island guide
2017-18

the only Arran guide you’ll ever need
www.visitarran.com

ARRAN TIME
your time

island map
Arran in a day
where to shop, eat & stay
family fun
activities & adventures
entertainment & events
competition
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Quality self-catering accommodation
welcome

... to the 9th edition of the VisitArran magazine - 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 and that unique 'Arran feel' to your holiday.

2017 is the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, and on Arran we have lots of history just waiting for you to discover! Think Machrie Standing Stones, Lochranza Castle and the Giants’ Graves – and they’re just for starters!

Check out Arran Heritage Museum for lots of inspiration and information about the social history of our island, its people and our artefacts.

At the end of March we’re launching our destination gift card – the ArranCard. This can be used at a variety of Arran businesses for all sorts of things – retail, accommodation, activity, attraction, food & drink… the list is endless! The card is designed to make your Arran experience even easier – why not consider giving an ArranCard as a present? For more information check out www.arrancard.com.

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. With such reasonable ferry fares you can visit more often, and explore further whilst you’re here!

Enjoy your island time in no time – Arran welcomes you!

Kenneth Bone
Chairman, VisitArran
getting about

how to get here

Arran is easily one of the most accessible islands to visit, and following the introduction of road equivalent tariff it’s now even better value to visit Arran! If you live to the east or south of the country, there are regular 55minute ferry crossings from Ardrossan with CalMac Ferries. Ardrossan is ideally situated in Ayrshire, only a short drive from both Glasgow International and Prestwick Airports, and although there are additional sailings on this route in summer months, these sailings can be very busy. If you are bringing a car, please book in advance with CalMac Ferries - www.calmac.co.uk

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 to Arran can be 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 in summer months, is also run by CalMac Ferries and takes only 30 mins. In winter the ferry sails from Tarbert to Lochranza. Watch out for marine wildlife such as dolphins, minke whale and porpoises en route!

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE ARE NO MOLES, FOXES OR GREY SQUIRRELS ON ARRAN!
by air

Regular train services are available from both Glasgow airports. A shuttle bus from Glasgow International (GLA) Airport can take you directly to Paisley Gilmour Street train station, where a train will connect with the ferry at Ardrossan. Alternatively taxis are relatively inexpensive and readily available. Glasgow Prestwick (PIK) Airport has its own train station with services via Kilwinning to Ardrossan Harbour.

by train

There are excellent rail links east, west, north and south between Glasgow and most parts of the UK. There is a direct and frequent train service from Glasgow Central to Ardrossan Harbour. For more info contact www.scotrail.co.uk

by car

The UK's network of motorways and other major roads means that Ardrossan Harbour can easily be reached by car, possibly via the M6/M74 (from London to Glasgow) & M77/A77 (from Glasgow to Ardrossan). Remember if you are bringing a car over to the island, you should book in advance with CalMac – www.calmac.co.uk

Typical journey times by car to Ardrossan Harbour from:

- **London** – about 7.5 hours
- **Birmingham** – about 5.5 hours
- **Manchester** – about 4.5 hours
- **Edinburgh** – about 2 hours
- **Glasgow** – about 45 mins
- **Inverness** – about 4 hours

once you’re here…

If you don’t have transport, there are other options. Once you’re here you might want to use local buses to get around – most (but not all) of these coincide with the ferry times from Brodick, so it’s best to get a timetable when you arrive. Or checkout the latest Arran Area timetable from SPT, who subsidises the bus service on Arran: www.spt.co.uk/bus/timetables

Car Hire from Arran Rent-A-Car can offer more freedom, as can having your own personal tour guide. Another option is to take a taxi or a private hire – taxis are available at the pier during boat times. You can also pre-book these to collect and drop you off anywhere on the island, and the taxi/private hire partners with VisitArran offer personal guided tours as well. Taxis are also available for wheelchair access from Bay Garage.

Check your accommodation providers too – some of them may offer transport to and from Brodick Pier.

Private hire/Taxi/Tours

**Arran Taxi**
T: 01770 700345 / 07967587481
Taxi, tours and private hire

**Arran Tours/Corrie Cabs**
T: 07517 356985 Taxi and tours

Garages

**Angus Lambie Motor Engineers Ltd**
T: 01770 302677

**Bay Garage**
T: 01770 700345

Services providers

**Arran Banner (press)**
T: 01770 302142

**Arran Haulage**
T: 01770 302777

**Arran Shand (business services)**
T: 01770 302676

**Routes To Flourish (coaching/training)**
T: 01770 600963

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Whisky Tasting - experience the depth of flavour
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NEWLY REFURBISHED

Lochranza Distillery Tours
£8.00 45mins & 2 tastings
Seniors 60+ & student concession £7.00, children 8 to 17 Free.
On the hour at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm
Tutored Whisky Tastings
£15.00 45mins including a choice of 4 tastings
Over 18’s only. Also includes a £5 off Malt Whisky Voucher.
Tastings at 11am, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm

Combined Tour & Tasting Discount Ticket £20.00

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15mins duration including a short film and a dram in our bothy.
Ideal if you’re short of time and for young families with children under 8 years old. Subject to availability between tours, please ask for details.
Whisky Tasting ‘Flights’
5 different ‘flights’ of 4 Arran Malt Whiskies are always available to taste in Casks Cafe Bar. These are presented with tasting notes, water and Arran oatcakes. Various prices, please ask for details.

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Open Daily - March to October, 10am - 5.00pm
November to February, 10.30am - 4.00pm
(Possible closures during Jan/Feb) Tel: 01770 830264

The perfect place to relax and savour our delicious meals, light lunches, drinks and snacks. Speciality coffees, loose leaf teas, hot chocolate, whisky cake, tray bakes, scones and cakes. Kids menus - to colour in!
essential arran

People often ask us what makes Arran (or Eilean Arainn) so special? To be honest, it’s hard to define! It could be the stunning scenery, the amazing wildlife, the world class produce – or it could just be the character of our island and its people, but whatever it is, we invite you to come and share our island home – and maybe take a little bit of Arran magic with you, until you come back next time…that is!

