

Scottish Natural Heritage

Explore for a day

Dumfries & Galloway





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Welcome to Dumfries and Galloway. Situated in Scotland's south west corner, this area continues to delight and surprise visitors and locals alike with its huge range of fantastic attractions. From the high tops of the Southern Uplands down to its flat salt marshes in the east and rugged coast in the west, this is an area of Scotland that boasts stunning landscapes, wildlife spectacles and great cultural attractions. Why not cycle, walk, climb or canoe right into the middle of it and take it in up close?

The wildlife here can be enjoyed all year round. Spring brings a vibrant carpet of bluebells and summer a dazzling display of butterflies. In winter watch and hear the dawn flight of thousands of barnacle geese and experience the excitement of the red deer rutting in autumn.

Visit ancient ruins, abbeys and castles – some of which date back to the birth of Christianity in Scotland. This naturally inspiring area remains a creative hotspot, attracting artists from far and wide, from Burns' poetry and Hornel's oil paintings to modern day artists who continue to produce new work for us to enjoy.

Many who come to Dumfries and Galloway find themselves returning again and again. We hope you will too.

This leaflet contains five suggested itineraries for you to follow or use to create your own special natural and cultural experience of Dumfries and Galloway.

Symbol Key

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Parking |  | Information Centre |
|  | Paths |  | Disabled Access |
|  | Toilets |  | Wildlife Watching |
|  | Refreshments |  | Picnic Area |

1 Glenluce Abbey

This Cistercian monastery was built over 800 years ago. Now a ruin, the most impressive surviving building is the monks' chapter house. Its fine entrance doorway, stone-vaulted ceiling and traceried windows still contrive to impress. Many artefacts have been found on the site over the years and these are now on display in the visitor centre beside the ruined abbey. They combine to provide a wonderful insight into the daily lives of the monks across the four centuries they were here.

Admission charge.

Open April - September, 9.30am - 5.30pm

Limited access out of season.

Grid reference: NX185586

Tel: 01581 300541

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



2



2 Mull of Galloway

Dramatic Mull of Galloway is Scotland's most southerly point. Climb to the top of the lighthouse and enjoy fantastic views across the sea over to a surprisingly large outline of the Isle of Man in the distance. Enjoy wandering across the RSPB reserve where all around you there is the frenzied activity of a host of wildlife including the large colony of cliff-nesting sea birds.

Learn more about the fascinating wildlife and the lighthouse at the RSPB visitor centre and lighthouse exhibition.

Grid reference: NX156305

Tel: 01776 840558

www.mull-of-galloway.co.uk

www.rspb.org.uk



3 Logan Fish Pond & Logan Botanic Garden

These two lovely attractions are located just north of the village of Port Logan.

The fish pond is a unique 10,000 year old blow hole in which you can see some of Scotland's most beautiful marine life and amazing geology. Set in a truly unique and stunning setting it provides you with not only an exciting day but an educational one too.

Known as one of Scotland's most exotic, the Logan Botanic Garden benefits from the Gulf Stream which extends the warmth of summer well into the autumn. Southern hemisphere plants flourish in this botanists' paradise with its wealth of exotic trees and shrubs, including over 50 species of eucalyptus, and ensure that there is something of interest all year round. Changing displays in the Logan Studio and regular events in the garden provide something of interest for all the family.

Admission charge - Garden & Pond.

Logan Fish Pond - Open 7 days a week May to Sept. Open

Tues-Sun Mar, Apr, Oct. Opening times 10am - 5pm.

Garden open daily, 15 March - 31 October, 10am - 5pm.

Grid reference: NX097405 - Marine Centre

Tel: 01776 860300

www.loganfishpond.org.uk

Grid reference: NX096426 - Garden

Tel: 01776 860231

www.rbge.org.uk/logan



4



4 Dunskey Castle, Portpatrick

The magnificent ruins of Dunskey Castle are picturesquely perched on a rocky outcrop jutting out into the Irish Sea. This massive tower house was built in the mid-1500's for the Adairs of Kinhilt, the same family that owned the Castle of St John in Stranraer. The long wing to the north was added in the 1620's. By 1700 the whole building was derelict. Access to the castle is from Portpatrick along the coastal path leading south. Unfortunately, there is no access to the castle interior.

