

HISTORICAL - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 3 - Half Day Burns Intinerary

Estimated Time - Half Day

Burns Cottage and Museum

Map Ref: 10

Burns Cottage - a small white windowless house standing by the roadside in Alloway - is the place where it all began for Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns.

He was born in the house in 1759, and thanks to careful restoration over the years, the cottage today is much as it would have been in Burns' time - except that it would have been surrounded by fields, and a good few miles outside the main county town of Ayr.

There's an audio visual presentation in the cottage itself, telling the poet's life story, and of course, there's a chance to look round the house - and perhaps wonder that such humble surroundings fostered the great talent that Burns had.

Adjacent to the Cottage is the museum which contains some important Burns manuscripts, including a rare copy of the first Kilmarnock Edition of his poems. There are also a number Burns artefacts, and displays which set his life in its historic context: his contemporaries, for example, included Mozart, Beethoven, and the artist JW Turner. On the political scene, the American War of Independence, and later on the French Revolution had a huge impact on world politics of the time whilst in Britain, the madness of King George was a major concern.

The Burns Cottage and Museum, as well as the National Heritage Park not only tell the story of a great poet, but open a window on a fascinating period of history.

Telephone : 01292 443700

Open Apr-Sept, daily 09.00-18.00, (Oct-Mar, Mon-Sat 10.00-16.00, Sun 12.00-16.00)

Alloway Kirk, Auld Brig O' Doon, and The Burns Monument

Map Ref: 10

Just a stone's throw from the Tam O' Shanter Experience is the Auld Alloway Kirk, where Tam saw the witches and warlocks dancing in an eerie glow. In real life, the Church is the burial place of the poet's father, William, and is occasionally the setting for readings and re-enactments of the poem.

Also nearby is the single span Brig O' Doon, possibly dating from the thirteenth century. It's set in lovely gardens, so it's perhaps a little harder to imagine the strange goings on of the poem in such a beautiful setting.

Overlooking them both is the Grecian style Burns Monument, built in the early nineteenth century to commemorate the poet's life and work.