Arran is not called ‘Scotland in Miniature’ for nothing! The fault line divides the island into two very different sections – the rocky and mountainous north and the lush green pastures of the south – just like the Scottish mainland! Covering an area of only 432 square kilometers (167 square miles), the island has a resident population of approximately 5,000.

Arran is only 56 miles in circumference, so nowhere is more than half an hour’s drive away from the village you’re staying in. The influence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf Stream create a mild oceanic climate, which is why you’ll see swaying palm trees around the shores…sometimes at the same time as snow on the hills!

Our island and its people are renowned for their character, teamwork and hospitality. The community spirit that you’ll experience on Arran is second to none (and we’re not just talking whisky here!). You can experience that same Arran welcome at many island events – or just by chatting in a shop, or attending a ceilidh in a village hall! Check out our Villages page for more details.

There’s also loads for you to do – for the young and the young at heart! You can chillax on Arran by enjoying a stroll along a beach, up a glen, or indulging in a spa treatment. Explore castles, ride along the beaches, or exhilarate in an adventure experience! For families, play and stay, geocache or just sit back and partake our infamous local food and drink – we also offer niche shopping opportunities!

If you’re anxious about accessibility then please email us (info@visitarran.com) for VisitArran’s most up-to-date accessibility audit. Wanting to bring the family pet on holiday too? Many VisitArran partners are dog and pet friendly, whether it’s accommodation, eating out, retail or activity – check out our Pets on Hols page!

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. 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 pages.

Fore! If you’re a scratch golfer or a family player, you’ll be in seventh heaven with our choice of seven (yes, seven!) golf courses, all offering a very different golf experience and challenge. Check out our Golf pages for more information on the courses, and if you fancy playing them all then consider buying the Arran Golf Pass – play all 7 courses, for only £110!

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.

Arran is almost as famous for its produce as its scenery! World class, and locally produced goods are available in most villages - luxury toiletries, handmade jewellery, artworks, cheese, mustard, preserves, 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! Nowhere could be better placed to tempt your tastebuds with local delicacies than Arran. Check out our Food and Retail pages for more details.

So - why wouldn’t you come to Arran? To ensure your quality experience, don’t forget to look out for the VisitArran 2017 logos on all our partner businesses!

Arran is great for walkers, cyclists and all round adventure-seekers!
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 ….

• Have a fun day playing ‘disc golf’ in and around Brodick with a Frisbee! It’s community run and free!
• Go geocaching and discover our hidden island… www.geocaching.com
• Sign up for a photography workshop, and make your holiday pics stand out!
• See Arran from the skies with a paragliding session…
• …or let someone else do the work and head off on a Mogabout adventure!
• Hold your own sandcastle competition and (for a full beach experience) reward yourself with an Arran Dairy Ice Cream!
• See how many of the ‘Big Five’ you can spot – seals, otters, golden eagles, red squirrels and red deer are all abundant on and around Arran!

We can’t list everything that our amazing island has to offer the day visitor – and you will discover lots of things that aren’t listed here. So much in fact, a day just isn’t enough!

if you have longer…

• Get yourself a Golf Pass and see how many of our seven courses you can ‘bag’ – remember it lasts 12 months! Visit our Golf page.
• Arran is all about outdoors – you can sign up for a week of activities from one of our adventure providers, ideal for family too! If you’re into mountain biking, or fancy a wildlife tour, a hike up the three beinnns, climbing north Goatfell, an exciting RIB experience, abseiling, sea kayaking, galloping a horse along the beach, paragliding – go on, check out our Outdoors pages.
• In this the year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, why not enjoy your own cultural tour – King’s Caves, Machrie Standing Stones, Giants’ Graves, Lochranza Castle, Brodick Castle, Arran Heritage Museum. From ancient cave drawings and cup & ring markings to Victorian Cottages and the Hamilton dynasty – it’s all just ripe for you to explore!
• Enjoy a culinary experience by checking out local Arran produce on menus in cafés and restaurants. Then follow up with a self-led island produce tour – visit Torrylinn Creamery to see Arran Cheddar being made; ‘sample’ a Distillery tour; visit the Home Farm to experience Arran, Sense of Scotland 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.

out of season…

If you prefer a bit of peace and quiet, why don’t you visit outwith the busier summer months. Many of our activities and attractions remain open throughout the winter and Arran’s beauty at these quieter times is without comparison – so you can have the tranquillity our island offers, but still enjoy the luxury of a wee dram in front of a log fire!

Our Countdown to Christmas involves Santa’s Sparkle, ShopArran treats and party nights, as well as carol concerts, school shows, Christmas fayres and pantomimes! In January, you can enjoy Burns nights, and February is drama festival time!

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 breathtaking – and you might also get to hear (and see!) the red deer rut!
what’s on 2017

We like to have lots of entertainment to offer our visitors - we 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!

Whilst some of these events are big annual attractions, some are much smaller, but equally worth a wee check out!

Some of 2017’s key events are listed here but always check social media and 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. Check out our Villages pages for more details. 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 effect of Arran!

