Visit us in Lochranza at the Isle of Arran Distillery

Tours, Whisky Tasting and Shop

Enjoy our unique & relaxing Casks Cafe Bar

Summer Opening: Mar - Oct: 7 Days 10am - 5.30pm
Tour Times: 10.15, 11.45, 13.15, 14.45, 16.15

Winter Opening: Nov - Mar: Mon - Sat 11am - 4.00pm
Tour Times: 11.45, 14.30 (13.15 Sat only)

We’re easy to get to, simply take the No.324 bus from Brodick Ferry Terminal

www.arranwhisky.com

Contact us:
Distillery Visitor Centre
Lochranza, KA27 8HJ
for information & bookings
Tel: 01770 830264
visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com

Online shop: www.arranwhisky.com

Get into the festival spirit with us on the last weekend in June.

The Arran Malt Whisky & Music Festival
contents

5 welcome getting about
11 essential arran something for everyone, only got a day?, if you have longer..., out of season
18 what’s on
21 family fun get yer passport
22 outdoors walking, cycling, adventure, holy isle, lamlash bay
31 pamper time
32 golf
34 island map
36 arran’s natural heritage
38 arts on arran
42 retail therapy
46 where to eat
50 win... a Taste of Arran Hamper!
52 mainland getaways
54 where to stay
64 index
66 tourist information visitarran board, useful numbers

The information contained in this publication has been published in good faith on the basis of information submitted to VisitArran and every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. However, you are strongly advised to double check prices, dates etc before making final arrangements. All liability for loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on information contained in this publication is hereby excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Front cover image: Alex Ulivi
Photography credits: Photography: Alex Ulivi, Mike Boyes, Arran Adventure, Campbell Seaton
Design by: www.r-evolution.co.uk

www.visitarran.com
welcome

...to the 6th edition of the VisitArran magazine. You are in possession of the definitive visitor guide to our lovely island!

VisitArran brings together Arran businesses from all sectors, working hard to provide visitors with a quality experience.

This magazine is just the start of your journey! No matter how long your visit, we hope the information contained within will assist you in planning and improving your stay to the beautiful and accessible Isle of Arran – and that you will pay a return visit.

2014 is a special year for Arran and Scotland as a whole. It is the Year of Homecoming, Glasgow 2014 and the Ryder Cup. Arran is ready to welcome the world this year - and we're ready to welcome you!

Enjoy your island time in no time.

Kenneth Bone
Chairman, VisitArran

ARRAN TIME
your time
getting about

how to get here

Easy peasy! If you live to the East or South of Arran, there are regular ferries from Ardrossan with Caledonian Macbrayne – www.calmac.co.uk. Ardrossan is ideally situated only a short drive from both Glasgow International and Prestwick Airport, and it’s always advisable to book if you’re bringing your car. The crossing only takes 55 mins. If you don’t have a car, there’s a direct rail link from Glasgow Central Station to Ardrossan Harbour – and the journey takes about 45-50 mins, so all in all your travel time from Glasgow is less than 2 hrs!

If you’re travelling from North or West, then perhaps the Lochranza – Claonaig ferry is for you. This link connects Arran directly with Argyll, is also run by CalMac, and takes only 30mins. Watch out for dolphins en route!

Arran is one of Scotland’s most accessible islands and the largest on the Firth of Clyde. You can sail with Caledonian MacBrayne to Brodick from Ardrossan on the Ayrshire coast, or to Lochranza from Claonaig on the Kintyre Peninsula. Ardrossan is ideally situated only a short drive from both Glasgow International and Prestwick Airport.
by car
The UK’s network of motorways, and other major roads means that Ardrossan Harbour can easily be reached by car. The M6/M74 (from London to Glasgow) & M77/A77 (from Glasgow to Ardrossan).

Typical journey times by car to Ardrossan Harbour from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Journey Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>about 7.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>about 5.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>about 4.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>about 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>less than 2 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

by train
The UK has an excellent railway network including both an east coast and west coast main line rail service running from London to Edinburgh and Glasgow. There is a direct train service from Glasgow Central to Ardrossan Harbour. For more info contact www.scotrail.co.uk

During summer months an open top bus often travels between Brodick Castle and Whiting Bay – and this is a fun way to see this part of Arran with spectacular views to Holy Isle!

by air
Regular train services are available from both airports. From Glasgow International (GLA) Airport there is a shuttle bus to Paisley Gilmour Street train station, alternatively taxis are relatively inexpensive and readily available. Glasgow Prestwick (PIK) Airport has its own rail station with services via Kilwinning to Ardrossan Harbour.

once you’re here…
If you don’t have transport, once you’re here you might want to use the local buses to get around – mostly these coincide with the ferry times from Brodick, so it’s best to get a timetable when you arrive. During summer months an open top bus often travels between Brodick Castle and Whiting Bay – and this is a fun way to see this part of Arran with spectacular views to Holy Isle!

Car hire can offer more freedom, and there are also guided tours available. Another option is to take a taxi. Again, these are generally accessed at Brodick Pier when the boat arrives – but you can pre-book them to collect and drop you off anywhere on the island.

Check you accommodation providers too – many of them can offer transport to and from Brodick Pier.
Go Explore the Isle of Arran...

Packed with history, culture, outdoor adventure, wildlife and stunning scenery, this beautiful island is just waiting to be discovered and 'award-winning' Caledonian MacBrayne will take you there.

We offer a fantastic range of ticket options including Days Out tours and Island Hopping tickets, which allow you to visit more than one island in one trip.

For bookings, information and inspiration visit www.calmac.co.uk
Call 0800 066 5000
Email enquiries@calmac.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on our network, offers and inspiration to help plan your next journey.

www.calmac.co.uk

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Stagecoach West Scotland
Explore the Isle of Arran on our buses!
Local buses all year round and an open top tour in the summer.
Stagecoach buses serve all the main points on the island. Pick up a timetable or check the website for details of fares and dates of operation.

Scan this code with your smartphone for the full Arran timetable.

www.stagecoachbus.com 01770 302000

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ARRAN RENT-A-CAR
BAY GARAGE
Taxi Service
8 Seater Mini Buses
Weddings, Parties
Stag & Hen Party Transport
Private Island/Wildlife Tours
Car Hire from any part of the island*

Mobile: 07967587481
Email: glammie1960@gmail.com

*charge may be incurred

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Corrie Cabs
private hire

Personal Guided Tours (full or half day) we can tailor-make your tour with visits & stops that suits you
Weddings, Outings & Social Events
Ferry to Accommodation Transfers

corriecabs@live.co.uk
07517 356 985

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Caledonian MacBrayne and CalMac are trading names of CalMac Ferries Limited

www.calmac.co.uk
The community spirit that you’ll experience on Arran is second to none (and we’re not just talking whisky here!).
So what makes Arran (or the Isle of Arran: Eilean Arainn) so special? It could be the stunning scenery, the amazing wildlife, the world class produce – or it could just be the character of the island and its people.

This beautiful island covers an area of only 432 square kilometres (or 167 square miles), and has a resident population of 4,630. Yet with the Highland fault line running right through the island, dividing the mountainous Northend from the lush pastures of the Southend, the islanders rightfully consider Arran to be different, and embrace the tag of Scotland in Miniature.

