

Culture & Heritage Attractions

Ayrshire & Arran is home to an array of magnificent castles intriguing museums and historic buildings which attract visitors to come and explore the region and its rich culture and heritage. Ayrshire boasts connections to some of Scotland's most influential historical figures such as Robert the Bruce and has many fascinating links to the life and work of Scotland's worldacclaimed poet, Robert Burns.

Index

| 3-6 |
|-------|
| 7-16 |
| 11-12 |
| 17-19 |
| 20-21 |
| 22 |
| - |



For up to date opening times & prices please refer to individual websites.

We have ensured that the details in this manual are correct to the best of our knowledge. We would recommend that all information is checked with the individual venue to ensure that the facilities, cost and all other aspects of the premises meet your needs.

HISTORIC HOUSES & CASTLES

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BRODICK CASTLE AND ESTATE



Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HY 0844 493 2152 / information@nts.org.uk www.nts.org.uk/Property/Brodick-Castle-Garden-and-Country-Park/

The quintessential Victorian 'Highland' estate, Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park on the Isle of Arran is the perfect place for a day out. Set in a beautiful garden, country park with waterfalls, gorges, adventure playground, shop and tearoom. Events run throughout the season.

LOCHRANZA CASTLE



Lochranza, Isle of Arran www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/places then search for Lochranza Castle

A fine tower house, a 16th century redevelopment of a late 13th century hall house. The mountains to the south of the castle are home to many birds. The castle is a good vantage point for watching seals.

KELBURN CASTLE & COUNTRY CENTRE



Ancient home of Earl of Glasgow. Waterfalls, historic gardens, romantic glens, famous trees, riding centre and falconry centre. Adventure courses, indoor play barn, licensed cafe and Secret Forest.

PORTENCROSS CASTLE



Portencross, KA23 9QA 01294 823 799 / fopc@portencrosscastle.org.uk www.portencrosscastle.org.uk

A scheduled ancient monument, Portencross Castle is recognised for its national importance and is situated in an idyllic location overlooking the Firth of Clyde near West Kilbride in Ayrshire.

EGLINTON CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK



Irvine, KA12 8TA 01294 551 776 eglintoncountrypark@north-ayrshire.gov.uk www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/EglintonPark

Spring, summer, autumn and winter, Eglinton Country Park offers the space and freedom to enjoy a wide range of pursuits. There are tranquil country pursuits, walking, horse riding, fishing or simply watching the world go by. There is also a full programme of events for visitors to enjoy throughout the year.



6

4



Dean Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 1XB 01563 554 734 / info@deancastle.com www.eastayrshireleisure.com/countryside/dean-castlecountry-park

A fantastic free day out for all the family. The castle is a 14th century castle housing world class collections including historic weapons armour and musical instruments. The park covers over 200 acres in the heart of Kilmarnock and boasts beautiful woodland walks, an adventure playground, urban farm, visitor centre, tearoom and a shop.

DUNDONALD CASTLE



Winehouse Yett, Dundonald, KA2 9HD 01563 851 489 / info@dundonaldcastle.org.uk www.dundonaldcastle.org.uk

Situated in rural Ayrshire, against a spectacular coastal backdrop. Dundonald Castle is a monument which stands as testimony, not only to the origins of the Royal Stewart dynasty, but also to the development of the nation of Scotland itself. The Castle stands on a hill which may be difficult for visitors with limited mobility. The Visitor Centre provides an accessible exhibition and a shop.

DUMFRIES HOUSE

8



Cumnock, KA18 2NJ 01290 425 959 www.dumfries-house.org.uk

Considered to be one of the UK's most authentic, historic homes, Dumfries House has one of the world's most extensive collections of 18th century British furniture, much of it by Thomas Chippendale. The house was saved for the nation in 2007 by a consortium led by HRH, Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay.

Additional Information: Baby buggies are not permitted on guided tours. You must arrive at least 5 minutes before your scheduled time. All dogs must be kept on a lead.



DUNURE CASTLE

Kennedy Park, Dunure Shore, Dunure, KA7 4LW www.dunure.info/park

Dunure Castle is located about 5 miles south of Ayr and close to the village of Dunure. Dunure Castle today stands in ruins on a rocky promontory on the Carrick coast, protecting the small Dunure harbour.