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

One Act Drama Festival
DATE: February 23-25th
CONTACT: jerry@broombrae.co.uk

Ormidale 10k
DATE: April 24th starting 12pm Ormidale Pavilion
CONTACT: www.arranrunners.weebly.com

Arran Mountain Festival
DATE: May 19-22nd
CONTACT: www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk

Goatfell Race
DATE: May 20th starting 12pm at Ormidale Pavilion
CONTACT: www.arranrunners.weebly.com

Island-2-Island Triathlon Festival
DATE: June 3rd-4th
CONTACT: https://www.facebook.com/Island2IslandTriathlonFestival

Arran Folk Festival
DATE: June 9th-11th
CONTACT: info@arranevents.com

Arran Man Triathlon & Multisport
DATE: June 18th
CONTACT: https://arrantriathlon.wordpress.com

Arran Skiff Regatta
DATE: June 24th
CONTACT: secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk

Arran’s Classic Motorbike Show
DATE: June 26th
CONTACT: www.arranmuseum.co.uk/motorcycle-show

Malt and Music Festival
DATE: June 30th-2nd July
CONTACT: www.arranwhisky.com

Shiskine Valley Half Marathon
DATE: July 2nd 12pm at the Kinloch Hotel
CONTACT: mumandbutton@hotmail.com

Grinduro Off-Road Cycling Event
DATE: July 15th
CONTACT: contact@focal.events

Whiting Bay Funweek
DATE: July 16-23rd
CONTACT: bianson411@gmail.com

Feis Arainn
DATE: July 24th-28th
CONTACT: feisarainn@feisean.org

Texas Scramble, in aid of The Arran Trust
DATE: July 30th
CONTACT: info@arrantrust.org or 01770 860227

Agriculture/Farmers Show, Lamlash
DATE: August 2nd
CONTACT: christine@shannochiearran.com

Brodick Highland Games
DATE: August 5th
CONTACT: mumandbuttons@hotmail.com

Arran Open Studios, Around Arran
DATE: August 11-14th
CONTACT: ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com

Iron Man/Woman Marathon Golf Challenge
DATE: August 19th
CONTACT: info@visitarran.com

Real Ale Event, Best Western Kinloch Hotel
DATE: August 26th
CONTACT: www.bw-kinlochhotel.co.uk

McLellan Festival
DATE: August 26th-September 3rd
CONTACT: gough.carlo@btinternet.com

Cycle Sportive
DATE: September 9th
CONTACT: Dorothee@oytscotland.org.uk

Arran Geofest Weekend
DATE: September 15-17th
CONTACT: stuart@lochranzacentre.co.uk

Burning the Circle
DATE: Sept 23rd
CONTACT: 01770 302462

Santa’s Sparkle
DATE: November 26th
CONTACT: enquiries@glenislehotel.com

ShopArran
DATE: December 1-3
CONTACT: enquiries@oldbyre.co.uk
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, horseriding 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!

Our island is made up from lots of villages dotted mostly around the coastline.

Each village has its own special character and each is well worth some further exploration. Most villages run their own village halls voluntarily, with the exception of Brodick (run by the local authority) and Lamlash (which is sited within Arran High School campus) – so be sure and pop in if they have an event on! Our village list travels clockwise!

Brodick is home to the island’s main ferry terminal (you will see that work is being carried out for a new harbour to be completed summer 2017), and also lots of niche retail outlets. Arran Heritage Museum is a short walk from the village and is a very popular visitor attraction. The gardens of Brodick Castle are well worth exploring, although the interior of the castle is unfortunately closed until Easter 2018 for essential repairs.

The village of Lamlash looks across to beautiful Holy Isle, with breathtaking sunrises all year round. Lamlash is the island’s administrative hub, with Arran War Memorial Hospital, Arran High School and the local authority offices all sited within the village boundaries. Check out the Clearances Memorial Monument, in front of lovely Hamilton Terrace, before enjoying some of the local fare at one of the village’s many excellent eateries.

The village of Lamlash looks across to beautiful Holy Isle, with breathtaking sunrises all year round. Lamlash is the island’s administrative hub, with Arran War Memorial Hospital, Arran High School and the local authority offices all sited within the village boundaries. Check out the Clearances Memorial Monument, in front of lovely Hamilton Terrace, before enjoying some of the local fare at one of the village’s many excellent eateries.

Whiting Bay spreads south from Sandbraes and used to boast the longest pier on the Clyde. There are many routes from the village to one of the island’s most picturesque walks to Glenashdale Falls. The Giants’ Graves can also be accessed from the village, which has a variety of other activities, and also hosts a Fun Week every July.

Kildonan is a quaint little village at the south end of the island, overlooking the tiny island of Pladda. The shores at Kildonan are popular with seals and otters and ‘Silver Sands’ is one of the island’s most beautiful beaches – they also hold a Fun Week of activities in July. Right at the bottom of the island you will find Kilmory, home to the island’s creamery. You can pop in to the shop and see the famous Arran Cheddar cheese being made through enormous viewing windows. Kilmory also has a fabulous beach.

Moving up the west coast, you will come across Sliddery and Corrievrie. These communities, along with those in Kilmory and Shiskine Valley, form the farming heartland of the island, and you can see rolling pastures alongside the seacliffs as you travel north.

Blackwaterfoot is the largest community on the west of the island, and part of the area known as Shiskine Valley. The village has lots of amenities within a short distance such as riding stables, golf, tennis, putting, bowls and various local retailers such as the island’s only butcher. Another lovely long beach can be accessed here, and you can walk along the shoreline to King’s Caves.

The spread-out community of Machrie may be small, but the area is famed for its history. As well as the famous Standing Stones on Machrie Moor, look out for the lesser known Auchengallon – and also for the Druid Stone up at the Old Byre! There’s also a lovely forest and cliff walk to King’s Caves.

Moving further north you will come to Pirnmill. This is the closest village to mainland Kintyre and you can see amazing sunsets over Kilbrannan Sound. You will pass through the little village of Catacol, with its famed Twelve Apostles, known locally as ‘The Row’, before coming into Lochranza, home to our second ferry terminal and the wonderful Arran water (Arran whisky!). Lochranza Castle is also well worth exploring, and you can walk around the coastline here, down to Sannox via the Coastal Way.