The community spirit that you’ll experience on Arran is second to none (and we’re not just talking whisky here!). The island and its people are renowned for their character, teamwork and hospitality. This couldn’t have been more evident following the snow storm and power cuts of March 2013. Despite some homes not having power for a week, communities rallied round to ensure those most isolated got hot food and soup - whilst volunteer emergency services braved the elements to deliver essential items to those who were snowbound. To show appreciation, the island thanked the engineers who came to Arran and endured 15 foot snow drifts to restore power by sending them each a hamper of Arran produce. You can experience that same community spirit at many island events - or just by chatting in a shop, or attending a ceilidh in a village hall.

There’s also loads for you to do – for the young, and the young at heart! Relax on a beach, or with a spa treatment, explore castles, career around a playbarn, stroll along a woodland path or up a glen, enjoy unique shopping experiences, horseride, golf, geocache or just sit back and partake our infamous local food and drink - Arran really does have something for everyone! The scenery on Arran is a photographer’s paradise – and amongst all the flora and fauna, if you’re lucky you may spot a few of Scotland’s Big Five - red deer, golden eagles, common seals, otters and the cutest little red squirrels - they all thrive on and around Arran.

FACT:
ARRAN IS SCOTLAND’S SEVENTH LARGEST ISLAND
If adventure is your thing – then enjoy exciting opportunities to see and enjoy Arran’s natural outdoor beauty, either on your own or accompanied by an expert in the field.
If adventure is your thing – then enjoy exciting opportunities to see and enjoy Arran’s natural outdoor beauty, either on your own or accompanied by an expert in the field. Arran is great for walkers, cyclists and all round adventure-seekers! Check out our Outdoor page 22.

Whether you’re a scratch golfer or a family player, if golf tickles your fancy, you’ll be in seventh heaven with our choice of seven (yes, seven!) golf courses, all offering a very different golf experience and challenge. There’s even a driving range. Check out our Golf pages for more information on the courses, page 32.

We all know children love the great outdoors, and Arran offers young people the freedom to explore and challenge themselves. And if, after that they just want to chill, there’s teen zones, indoor swimming pools and even a playbarn for the younger members of the family! Check out our Families page for more details, page 21.

Arran is almost as famous for its produce as its scenery. As well as locally produced (and world renowned) toiletries, handmade jewellery and artworks are available in most villages. World class locally produced delicacies include cheese, mustard, ice cream, bakery goods, chocolates, Arran Ale and of course Arran Whisky. Most local restaurants and pubs concoct mouth-watering dishes using local ingredients too! Check out our Where to Eat section, page 46 and Retail Therapy on page 42 for more details.

The question is not so much - Why would you go to Arran? It’s - why wouldn’t you go to Arran? To ensure your quality experience, don’t forget to look out for the VisitArran 2014 logos on all our partner businesses!
Only got a day?
If you can only spend a day on Arran – what should you do? Well, you could try one or two of these ideas...

- Head off on a Mogabout adventure
- Enjoy a ‘round island ‘ guided tour, either in a group or privately
- Visit Brodick Castle & Gardens and also take in the wonderful Arran Heritage Museum
- Climb Goatfell and enjoy a relaxing pint afterwards, as you revel in your achievement
- Visit the Distillery, and enjoy some eagle and deer spotting while you’re at it!

There’s so much to see and do – you could be here for weeks and still never do it all.

- Travel across the island and meander along to King’s Caves
- Head for the Giants’ Graves and come back via the spectacular Glenashdale Falls
- Enjoy a round of golf and a hearty meal at one of our fabulous eateries
- Chill and relax on one of the beaches with a picnic of award winning cheese, oatcakes and chocolate – all made on Arran
- Enjoy a unique shopping experience by visiting some of Arran’s many independent retailers
- Take the family horse-riding and then wind down with a coffee as the kids go wild in the playbarn!

Whatever you choose to do, there’s always more and more that you will discover you could be doing - in fact there’s so much to do in a day, that you’ll want to come back and spend longer.
Take the family horse riding and then wind down with a coffee as the kids go wild in the playbarn!
If you have longer...

• How about a self-led island produce tour – and take the week to do it – visit the Creamery to see Arran Dunlop being made; enjoy a Distillery tour; visit the Home Farm to experience Arran Aromatics and Island Cheese being processed; peer in through the Arran Chocolate Shop’s interior window to see the chocolates being handmade onsite; take a trip to Wooleys and enjoy lots of yummy bakery goodies. And each day seek out lovely island restaurants and cafés to enjoy fabulous home baking and cooking using the finest of Arran ingredients!

• Why not enjoy Arran’s Golf pass – a great deal involving all the island course and the driving range – check out the Arran golf website for more information and you can enjoy golfing overseas at a fraction of the cost! www.golfonarran.com

• If adventure is your thing – check out our outdoor pages. Perhaps you enjoy mountain biking, or fancy a wildlife tour, a hike up the three beinns, climbing North Goatfell, an exciting RIB experience, galloping a horse along the beach – we could go on and on and on…..!!

• What about a cultural tour – Kings Caves, Machrie Standing Stones, Giant’s Graves, Lochranza Castle, Brodick Castle, Arran Heritage Museum – all just ripe for you to explore! Arran is steeped in history and from ancient cave drawings and cup & ring markings to Victorian Cottages and the Hamilton dynasty – it’s all here!

There’s so much to see and do – you could be here for weeks and still never do it all.

Out of Season

Don’t be afraid to visit Arran out of the busier summer months. Many of our activities and attractions remain open throughout the winter and the island’s beauty at these quieter times is without comparison.

Arran is a natural gem that has something to offer in all seasons. If you choose to come at the quieter times, such as April, you will see the island starting to bloom as the green leaves and buds spring forth after the hard frosts of the winter. The same can be said of the autumn where the yellow, orange and gold of the hills is absolutely stunning – and you might also get to hear the deer rut.

please remember...

Whether cycling, walking, horse-riding or driving – Arran’s roads are best described as “unique”. We have changeable road surfaces, unexpected livestock on every bend, and of course breathtaking scenery that can act as a great distraction. Check out the information boards at Ardrossan Harbour, Brodick Pier and other sites around the island. By respecting your fellow road users at all times we can all share Arran’s roads safely.
Discover the Treasures of Brodick Castle & Country Park

Dramatically positioned on the Isle of Arran, Brodick Castle boasts an impressive range of ornate furnished rooms and a beautiful walled garden. Enjoy local food in the castle tearoom based in the servants’ hall, or relax on the terrace overlooking Brodick Bay. Plus explore the extensive country park with woodland trails, waterfalls and wildlife galore!

www.nts.org.uk
Tel: 0844 4932152

The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410
what’s on

There’s always something going on during your stay on Arran. Some of these events are big annual attractions – and some are much smaller, but equally worth a wee check out.

We do try and keep our website events listings up to date, but it can be difficult and events can slip through the net, so always check local paper The Arran Banner’s What’s On pages to confirm details and times.

Some of the key 2014 events are listed here but it’s also worth checking local shops for posters and information about ceilidhs, sales of work and other activities. Arran has an amazing fund-raising culture – for example, most of the village halls are run entirely by the communities – so don’t be surprised when you turn up to a coffee morning and find that you feel you want to spend more on raffle tickets. That is the Arran Effect.