Grid reference: NX003533

Tel: 01776 705088

www.visitscotland.com

www.portpatrick.info

All Facilities in Portpatrick.

5



5 Cairn Holy Chambered Cairns

These two remarkably complete Neolithic burial cairns, of a type characteristic of Galloway are located on a hill offering fine views over Wigtown Bay. Cairn Holy I is a chambered cairn measuring 141 feet by 33 feet consisting of eight tall stones and a burial chamber and anti-chamber. The smaller Cairn Holy II is also a chambered cairn and is located a short walk up the hill from Cairn Holy I. An impressive, almost 10 foot portal stone marks the entrance.

Grid reference: NX518540

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



6 Kिरroughree Visitor Centre

Set within the mixed woodland of Kिरroughree Forest this is a playground for cyclists and walkers. From the Visitor Centre you will find an array of cycle routes including the world famous 7stanes mountain bike trails. For those looking to keep their adrenalin levels a little lower, why not try one of the waymarked forest walks. Stroll past and enjoy the stillness of Bruntis Loch with its swards of spring flowers, perfect tranquility in the heart of Galloway. Don't forget to look out for Kिरroughree's stane, the "Gemstone" sculpture made from Scottish pink quartz.

Visitor Centre open from Easter - check website for opening times.

Grid reference: NX452646

Tel: 01671 402420

www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark



7



7 Wigtown

Wigtown was officially designated as Scotland's National Book Town in 1998 and is now home to over 20 book-related businesses. Meander around appreciating the high quality gift shops, small gallery, excellent plant nursery, and lovely cafés all stuffed full of books. Catch up on the latest bird drama by visiting the Wigtown Bay Osprey Project based in the County Buildings where recorded images of the local ospreys can be seen in the visitor room.

Grid reference: NX434554
www.wigtown.co.uk



8



8 Whithorn Priory, Museum & Visitor Centre

One of the earliest Christian sites in Scotland, Whithorn was traditionally held to be founded by St Ninian in the 5th or 6th century. In the medieval Christian world, it was strongly believed that pilgrimage to the shrine of a saint benefited the soul and resulted in miraculous cures. Pilgrims came to Whithorn to visit the shrine of St Ninian located in the vault of the priory and seek cures and salvation.

Whithorn Priory Museum features a collection of artefacts and a number of ornately carved stones dating from the 10th and 11th centuries. The Whithorn Story Visitor Centre is maintained by the Whithorn Trust and is nearby.

Admission charge.

Open April to October, 10.30am - 5pm.

Grid reference: NX444402

Tel: 01988 500508

www.whithornpriorymuseum.gov.uk



9 Monreith

Monreith boasts sandy beaches, with safe swimming areas, rock pools and some interesting caves, one of which is streaked red and known as the "Butcher's Cave". Above the ruined Kirkmaiden church, one of the oldest in Scotland, is a sculpted bronze otter, which acts as a memorial to the author Gavin Maxwell. His famous book "Ring of Bright Water" was made into a successful film. Maxwell was often seen exercising his tame otter, the subject of his book, on the beach here.

Grid reference: NX358409

www.whithorn.info/community/monreith

P

10 Broughton House & Garden, Kirkcudbright

In the heart of Kirkcudbright, also known as the "Artists Town", this 18th century Georgian house is the former home of Scottish painter E A Hornel, one of the Glasgow Boys. A living museum of Hornel's life and work, the house is packed with his paintings and those of his contemporaries, as well as his vast library which includes one of the world's biggest collections of works by Robert Burns. Nestled behind the house is Hornel's beautiful garden. Greatly influenced by his love of Japan, it's a delight to explore.

Admission charge.

Open 23 Mar to 31 Oct, daily 12pm - 5pm (last entry 4.30pm).