Sannox & Corrie are twin villages - they share a village hall, a golf course and lots of community spirit! Look out for the sheep on the piers, and also see if you can find the Doctor’s Bath, carved out of the sandstone on the shore…
family fun

If you want to get the whole family into the holiday spirit – there’s no better place than Arran.

Our whole island can be your adventure playground – where you can all let your hair down! 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 crazy golf on Brodick sea front, the adventure playgrounds at The Old Byre Visitor Centre or Brodick Castle, and the fabulous new Playbarn at Auchrannie. Why not have a putting competition? There’s putting greens in many villages. Try a game of golf, tennis, squash, snooker, or even a spot of pony trekking along Blackwaterfoot beach or up Glen Sannox! Some of our adventure providers offer amazing family activity packages – check out our Outdoors pages.

And if the fairy rain gets you down, you could visit Arran Heritage Museum or there’s also indoor leisure facilities at Auchrannie, Kinloch and KA Leisure in Lamlash, so you won’t be stuck for things to do!

where to play...

Arran Heritage Museum
T: 01770 302636

Auchrannie Leisure
T: 01770 302234

Crazy Golf
T: 01770 302272

Brodick Castle
T: 0844 493 2152

Cairnhouse Stables
T: 01770 860466

KA Campus, Lamlash
T: 01770 600849

Kinloch Leisure
T: 01770 860444

North Sannox Pony Trekking
T: 01770 810222

Old Byre Visitor Centre
T: 01770 840227

Shiskine Golf & Tennis
T: 01770 860226

The Playbarn
T: 01770 302234

For further details, please visit
nts.org.uk
let’s celebrate!

Arran is a special island – and a great place to celebrate!

There’s something magical about Arran and the islanders will share that magic for your special event. Whether this is a birthday, a wedding or other family celebration, you can be assured there are loads of people just waiting to assist you.

We’ve got some fabulous celebration venues, and all can tailor their offering for that personal touch. And if you want to do all the arranging yourself, we have loads of ideas to help put that final touch in place – while you chill out with some pampering (or beautifying). Check out our Pamper Time pages for details!

Get invites, balloons and Arran stationery gifts from Arran Graphics, Arran Banner, the Book & Card Centre or the Harbour Shop. And what about favours or thank you gifts from Arran Sense of Scotland or perhaps a wee dram of Isle of Arran whisky miniatures?
walking

Did you know that low level walking is the most popular activity for visitors on Arran? But whether you’re an experienced hillwalker, taking the kids for a wander, exercising or just want to get outside in that amazing fresh air – then Arran has walks for you! From a strenuous hill walk in the rugged mountains of the north to a solitary heathery moorland ramble, or a leisurely stroll with your dog by the sea, whatever takes your fancy, Arran offers you great opportunities to explore exciting and varied landscapes discovering an island rich in wildlife and history!

Although Arran has that special “wild” feeling, the land is all managed. Agriculture is an essential element of Arran’s economy and deer stalking, as well as being an important income for the northern estate, helps maintain the ecological balance in the mountains.

The continuing goodwill of those who make a living from the land relies on everyone using the countryside for recreation acting responsibly and following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and if you are heading into the hills during the deer stalking season, please make use of the Hillphone facility – see inside back cover for details.

For more information on short strolls to more challenging hillwalks - www.walkhighlands.co.uk/arran

coastal way

Supported (among others) by the Arran Trust, the Coastal Way is a continuous 100km (62mile) route taking in many of the varied habitats that the island has to offer, including stretches of forest track, rugged and gentle coastlines plus more mountainous terrain.

Most of the paths are well walked and should be easily completed by the average walker. However, there are parts of the Coastal Way that are challenging where paths can be muddy or boulder-strewn and may require clambering over rocks or are only safely passable at low tide.

In 2014, Arran Access Trust successfully secured substantial grant funding to improve the footpaths and route signage. The award came from the Coastal Communities Fund (Big Lottery), with additional valuable contributions from The Arran Trust, North Ayrshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland.

Most of the paths are well walked and should be easily completed by the average walker.

Major upgrades are underway, and much work has been done to reconstruct some areas of the route entirely, whilst maintaining other parts of the existing walk - building and clearing drains, placing stepping stones through muddy areas and re-surfacing paths. The whole of the Coastal Way route has also been re-signed using new waymarkers, featuring a gannet!

In 2017 work will continue with added support from village groups and volunteers - visit the website (www.coastalway.co.uk) or Arran Coastal Way Facebook Page to find out more and if you would like to support the path developments taking place, please consider becoming a member of the Arran Access Trust (www.arran-access-trust.org.uk) or give generously to The Arran Trust - see inside back cover!

Arran Mountain Festival 19-22nd May 2017 www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk for details.

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. Also remember that adders can be lurking in grass. Whilst venomous, they are not generally aggressive and only use venom as a last means of defence, usually if caught or trodden on. So if you do see an adder – don’t pick it up, treat it with respect and leave it alone.
cycling

Cycling on Arran is as popular as ever. Barely a weekend goes by without a group of lycra-clad cyclists navigating the coastal route, often for charity! We even have an Arran Sportive in September – see our What’s On page for details!

If you are coming in a group, always remember to let CalMac Ferries (www.calmac.co.uk) know of your intention to travel – space on the ferries can be limited. VisitArran can also provide you with some tips and tricks to make your group visits more pleasurable – info@visitarran.com.

Arran is also ideal for family cycling. However, beware of 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. Some suggested off road routes are available on the Arran Bike Club website – www.arranbikeclub.com. The club enjoy sharing their experiences and are happy for visitors to join them for a ride.

adventure

There is so much adventure to experience on Arran! 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 enjoy a bushcraft session, or gallop a horse up a wild and scenic glen, or along a sandy beach with the sea spray in your face? Or why not take an adrenaline-fuelled power boat trip? Not only will it thrill the senses but will allow you to see the island from one of its best perspectives, the sea! Whatever your adrenaline rush is – you’ll have a great time on our outdoor adventure island!

