

HISTORICAL - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 6 - Dean Castle and The Dick Institute

Estimated Time - Half Day

Dean Castle

Map Ref: 7

Kilmarnock's Dean Castle is a remarkable place with something for all the family. The Castle itself has stood the test of time. Originally built in the fourteenth century, the fifteenth century saw the addition of the keep, and the seventeenth, the building of the adjacent

house. The centuries have taken their toll, but thanks to restoration work in the early twentieth century, it remains pretty intact to this day.

Each part of the Castle has its own tale to tell, from the main hall which would have been the site of banquets, with noblemen entertained from the minstrel's gallery by musicians, to the dungeon, in which luckless enemies would be thrown to await their fate.

The castle contains a large - and internationally important collection - of early musical instruments, as well as suits of armour and chain mail dating back over the past millennium.

The country park surrounding the castle provides the setting for woodland and riverside walks, and for the children there's a wooden fort adventure play area, and rare farm breeds.

Dean Castle is a visitor attraction full of surprises, with a range of things to see and do in one location. Children old and young - as well as adults will find plenty to entertain and inform.

Telephone : 01563 522702

**Country Park open all year dawn till dusk.
Visitor Centre & Tearoom : Summer 11.00-17.00, Winter 11.00-16.00**

The Dick Institute, Kilmarnock

Map Ref: 7

If you think that one of your ancestors might have come from Ayrshire, then the Dick Institute in Kilmarnock is the place to find out. It home to one of the most comprehensive genealogy services in the country, and if they can't help you to trace your roots, they'll almost certainly be able to point you in the direction of someone who can.

The Institute also contains a surprising array of exhibits, from the geology and archaeology of Scotland to an extensive natural history section.

The Institutes two art galleries are also a draw for visitors, as they are the host to a range of touring exhibitions, and are also home to some important Scottish paintings.