Grid reference: NX681511

Tel: 0844 4932246

www.nts.org.uk



11



11 Cardoness Castle, Gatehouse of Fleet

Cardoness Castle is a well-preserved ruin of a 15th century six storey tower house. Admire the exquisite architectural detail of this still magnificent structure. See the splendid fireplace and wall-cupboard where the family's best silverware was displayed. Touch the intricate stone carvings and soak up the superb views over the beautiful Fleet Bay to the Solway Firth beyond. There is also a new scale model and a fantastic exhibition.

Admission charge.

Open 1 April - 30 September, 9.30am - 5.30pm.

1 October - 31 March, weekends only 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Grid reference: NX590553

Tel: 01557 814427

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



12 Galloway Kite Trail, Belymack Hill Farm Feeding Station

The feeding station, part of the 'Galloway Kite Trail', provides spectacular views of red kites set within beautiful scenery. Arrive for the 2pm feeding time and enjoy the flying frenzy of these magnificent birds of prey. The farm is a privately run business but RSPB Scotland are on hand to provide information.

Admission charge.

Open daily 12pm - 4pm. Kite Feeding at 2pm.

Grid reference: NX688651

Tel: 01556 670464

www.gallowaykitetrail.com



13 Raiders Road Forest Drive & Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre

Get off the beaten track and enjoy a scenic 10 mile/16 km drive on this two-way untarred forest road. Follow the course of this old drovers' road along the Black Water of Dee between the Bannan and Clatteringshaws. Enjoy a variety of forest walks, picnic areas, and an abundance of wildlife and forest sculptures. Travel on to the Visitor Centre, find out what mysteries the Queen's Way holds and enjoy a gentle stroll out to Bruce's Stone, with stunning views of Clatteringshaws Loch and the Galloway Hills beyond.

Toll Charges – Raiders Road.

Road open April to October all day (15mph/24kph speed limit), Visitor Centre open daily from late summer due to development work (usually open at Easter) but please check website for actual opening times.

Grid reference: NX552764

Tel: 01671 402420

www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark



14 Galloway Forest Park, Goat Park & Deer Range

Galloway Forest Park offers spectacular views and a diverse variety of dramatic scenery. 300 square miles of wild beauty are waiting to be explored here, in Britain's largest forest park. Situated just along the Queen's Way, the Wild Goat Park is a great place to start your adventures with close-up encounters with our friendly, ancient breed of goats. At the adjacent Red Deer Range you can watch red deer from the hide or meet and greet them as part of a guided tour (charges apply).

Grid reference: NX496720

Tel: 01671 402420

www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark



15 Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve

One of the wildest places in southwest Scotland but still surprisingly accessible, Cairnsmore is a paradise for walkers. Dominated by an imposing granite hill, shaped and sculpted by the elements, the reserve offers superb views over the Cree Estuary. Watch out for spectacular birds of prey that hunt over the open landscape. Three suggested walks allow visitors to explore the bleak but beautiful surroundings, set off by several sculptures designed to blend in with the landscape.

Admission free.

Visitor Centre open all year.

Grid reference: NX554637

Tel: 01557 814435

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk



16 Grey Mare's Tail

Known for its magnificent waterfall, the fifth highest in the UK, and uniquely dramatic scenery, Grey Mare's Tail is a superb example of a hanging valley. Take a ten minute walk for spectacular views of the fall, which cascades from Loch Skeen into the Moffat Water valley from a rocky precipice 60m (200ft) above, or climb the steep slopes of White Coomb for even more spectacular views. If you're visiting in the summer, why not join one of the ranger's guided walks.

Grid reference: NT186144

Tel: 0844 4932249

www.nts.org.uk



17 Hidden Treasures, Museum of Lead Mining, Wanlockhead

In the picturesque village of Wanlockhead, Scotland's highest village, visit a real 18th century lead mine set deep in the hillside. Make your way to the miners' cottages dating from 1750, 1850 and 1910 and see how the miners really lived before exploring the second oldest subscription library in Europe. Discover a fantastic display of rocks, minerals, gold, mining and local artefacts in the Visitor Centre - during July and August you can also search for hidden gold by trying your luck at gold panning.

Admission charge.

(Joint tickets available with Drumlanrig Castle)

Open Easter - September, 11am - 4.30pm.