CULZEAN CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK



Maybole, KA19 8LE 0844 493 2149 / information@nts.org.uk www.nts.org.uk/property/culzean-castle-and-country-park/

One of Scotland's most popular visitor attractions, surrounded by surging seas, lush forests and secret gardens. Standing on a dramatic cliff top overlooking the Firth of Clyde, the castle has been associated with the Kennedy family since the 14th century and was converted by Robert Adam between 1777 and 1792. There is also has a strong link with President Eisenhower, as the top-floor apartment in the castle was presented to him for his lifetime in recognition of his role during World War II. A tour offers a chance to learn about the best features of the castle, including Adam's masterpiece the oval staircase, as well as the fine collection of paintings and furniture.

Within the 600 acres of country park there are many sightseeing opportunities and activities on offer including an adventure playground, swan pond, deer park, terraced gardens and beaches.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Scottish Maritime Museum

ISLE OF ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Rosaburn, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DP 01770 302 636 / info@arranmuseum.co.uk www.arranmuseum.co.uk

A fascinating museum depicting the social history, archaeology and geology of Arran. The museum is housed in old buildings that used to be the local smiddy and milhouse. There is also a cafe on site and gardens.

GARRISON HOUSE 12 (MUSEUM OF THE CUMBRAES)



Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0DE 01475 531 381 www.millport.org/garrison-house

Housed within the Garrison House, the Museum of the Cumbraes provides a fascinating glimpse into Cumbrae's past. From 4,000 year old stone coffins – or 'cists' – found on the Cumbraes, through stories of smuggling in the 18th century to life during the second world war and indeed life of the island today. There is also a cafe on site.



Greenock Road, Largs, KA30 8QL 01475 689 777 / info@kaleisure.com www.kaleisure.com/facilities/leisure/vikingar

VIKINGAR

Explore the adventure of the Vikings in Scotland first hand at the 'Viking Experience' with the assistance of a Viking storyteller. The venue also offers a swimming pool, children's soft play area, theatre, winter garden cafe and KA Studios fitness centre.

CRAFT TOWN SCOTLAND 14



Barony Church, 50 Main Street, West Kilbride, KA23 9AR 01294 829 179 / info@crafttownscotland.org.uk www.crafttownscotland.org

With a craft gallery, gift shop and a variety of craft studios, visitors can see and buy quality craft in one easily accessible and picturesque location. At the centre of the craft town is the Barony Centre, a magnificent church transformed into a creative hub for major craft exhibitions, retail, craft and design classes and cultural events.

WEST KILBRIDE MUSEUM



The Village Hall, 1 Arthur Street, West Kilbride, KA23 9EN 01294 823 284 / westkilbridemuseum@gmail.com www.westkilbridemuseum.org.uk

West Kilbride Village Hall hosts the town's museum which is considered to be among the best small town museums in Scotland and has full accreditation from Museum Galleries Scotland. Started in 1988 by a group of dedicated people, the museum is staffed by volunteers. The aim is to depict life in the Parish over the past 400 years, portraying the history, development and traditions of the area.

DALGARVEN MILL MUSEUM OF 16 COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME



Dalgarven Mill, Dalry Road, nr Kilwinning, KA13 6PL 01294 552 448 / admin@dalgarvenmill.org.uk www.dalgarvenmill.org.uk

This 16th century working water mill contains a large display of rural exhibits and vintage costumes. Dalgarven is located on a lovely rural site with woodland river walks and wild flowers. The mill has a great coffee shop serving delicious soups, home-baking and light lunches and an antique shop.

THE HERITAGE CENTRE



Manse Street, Saltcoats, KA21 5AA 01294 464 174 / naheritage@north-ayrshire.gov.uk www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/museums

With an abundance of local history material, visitors can explore North Ayrshire's historic past. The centre houses extensive collections from prehistoric age to the present day.

15

SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM

Harbourside, Irvine, KA12 8QE 01294 278 283 / visitorservices@scotmaritime.org.uk www.scottishmaritimemuseum.org.uk

Explore Scotland's great maritime history and stories of innovation, craftsmanship and derring-do with a visit to this national collection of historic boats, shipbuilding machinery, artworks, artefacts and authentic 1920s shipyard worker's flat. Other attractions include Puffers Cafe with estuary views, Museum shop and a lively events and exhibition programme.