Our friends at Arran Events may be selling tickets for some events and their website is also well worth a look www.arranevents.com

Arran One Act Drama Festival
LOCATION: Arran Community Theatre
DATE: 20th-21st Feb

Arran Music Festival
LOCATION: Arran Community Theatre
DATE: 26th-28th March

Ormidale 10K
DATE: 27th April

Arran Mountain Festival
DATE: 16th-19th May
CONTACT: www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk

Goatfell Hill Race
DATE: 17th May
CONTACT: www.arranrunners.weebly.com

Arran Folk Festival
DATE: 5th-8th June
CONTACT: www.arranevents.com

Glen Rosa Horseshoe Race
DATE: 14th June
CONTACT: www.arranrunners.weebly.com

Arran Malt and Music Festival
DATE: 27-29th June
CONTACT: www.arranwhisky.com

Shiskine Valley Half Marathon
DATE: 6th July
CONTACT: www.arranrunners.weebly.com

Blackwaterfoot Beer Festival
DATE: 19th July from midday
CONTACT: www.bw-kinlochhotel.co.uk

Arran Farmers’ Show
DATE: 6th August
CONTACT: christine@shannochiearran.com

Brodick Highland Games
DATE: 9th August
CONTACT: mumandbutton@hotmail.com

McLellan Festival
DATE: 15th Aug - 10th Sept
CONTACT: www.arranart.com/atat/maf.html

Arran Open Studios
DATE: August 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th
CONTACT: ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com

Santa’s Sparkle
DATE: 29/30th November
CONTACT: enquiries@glenislehotel.com

There’s always something going on during your stay on Arran. Some
FACT:
Arran has no grey squirrels, only beautiful little red ones.
family fun

Whether you’re 8 or 80, our whole lovely island is like one large adventure playground.

With a wide variety of activities accessible to all ages, every member of the family will find something to suit their needs.

For the little ones and the young at heart there’s putting and crazy golf on Brodick sea front, the adventure playgrounds at Brodick Castle or Café Thyme at Machrie, and the fabulous new Playbarn at Auchrannie. Or maybe try a game of golf, tennis, squash, snooker or a spot of pony trekking along Blackwaterfoot beach. With indoor leisure facilities at both the Kinloch and the Auchrannie you won’t be stuck if the weather’s wet either.

where to have fun...

Arran Heritage Museum  T: 01770 302636
Lots to see and do for both old and young. Visit the Victorian Cottage or check out the old schoolroom and clamber over the old tractor!

Auchrannie Leisure  T: 01770 302234
This all-weather resort offers swimming and a huge games hall. Book your indoor tennis court or even have a go at badminton!

Bilslands  T: 01770 302272
The Mini Golf at Bilslands is always popular with families. Have your own competition!

Brodick Castle  T: 0844 493 2152
The castle and gardens are just the start. Visit the Ranger centre, go on a guided walk and don’t forget the adventure playground!

Café Thyme  T: 01770 840227
Visit Café Thyme at the Old Byre Showroom and you can enjoy teas, coffees, homebaking, delicious lunches, homemade bread and pides (Turkish style pizzas baked in a wood burning stove).

Cairnhouse Stables  T: 01770 860466
Ever fancied riding along a glorious sandy beach - now’s your chance! Horses available to suit varying sizes.

Kinloch Leisure  T: 01770 860444
Weather dodgy? Then make the journey to Blackwaterfoot and visit this indoor swimming pool with sauna and squash courts too.

Shiskine Golf & Tennis  T: 01770 860226
All weather tennis courts, putting green, bowling and golf - all in one place!

The Playbarn  T: 01770 302234
Based at Auchrannie, the Playbarn is a fabulous indoor (and outdoor) facility for children of all ages!

get yer passport!

The VisitArran Arran Passport is a fun way to entertain the children and for the whole family to explore and learn a little bit about the island. The passport will take you all around Arran as you search for your sights and then get the visa stamped. Arran Passports are available from Arran Graphics at Brodick Pier, as well as many VisitArran businesses for a nominal fee – explore and enjoy – and then take home your very own souvenir.
outdoors

Famous for its wonderful landscapes, nowhere else offers walking quite like Arran.

walking

Whether you’re an experienced hillwalker, using walking for exercise or just want to get outside – then Arran has the walks for you! From shore to mountain-top, our lovely island is a joy for walkers of all abilities, with plenty opportunity to explore villages and paths on foot. Whilst in some places the walking may be very gentle – by choice, it can become refreshingly rugged and challenging.

Hillwalking - The north of the island offers a wide selection of peaks and ridge walks of varying difficulty. Ironically, Goatfell, the highest peak at 874m, is also one of the easiest climbs if approached from Cladach. A great way to stay fit, enjoy nature, get some great photos from the summit and work up an appetite. And best of all, it’s free.

The Arran Coastal Way can be very challenging in parts and is perhaps Scotland’s finest circular long-distance trail, running 65 miles (105 km) around the island, the official Coastal Way guidebook contains all you need to plan and enjoy your trip, including a foreword by wilderness walker Cameron McNeish – available to buy - www.rucsacs.com/books/Arran-Coastal-Way or download an e guide www.walkguides.co.uk

For more information on short strolls to more challenging hillwalks go to: www.walkhighlands.co.uk/arran
be safe

Please remember that sensible walking shoes or boots and appropriate clothing should be worn/taken for all walks. A compass, Ordnance Survey map, whistle and mobile phone (which may not work in all areas) are recommended and essential for more adventurous outings.

Arran Mountain Festival 16-19th May 2014 - see www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk for details

who to walk with...

Arran Adventure Company
T: 01770 302234

Arran Outdoor Education Centre
T: 01770 600532

Lucy Wallace, Wild Walks on Arran
T: 07825 644161

NTS Ranger Service at Brodick Castle
T: 0844 493 2152
cycling

Cycling on Arran is fast becoming a top visitor activity – everyone can remember the carefree joy of cycling as a child. However, Arran’s roads are unique with narrow winding roads, challenging hills, changeable road surfaces and steep descents – not to mention sheep and deer - it’s a different road cycling experience! As such we recommend off-road cycling whenever possible.

There’s a 10K route around Brodick Castle grounds that the Arran Bike Club have on their website. The local bike club enjoy sharing their experiences and are happy if visitors wish to join them for a ride – check out Arran Bike Club’s Facebook page for details www.facebook.com/groups/arranbikeclub

Cycle hire is available in Brodick and Lochranza but do bear in mind that children under 10 years old may find most of Arran’s trails and roads quite hard. Some suggestions might be the short 4 mile loop around Blackwaterfoot and Shiskine or extend that to a 13 mile loop further inland and back across Machrie moor to Machrie golf club and back to Blackwaterfoot.

Some suggested off road routes might include parking at North Sannox picnic site and riding on past the Fallen Rocks (lovely, flat and manageable). Or perhaps the undulating rough track up Glen Rosa, just turn around when it gets too rough. There’s a nice forest road going east to ‘Dunfion’ - from the top of the hill between Brodick and Lamlash - quite undulating but amazing views. All routes provided courtesy of www.arranbikeclub.com

You can find routes from easy to extreme so there really is something for everyone.
Arran Outdoor Education Centre

Our Centre delivers an exciting range of activities. The extensive programme of courses with all-inclusive accommodation, if required, can cater for all skill levels and abilities.

The Centre is approved by the Royal Yachting Association, the Scottish Canoe Association and it is affiliated to the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, it is also inspected by the Adventure Activities Licensing Service.