Grid reference: NS873129

Tel: 01659 74387

www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk



18 Drumlanrig Castle & Country Estate

One of the family seats of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch & Queensberry, the magnificent 'Pink Palace' of Drumlanrig is also home to part of an internationally renowned art collection and the Scottish Cycle Museum. Overlooking the breathtaking Nith Valley, Drumlanrig is the heart of a thriving country estate providing a wealth of exciting experiences for all the family. From short trails to more strenuous waymarked paths, walking is still the best way to really enjoy the outdoor experience that makes Drumlanrig so special.

Admission charge.

Country Estate open end of March - September (inc), daily 10am - 5pm. Winter Opening - walks, cycle routes and bike trails remain open over the winter period.

Grid reference: NX853993

Tel: 01848 331555

www.drumlanrig.com



19 Striding Arches, Cairnhead, Moniaive

Striding Arches is the first of the internationally acclaimed artist, Andy Goldsworthy's large-scale projects to be installed in a public landscape in Scotland. All but one of this series of grand, self-supporting, arches are located on the hilltops to the northwest of Moniaive. There is one, the first that was constructed, located on the low ground. This arch leaps from the gable end of a disused byre at the old steading of Cairnhead. Each arch stands just under four metres high with a span of about seven metres. Visiting the byre is easy but getting to the arches on the hill tops can be challenging.

Grid reference: NX701972

www.stridingarches.com

www.moniaive.org.uk



20 WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre

The Wetland Centre provides opportunities for comfortable viewing over the wider Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve and is famous for its vast flocks of overwintering water-birds, geese and whooper swans. The Saltcote Merse observatory provides excellent views over the reserve and south over the vast salt marshes to the Solway and Lake District fells. Hundreds of whooper swans migrate to the reserve in the winter for the swan feeds which are held daily and are a spectacle to see (and hear!). In the summer months try to spot ospreys fishing over the estuary.

Admission charge.

Open daily 10am - 5pm.

Grid reference: NY051655

Tel: 01387 770200

www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/caerlaverock



21 Caerlaverock Castle & Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve

With its moat, twin-towered gatehouse and imposing battlements, Caerlaverock Castle's triangular shape is unique among British castles. Visitors can enjoy a siege warfare exhibition, a children's adventure park and a nature trail. The dramatic open landscape of Caerlaverock stretches to the Solway Firth. Enjoy the stunning vistas of the reserve, birdwatching, or a good walk with a soundtrack of birdsong or the chorus of rare natterjack toads. From September onwards thousands of geese descend on the adjacent coast.

Admission charge to castle.

Castle open 1 April - 30 Sept, 9.30am - 5.30pm; 1 Oct - 31 March, 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Grid reference: NY042659

Tel: 01387 770244

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk



Scotland's
National Nature
Reserves



22 Kirkconnell Flow National Nature Reserve

A very special place to visit, the sodden surface of this restored bog is a palette of green, purple and red shades of sphagnum mosses and wet-loving plants. Visit in summer when common cotton grass creates a sea of white whilst adders and lizards bask in the sunlight. Butterflies flutter in sheltered glades while dragonflies and damselflies hover low over bog pools. There is some rough ground so visitors are advised to keep to the paths and floating road.

Grid reference: NX962700

Tel: 01387 272440

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk



Scotland's
National Nature
Reserves



23



23 Sweetheart Abbey

The romantic Sweetheart Abbey was founded in 1273 by Lady Dervorgilla of Galloway in memory of her husband John Balliol. On her death, she was laid to rest next to her husband's embalmed heart and the monks named their abbey in her memory. A stone effigy of Lady Dervorgilla lies on display in the south transept. The graceful ruin has fine flourishes with stone tracery in the presbytery windows, the ingenious circular window above the south transept, and the impressive west front.

Admission charge.

Open 1 April - 30 September, 9.30am - 5.30pm.

1 October - 31 March, 9.30am - 4.30pm (closed Thursdays & Fridays 1 November - 31 March).

Grid reference: NX965662

Tel: 01387 850397

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



24 Coastal Walk Rockcliffe to Kippford - Jubilee Path

The Jubilee Path is the main path between the seaside villages of Rockcliffe and Kippford. The path through ancient woodland and wildflower meadows is carefully managed to support the local butterfly population. This is a great 2 mile/3.2 km round trip, with a stop off at Kippford for lunch or tea. A detour to Mote of Mark provides stunning views over the Rough Estuary, or at low tide, walk over to the bird sanctuary on Rough Island.