HARBOUR ARTS CENTRE

19



114 – 116 Harbour Street, Irvine, KA12 8PZ 01294 274 059 / harbourarts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk www.harbourartscentre.com

Whether it's a side splitting comedy night or a chilled afternoon of jazz, the Harbour Arts Centre offers fantastic entertainment throughout the year. With its own popular cafe/bar – the Harbour Arts Centre is the perfect place to relax and unwind. For booking events (Online www. ticketweb.co.uk or Telephone 01294 274059).

WELLWOOD BURNS CENTRE & MUSEUM



Wellwood, 28 Eglinton Street, Irvine, KA12 8AS www.irvineburnsclub.org

Founded in 1826, Irvine Burns Club has amassed a unique private collection of manuscripts from several poems in Burns' Kilmarnock Edition, along with other Burns-related items including rare books, paintings and the chair used by him while visiting Templeton's Bookshop.

Historic Houses & Castles

- 1 Brodick Castle & Estate
- 2 Lochranza Castle
- 3 Kelburn Castle & Country Centre
- 4 Portencross Castle
- 5 Eglinton Castle & Country Park
- 6 Dean Castle & Country Park
- 7 Dundonald Castle
- 8 Dumfries House
- 9 Dunure Castle
- 10 Culzean Castle & Country Park

Museums & Galleries

- 11 Isle of Arran Heritage Museum
- 12 Garrison House (Museum of the Cumbraes)
- 13 Vikingar
- 14 Craft Town Scotland
- 15 West Kilbride Museum
- 16 Dalgarven Mill Museum of Country Life & Costume
- 17 The Heritage Centre
- 18 Scottish Maritime Museum
- 19 Harbour Arts Centre
- 20 Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum
- 21 The Dick Institute
- 22 Bachelors' Club

- 23 Burns House Museum
- 24 Baird Institute
- 25 Rozelle House & MacLaurin Galleries
- 26 Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
- 27 Souter Johnnie's Gallery
- 28 Scottish Industry Railway Centre
- 29 Doon Valley Museum
- 30 McKechnie Institite

Churches, Landmarks, Abbeys & Archaeological Sites

- 31 Machrie Moor Stone Circle
- 32 Auchagallon Cairn
- 33 Moss Farm Road Stone Circle
- 34 Kilpatrick Dun
- 35 Torr A'chaisteal Fort
- 36 Torrylin Cairn
- 37 The Cathedral of the Isles
- 38 Kilwinning Abbey
- 39 Kilwinning Heritage Centre
- 40 Crossraguel Abbey
- 41 Scottish Dark Sky Observatory

Whisky & Beer

- 42 Isle of Arran Distillery
- 43 Arran Brewery
- 44 AD Rattray Whisky Experience



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THE DICK INSTITUTE

Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU 01563 554 300 www.eastayrshireleisure.com/arts/the-dick-institute

Leading art gallery and museum that hosts a dynamic changing exhibition programme featuring major exhibitions from arts to natural history.

BACHELORS' CLUB

21



Sandgate Street, Tarbolton, KA5 5RB 0844 493 21404 / information@nts.org.uk www.nts.org.uk/bachelorsclub

In this 17th century house, Robert Burns learned to dance, founded a debating club and became a Freemason. This authentically restored house chronicles the formative years of one of Scotland's greatest literary talents and a must for any Burns enthusiast.

BURNS HOUSE MUSEUM



Castle Street, Mauchline, KA5 5BZ 01290 550 045 www.eastayrshireleisure.com/museums/burns-housemuseum

Dynamic, lively museum with changing displays and exhibitions which covers the period in Burns' life when he lived in Mauchline and the surrounding area. There is also the opportunity to visit the National Burns Memorial Tower.

BAIRD INSTITUTE

23

3 Lugar Street, Cumnock, KA18 1AD 01290 427 084 www.eastayrshireleisure.com/museums/the-bairdinstitute

The Baird Institute features displays about Cumnock, Keir Hardie, mining and the Covenanters. Changing exhibition programme in the Barony Gallery.

22

ROZELLE HOUSE AND MACLAURIN GALLERIES

Monument Road, Ayr, KA7 4NQ 01292 443 708 www.themaclaurin.org.uk

Set within the magnificent grounds of Rozelle Park, the Maclaurin Gallery offers a rare chance to enjoy a wide range of works from local, national and internationally acclaimed artists. Visitors to the Gallery can also enjoy the tea room and gift shop and the collections held within Rozelle House.



ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, KA7 4PQ 0844 493 2601 / burns@nts.org.uk www.burnsmuseum.org.uk

Major new museum housing the most important Burns collection in the world. Temporary exhibitions, performances, cafe and shops. The site also includes Burns Cottage, Burns Monument and Garden, Alloway Auld Kirk and the Brig O'Doon.

Additional Information

Car parks are located at Birthplace Museum and Burns Cottage. Some of the older parts of the site, such as the Auld Kirk, Brig O'Doon and Burns Monument are accessed by steps or uneven surfaces. Museum staff will be happy to assist with any special access requirements to help all visitors get the most from their visit.



SOUTER JOHNNIE'S GALLERY



Main Road, Kirkoswald, KA19 8HY information@nts.org.uk www.nts.org.uk/property/souter-johnnies-cottage

See Scottish literature come to life in this 18th century thatched cottage in the heart of Kirkoswald. 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.

SCOTTISH INDUSTRY RAILWAY CENTRE



Dunaskin, Dalmellington Road, Waterside, Patna, KA6 7JF Info@ScottishIndustrialRailwayCentre.org.uk www.scottishindustrialrailwaycentre.org.uk

The Scottish Industrial Railway Centre (SIRC) is a 'living museum' where unique and historically significant industrial steam and diesel locomotives are restored and can be seen working in an authentic setting. There is a locomotive that is more than 100 years old and the only operational fireless locomotive in Britain.

DOON VALLEY MUSEUM





Cathcartston, Dalmellington, KA6 7QY 01292 550 633 / info@eastayrshireleisure.com www.eastayrshireleisure.com/museums/doonvalley-museum

A local history museum that explores the history of the area and gallery hosting a lively changing exhibition programme.

MCKECHNIE INSTITUTE

Dalrymple Street, Girvan, KA26 9AE 01465 713 643 www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries/mckechnie

Museum and gallery collection mainly relating to the Girvan and Carrick area. The gallery also hosts regular temporary exhibitions.

28

CHURCHES, LANDMARKS, ABBEYS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

THE ISLE OF ARRAN

The Isle of Arran is a landscape rich in prehistoric archaeology sites, the most prominent features are the five stone circles (Machrie Moor Stone Circle), but the moor is strewn with other precious remains, including standing stones, burial cairns and cists. The main highlights on the island are Machrie Moor, Auchagallon Cairn, Moss Farm Road Stone Circle, Kilpatrick Dun (or cashel), Torr A'chaisteal Fort and Torrylin Cairn. The most fascinating monuments date to a time when the moor was a centre for ceremonial and burial activity. This period spans the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age.

For further information on each site please go to www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/places and search name of site you are looking for.

31 Machrie Moor Stone Circle

3 miles North of Blackwaterfoot on the West side of Arran off the coastal route (formerly A841) The remains of five stone circles of bronze age date, one of the most important sites of its kind in Britain.

32 Auchagallon Cairn

4 miles North of Blackwaterfoot on the West side of Arran off the coastal route (formerly A841)

A Bronze Age cairn surrounded by a circle of 14 standing stones looking out over Kilbrannan Sound towards Kintyre.

33 Moss Farm Road Stone Circle

3 miles North of Blackwaterfoot on the West side of Arran off the coastal route (formerly A841) The remains of a Bronze-Age cairn surrounded by a stone circle.



Kilpatrick Dun

1 mile South of Blackwaterfoot on the West side. The ruins of a circular drystone building of unknown date, with a more recent enclosure wall. Walk of half mile to site.

5 Torr A'Chaisteal Fort

4 miles South of Blackwaterfoot on the South West side of Arran off the coastal route (formerly A841) A circular late Iron Age fort on a ridge.



Torrylin Cairn

0.25 miles South East of Lagg on the South side of Arran off the coastal route (formerly A841)

A Neolithic chambered cairn, with four compartments visible.



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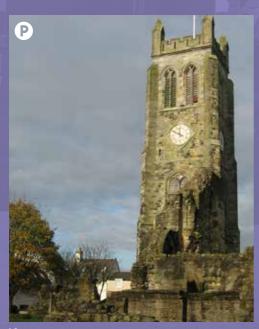
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THE CATHEDRAL OF THE ISLES



The Cathedral of The Isles and Collegiate Church of the Holy Spirit is a cathedral of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the town of Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. It is one of the two cathedrals of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, the other being St John's Cathedral in Oban. Formal gardens and woodland surround the cathedral, the highest building on Great Cumbrae and the smallest cathedral in the British Isles. Facilities at the cathedral are limited but the town of Millport has a range of cafes and shops.