Arran Outdoor Education Centre
Lamlash, Isle Of Arran KA27 8PL
For all enquiries and bookings phone
(01770) 600532
www.arranoutdoor.com

The Shorehouse Ltd, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ
01770 302377 or 07717 845755

THE SHOREHOUSE
www.theshorehouse.co.uk

Self Catering Holiday Apartments on the Brodick Shorefront

Features Include:
- Shorefront location. Most apartments with sea views.
- Self Catering Short Breaks.
- Large sea front gardens for the use of guests.
- Free Wi-Fi and FreeView.
- VisitScotland accredited for Walker and Cyclist.
- Discounted Bike Hire.
- Walking Packages arranged.

The Shorehouse stands in the heart of Brodick, looking across the bay to Goatfell and North to the Islands of Bute and the Cumbraes. The Shorehouse is an ideal base for self catering short breaks for Families, Couples, Walkers and Cyclists. We are VisitScotland accredited for Walkers and Cyclists.

Our one and two bedroom holiday apartments are fully equipped for self catering and provide extra convenience and flexibility at an affordable price. We have a large garden area to the front of the building for the use of our guests.
Arran is an adventure island – you could try abseiling, sea kayaking, paragliding, mountain biking or gorge walking with one of our activity providers. You can also traverse the island’s varied terrain on Mogabout, the ultimate 16 seater 4 x 4 that can provide safe, stress free access into the most remote mountainous and woodland areas of Arran. Perhaps you’d rather gallop a horse along a sandy beach with the sea spray in your face, or take an adrenalin fuelled power boat trip skippered by Ocean Breeze, not only will it thrill the senses but will allow you to see the island from one of its best perspectives, the sea.

And for something perhaps a little calmer, you might consider a guided wildlife walk...
the adventure providers...

Arran Adventure
T: 01770 302234

Arran Bike Hire
T: 01770 302377/07717 845755

Arran Outdoor Education Centre
T: 01770 600532

Cairnhouse Riding Centre
T: 01770 860 466

Mogabout
T: 07799 555287

Ocean Breeze Rib Tours
T: 01770 820275

Wild Walks on Arran
T: 01770 601339/07825 644161
holy isle

Located off the picturesque Lamlash Bay, Holy Isle has an ancient spiritual heritage stretching back to the 6th century. Visitors are welcome all year round.

The founder and vision holder of the Holy Isle Project is Lama Yeshe Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation master in the Kagyu tradition. Lama Yeshe is also Abbot of Samye Ling Monastery in Dumfriesshire, where he lives most of the year.

At the north of the island there is the Centre for World Peace where an ongoing retreat and course programme takes place during the season, which lasts from March till October. They also welcome guests to stay at the Centre for personal retreats or holiday breaks. A closed Buddhist retreat takes place at the south of the island.

Holy Isle has a long spiritual history, stretching back to the 6th Century.
As well as staying at the Centre, you are invited to visit Holy Isle for the day. The island is divided into several areas, some of which are reserved for birds and animals, others for our native tree planting programme. They request visitors to stay on the paths and not to take animals onto the island.

Holy Isle has a long spiritual history, stretching back to the 6th century. It is endowed with an ancient healing spring, the hermit-cave of a 6th Century monk, St Molaise, and evidence of a 13th Century Christian Monastery.

In 1990, Lama Yeshe was approached by Mrs Kay Morris, who owned Holy Isle together with her husband. After acquiring the island, there was much work to be done. The buildings both at the north and the south end had been uninhabited for years and were in a semi-derelict state. It took many years of hard work by dedicated volunteers to make the facilities what they are now.

At present, there are three types of large mammals living on Holy Isle: the Eriskay ponies, Soay sheep and Saanen goats, and a rich variety of wildlife.

The island can be explored on foot.
Lamlash Bay Community Marine Reserve

Established in 2008 by local volunteers at the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) the area between the north of Holy Isle and Arran is Scotland’s first and only No Take Zone and an important component of the proposed South Arran marine protected area. To get there a ten minute bus ride from Brodick and a scenic walk along Shore Road will take you to a picnic spot overlooking the reserve and Holy Isle. Alternatively you can explore the bay by boat ride from Lamlash Pier.

The coastal waters of Arran and Lamlash Bay are home to an astonishing but threatened range of creatures and plants. Along the shores of Lamlash Bay these include inquisitive harbour seals which can be seen hauled out on the rocks, playful otters, truculent oystercatchers, elegant heron, shag colonies and curlews all shifting and adjusting to the constant rhythm of the tides. Amongst the rocks slippery seaweeds tangle with sea snails, limpets, shore crabs and sea anemones which look and feel like sticky sweets.

In the rock pools you will find nearly see-through prawns and scuttling hermit crabs. Get really close to barnacles in pools and you will glimpse tiny feathery hand-like cirri clasping for suspended food particles. Peak under a boulder and you might find a butterfish with its black-spotted dorsal fin. To protect these creatures the No Take Zone means it is not permitted to remove any of these creatures or plants from the designated area.

The coastal waters of Arran and Lamlash Bay are home to an astonishing but threatened range of creatures and plants.

Under the curving waves, a yet more varied diversity of life exists. In the marine reserve this includes maerl, a pink slow growing coralline seaweed, as hard and brittle as rock. This is easily damaged by bottom trawling and dredging and one of the reasons the area is protected. The maerl provides complex habitat and nursery grounds for juvenile fish such as cod.

Kaleidoscopically beautiful star fish, brittle stars and sun stars search for nourishment and prey on the sea bed and kelp forests sway in the attenuated light. Brightly coloured male cuckoo wrasse defends submarine territories and big-headed octopuses explore crevices for squat lobsters. In the reserve, delicate shredded-carrot sponges and king scallops are making slow recovery, hinting at the rich potential of our waters.

See www.arrancoast.com for more information about COAST and how you can support the designation of the South Arran marine protected area in 2014.
pamper time

Everyone deserves a wee treat.

Why not just sit back, switch off and let the island deliver its magic relaxing charm? From the minute you set foot on the ferry, you can take a deep breath and know you’re on island time. To help you along the way, why not consider pampering yourself by perhaps having a massage, getting your hair done, or enjoying a manicure.

You could really spoil yourself and enjoy a whole day of treats, with lunch (and even a wee glass of bubbly) at the newly opened Aspa at Auchrannie. This facility has amazing treatment rooms just waiting on you to chill out. Enjoy relaxing hot stone massages, reiki, reflexology and many other fabulous treatments available all over Arran.

If you’re going out for the night, why not treat yourself to a makeover. Beauty therapists can offer facials and Indian head massages. Perhaps you’d rather indulge yourself by enjoying a soothing manicure, and arm massage.

There are also plenty of hairdressers available to suit ladies, gents and children. So if you’ve got a nice evening planned, why not ensure you look the part by visiting one of the island’s hair salons. It always helps you to feel good inside when you treat yourself on the outside... and we think you’re worth it! Pre-booking is always advisable for any beauty or hair treatments.
golf

Arran is a golfer’s paradise, but don’t think these courses are all for novice players - they can offer a challenging game to any low handicapper.

With stunning scenery on every fairway – you can be driving a tee shot towards Goatfell, playing down towards Holy Isle, or putting out overlooking Kintyre and Drumadoon Point – the Arran golf experience is one that every golfer can enjoy.

There are seven golf courses on Arran to enjoy – as well as a golf driving range. Most courses are accessible daily throughout the year, and although booking isn’t essential it is advisable, especially in the summer months, to ensure you get to make the most of your holiday golf. Club and trolley hire is also available, and some of the clubs have buggies for the less able-bodied – again, best to book beforehand to avoid disappointment.