Grid reference: NX851535

www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk



25 Threave Garden, Estate & Castle

Threave House is a restored Scottish baronial-style house, set in landscaped gardens with themed 'rooms' containing over 30 works by Scottish sculptors. A garden for all seasons, it is renowned for its spectacular springtime display of daffodils. The surrounding estate, which has the accolade of being Scotland's first bat reserve due to the number of species found there, has waymarked trails, bird hides, including the osprey viewing platform, and a wildfowl sanctuary. Nearby Threave Castle, a massive 14th century tower house, is situated on an island in the River Dee, a 15 minute walk through fields and accessible only by boat. Ring the bell to call the boat man!

Admission charge.

Garden and Estate open daily, all year; Castle open daily, all year, (except November - March).

Grid reference: NX755606

Tel: 0844 4932245

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

www.nts.org.uk



Itinerary 1 – The Rhinns of Galloway

This route explores the hilly, hammer-shaped peninsula at the end of the Solway coast, known as the Rhinns of Galloway. It follows the western shore of Luce Bay to the Mull of Galloway, the southernmost point of Scotland, and ends in the attractive seaside resort of Portpatrick.

Discover the secrets of an historic monastery, then head for the dramatic rocky cliffs of Scotland's "land's end" with its panoramic views and seabird colonies. See all kinds of marine life and a remarkable collection of exotic plants, before taking a cliff top path to explore a ruined castle.

Make sure you have enough fuel for your vehicle as the nearest filling station is in Stranraer.

Glenluce Abbey (1)

The village of Glenluce can be found 15 miles/24 km south-west of Newton Stewart on the main A75. The abbey is located to the north of the village. Turn right off the A75, following the brown tourist signs for Glenluce Local Services. Go through the village, turning right as you leave it, following the signs for New Luce and the Abbey; 1.5 miles/2.4 km up the road, the abbey is on your left.

Mull of Galloway (2)

You can return to the A75 on an alternative route by taking the first left after the abbey and following this twisty single track road back to the main road. Once back on the A75 it is a short distance before you need to turn left, following signs for Stranraer and Portpatrick.

Continue for 2 miles/3.2 km, then turn left again, following signs for Logan Botanic Garden & Drummore. You will come to a T-junction 3 miles/4.8 km later. Turn left here onto the A716 and follow the road for 10 miles/16 km down to Drummore.

Continue through Drummore High St, turning left at the T-junction, following the signs for Mull of Galloway (B7041). About a mile later the road forks, stay left and continue down this road for 3 miles/4.8 km, staying left again at the next fork, until you reach the car park.

Logan Fish Pond & Logan Botanic Garden (3)

Head back up the A7041, continuing straight ahead at the intersection, instead of turning right to Drummore. This is the B7065 which will take you to Port Logan. At the junction in the village turn right to head up to the north side of the bay. Turn left immediately following the beach-side car park and follow the track down to the Logan Fish Pond.

On leaving the fish pond, turn left and continue north along the B7065. After less than a mile, you will see the signs for Logan Botanic Garden. Turn left into the entrance and at the next intersection turn right. The garden is a few hundred metres further on your left.

If gardens are your passion, look out for information on "The Gardens of Galloway – Scotland's Garden Route". In addition to Logan, there are four other stunning gardens nearby.

Dunskey Castle (4)

From the garden, return to the B7065, turning left and heading north until you reach the junction with the A716. From here, take the left fork and head north for 4.5 miles/7.2 km to Sandhead, before turning left onto the B7042, signposted to Portpatrick.

Stay on this road for 6 miles/9.6 km, turning left when it meets the A77. Portpatrick is 2 miles/3.2 km down this road. Continue down to the village harbour, turning left at the intersection, following the signs for bus and car parking. Park in the large council car park here, then walk south along the coast where you will see the path that takes you to Dunskey Castle.