The adventure providers...

Arran Adventure  T: 01770 302234
Arran Bike Hire  T: 07825 160668
Arran Bushcraft  T: 07876 405080
Arran Outdoor Education Centre  T: 01770 600532
Arran Tours  T: 07517 356985
Cairnhouse Riding Centre  T: 01770 860466
Flying Fever  T: 01770 303899
Lochranza Centre  T: 01770 830637
Mogabout  T: 07799 555287
North Sannox Pony Trekking  T: 01770 810222
Ocean Breeze Rib Tours  T: 07771 463567
NTS Ranger Service  T: 01770 302462
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. At the north of the island is the Buddhist Centre for World Peace where an ongoing retreat and course programme takes place from March till October. Guests are welcome to stay at the centre for personal retreats or holiday breaks. A closed Buddhist retreat takes place at the south of the island.

You can easily visit Holy Isle for the day, taking the aptly named Holy Isle Ferry from Lamlash. The island is divided into several areas, some of which are reserved for birds and animals, others for our native tree planting programme. Visitors are requested not to take animals onto the island, as at present, there are wild Eriskay ponies, Soay sheep and Saanen goats living on Holy Isle!
In 1995, two local divers set up the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST). Their aim was to reverse the decline in Arran’s marine habitats due to damaging fishing methods such as bottom trawling and scallop dredging.

After years of community learning, campaigning and research, the first No Take Zone in Scotland was established in Lamlash Bay in 2008. This now forms part of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA), approved in 2016, which safeguards marine features and helps fisheries recover, encouraging responsible creeling, sea angling and scallop diving.

Visitors are welcome to explore Arran’s healthy and rich marine environment in different ways. Enjoy the Coastal Way walks, watching out for otters, seals, oystercatchers, herons, black guillemot or gannets - the largest seabirds in the UK. Take your loved ones rockpooling to spot hermit crabs, bright red anemones, prawns or barnacles. Perhaps you prefer to set off to sea and go snorkelling, kayaking, sailing or sea angling. Experience a marine wildlife boat tour where you could be lucky enough to encounter dolphins, porpoises, minke whales or basking sharks depending on the season.

The South Arran MPA protects vital marine habitats such as maerl beds - a pink, coral like seaweed, kelp forests and seagrass meadows that provide juvenile fish with spawning and nursing areas.

The local community is excited about new opportunities the MPA can bring to Arran, further developing marine related careers and jobs for sustainable “blue” growth.

Visit COAST Arran’s website to discover more about Arran’s marine life and plenty ideas on how you can learn about, and get involved in, marine community conservation.

It is a thrilling experience!

See www.arrancoast.com and Follow us on Arran Coast Facebook page and Twitter.

DID YOU KNOW?

COAST PLAN TO DEVELOP A MARINE INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN LAMLASH!
golf

Arran is Scotland’s Golf Island and it’s a golfer’s paradise, but don’t be thinking 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 up Glen Sannox and 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, 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 the most out 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. Courses generally have good facilities, and nearly all provide excellent catering either on-site or nearby. Some courses allow dogs, and children may be able to play for free when accompanied by a playing adult!

The Arran Golf Pass enables play at all the courses at a hugely discounted rate (£110 at time of print) and it’s valid for a whole twelve months! Find out more at www.golfonarran.com
Ahhh...and relax.

Life can get so busy that we all need time to chillax and recharge those batteries. So just sit back, switch off and let the island deliver its soothing 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 luxurious Aspa at Auchrannie. Or perhaps book a treatment from one of our independent therapists such as Breagha Holistic Therapy, Island Hair & Beauty, Perfectly Polished Nails or Soul to Sole. Whatever your choice - you deserve it!

If you’re going out for the night – why not treat yourself to a makeover. Beauty therapists can offer facials and Indian head massages – as well as nails and make-up. 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 - but sometimes you might get lucky and get a drop-in appointment - just ask for availability!

Where to Relax
Aspa Auchrannie Resort
T: 01770 302234
Breagha Holistic Beauty
T: 07854 422790
Island Hair & Beauty
T: 01770 302727
Perfectly Polished Nails By Liz
T: 07979 856616
Soul to Sole Holistic Therapies
T: 01770 820636/07515669147

SOUL TO SOLE HOLISTIC THERAPIES
JAN GRIMSTER
T:07515 669147 / 01770 820636
E:jangrimster@gmail.com Find us on FaceBook

Reiki, Reflexology, Indian Head Massage, Holistic Facial Massage, Reiki Master Teacher, Animal Reiki.

UK Reiki Federation Member.
Member of the Guild of Holistic Therapists.
The Arran Defib Project

The Arran Defib Project was started in 2012 with the aim of getting at least one Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) in every village.

To date CPAD’s can be found in the following locations:

- **Lochranza**
  - Isle of Arran Distillery
  - Lochranza Pier
  - Catacol Bay Hotel

- **Pirnmill**
  - Pirnmill Village Shop

- **Shiskine**
  - Shiskine Surgery
  - Shiskine Hall

- **Blackwaterfoot**
  - Kinloch Hotel
  - Shiskine Golf Club

- **Kilmory**
  - Kilmory Village Hall

- **Kildonan**
  - Kildonan Village Hall

- **Whiting Bay**
  - Bay News

- **Lamlash**
  - Lifeboat Station

- **Brodick**
  - Auchranie Spa
  - Ormidale Sports Pavilion
  - Arran Active
  - George Leslie construction site