There are three 18 hole courses in Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay, three nine-hole courses in Corrie, Machrie and Lochranza and one unique 12-hole course in Shiskine. Most of the courses have good facilities, and nearly all provide excellent catering either on-site or nearby. Some courses allow dogs and children may be able to enter free when accompanied by a playing adult.

The golf driving range is fully automated. There are 7 indoor and 4 outdoor bays with distance markers, greens and chipping nets. Clubs for the driving range are provided free of charge.

Golf passes to enable play at all the courses at a discounted rate are available through www.golfonarran.com
Golf Courses:
- Brodick: T: 01770 302349
- Corrie: T: 01770 810223
- Lamlash: T: 01770 600196
- Lochranza: T: 01770 830273
- Machrie Bay Golf: T: 01770 840329
- Shiskine Golf: T: 01770 860226
- Whiting Bay Golf: T: 01770 700487
the island

at a glance

Approx driving times between villages clockwise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brodick - Lamlash</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamlash - Whiting Bay</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiting Bay - Kildonan</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildonan - Kilmory</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilmory - Blackwaterfoot</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwaterfoot - Machrie</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machrie - Pirnmill</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pirnmill - Lochranza</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counterclockwise from Brodick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brodick - Corrie</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrie - Sannox</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sannox - Lochranza</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

West-East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackwaterfoot - Brodick</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(via B880 String Road)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From further afield

![Map of Isle of Arran with travel times](image_url)

key

- ROADS
- TRACKS & TRAILS
- MOUNTAIN PATHS
- RIVERS
- GOLF COURSES
- CASTLES
- SUGGESTED WALKS
- WILDLIFE
- FORESTS
- PUBLIC TOILETS
arran’s natural heritage

Arran’s history dates back as far as the Stone Age, perhaps as far as 7000BC, and evidence of this can still be seen around the island.

Machrie Moor has six stone circles and some of the stones are over 5 meters high – how on earth did they get them there? There’s also cup and stone markings and other interesting sites to be visited at Auchengallon, Machrie and the Giants’ Graves above Whiting Bay.

In the past, Arran would have had Gaelic speaking inhabitants, and be ruled by Ireland as part of the kingdom of Dalriada. Nowadays there are no native Arran Gaelic speakers – but many of the island children learn Gaelic at nursery and school – and you will still see many signs in Gaelic about the island. In the 6th century, Christianity arrived on Arran with the founding of a monastery by St Brendan at Kilpatrick.

As the years passed, Arran fell into the hands of Viking invaders, the Celts, the English, and the Stewart and MacDonald Clans. Like so much of Scotland, there is a rich heritage of feuds, battles and complex politics to be found on Arran. Arran was also the seat of the Dukes of Hamilton, most of whom used Brodick Castle for sporting and hunting purposes until the National Trust for Scotland acquired it in 1958.

Arran has always had a small population, but the imposed evictions of the Highland Clearances in the 1800s meant that many islanders had to set sail to North America in search of a better life. You can see the monument to the families that were relocated in Lamlash, in front of Hamilton Terrace, and the grassy mound on the green opposite marks the site of the last sermon before the first 89 islanders set sail for Megantic County on the brig Caledonia.

The introduction of regular ferry sailings meant that Arran gradually began to build a reputation as a holiday destination by the early 20th century. The Heritage Museum at Rosaburn, Brodick offers an amazing insight into all of Arran’s fascinating history and is not to be missed – you can partake of a yummy cream tea whilst you’re at it!

|Mystical Glen|
The Arran Trust is the island’s visitor gifting scheme, and funds projects that look after the beautiful landscapes and environment of Arran. With your help, the Arran Trust can work alongside businesses and community groups to improve sustainable practices, and help to safeguard the future of this beautiful island.

A large number of island businesses from all sectors – accommodation, produce, taxis, restaurants, attractions, shops – all support the Arran Trust, each one wanting to do their bit to protect and conserve the island they love. Of course, this doesn’t mean nothing can change; what it does mean is that any changes are for the better, and are led by dedicated island-based groups, who know and understand the areas of concern! For example, funding towards footpaths ensures improved access for walkers, and car parks at scenic viewpoints enable visitors (and locals) to enjoy the view without endangering other road users. It’s a win/win, don’t you think?

The Arran Trust represents businesses committed to looking after the environment – and each business can do this in their own way. Check out if your accommodation provider supports Arran Trust, see local shops for collecting cans, or menus with Arran Trust options. If you would like to donate to the Arran Trust we have a Just Giving page so it couldn’t be simpler – check out the Donate Now page on our website www.arrantrust.org You’ll find information there about all the projects we have supported too.
The beauty of Arran inspires artists from all sectors whether it be visual, music or drama orientated - we are an arty farty island!

When on Arran have a good look for local artisan products and displays – and why not check out some of the live performances on our website www.visitarran.com/whats-on

visual arts

Arran is renowned for its vibrant artistic culture. For generations now craftspeople and artists have been working away, inspired by the island and its people, to produce outstanding creative delights for you to enjoy. Barbara Young at Studio4 makes beautiful handmade jewellery, as does Ailsa McNicol at The Rockpool, Corrie, where you can also see lovely coloured glass from MJM Mirrors. Turned wooden bowls and furniture, pottery, fine porcelain, silk painting, sculptures, and quite literally works of art in every medium conceivable – oil, acrylic, pastel, watercolour, mixed media and of course photography – can all be found on Arran. If you fancy a photography workshop – contact Arran in Focus to arrange.

Most craftspeople now display their works locally – either in Arran Art Gallery, or in village gift shops, tearooms and local hotels.

As well as the local gallery in Whiting Bay - Corrie, Lochranza and Kilmory Halls all host exhibitions. The annual Art Display at Brodick Castle in November is amazing and Arran Open Studios in August allows you to meet and greet the artists, see their works, chat about technique and for those that fancy themselves as a budding artist, there may be classes available too – well worth asking about if you get to meet the artists.

Just some of the Artists….

Ailsa McNicol Jewellery – The Rock Pool, Corrie
Angela Elliott-Walker – Brodick
Arran Art Gallery, Whiting Bay
Barbara Young Jewellery – Studio 4, Lamlash
MJM Mirrors – The Rock Pool, Corrie
Pomeroy Arts – Whiterock, Lamlash

drama and music

There are always loads of musical activities going on all over the island – from folk performances in pubs to classical music concerts in the community theatre. Arran has many local performers who can sing and play with the best of them – everything from hard rock to soulful ballads.

Whilst young people might enjoy dancing to live music in the local halls, families can enjoy ceilidhs where you can learn to Strip the Willow or Dash the White Sergeant with live pipes and fiddles. There are also various one-off music events that attract quality bands to play gigs on-island.

Each year the Arran Music Festival takes place at the end of March. This offers opportunity to see and hear talent (both young and old!) competing for some beautiful trophies. The Arran Folk Festival is run in June – and if folk music is your thing this is well worth a visit to the island with lots of acclaimed talent and events dotted around different venues.

Drama on Arran is also very popular. There are many local clubs and most of them participate in the Arran Drama Festival, held the last weekend in February each year, where clubs perform one-act plays to packed audiences in the Arran Community Theatre. Plays from local clubs are also performed in village halls – check the Arran Banner for details.

The McLellan Festival in September celebrates the life and works of Robert McLellan, the renowned Scottish playwright who lived at High Corrie. This festival covers many dramatic aspects – verse, prose and music – and is extremely popular.