Itinerary 2 – Wigtown Bay and The Machars

This route follows the northern coastline of Wigtown Bay before heading south into the triangular peninsula of rolling farmland and open landscapes south of Newton Stewart known as The Machars. The word "Machars" comes from the Gaelic machair meaning 'plains' and is the name for the low-lying grasslands by the coast.

Start your day at an ancient monument with fine views and a very special atmosphere, before exploring one of the many waymarked trails and cycle routes in Kirroughtree Forest Park. Take an easy stroll around Scotland's National Book Town and watch wildlife on the UK's largest Local Nature Reserve. At Whithorn, discover the cradle of Christianity in Scotland before rounding off your day with a delightful coastal walk.

Cairn Holy Chambered Cairns (5)

From Gatehouse of Fleet in the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area, take the A75 west towards Newton Stewart. After 5.5 miles/8 km take the signposted right turn for 'Cairn Holy Chambered Cairn 1/2m'. Follow the road round to the left, then fork left uphill along a narrow single track lane to a small gravel parking area next to Cairnholly I; Cairnholly II is a further 150 metres up the track.

'Kirroughtree Visitor Centre (6)

Retrace your route back down the hill and rejoin the A75 towards Newton Stewart. After 1.5 miles/2.4 km you'll see Carsluith Castle, a ruined 16th century tower house, on your left. Entry to the castle is free and there's a smokehouse that includes a café and a shop. 3 miles/4.8 km further on you'll pass the turning for Creetown and the award-winning Gem Rock Museum. You can also reach Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve from here. After a further 3.5 miles/5.6 km, look out for the brown sign and right turn to Galloway Forest Park and Kirroughtree Visitor Centre.

Wigtown (7)

Return to the main road and continue along the A75. Cross the River Cree to a roundabout and take the first exit onto the A714 to Wigtown. To the right is the market town of Newton Stewart, famous for its salmon and trout fishing and a popular choice as a base for hikers and cyclists. After about 7 miles/11.2 km enter Wigtown and find a parking space in the market square by the County Buildings or in one of the town's wide streets. You'll find plenty of cafés, inns and hotels to have a spot of lunch.

Whithorn Priory (8)

15 miles/24 km south of Wigtown is Whithorn, a one-street town which occupies an important place in Scottish history, for it is thought that here in 397 St Ninian founded the first Christian church north of Hadrian's Wall. You can follow the direct route and stick to the A746 or, if time, it's worth detouring along the B7004 via Garlieston. It was here that the D-Day floating Mulberry Harbours were developed after a series of sea trials. From the harbour you can still see two wrecked "beetles" pontoons stranded on Eggerness rocks. From the car park of Galloway House gardens, there's a coastal path, popular with bird watchers, to the cliff top ruins of Cruggleton Castle.

Monreith (9)

Continue southwest on the A746 from Whithorn, turning right after a couple of miles at a crossroads onto the A747; Monreith village is a further 5 miles/8 km. It's possible to visit St Ninian's Cave on the way – a walk of about a mile from a well signposted car park near Physgill House. This was where the crosses were found that are now on view in Whithorn Museum, and you can still see small weathered crosses carved on the cave wall by pilgrims from the 8th and 9th centuries.

From Monreith return to the A75 at Newton Stewart along the B7085 and A714 back through Wigtown.

Itinerary 3 – Galloway Forest Park

This route begins in Kirkcudbright (pronounced 'kirr-koo-bree'), the county town of the Stewartry, enters the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area before taking you into the heart of the Galloway Forest Park – at three hundred square miles, Britain's largest forest park.

View the former home and beautiful garden of a Scottish painter, before exploring a more fortified ancient family seat. Take a leisurely drive through open moorland and time your arrival for a spectacular wildlife feeding frenzy. Enjoy the hidden delights of the Galloway Forest along an old drovers' road, then follow a short trail for views of red deer and wild goats.

Broughton House (10)

Located in the heart of Kirkcudbright, Broughton House is easy to find. From St Mary's St (A711), the main road through town, follow the signs at the corner of the Cathedral Park, down St Cuthbert St, which then veers left. Take the first right after this, down Union St, then right again; the house is on the left.