- **Corrie and Sannox**
  - Corrie and Sannox Village Hall
  - Corrie Golf Club

**Standing Stones, Machrie**

**Lochranza Castle**

**Isle of Arran**

**Defibrillators**

**Forests**

**Wildlife**

**Suggested Walks**

**Castles**

**Roads**

**Tracks & Trails**

**Mountains Paths**

**Rivers**

**Tracks & Trails**

**Golf Courses**

**Public Toilets**

**Defibrillators**

**From further afield**

**Corrie**

**Sannox - Lochranza**  15 mins

**Corrie - Sannox**  5 mins

**Pirnmill - Lochranza**  10 mins

**Machrie - Pirnmill**  10 mins

**Kilmory - Blackwaterfoot**  20 mins

**Kildonan - Blackwaterfoot**  20 mins

**Whiting Bay - Kildonan**  10 mins

**Lamlash - Whiting Bay**  10 mins

**Brodick - Lamlash**  10 mins

**Brodick - Corrie**  15 mins

**Corrie - Sannox**  5 mins

**Sannox - Lochranza**  15 mins

**Counter clockwise from Brodick**

**Brodick**

**Corrie**  15 mins

**Sannox**  5 mins

**Sannox - Lochranza**  15 mins

**West-East**

**Blackwaterfoot - Brodick**

**(via B880 String Road)**  20 mins

**Approx driving times between villages clockwise**

- Brodick - Lamlash
- Lamlash - Whiting Bay
- Whiting Bay - Kildonan
- Kildonan - Kilmory
- Kilmory - Blackwaterfoot
- Blackwaterfoot - Machrie
- Machrie - Pirnmill
- Pirnmill - Lochranza
- Lochranza - Sannox
- Sannox - Corrie
- Corrie - Brodick
- Brodick - Lamlash

**Corrie**
arran’s natural heritage

This is the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and where better to experience that than on Arran? Whilst the introduction of regular ferry sailings meant that Arran gradually began to build a reputation as a holiday destination by the early 20th century, our island’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 metres high – so 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 been 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 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 the property in 1958.

The interior of Brodick Castle is unfortunately closed for essential upgrades and maintenance until Easter 2018, but the gardens are well worth a visit, and the external walls of the castle itself demonstrate the history of the site through the centuries. This year they are holding a ‘Prehistory Festival’ where the past will come alive, in September. This will include Burning the Circle, a feast of daytime activities, culminating in a fiery spectacle! Further events will also be held throughout the summer of Scotland’s Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology.

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 Heritage Museum at Rosaburn, Brodick offers an amazing insight into all of Arran’s fascinating social history and is not to be missed – you can partake of a yummy cream tea at Café Rosaburn whilst you’re at it!

Begin your Year of History, Heritage & Architecture journey on Arran!

DID YOU KNOW?
WE HAVE AT LEAST TWO WHITE DEER ON ARRAN - THEY’RE VERY SPECIAL
interested in the arts - where better to be than on Arran?

The beauty of our island inspires artists from all sectors, whether it be visual, music or drama orientated. When on Arran have a good look for local artisan products and displays – and 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 her people, to produce outstanding creative delights for you to enjoy. Beautiful 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.

Most craftspeople display their works locally – perhaps in Arran Art Gallery, or in village gift shops, tearooms and local hotels. As well as the local gallery in Whiting Bay, village halls in Corrie, Lochranza and Kilmory all host exhibitions.

arran art trail

Whilst Arran Open Studios (August 11-14th) allows you to meet and greet the artists over a magical weekend, the Arran Art Trail provides ongoing opportunity to seek out Arran’s wealth of hidden creative talent. Venues are situated all over the island and include furniture makers, pottery, jewellers, painters and sculptors, all demonstrating unique arts and crafts. What a lovely opportunity to meet artists and makers who live and create their work on Arran!

Studio signs direct visitors up winding tracks to undiscovered places and spectacular views however, if you are traveling especially to visit a studio, it would be best to call ahead to check it is open as daily island life is often unpredictable and artists may take the opportunity to get out and create ‘en plein air’!

For more Arran Art Trail and Arran Open Studios details, check their website www.arranopenstudios.com, or like their Facebook page facebook/arranarttrail

just some of our talented artists….  

Ailsa McNicol Jewellery The Rock Pool, Corrie  
T: 01770 810226

Andrew Surridge Photography & Workshops  
T: 01770 860824

Angela Elliott-Walker, Artist Brodick  
T: 01770 303906

Ann Hume, Jewellery Stronach Cottage, Brodick  
T: 07975 589432

Arran Art Gallery Whiting Bay  
T: 01770 700250

Arts on Arran  
W: contact through www.arranevents.com

Island Porcelain  
T: 01770 302068

Jackie Newman - Arran in Focus, Photography & Workshops  
T: 01770 601391!

Jim Mackintosh, Artist Shiskine  
T: 01770 860711

MJM Mirrors The Rock Pool, Corrie  
T: 01770 810226

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 and drama events that attract quality bands to play gigs on the island. Although we do have an online calendar, it’s always worth checking the Arran Banner for details of times and events

Check out for dates of all the main festivals, such as Arran Folk Festival, Arran Drama Festival and McLellan Festival (to name but a few) on our website or at  www.arranevents.com
retail therapy

Arran’s super retail outlets offer a unique experience! You won’t find any high street chains or shopping centres – but you will find some acclaimed international businesses.

Arran, Sense of Scotland (formerly 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. In summer months you can even book a factory tour to see how their products are made! Arran’s niche independent outlets offer a variety of products ranging from fresh local produce, locally made jewellery & crafts, homeware & gifts and even some designer labels. Ideal to take home as a souvenir or to treat yourself! But it’s not all about fancy goods – check out our local butcher and grab yourself an Arran Haggis, or visit our bakery and cheese shops for some lovely edible produce whilst here, and get yourself kitted out in the best practical summer or winter outdoor gear too – you’ll need that for your return visit....!

The Isle of Arran Distillery, 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. Enjoy!