Check out for dates of all the main festivals on our website or at www.arranevents.com
Arran has many local performers who can sing and play with the best of them – everything from hard rock to soulful ballads.
FACT:
RED DEER ARE ABUNDANT ON ARRAN AND WE GET THE OCCASIONAL WHITE DEER TOO
retail therapy

Shopping on Arran is a unique experience. You won’t find any high street chains or shopping centres – but you will find some acclaimed international businesses.

Arran Aromatics whose toiletries and candles are sold in over 40 countries and in some of the finest hotels in the UK and worldwide, are based at Duchess Court. A factory tour to see how their products are made and a visit to their flagship shop is a retail experience not to be missed. The Isle of Arran Distillery, the birth-place of the award-winning Arran Single Malt whisky is one of the few remaining independent distilleries in Scotland. Based at Lochranza with access to the purest water supply in Scotland their products are like Arran, unique, with no peat or caramel used in the production they are rightly described as ‘the true spirit of nature’. Following a tour you can enjoy a dram in the delightful tasting bar before browsing in the well-stocked shop.

Smaller independent traders offer a variety of products ranging from fresh local produce, locally made jewellery & crafts, homeware & gifts and even some designer labels. Just get in the car or jump on the bus and venture round the island to discover a treasure of hidden delights.

The wonderful scenery and friendly locals have attracted many talented artisans to the island, some of whom never leave. Their wares can be found for sale in a diverse range of shops and galleries dotted around the island, some on the main streets others waiting to be discovered at the end of rural tracks. Remember to look out for local art exhibitions on our website.

Enjoy!

■ Blackwaterfoot
Arran Butcher  T: 01770 860354

■ Brodick
Arran Active  T: 01770 302416
Arran Aromatics  T: 01770 302595
Arran Asia  T: 01770 302920
Bilslands  T: 01770 302272
Book & Card Centre  T: 01770 30288
Friday’s Child  T: 01770 303987
Isle of Arran Cheese Shop  T: 01770 302788
Jolly Molly  T: 01770 302162
Red Door  T: 01770 303549
The Byre at Brodick  T: 01770 840227
Wooleys of Arran  T: 01770 302280

■ Corrie
The Rock Pool  T: 01770 810226

■ Kilmory
Arran Creamery Cheese Shop  T: 01770 870240

■ Lamlash
Studio 4  T: 01770 600919
The Curtain House  T: 01770 600723

■ Lochranza
Isle of Arran Distillery  T: 01770 830264

■ Machrie
Old Byre Showroom  T: 01770 840227

■ Whiting Bay
Arran Art Gallery  T: 01770 700250
ARRAN AROMATICS
SCOTLAND

Arran Aromatics create luxury bath, body and home fragrance products.

All our collections are inspired by the beautiful Isle of Arran, where we have been creating our products at the Home Farm since 1989.

Visit our home on Arran to watch the factory at work from the Viewing Gallery and to truly understand the magic that goes into each of our products.

Younger visitors can get creative and make their own products at our Soapworks and Candleworks station in the Factory Shop.

Throughout the summer we run guided tours, please call us for more details.

Arran Aromatics Ltd, Brodick, Isle of Arran. KA27 8DD t: 01770 302595
www.arranaromatics.com
Old Byre Showroom
Machrie, Isle of Arran, Scotland, KA27 8EB. Tel: 01770 840227
Open 7 days a week 10am-5pm

Quality knitwear-Hand knitted Arans-Sheepskin products-Leather bags
Beautiful clothing and accessories including
Barbour below RRP

www.oldbyre.co.uk

seasalt Barbour

Friday’s Child is not your average gift shop!
In this bright, funky shop you’ll find
something for everyone.
Our friendly staff are here to help if you’re
struggling for inspiration and we gift wrap
for free, to make your life a little easier.

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Cards and Stationery
New Baby, New Home
Wedding Gifts
Jewellery... and much more!

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www.fridayschildonline.com

7 days
9.30am till 5.30pm
FREE wi-fi
**Jolly Molly**

Beautiful and unusual gifts for your home

- Brodick
- Isle of Arran

01770 302162

www.jollymolly.co.uk

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**The Rock Pool**

Home to Ailsa McNicol Jewellery and MJM Mirrors, both working on the premises. Browse our book selection and gift ideas while enjoying our delicious coffee and a cake.

The Rock Pool, Corrie, Isle of Arran, KA27 8JB

t: 01770 810228
e: ailsa.mcnicol@btconnect.com
f: facebook.com/therockpool

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**Studio 4**

Shore Road, Lamlash
Isle of Arran

beyoung@ymail.com
www.studio4arran.co.uk
Tel: 01770600919
No visit to Arran would be complete without experiencing a Taste of Arran.

All the island’s key food producers have come together to encourage you to experience the quality of their products, and as a result there is an abundance of excellent island produce available for you to tempt your taste buds. Arran food & drink is known and recognised world-wide for its quality – whether in America, Taiwan or New Zealand. Did you know you can even get Arran Dairy Ice Cream in Dubai?

As a result, eating out on our island is a truly mouth-watering experience. Whether you’re looking for some delicious home baking to accompany your morning coffee, or you fancy splashing out on a five course gourmet dinner – Arran can provide delicious foods to suit your palate (and your purse!).

... eating out on our island is a truly mouth-watering experience.

If you want to enjoy a special meal, then look no further - talented chefs in the island’s top restaurants have a real enthusiasm for using seasonal home grown ingredients in their delicious creative menus. Look out for island produce on the menu.

If you fancy something simpler, then Arran also has lots of fabulous cafés and tearooms with some of the most delicious scones, bread and cakes to be found – in fact it’s so good we’re running a competition this year to find the best cake. We have our favourites but we want to know what you think – and give these tearooms and cafés credit where it’s due. If you want to recommend your favourite check out the competition on page 50.

So, in short, there’s no better way to sample the delights of the Arran larder than in one of our award winning restaurants, local cafés or romantic bistros. And if you fancy a night in? Well, many establishments offer a takeaway menu and some even deliver to your door.

**Blackwaterfoot**
- Blackwaterfoot Lodge  T: 01770 860202
- Felicitys  T: 01770 860777
- Kinloch Hotel  T: 01770 860444

**Brodick**
- Arran Tandoori  T: 01770 302076
- Bilslands  T: 01770 302272
- Brambles Seafood + Grill  T: 01770 302234
- Brodick Castle Tearoom  T: 01770 302202
- Café Rosaburn  T: 01770 302636
- Copperwheat’s Coffee Shop  T: 01770 303522
- Creelers  T: 01770 302810
- Cruize Bar Brasserie  T: 01770 302234
- Douglas Hotel Bistro  T: 01770 302968
- eighteen69  T: 01770 302234
- Eilean Mor Bar & Bistro  T: 01770 302579
- Ormidale Hotel  T: 01770 302293
- Wooleys of Arran  T: 01770 302280

**Corrie**
- The Tearoom at Corrie Golf Club  T: 01770 810223

**Kildonan**
- Kildonan Hotel  T: 01770 820207

**Kilmory**
- Lagg Hotel  T: 01770 870255
eating out

From restaurants and cafés to pubs and bars - find out more about what Arran has to offer.