Cardoness Castle (11)

Leave Kirkcudbright on the A755, signposted to Gatehouse of Fleet. Follow this road for 6 miles/9.6 km, before turning left onto the A75. Continue for 2 miles/3.2 km then turn right for Gatehouse of Fleet. Cardoness Castle is a few hundred metres up on the left.

Galloway Kite Trail Feeding Station (12)

From Cardoness Castle continue into the town of Gatehouse of Fleet along the B796. From the war memorial at the far end of the main street turn left onto the Laurieston road. Follow this road up through the beautiful Fleet Valley National Scenic Area. After approx 2.5 miles/4 km stop off at the Knocktinkle View Point car park on your right and take in the stunning views across the valley and down to the sea. Continue on for another 6.5 miles/10.4 km until you reach Laurieston itself. At the junction drive straight across and you will find Bellymack Farm a short way down this road on your left.

Raiders Road & Clatteringshaws (13)

Return to the A762 and turn right. After 4 miles/6.4 km travelling north you will pass through the village of Mossdale. A mile further on you will see the signposted entrance to the Raiders Road Forest Drive on your left. Follow the 10 mile/16 km drive through the forest to the A712. At the junction turn right and follow the road alongside the dam wall and the loch for about a mile until you reach the Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre on your left.

Goat Park & Deer Range (14)

From the visitor centre return back along the A712 for 5 miles/8 km. As you come round a bend and over a bridge, there is parking on the right. Park here for the Goat Park and Deer Range.

Itinerary 4 – Southern Uplands

Today's route takes you through the remote hills and moorland of the Southern Uplands, with its wealth of history, heritage and wildlife.

Begin at an impressive waterfall before winding your way up to Scotland's highest village. Take a trip on a narrow gauge railway, try your hand at gold panning or experience the thrill of a real underground lead mine. Explore the interior of one of Scotland's finest stately homes and its vast estate, then be inspired by the creativity of one of the world's leading landscape artists.

Grey Mare's Tail (16)

The nature reserve can be found on the A708 between Moffat and Selkirk. From Moffat High St, take Holm St (A708) out of the village towards Selkirk. Follow this road for 10 miles/16 km. There is a car park and small information centre on your left. Park here to follow the path up to the waterfall.

Lead Mining Museum (17)

Return to Moffat. Once back in the town, turn left following the signs for the A701 (Dumfries) until you reach a roundabout 1 mile out of the town. Go straight on, under the motorway bridge and at the next roundabout take the third exit, signposted to Abington B7076. This road winds its way alongside the M74 for 13 miles/21 km before reaching a roundabout. Go straight through this and continue on for another few hundred metres before turning left, under the M74 and following signs for Elvanfoot (A702). Continue straight on at the roundabout for another half mile until you reach the "Leadhills B7040" sign.

Alternatively the motorway can be used for this route, getting on at junction 15 "Moffat", following signs for "The North" and coming off at junction 14 "Thornhill (A76)"; follow signs for Elvanfoot until you reach the "Leadhills B7040" sign.

Turn right, following signs for Leadhills B7040 and the Lead Mining Museum. Continue for about 5 miles/8 km until you reach a junction in Leadhills. Turn left onto the B797, continuing to follow the brown tourist signs for another 2 miles/3.2 km. Turn right at the bottom of the hill. The museum is on your right a little further down.

Drumlanrig Castle (18)

Leaving the museum car park turn left and return to the B797. At the junction turn right and drive south for 6.5 miles/10.4 km, until you join the A76. Turn left, heading south for another 6.5 miles/10.4 km. Turn right down a narrow road signposted for Drumlanrig Castle until you reach a junction. Turn right and follow this road for about a mile until you reach the castle.

Striding Arches (Cairnhead) (19)

Facing the front of the castle, follow the road to the left, through the beautiful estate grounds and around the castle. At the first junction turn right and follow this road for 1.5 miles/2.4 km. Then take the right fork and continue until the road meets the A702; turn right. Follow the A702 to Moniaive. Continue through the narrow street, over the bridge and into High St. Take the right turn at the clock tower on to North St. Here you will see Striding Arches signposted. Follow this road for 7 miles/11.2 km to the road end. From here take the pleasant and relatively flat one mile walk up to the Cairnhead byre. Look out for the steep track off to the right which takes you up to the byre as you get close to it.

