

ISLE OF ARRAN - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 4 - Southern Car Route, taking in String Road, Balmichael Visitor Centre, King's Cave, Torylinn Creamery

Estimated Time - Half Day

Southern Car Tour

Driving out of Brodick and heading south, the first village that you come to is Lamlash. It was where the Viking King Hakkon assembled his fleet in 1263, before and after the Battle of Largs, where he was defeated. Now, Lamlash is home to the factory shop of Paterson Arran Kitchens, producers of preserves and fine mustards, and Studio 4 where hand crafted silver jewellery is on display. The small island that you see just off the coast is Holy Isle, now home to Tibetan Monks who have founded a religious retreat there.

Before you reach the next village of Whiting Bay, keep a look out for the sign to King's Cross: it's the site of an Iron Age broch, and a Second World War gun emplacement. It is also reputed to be the place from which Robert the Bruce left Arran for Ayrshire.

The village of Whiting Bay is home to the Crafts of Arran shop which displays many beautifully produced local works. It is also the best stopping off point for those wanting to enjoy the two mile walk to Glenashdale Falls in the forest - one of Arran's most stunning natural landmarks.

Rounding the southernmost tip of the Isle, the village of Kildonan, with its castle ruins, has become a popular place to view one of Arran's resident seal colonies. The view out to sea also takes in the Isle of Pladda, and further in the distance, Ailsa Craig.

A little further down the road, the Torylinn Creamery provides an opportunity to see how their award winning Arran Dunlop cheese is made, and sample some before you move on. Also worth a visit in Kilmory are: Kilmory Workshop where woodwork and pottery are made on the premises; Roslyn Gibson, artist and handknitter - open by appointment; and Island Porcelain, producer of fine porcelain. Further along the coast drop in at Arran Fine Art Silks where silks are individually printed / painted.

As you travel up the western side of Arran, you'll come to Blackwaterfoot, where there's a coastal walk to the King's Cave. It is also near the famous Machrie Moors, which are scattered with neolithic standing stones.

Follow the String Road back to Brodick which cuts across the centre of the Island. It 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.

If you've time drop in to the Balmichael Visitor Centre which offers a number of activities for young and old. For the young, there's the chance to let off steam in the adventure playground, whilst the young at heart can join them on the quad bikes.

