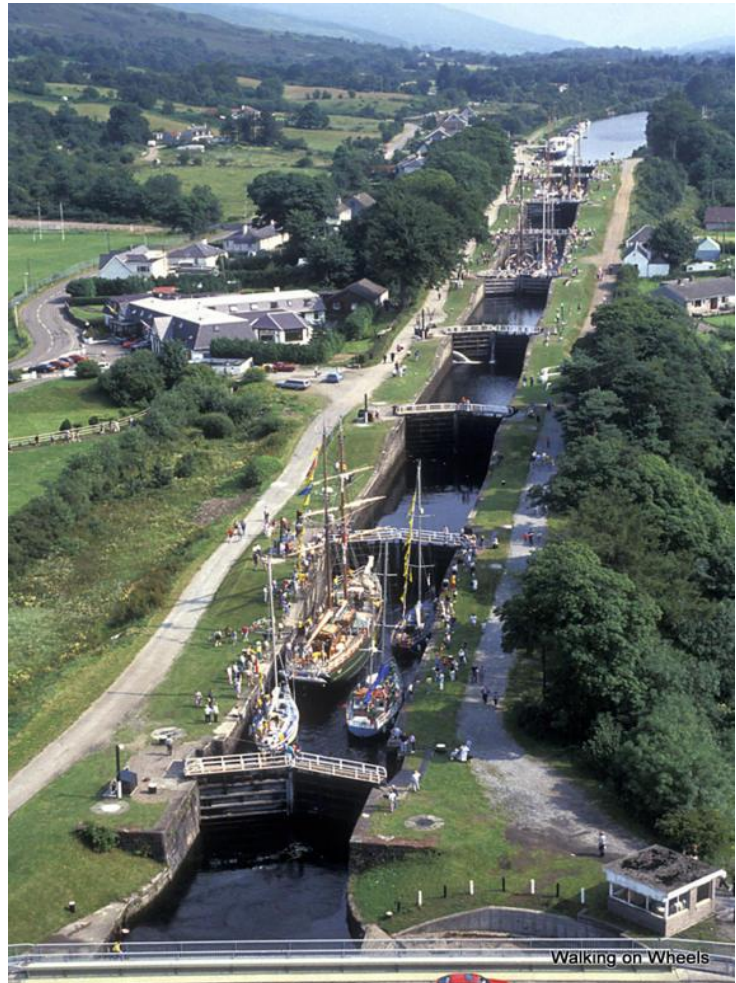


## FORT WILLIAM to CLUNES

The GGW begins in Fort William near the car park at Morrisons. To get there follow A82 from Inverness into Fort William and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout turn R. It is on the R.

This is not a very beautiful beginning to a very beautiful trail. In fact, I would recommend that you miss out Fort William and make your beginning from Neptune's Staircase near Banavie. There is a mild gradient at Neptune's Staircase but the surface of the towpath is stable and flat. However, I have designated it a yellow path because of potholes and distance.

*Photo courtesy of Colin Simpson.*



The towpath from here to Gairloch is 6 miles. Enjoy the rural walk with a fine variety of trees and good views of the mountains. At Gairloch the canal goes under the A8004 and at this point the Great Glen Way veers away from the canal, over the bridge and then right towards Clunes on the A8005. You may wish to follow the trail on this road or park approximately ½ mile on where the trail takes a sharp right down a very, steep (1: 5) but short (10 m) gradient towards Loch Lochy. The trail continues on a rough path near the edge of Loch Lochy and when I visited in 2001 the little rivers running into the Loch had to be forded but I believe that these have now been bridged. After 1½ miles the trail comes back onto the road for a further 1 mile to the Forest Walk at Clunes where there is P and fresh air T.

When I first visited the GGW I was fortunate in having the GGW Ranger with me. There were a few gates going on and off the towpath but I hope on your visit to the GGW these barriers will have been removed. Although this stretch of the GGW is not the most spectacular it is well worth a visit.

The Toilet block at Banavie, owned and managed by British Waterways, is kept locked. A key may be purchased through [www.waterscape.com.uk](http://www.waterscape.com.uk)

Further information from:

Great Glen Way: 01320 366633 [www.greatglenway.com](http://www.greatglenway.com)

A good book: The Great Glen Way by Jacquetta Megarry Publ. by Rucksack Readers

British Waterways Highland Canals: Customer Service Manager: 01463 725500

Access Officer (Inverness & Nairn): 01463 702186

FACTFILE	
MAP	Ordnance Survey map 41
GRID REFERENCE start/finish	NN 103742/NN 205886
PARKING	Fort William, Gairlochy & Clunes
TOILETS	Morrisons: W/C (L) BW Banavie: W/C (L&R)
DISTANCE	GGW:11 miles Mile Dorcha: 3 miles
LANDSCAPE	Waterscape/mountains Forest/waterfall