Where to Shop

Blackwaterfoot/Shiskine

Blackwaterfoot/Shiskine
Arran Butcher  T: 01770 860354
Also a mobile shop – contact them for details.
Harbour Shop  T: 01770 860215
Isle of Arran Art  T: 01770 860711
Post Office  T: 01770 860220

Brodick

Ann Hume Jewellery  T: 07975 589432
ArCas  T: 01770 302928
Arran Active  T: 01770 302113
Arran: Sense of Scotland  T: 01770 303003
Arran’s Cheese Shop  T: 01770 302788
Arran Graphics  T: 01770 303698
Auchrannie Shop  T: 01770 302234
Belles Boutique  T: 01770 303787
Book & Card Centre  T: 01770 302288
Castle Bay Studios  T: 01770 302400
Jolly Molly  T: 01770 302162
Red Door  T: 01770 302549
The Boathouse  T: 01770 302868

Corrie

The Rock Pool  T: 01770 810226

Kilmory

Arran Creamery Cheese Shop  T: 01770 870240

Lamlash

Chameleon  T: 01770 600201
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
Bay Kitchen & Stores  T: 01770 700229
Bay News, Whiting Bay  T: 01770 700481
Eco Savvy  T: 01770 700417

The Byre at Brodick  T: 01770 840227
Wooleys of Arran  T: 01770 302280

Our unspoiled island home is our heart and our inspiration. Discover ARRAN at Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran.
Award winning family run butcher serving the people of Arran since 1964.
Quality locally sourced and homemade produce including our own exclusive Black Pudding and traditional Haggis.
Free deliveries available island wide.

Harbour View, Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran KA27 8EZ
T: 01770 860354
E: info@thearranbutcher.com
www.thearranbutcher.com
for foodie fans

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 and locally produced delicacies to suit your palate and your purse!

As a result, eating out on our island is a truly mouth-watering experience. During the daytime, Arran has lots of fabulous cafés and tearooms, with some of the most delicious (and award winning) home-baking. Sit back and enjoy some local banter, sipping lovely coffee with a choice of freshly baked scones, bread and cakes – oh, Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry, eat yer hearts oot!

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 for island produce on the menu! If you fancy eating out but can’t be bothered leaving your lovely holiday home, then you can even invite a chef to prepare a meal in your accommodation. Remember also that many establishments offer a takeaway menu and some even deliver to your door!

So, in short, there is no better way to sample the delights of the Arran larder than on our lovely island itself!
Where to Eat

**Arran-wide**
- Arran Fair Trade - produce available around the island
- Dining In – catering in your own home
  T: 01770 302403

**Blackwaterfoot/Shiskine**
- Black Grouse  T: 01770 860202
- Kinloch Hotel  T: 01770 860444
- The Tee Room, Shiskine Golf Club
  T: 01770 860777

**Brodick**
- Arran Brewery  T: 01770 302353
- Arran Dairy Ice Cream  T: 01770 302374
- Brambles Seafood + Grill  T: 01770 302234
- Brodick Castle Tearoom  T: 01770 302202
- Café Rosaburn  T: 01770 302636
- Cruzie Bar Brasserie  T: 01770 302234
- Douglas Hotel Bistro  T: 01770 302968
- Fiddlers Music Bar & Bistro  T: 01770 302579
- Janie’s  T: 01770 302874
- Little Rock  T: 01770 303886
- Ormidale Hotel  T: 01770 302293
- The Wineport  T: 01770 302101
- Wooleys of Arran Takeaway  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

**Lamlash**
- Glenisle Bistro  T: 01770 600559
- Indian Garden Takeaway  T: 01770 600888
- Lamlash Bay Hotel  T: 01770 600844
- Old Pier Tearoom  T: 01770 600249
- The Pierhead Tavern  T: 01770 600418
- Wooleys of Arran Takeaway  T: 01770 600676

**Lochranza**
- Casks @ Isle of Arran Distillery
  T: 01770 830264
- Lochranza Hotel  T: 01770 830233

**Machrie**
- Café Thyme  T: 01770 840227/608

**Whiting Bay**
- Bay Kitchen & Stores  T: 01770 700229
- Coast Bistro & Wine Bar  T: 01770 700308
- Felicitys @ Eden Lodge  T: 01770 700357

**Lochranza**
- Asics @ Isle of Arran Distillery
  T: 01770 830264
- Lochranza Hotel  T: 01770 830233

**Machrie**
- Café Thyme  T: 01770 840227/608

**Whiting Bay**
- Bay Kitchen & Stores  T: 01770 700229
- Coast Bistro & Wine Bar  T: 01770 700308
- Felicitys @ Eden Lodge  T: 01770 700357
www.visitarran.com

**BEST CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**

**win... a Hamper of Arran goodies**

On Arran we want to provide the very best customer service at all times! As such, we are delivering a suite of customer service training across all sectors. We’d like you to tell us about the best customer service experience you have had on Arran during your stay with us!

All you need to do is enter the competition online, listing where you got the best customer service – it could be a café, a shop, or your activity or accommodation provider! And remember to tell us what you felt was the best thing about your experience...

By entering, you could win a prize hamper of Arran goodies! What have you got to lose?

**YOU CAN ENTER ONLINE AT:**

www.visitarran.com/competitions

* Terms and conditions apply

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**mainland getaways**

**explore argyll**

If you fancy a nice wee jaunt by foot, Kintyre is our ‘mainland island’ neighbour, and takes only 30mins to reach via the ‘wee boat’ that sails to Claonaig from Lochranza in the summer months. Just 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. If you go between May and September, you might just be lucky enough to visit the famous seafood cabin & Creelers Smokehouse, where you can enjoy freshly caught fish and shellfish – delicious!

As a base Claonaig is a great way to explore Argyll by car – but remember that ferries can be busy in summer months! You might choose to head south to Campbeltown, either by the rural mainly single-track coast road which runs through Carradale, or the more direct A83 via Taynloan. Or why not head north for a day out in Oban, the key port for many of our neighbouring islands! If golf is your thing there’s loads of fabulous courses in Kintyre – and equally lovely scenery.