KILWINNING ABBEY AND HERITAGE CENTRE



Kilwinning Abbey Main Street, Kilwinning, KA13 6EG www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/places then search for Kilwinning Abbey

The much-reduced remains of a Tironensian-Benedictine abbey, established from Kelso. Most of the surviving fragments, which consist of parts of the abbey church and chapter house, are of 13th century date.

38

39

Kilwinning Heritage Centre Main Street, Kilwinning, KA13 6EG 01294 557 295 / kh.2011@hotmail.co.uk www.kilwinningheritage.org

The Heritage Centre is located within the tower and displays the fascinating history of the abbey and the town of Kilwinning.

CROSSRAGUEL ABBEY

Maybole, KA19 8HQ 01655 883 113 www.historic-scotland.gov.uk /places then search Crossraguel

Climb the impressive gatehouse tower for a bird's eye view of one of the most complete medieval abbey complexes in Scotland. Now hauntingly beautiful, its substantial ruins guard some violent secrets. One abbot was roasted over a fire by a nobleman seeking to regain control over the abbey.

SCOTTISH DARK SKY OBSERVATORY

Craigengillan, Dalmellington, KA6 7PZ 01292 551 118 / info@scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk www.scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk

The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory is located within one of only a few 'gold tier' Dark Sky Parks in the world. It boasts some of the darkest skies in the UK and is only around 45 minutes south of Glasgow. It is situated upon a fantastic hilltop site on the edge of the Galloway Forest Park within the magical surroundings of Craigengillan Estate. The roll-off roof observatory, dome-housed telescope, viewing deck and activity room and a programme of special events are all designed to inspire visitors about the wonder of the universe. Craigengillan is rated by Historic Scotland as one of the top 4 Designed Landscapes in the country.





WHISKY & BEER



ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY



Visitor Centre, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HJ 01770 830 264 / visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com www.arranwhisky.com

A warm welcome awaits at the Isle of Arran Distillery. Set in the stunningly beautiful surroundings of Lochranza, the distillery offers fully guided tours, audio visual presentation, exhibitions, shop and restaurant.

ARRAN BREWERY

42



Visitor Centre, Cladach, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DE 01770 302 353 / sales@arranbrewery.co.uk www.arranbrewery.co.uk

Absorb the sights and smells of the traditional beer-making process at Arran Brewery's visitor centre. This excellent tour allows the opportunity to discover how Arran Premium Ales are brewed and sample some of the best ales in the country.

AD RATTRAY WHISKY EXPERIENCE

32 Main Road, Kirkoswald, KA19 8HY O1655 760 308 www.adrattray.com Enjoy discovering and sampling some of the finest and rarest single malt Scotch whiskies at the Whisky Experience in Kirkoswald. Tasting experiences available on request.



USEFUL TRAVEL DETAILS

National Rail Enquiries 08457 484 950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

Stagecoach Travel Information www.stagecoachbus.com

Traveline Scotland Timetables and journey planner for public transport 0871 200 2233 www.travelinescotland.com

Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries 0800 066 5000 www.calmac.co.uk

P&O Ferries 0800 130 030 www.poferries.com

Stena Line Ferries 08447 707 070 www.stenaline.co.uk

Glasgow Airport 0844 481 5555 www.glasgowairport.com

Prestwick Airport 0871 223 0700 www.glasgowprestwick.com

USEFUL CONTACTS

Visit Scotland 0845 859 1006 info@visitscotland.com www.visitscotland.org

Visit Arran

Visit Arran Tourist Information Office, Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran KA27 8AU 01770 302 043 info@visitarran.com www.visitarran.com

Ayrshire Bed & Breakfast Association www.ayrshirebandb.com

Ayrshire Food Network www.ayrshirefoodnetwork.co.uk

Ayr Information Centre 22 Sandgate, Ayr, KA7 1BW

Brodick Information Centre The Pier, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8AU 01770 303 774

Largs Information Point St Columba Experience Heritage Centre, Gallowgate Street, Largs, KA30 8LX



www.ayrshire-arran.org/visit





