

HISTORICAL - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 9 - King's Cave, Machrie Moor Standing Stones, Lochranza Castle

Estimated Time - Half Day

King's Cave

Map Ref: 22

Arran's history is linked with the very earliest Scottish people, the Picts. They have left their marks at King's Cave, in the form of some rare writing on the wall.

King's Cave is also said to be the legendary spot where Robert the Bruce, dejected and battle weary, was inspired by the tenacity of a small spider as it painstakingly spun its web. The Bruce went on to win many battles following this episode. The cave is a short walk along the beach just north of Blackwaterfoot.

Machrie Moor Standing Stones

Map Ref: 23

Arran's history dates back so far that its earliest times merge with myth and legend.

The mysterious standing stones on Machrie moor stand as a reminder of a Celtic culture which reaches through the centuries and still holds a fascination in the present day.

One of the stone circles is known as Fingal's Cauldron seat, named after one of the legendary Irish warlords who came to Arran in ancient times. A stone within the circle has a hole through it, where Fingal is said to have tethered his dog, Bran.

You don't have to stray too far from the road to experience the strange tranquillity of the standing stones, which are just north of Blackwaterfoot.



Lochranza Castle

Map Ref: 21



Further up the coast visitors can look around the dramatic ruins of Lochranza castle - the key is available from the local post office just across the road.

Lochranza Castle was built in about the thirteenth century, and the early part of its life was spent as fortress - a strong defence against Scandinavian invaders.

In the slightly quieter times of the fifteenth century, it was developed from a lodge into quite a substantial castle by the Montgomerie family, and was probably used as a hunting lodge in the sixteenth century, and much of its present appearance dates back to this time.

As it passed into different hands, the castle eventually fell into disrepair. Perhaps its greatest claim to fame in more recent years is that Sir Walter Scott refers to it in his novel 'Lord of the Isles'.