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**ayrshire jaunt?**

Whether coming or going, for many Ayrshire is the gateway to Arran. Overnight stays either way offer plenty of opportunity to sample Ayrshire’s best hospitality, whether in a bed and breakfast or in one of the lovely hotels such as Simpsins Waterside – and if you can get a view across to Arran too, then so much the better! Our ‘little cousin’, the lovely Isle of Cumbrae, is a delight to visit, with regular ferries from the lovely seaside town of Largs and a popular family pastime is to cycle around its 10 mile circumference!

The train line runs directly to and from the harbour from Glasgow 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. Ayrshire is also home to the fabulous Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine – lots to see and do down there!
where to stay...

Arran has a choice of accommodation to suit every budget. From award winning hotels to welcoming guesthouses, cozy 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!

Friend on holiday!

Visit Arran also conducts an accessibility audit, so if you have accessibility difficulties and are concerned about coming on holiday please do contact us for a copy of the most recent information. Similarly, you can contact us for more information if you want to bring your four legged friend on holiday!

** highlighting the availability of pet-friendly accommodations.**

**Around Arran**

Arran Castaways S/C
T: 01770 302813
Arran Island Cottages S/C
T: 01770 860276
Arran Holiday Rentals S/C
T: 01770 302121
Arran Holiday Retreats S/C
T: 01770 302342
Arran Holiday Rentals S/C
T: 01770 302447
Arran Team S/C
T: 01770 303113
Bellevue Farm Cottages S/C
T: 01770 302293
Cottages on Arran S/C
T: 01770 202064/07775 591325

**Blackwaterfoot/ Machrie/Shiskine**

Bellevue Farm Cottages S/C
T: 01770 860597
Blackwaterfoot Lodge B&B
T: 01770 860202
Bridgend Campsite
T: 01770 860597
Gillie Ghaigh Cottage S/C
T: 07836 346902
Greannan B&B & S/C
T: 01770 860200
Green Brae S/C
T: 01770 303113
Hamilton Cottages S/C
T: 01770 860 711
Kirnich Hotel
T: 01770 860444
Lochside B&B
T: 01770 860276
Brodick
Auchoannie Resort
T: 01770 302234
Beachside Apartment S/C
T: 01770 302397
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Glenartney Guest House B&B
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Glen Island Hotel
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Ivybank Arran B&B & S/C
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Lamlash Bay Hotel
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Lilybank Guest House B&B
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Woodlea S/C
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Seawinds Holiday Cottages
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Grianan Holidays S/C
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Kildonan Hotel
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Bosolo Farm Cottages S/C
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Lagg Hotel
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Lochranza Youth Hostel
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Lochranza Hotel
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Lochranza Campsite
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T: 01770 600081
E: carraigmhorhouse@gmail.com
www.carraigmhor.co.uk
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The Burlington, Shore Road,
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eating out

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

www.visitarran.com/food-drink

did you know?

• The new ArranCard can be used at a variety of accommodation, retail, eateries, activities and attractions! For more info check out www.arrancard.com

• We love our swings on Arran – you might spot some as you travel around, particularly up the west coast, just casually dotted about – for children of all ages, of course…

• Each top window of the Twelve Apostles in Catacol is a different shape, so the fishermen tenants could see their own houses from sea – fancy!

• You can play all seven golf courses for only £110! Check out www.golfonarran.com for details

• The Arran Coastal way is over 60 miles long – but the road around the island is only 56 miles – even with all the twists and turns!

• Eriskay ponies, Soay sheep and Saanen goats all roam wild on Holy Isle…

• Arran has loads of geocaches – all you need is a GPS tracker on your phone, a good understanding of the clues and you can be offski on your own island treasure hunt! Check out www.geocaching.com

• Arran has seven primary schools and just one secondary school. See if you can spot them as you travel around the island!

• All of Scotland’s Big Five can be seen on Arran, and in some villages, such as Lochranza, all within the one walk! Look out for red deer, golden eagles, harbour seals, otters and red squirrels – but you might also spot basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises at certain times of the year too!

• Red deer are abundant on Arran – but did you know that we also have a couple of white deer too in secret locations? If a white deer appears it was supposed to signal a death in the Hamilton dynasty… spooky! The white deer of Arran are the result of a genetic condition and makes them very unique – keep your eyes peeled and see if you can spy one!
“Isle of Arran is the true gem of the Clyde”
Billy Connolly
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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.

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!

At VisitArran, we work closely with our colleagues in VisitScotland. The VisitScotland iCentre is located at Brodick Pier - you can't miss the unusual ‘peaked hat’ roof of the building! Throughout the summer, the office is open 7 days a week, 9-5pm (with a one hour closure for lunch variable around boat times). During the winter months the office is closed on Sundays, and is open reduced hours. The friendly local staff will be able to assist with any queries you may have relating to your holiday.

visitarran board

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safeguarding Arran for the future

Do you know that if every visitor to Arran gifted just £1, we could spend over £250,000 protecting and maintaining everything about our island that makes it so special?

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 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 you 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, and damaging vital ecosystems. 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 other projects we have supported too.

useful numbers

Emergency:
Fire, Police, Ambulance, Coastguard, Mountain Rescue) 999
Local Police (non-emergency) 101
NHS 24 111
Arran War Memorial Hospital 01770 600777
Dentist 01770 601067
Doctors - Arran Medical Group 01770 600516
Hillphone 01770 302363
North Ayrshire Council 01770 600338
Vet 01770 302511
Travel:
CalMac (Brodick) 01770 460361
Stagecoach Buses (Arran) 01770 302000
Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50

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www.visitarran.com

To donat www.arrantrust.org/donate

contact us
VisitArran, Tourist Information Office, Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran KA27 8AU
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