[www.visitarran.com/food-drink](http://www.visitarran.com/food-drink)

- **Lamlash**
  - Glenisle Bistro **T:** 01770 600559
  - Indian Garden Takeaway **T:** 01770 600888
  - Lamlash Bay Hotel **T:** 01770 600844
  - Old Pier Tearoom **T:** 01770 600249

- **Lochranza**
  - Casks Café Bar **T:** 01770 830264

- **Machrie**
  - Café Thyme **T:** 01770 840227

- **Whiting Bay**
  - Bar Eden **T:** 01770 700357
  - Coast Bistro **T:** 01770 700308
  - Trafalgar Restaurant **T:** 01770 700396

- **Around Arran**
  - Dining in **T:** 07720 548281
www.lagghotel.com

Tel: 01770 870 255

- Lounge Bar
- Restaurant
- Bar Meals
- Cream Teas
- En Suite Bedrooms
- Weddings

“A warm welcome in a traditional family run Hotel with fantastic food, fine wines and log fires.”

info@lagghotel.com

Lagg Hotel, Kilmory, Isle of Arran, KA27 KPQ

www.lagghotel.com

www.ARRANCHEESE.com

At Home Farm Visitors Centre Beside Arran Aromatics

Sample the produce

Watch the CHEESE being made
Teas-coffees-homebaking-delicious lunches-homemade breads & pides (Turkish pizzas baked in the wood burning oven) homegrown salad leaves-wines-beers Extensive loose leaf tea selection & a very warm welcome

Open 7 days 10am-5pm ALSO dinner & takeaways available on Friday & Saturday evenings during the season

Cafe Thyme-beside the Old Byre Showroom-Machrie Tel 01770 840608 KA27 8EB

Creelers

The Island’s Seafood Specialist Restaurant, Shop and Smokehouse

Enjoy the finest Scottish seafood in our restaurant or buy Creelers Scottish Smoked Salmon, produced in our Smokehouse, shellfish caught by our own boat or fresh locally caught fish, all from our Smokehouse Shop.

Creelers is a must for any visitor to Arran.

Telephone: Restaurant: 01770 302810 Smokehouse: 01770 302797
Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
find us online at www.creelers.co.uk
Enjoy BIG Tastes from a Small Island…

Arran really is Scotland’s favourite foodie island – with everything from single malt whisky to traditional dairy ice cream! Look out for our great range of locally produced food and drink in island shops and restaurant menus. With an island packed full of artisan food and drink producers, there’s no shortage of great gifts to take home – if you’ve no room in your luggage just shop online and we’ll deliver a ‘Taste of Arran’ direct to your door.

Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AU
Tel: 01770 302374
Email: info@taste-of-arran.co.uk
www.taste-of-arran.co.uk
facebook.com/tasteofarran
Twitter: @tastearran

win…

a Taste of Arran Hamper

Everyone enjoys good home baking – and on Arran you’ll find you’re not short of a good home made scone, bread or cake. Why not nominate your favourite Arran baking experience and you will be entered our prize draw to win a Taste of Arran Hamper!

NOMINATE AT:
www.visitarran.com/competitions

* Terms and conditions apply
Arran truly has something for everyone.

If it’s peace and quiet you’re after why not think about heading over to the west coast of the island to enjoy a long lazy walk along Blackwaterfoot beach. Or if you prefer more hustle and bustle perhaps you’d rather be attending one of the island’s annual key events such as the Arran Show, or Brodick Highland Games.

Each village on Arran has its own character and characters. You will find that many village communities and island organisations host their own local events too, so it’s always worth checking The Arran Banner and village shops for posters that highlight fetes, dances, conker championships, hill-billy golf, classic concerts, sales of work, farmers’ markets, craft fairs etc. A good starting point for any larger events is www.arranevents.com

Please remember that whether cycling, walking, horse-riding or driving – Arran’s roads are unique. We have changeable road surfaces, unexpected livestock on every bend, and of course breathtaking scenery that can act as a great distraction! Check out the information boards at Ardrossan Harbour, Brodick Pier and other sites around the island. By respecting your fellow road users at all times we can all Share Arran’s Roads Safely!

FACT:
ARRAN HAS LOADS OF GEOFACHES – ALL YOU NEED IS A GPS TRACKER ON YOUR PHONE, CHECK OUT WWW.GEOCACHING.COM
We can’t think why, but if you do want to head off island there are lots of fabulous places to visit just a hop and a skip from Arran.

explore argyll

The ‘wee boat’ that sails to Claonaig in the summer months is ideal for exploring Argyll. If travelling by car you might wish to head south to Campbeltown. There are two ways to do this – either via the picturesque single track road that passes through Carradale – or heading down the main Kintyre road via Tayinloan. If golf is your thing there’s loads of fabulous courses in Kintyre and equally lovely scenery. Or you might want to head north towards Tarbert, Lochgilphead or perhaps even Oban.

Or if you fancy a nice wee jaunt by foot why not wander right at Claonaig towards Skipness Castle. Like Lochranza Castle, this is a hall house style, built around 1300 – understandable as both were built by the Clan McSween. Well worth exploring all the nooks and crannies of both the castle and the chapel. It’s about two miles to walk – or instead catch the Lochranza ferry with bikes and cycle down to Skipness castle and seafood shack and if you go between May and September you might just be lucky enough to visit the famous seafood cabin, where you can enjoy freshly caught fish and shellfish – delicious!

an ayrshire jaunt

Whether coming or going, for many Ayrshire is a gateway to Arran. The train line runs directly to and from the harbour into Ayrshire – and you can travel both north and south with ease. En route, you might like to sample some Ayrshire hospitality by visiting some of the finest golf courses in the world. Of course they offer the finest views too – where you can look over to the Arran hills as you hole out.

Perhaps you might enjoy a cultural visit to Brodick Castle’s sister National Trust for Scotland property Culzean Castle & Country Park. Dean Castle in Kilmarnock and Kelburn up at Largs are also well worth a visit.

Take time too to visit the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. You can see the actual thatched cottage where the famous poet was born and each year a Burns an’ a’ That’ festival is held in May with world class performers.

Whether coming or going, for many Ayrshire is a gateway to Arran.
where to stay...

Arran has a choice of accommodation to suit every budget.
From award winning hotels to welcoming guesthouses, cosy cottages and great campsites, whatever the size of your group, you’re sure to find the perfect place. Choose from one of the island’s lovely villages, where you can do your shopping in traditional village shops and get a taste of village life, or if you prefer something a little more remote you’ll be spoilt for choice…

You’ll find lots of accommodation listed on the Visit Arran website - www.visitarran.co.uk, or you can call the Tourist Office on 01770 303 774, or email brodick@visitscotland.com to find out more.

