
Grid ref. NT319605

Ascent 100m, 6.5 miles, Grade 2
Leader: Pete Forster
Back marker: Susan Goldwyre



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

27. Over the Hill and Far Far Away

10am - 4pm

This is a wander with wordsmith Juliet, ranger Jo and birder Bill. We begin from Easthouses Park, bounding merrily to tea at the Pavilion Garden in Mayfield. From here it's onwards, upwards and over the Camp via Darcy with a poem, a quote and a few birds in the hedgerow. Whilst freewheeling towards Vogrie House we catch another panoramic vista, a non-existent nodding donkey and the chicken and egg conundrum.

A FREE bus will take you to the start.

Meet: Vogrie House, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge. EH23 4NU. Grid ref. NT 380632

Ascent 140m, 5.5 miles, Grade 2
Leader: Jo Cooke.

Back markers: Juliet Ridgeway-Tait and Bill Hewitt-Ta-Woo



Cost: **£2** for parking at Vogrie

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**

28. Orienteering

Start between 11am - 2pm. Finish by 3 pm

Use a specially drawn map to find the check points which will be set out around the grounds. Some will be on paths and easy to find, others will be on smaller features in woods.

Meet: In front of Vogrie House, outside Tree Top Café, Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, EH23 4NU

Suitable for ages - 3 courses to suit all abilities.

Wear outdoor clothing and shoes suitable for tracks and woodlands

Cost: **Adult £4; Junior £2; Parent & child £3.**
Includes your own map to keep.
£2 for parking at Vogrie
Book: **Eastlothiano@gmail.com**

29. Riverfly on the Esk

12 noon - 2pm

Interested in learning about the health of your river? Riverfly are the 'canaries of our rivers', important indicators of river health. Come along and learn more about Riverfly on the Esk, a citizen science monitoring project on the Lothian Esks, including how we are looking after our rivers.

Meet: Newbattle Abbey College, Newbattle Rd, Dalkeith, EH22 3LL - parking on the left after gate house entrance

Family event

Come dressed for the weather



FREE

Book: **riverflyontheesk@gmail.com**

30. Bats and the Stars



6.30pm - 8.30pm

Join the Friends of Roslin Glen and Midlothian Ranger Service on a night time adventure with furry flying mammals; our native bats. Find out where they live and what they eat. We will be using bat detectors to identify the species we see in Roslin Glen. As part of this night time adventure, we will be doing a bit planet spotting and looking to the stars.

Meet:

Roslin Glen Country Park car park, EH25 9PX

Suitable for ages 6+

Wear warm clothing and bring a torch.



FREE

Book: **Eventbrite / Midlothian Outdoor Festival**



Route Grading Descriptions

Grade 1 = For anyone who does not have a mobility difficulty, a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. The walk is at slow pace on well-maintained tracks and level ground.

Grade 2 = For reasonably fit people with at least a little countryside walking experience. The walk includes unsurfaced tracks, low hills and undulating ground. There may be the occasional gate or stile to climb over.

Grade 3 = For people with countryside walking experience and a good level of fitness. The walk includes some steep paths and open country at a moderate pace. Routes will cross some rough ground with small tracks, gates and stiles and with more ascent.

Grade 4 = For experienced countryside walkers with ~an above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country and may be at a brisk pace, with steep ascents and descents often over very rough terrain.

PLEASE NOTE

Walkers should remember that adverse weather conditions could affect the grading of a particular route and that different organisers may interpret the grading differently. If you wish more information regarding route terrain, please e-mail **Midlothianrangerservice@midlothian.gov.uk**

