

ROBERT BURNS - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 2 - Further along the Burns Trail

Estimated Time - Full Day

Mauchline

Map Ref:31

For those dedicated to following the Burns trail, Mauchline, Tarbolton and Irvine provide a good outing.

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The Burns House Museum is well worth a visit. Burns lived in Mauchline for four years and during this time wrote many famous poems and songs. The Museum has a particularly close association with Burns as he rented a room in the house with Jean Armour. Exhibits include manuscripts of satirical poems with strong Mauchline connections, a copy of the rare 'Kilmarnock' edition of Burns' first collection 'Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect', and artifacts that belonged to the poet and his contemporaries.

Nanse Tinnock's, opposite the Museum, is now used for temporary exhibitions. In Burns' time it was known as the Sma' Inn. Next to the museum is the kirkyard where several members of Burns' family lie. Other landmarks include Poesie Nansie's Inn, which is a working pub to this day and was a haunt of the poet and his friends.

At the western edge of the town is the National Burns Memorial, completed in 1989 and behind the tower are the Burns Memorial Cottage Homes. These were begun in 1897 as a charitable venture for the poor and elderly.

Telephone 01290 550045

Open April to October Tuesday -Saturday 10.00-17.00

Highland Mary's Monument

Map Ref:30

Follow the B743 to the village of Failford, site of the Highland Mary Monument. A simple column marks the spot where Burns bade his final farewell to Highland Mary Campbell of Argyll; they had planned to marry and emigrate to Jamaica to seek their fortune, but Mary died of typhoid before their plans could be realised.

Tarbolton

Map Ref:29

Carry on along the B743 and join the B730 to Tarbolton where you will find plenty more evidence of the poet in Ayrshire.

Tarbolton is home to the Bachelors' Club. This debating and literary club was founded by the poet, his brother Gilbert and some of his friends in 1780. The criteria for joining the club, though, were perhaps less lofty than the debates that might have been held there - "Every man proper for a member of this society must have a frank, open, honest heart; above any thing dirty or mean; and must be a professed lover of one or more of the female sex".

The Bachelors' Club is now owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland.

Open daily from Apr 1st - Sep 30th, 13.30-17.30. Oct weekends 13.30-17.30 Last admission at 17.00

Glasgow Vennel in Irvine is where to find the museum holding Burns artifacts as well as displays by local artists. Also on site is the 'Heckling Shop' where the poet learnt to dress flax, and the rooms where Burns lodged, which have been restored with period furniture and artefacts.

Also in Irvine is the oldest continuous Burns Club in the work, founded in 1826. Its museum houses some of the manuscripts that were prepared for the first Kilmarnock edition of his poems.



Telephone 01292 445447

Open all year, Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun (Apr-Oct, 14.00-17.00)