■ Blackwaterfoot/ Machrie/Shiskine
Achabhealaidh B&B  
T: 01770 860250
Bellevue Holiday Cottages  
T: 01770 860251
Blackwaterfoot Lodge B&B  
T: 01770 860202
Broombrae Bed & Breakfast  
T: 01770 860435
Bridgend Campsite  
T: 01770 860597
Kinloch Hotel  
T: 01770 860444
Lochside B&B  
T: 01770 860276

■ Brodick
Auchrannie Resort  
T: 01770 302234
Big Wooden House S/C  
T: 07984 402076
Brodick Castle Camping Pods  
T: 01770 302202
Carrick Lodge Guest House  
T: 01770 302550
Creelers Holiday Cottages  
T: 07810 876528
Douglas Hotel  
T: 01770 302968

■ Dunvegan Guest House  
T: 01770 302811
Glenartney Guest House & Cottage  
T: 01770 302220
Glenrosa Campsite & Cottages  
T: 01770 302380
Hunters Guest House & Cottage  
T: 01770 302211
Kilmichael Hotel & Cottages  
T: 01770 302219
Ormidale Hotel  
T: 01770 302293
Reaper Weary S/C  
T: 01770 302380
Rowanbank Holiday Cottages S/C  
T: 01770 302447
Strathwhillian Cottage S/C  
T: 07747 863257
Smugglers’ Den S/C  
T: 01294 823652
The Shorehouse S/C  
T: 01770 302377
Woodlea S/C  
T: 01770 302200

■ Dougarie/Machrie
Dougarie Estate S/C  
T: 01770 840259

■ Kildonan
Burnside Holiday Cottages  
T: 01770 700255
Grianan Holidays S/C  
T: 01770 820236
Island Property S/C  
T: 01770 820624
Kildonan Hotel  
T: 01770 820207
Seal Shore Campsite  
T: 01770 820320

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Kilmory Bunkhouse S/C  
T: 01770 870345
Lagg Hotel  
T: 01770 870255

■ Lamlash
Altachorvie B&B  
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Arran Apartments S/C  
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Craig Dhu Holiday Cottages S/C  
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Ghillies & Drovers Cottages
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Glenisle Hotel
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**Sliddery**
Far Horizons Holiday Cottages
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**T:** 01770 700255
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Viewbank Guest House
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**T:** 07799 392855
Arran Holiday Retreats S/C
**T:** 07512 331702
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The National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410

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or email: julie@rowanbankholidaycottages.co.uk

Rowanbank Holiday Cottages, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DX
## Index

### A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Achabhealaidh B&amp;B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55</td>
<td>Altachorvie B&amp;B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 38, 40</td>
<td>Angela Elliott-Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 27, 42</td>
<td>Arran Active Outdoor Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 23, 27</td>
<td>Arran Adventure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Arran Apartments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42, 43</td>
<td>Arran Aromatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 40, 42</td>
<td>Arran Art Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42</td>
<td>Arran Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 65</td>
<td>Arran Banner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42</td>
<td>Arran Butcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 3, 55</td>
<td>Arran Castaways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42, 47</td>
<td>Arran Creamery Cheese Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 65</td>
<td>Arran Dairies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 33</td>
<td>Arran Driving Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 32</td>
<td>Arran Golf Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 65</td>
<td>Arran Haulage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 13, 21</td>
<td>Arran Heritage Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55</td>
<td>Arran Holiday Rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55</td>
<td>Arran Holiday Retreats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 38</td>
<td>Arran in Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55</td>
<td>Arran Island Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 65</td>
<td>Arran Landowner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 23, 25, 27</td>
<td>Arran Outdoor Education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Arran Tandoori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55, 63</td>
<td>Arran Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back cover, Pg 21, 54</td>
<td>Auchrannie Resort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47</td>
<td>Bar Eden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 9</td>
<td>Bay Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55, 59</td>
<td>Big Beach House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54, 59</td>
<td>Big Wooden House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 21, 42, 46</td>
<td>Bilslands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46, 54, 63</td>
<td>Blackwaterfoot Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42</td>
<td>Book &amp; Card Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Bosolo Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Brambles Seafood &amp; Grill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Bridgend Campsite &amp; Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 21</td>
<td>Brodick Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Brodick Castle Tea Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 33</td>
<td>Brodick Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55, 58</td>
<td>Burlington Guest House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Burnside Holiday Cottage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Cafe Rosaburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47, 49</td>
<td>Cafe Thyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 21, 27</td>
<td>Cairnhouse Stables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 9</td>
<td>Calmac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54, 60</td>
<td>Camping Pods - NTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54, 56</td>
<td>Carrick Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47</td>
<td>Casks Cafe Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 30</td>
<td>COAST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47</td>
<td>Coast Bistro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 9</td>
<td>Corrie Cabs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Corrie Golf Club Tearoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 33</td>
<td>Corrie Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 57</td>
<td>Cottages and Castles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 65</td>
<td>Cottages on Arran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Craig Dhu Holiday Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46, 49</td>
<td>Creelers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Creelers Holiday Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Cruise Bar Brasserie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47</td>
<td>Dining In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Dougarie Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Douglas Hotel &amp; Bistro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Dunvegan House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55</td>
<td>Eden Lodge Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Eighteen 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Eileen Mor Bar &amp; Bistro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 55, 58</td>
<td>Far Horizons Holiday Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 42, 44</td>
<td>Friday’s Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 46</td>
<td>Felicity’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### G

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page(s)</th>
<th>Location/Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Ghillies and Drovers Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54, 63</td>
<td>Glenartney Guest House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 47, 54, 61</td>
<td>Glenisle Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54, 60</td>
<td>Glenrosa Campsite &amp; Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pg 54</td>
<td>Grianan Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Location/Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Holy Isle Ferry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hunters Guest House/Cottage/Apartment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Indian Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Island Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Isle of Arran Cheese Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Isle of Arran Distillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Ivybank Arran B&amp;B/Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Jolly Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Jubilee Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kildonan Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kilmichael Country House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kilmory Bunkhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kinloch Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lagg Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lamlash Bay Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lamlash Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lilybank Guest House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lochranza Golf and Campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lochranza Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lochside B&amp;B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Machrie Bay Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Middleton’s Caravan and Campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mogabout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>NTS Brodick Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Oakbank Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Ocean Breeze Rib Tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Old Brye Showroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Old Pier Tearoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Ormidale Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pomeroy Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Playbarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Reaper Weary S/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Red Door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Rock Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Rowanbank Holiday Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Seal Shore Campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Seawinds Holiday Cottages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Shiskine Golf &amp; Tennis Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Smugglers Den</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Stagecoach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Strathwillan Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Studio 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Taste of Arran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>The Byre at Brodick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>The Curtain House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>The Shorehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>The Shorehouse Bike Hire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Tigh An Eilean B&amp;B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Trafalgar Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Viewbank Guest House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Whiting Bay Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Wild Walks on Arran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Wooleys of Arran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Woodlea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Arran Banner: 01770 302142
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tourist information centre

For new (and old) visitors to Arran, the first stop might be the VisitArran ferry desk on the MV Caledonian Isles. As well as extra copies of the VisitArran magazine, you can also get lots of free information on accommodation providers, retailers, attractions and activities. You can also take your pick of free island maps and leaflets/guides to some of the island villages. During summer months, the ferry desk is staffed part-time and tastings of some of the fabulous Taste of Arran range of island produce are often available.

If you have any queries, then VisitArran staff will do their utmost to assist - and if we don’t know, then we’ll find out! So, once you’ve tried a wee nip of whisky and a taste of a Wooley’s oatcake, settle down to peruse the information gleaned, relax and just enjoy your crossing!

At VisitArran, we work closely with our colleagues in VisitScotland. The VisitScotland Tourist Information Office is located on Brodick Pier - you can’t miss the unusual ‘peaked hat’ roof of the building! The office is open Mon - Sat 9-5pm (with a one hour closure for lunch variable around boat times), and over summer months the office is open on Sundays too. The friendly local staff will be able to assist with any queries you may have relating to your holiday.

visitarran board

Kenneth Bone, Chair
Jonathan Bryant
Elaine Campbell
Alastair Dobson
Sheila Gilmore, Executive Director

Angela Elliott-Walker
Linda Johnston
Lorna Mansfield
Tom Tracey

useful numbers

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North Ayrshire Council 01770 600338
Doctor Arran Medical Group 01770 600516
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Dentist 01770 601067
Brodick Pier 01770 302166
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Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50
Hillphone 01770 302363

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