If returning to the motorway, use the A702 which winds its way through some beautiful scenery and the dramatic Dalveen Pass.



Itinerary 5 – Nith Estuary and East Stewartry Coast

This coastal route, starting in Dumfries, the final resting place of Robert Burns, and ending at Castle Douglas, visits some impressive historical sites with great opportunities for wildlife-watching along the way.

Get up close to large numbers of waterbirds and enjoy great views across a vast stretch of merse and mudflats. Be impressed by a formidable medieval stronghold and visit one of the world's most threatened habitats. Find out how Sweetheart Abbey got its name, before taking a leisurely walk through ancient woodland and wildflower meadows.

WWT Wetland Centre (20) & Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve (21)

Leave Dumfries and head south on the B725 Glencaple Road. This route takes you through the Nith Estuary National Scenic Area. Take in the views over the reed beds out to the river and across the estuary to Criffel, the big hill on the other side. After 5 miles/8 km you will pass through the village of Glencaple. Continue on along the B725 for another 4.5 miles/7.2 km and then take the right turn signposted for Caerlaverock NNR/WWT Caerlaverock. Follow the road for 1.5 miles/2.4 km to the Wildfowl and Wetland Centre and Café. The National Nature Reserve can be accessed from here.

Caerlaverock Castle (21)

Return to the B725, turning left back the way you came. In less than a mile you'll see the signs for the castle on your left. There's a good path from the castle through the trees to the National Nature Reserve.

Kirkconnell Flow National Nature Reserve (22)

Return to Dumfries back along the B725. Once there, keep left at the mini roundabout by the petrol station, continuing on for another 200 metres. At the intersection with the traffic lights turn left onto the A756, following the signs for Stranraer (A75) and Solway Coast (A710). Continue until you reach a T-junction, and then turn left onto the A710, signposted to New Abbey and Solway Coast.

Follow this road for 3.5 miles/5.6 km. A few hundred metres after the sign for Mabie House Hotel turn left down a road with two white pillars; this is Kirkconnell Avenue. About half a mile further on turn left onto a track which leads to the reserve car park.

Sweetheart Abbey (23)

Return to the A710, turn left, and continue south for about 3 miles/4.8 km to New Abbey. Go through the village until you see the abbey to your left and turn in here for the car park.

Rockcliffe (24)

From New Abbey continue south on the A710 for 13 miles/21km which takes you along the edge of the Solway Firth before reaching Colvend. On the way, you enter the East Stewartry Coast National Scenic Area, known for its stunning coastal landscapes. You'll also pass the RSPB's Mersehead reserve, a great place to get up close to wildfowl and waders. On the other side of Colvend village, turn left following the signs for Rockcliffe and Beach.

After a 1.5 miles/2.4 km there is a large council car park on your left. There are a number of information boards here about the local area.

For further information on the area including where to stay and where to eat and drink visit www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk



Other visitor information

There are many other sites to discover in the area. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres, which are situated in:

Castle Douglas	(seasonal)	Tel: 01556 502611
Dumfries	(all year round)	Tel: 01387 253862
Gretna	(all year round)	Tel: 01461 337834
Gatehouse of Fleet	(seasonal)	Tel: 01557 814212
Kirkcudbright	(seasonal)	Tel: 01557 330494
Newton Stewart	(seasonal)	Tel: 01671 402431
Stranraer	(all year round)	Tel: 01776 702595

Many sites are accessible by public transport. For bus times please contact Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33 or go to www.travelinescotland.com. There are also a great number of cycle routes in the area. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres.

Know the Code before you go...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly!
Find out more at www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

National Nature Reserves are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural world. Located throughout Scotland, National Nature Reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage is the government agency looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes, across all of Scotland, for everyone. Find out more at www.snh.gov.uk



Scotland's
Protected Places

Explore and discover some of Scotland's natural and historic protected places.
www.scotlandspreservedplaces.gov.uk

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ISBN: 978 1 85397 901 9

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