

# ROBERT BURNS AYRSHIRE

### **DISCOVER**

The towns, villages and landscapes that influenced Scotland's national poet and uncover the gems at the heart of Robert Burns' country.



### **DAY ONE**

### ALLOWAY, ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM, AND KIRKOSWALD

To start your tour of Burns' country, head to the picturesque village of Alloway on the banks of the River Doon. The village lies just on the outskirts of Ayr and is home to the award-winning Robert Burns Birthplace Museum run by the National Trust for Scotland.

This fascinating museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son. The museum comprises of the famous Burns Cottage where the poet was born, the historic landmarks where he set his greatest work, *Tam o'Shanter*, the elegant monument and gardens created in his honour and a modern museum housing the

world's most important collection of his life and works. The museum offers a programme of events and exhibitions throughout the year.

A twenty minute drive south of Alloway along the A77 brings you to Kirkoswald and Souter Johnnie's Cottage (NTS). The former home of cobbler – or Souter – John Davidson, the real life Souter Johnnie immortalised in the Robert Burns' poem, *Tam o'Shanter*, it features a thatched tavern in the garden, complete with life-sized sandstone statutes of the poem's main characters.

# DAY TWO ROZELLE HOUSE AND MACLAURIN ART GALLERY

Heading 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.

## **DAY THREE**TARBOLTON AND THE BACHELORS' CLUB

Heading north just off the A77 is the village of Tarbolton where you can visit the Bachelors' Club (NTS). In this thatched, 17th-century house, Robert Burns learned to dance, founded a debating club and became a Freemason. A visit to this authentically restored house, now converted into a museum, is a must for any Burns' enthusiast.

### MAUCHLINE AND THE BURNS HOUSE MUSEUM

Continue east along the B743 to Mauchline for a visit to the Burns House Museum. The museum is situated in the cobbled streets of the village where Robert Burns lived and worked between 1784 and 1788, a period that was one of the most creative of his life. It was in Mauchline where he met and married his great love, Jean Armour. The museum combines interactive and traditional exhibits and has a rare collection of manuscripts and Burns' memorabilia.

#### **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.

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (National Trust for Scotland), Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, KA7 4PQ, tel: 0844 493 2601, www.burnsmuseum.org.uk

Souter Johnnie's Cottage (National Trust for Scotland), Main Road, Kirkoswald, KA19 8HY, tel: 0844 493 2147, www.nts.org.uk

**Rozelle House and MacLaurin Galleries**, Monument Road, Ayr, KA7 4NQ, **tel**: 01292 445447, **www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries** 

**Bachelors' Club (National Trust for Scotland)**, Sandgate Street, Tarbolton, KA5 5RB, **tel:** 0844 493 2146, **www.nts.org.uk** 

**Burns House Museum**, Castle Street, Mauchline, KA5 5BZ, **tel:** 01563 554902, **www.visiteastayrshire.com** 

#### **TRAVEL**

Caledonian MacBrayne, www.calmac.co.uk, tel: 0800 066 5000
Traveline Scotland, www.travelinescotland.com, tel: 0871 2002233



