

ISLE OF ARRAN - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 3 - Northern Car Route, taking in Brodick, Lochranza, the western coast road, Machrie Moors and the String Road

Estimated Time - Half Day

Northern Car Tour

Brodick makes a perfect starting point for a car tour of the north of Arran, not least because there are so many stopping off points.

In addition to the numerous shops - many selling specialist produce - you'll pass Brodick Golf Club, an 18 hole golf course, and one of Arran's seven golf courses. Keep your eyes peeled as you pass the Primary School and you'll see a prehistoric standing stone. It must once have stood alone, but has now been engulfed by the village.

Well worth a visit is the Arran Heritage Museum, a small whitewashed building with an array of antique farm machinery outside. Inside, the story of Arran, spanning the centuries, is told, and the Museum's various exhibitions and demonstrations continue many of the Isle's traditions.

Driving out of Brodick towards Lochranza, you'll pass the Home Farm Visitor Centre, which contains a variety of local produce, including fayre from the Island Cheese Company and Creelers fish restaurant and smokehouse, and the Arran Aromatics factory shop, where you can pamper your senses. A little further up the road is the Arran Brewery, whose visitor centre provides a window on their beer making processes.



Heading up to Lochranza, you'll pass the entrance to Brodick Castle - one of Arran's most famous landmarks, and an essential part of any visit to the Isle of Arran.

The coast road through some scenic villages gives you the chance to see some of Arran's seal colonies and a variety of bird life. Remember to stop in the picturesque village of Corrie where Corrie Crafts and Antiques stocks high quality Scottish Crafts, small antiques and collectables.

Heading north towards Sannox, your view to the left is dominated by Goat Fell - Arran's highest point, and mecca for walkers. The countryside in the north of Arran is home to deer, red squirrels and you may even catch sight of a golden eagle if you're very lucky.

Lochranza Castle dominates the seaward side of Arran's most northerly village: although a dramatic ruin, it has a colourful history and is mentioned in Walter Scott's novel 'Lord of the Isles'. A more recent addition to the village is the Isle of Arran Distillery, which has its own visitor centre and excellent restaurant. Also worth a visit: The Arran Stonemen, selling hand painted stone characters and animals and decorative candles; and the Lochranza Studio Gallery displaying watercolours of Arran, the Western Isles and the Scottish Highlands by Ian B Buchanan.

Travelling down the western coast of the island takes you through some more picturesque villages, all with stunning views across to the Mull of Kintyre. Catacol has a strange row of identical cottages, known as 'the twelve apostles' and Pirnmill once had a mill which supplied bobbins to the thread industry in Paisley. This village allows another chance to see some Arran crafts at the Arran Pottery

Moving south, you can take time to enjoy the coastal views before making one last stop at the Old Byre Showroom at Machrie. This shop stocks an extensive range of pure wool, cotton and handknitted 'Aran' sweaters, sheepskins, leather goods, fleeces and many other gifts.

Heading back to Brodick across the String Road, which cuts across the centre of the Island, provides a contrast to the coastal road with its mountainous views, and on a fine day, the view on approach to Brodick can be spectacular.