



# CONTEMPORARY AYRSHIRE

## DISCOVER

Contemporary art and culture in Ayrshire and visit the region's craft town, contemporary galleries and quirky museums.



## DAY ONE

### WEST KILBRIDE CRAFT TOWN AND KELBURN CASTLE

Travel along the A78 to the north of the region to West Kilbride, Scotland's only designated Craft Town. At the centre of the village is the Barony Centre which hosts some of the best contemporary craft exhibitions from the UK and beyond. The centre also has a beautiful gallery, regular craft classes and cafe serving delicious coffees and light lunches. More studios can be found on West Kilbride's picturesque main street where you can buy work direct from the maker.

Travelling north from West Kilbride along the A78 is Kelburn Castle. In 2009, the castle became internationally famous with the 'Graffiti Project' when four Brazilian street artists were invited to paint the walls and turrets of the south side with a 14m high mural full of wonderfully surreal characters and imagery. This astonishing artwork will only be around for a few more years so go and see it before it is too late!

## DAY TWO

### THE DICK INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME, DALGARVEN MILL

The Dick Institute is in the centre of Kilmarnock just off the A77 and is one of the brightest jewels in Ayrshire's cultural crown. This impressive Victorian building houses a feast of treasures and is the largest museum and art gallery in the region. The variety of exhibits is quite breathtaking from the original, hand-written Tam o'Shanter poem by Robert Burns to a modern masterpiece by the internationally-acclaimed artist Peter Howson.

Kilmarnock was awarded a Creative Place Award at the start of 2013 by Creative Scotland. The town's thriving arts venues and festivals will be presenting an ambitious range of art and events throughout the year.

Heading north out of Kilmarnock, travel to Dalgarn Mill, located just off the A737 between Kilwinning and Dalry. A treasure trove of costume exhibits and rural life, this museum is housed in a spectacular mill in a beautiful rural location in Ayrshire. Experience the fascinating story of the rural community over the last century, their work, pastimes, dress and life.

## DAY THREE

### ROZELLE HOUSE GALLERIES, MACLAURIN ART GALLERY AND THE WHISKY EXPERIENCE

Heading south out of Ayr on the B7024, take time to go into Rozelle Park which is home to the Rozelle House Galleries and the Maclaurin Art Gallery. Alexander Goudie's Tam o'Shanter collection of paintings is on display at Rozelle – an amazing series of 54 paintings illustrating Burns' famous poem. Next door to Rozelle, the Maclaurin Galleries offer a chance to enjoy a wide range of works from local, national and internationally acclaimed artists. After your visit, enjoy the cafe and shop within Rozelle House and take a stroll through the magnificent grounds of Rozelle Park.

Twenty minutes south from Ayr on the A77 is the attractive village of Kirkoswald and AD Rattray Whisky Experience and Whisky Shop. Here you will discover some of the finest and rarest single malt Scotch Whiskies gathered under one roof. Explore the fascinating world of Scotland's national drink and enjoy sampling some of their selection in the Tasting Room. You can also fill your own unique bottle with a personalised label in the beautiful Cask Room.

## CONTACTS

Below are the addresses and contact details for each of the venues mentioned. Each attraction offers different opening times and admission charges and we would recommend that you contact each one before visiting.

**West Kilbride Craft Town**, Barony Church, 50 Main Street, West Kilbride, KA23 9AR, tel: 01294 822266, [www.crafttownscotland.org](http://www.crafttownscotland.org)

**Kelburn Castle and Country Centre**, Fairlie, nr Largs, KA29 0BE, tel: 01475 568685, [www.kelburnestate.com](http://www.kelburnestate.com)

**The Dick Institute**, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 5BU, tel: 01563 554902, [www.visiteastayrshire.com](http://www.visiteastayrshire.com)

**Museum of Ayrshire Country Life and Costume**, Dalgarn Mill, Dalry Road, Nr Kilwinning, KA13 6PL, tel: 01294 552448, [www.dalgarnmill.org.uk](http://www.dalgarnmill.org.uk)

**Rozelle House and Maclaurin Galleries**, Monument Road, Ayr, KA7 4NQ, tel: 01292 445447, [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries)

**AD Rattray Whisky Experience**, 32 Main Road, Kirkoswald, KA19 8HY, tel: 01655 760242, [www.dewarrattray.com](http://www.dewarrattray.com)

## TRAVEL

**Caledonian MacBrayne**, [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk), tel: 0800 066 5000

**Traveline Scotland**, [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com), tel: 0871 2002233

