

## **CUMBRAE - FAVOURITE WALKS**

From the Old Pier, climb to the top of Cardiff Street, taking the right junction to Golf Road. At the Golf Course, take the left fork to the farm road by the side of Upper Kirkton Farm buildings to the "stile", turning right and following the line of the fence as it disappears over the horizon. To the left can be seen Kilchattan Bay on neighbouring Bute with the Arran hills behind; ahead is the Ayrshire coast. Follow the path, well defined by tractor marks, through the fields. The view at the brow of the hill is of the Ayrshire hills, dominated by Inverkip Power Station chimney, Dunoon and Argyll. Continue on the path which narrows after the next stile till you reach the road. Turn right for Fintry Bay, a popular spot for picnicking and seabathing or left to continue the walk. You are now on the main coast road and will arrive in Millport's West Bay in about 3 miles.

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From Millport Old Pier, take the promenade to College Street just past the Garrison and turn left. After a short distance, you will see the Cathedral of the Isles on the right. Proceed uphill towards the Lady Margaret Hospital, and at the fork in the road, go left past Breakough Farm. As you walk up the hill, on the right you will see the Lady Margaret Hospital snuggled in beside the trees. Further up the hill you will come to a bench seat beside a farm gate. From here you can see the golf course, the Little Cumbrae, the Sleeping Warrior range of hills on Arran, Bute and panoramic views of the Firth of Clyde. From this point for about a mile, there are unforgettable views of the Clyde and surrounding area.

At the top of the island at the Glaidstane there is an indicator point illustrating landmarks in all directions. Continue downhill, past Figgitch Farm and the former Mineral Drinking Well and with Largs and Skelmorlie to the left, turn right at the junction on to the Ferry Road and arrive at the promenade at Kames Bay, with Ailsa Craig on the horizon. A splendid country walk offering outstanding views of Arran and the surrounding area.

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From the Old Pier, take the main road following the coast, past Newton Bay to Kames Bay. Take the left junction to Ferry Road and

continue to Ballikillet Farm road end where there are steps set into the wall opposite. Climb the wall and follow the path till the stile. Turn right and follow the fence till, crossing another fence at right angles, the walker will meet a path broad enough for a tractor. As the path becomes less distinct, continue in the same direction until, to the right, a view of Millport, much loved by photographers unfolds. Pause at the cairn and look around to see a panoramic view of Millport and its environs. To continue, bear to the left keeping Ayrshire to your right until you reach a wall, which is partly formed by the top part of the Lion Rock. Descend to the road, keeping to the Keppel Pier side of the Lion Rock. At the road turn right to approach the town at Kames Bay.

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From Millport Old Pier, climb the hill up Cardiff Street taking the right junction to Golf Road. At the golf course, choose the left fork to the Upper Kirkton Farm road by the side at the farm buildings. At the "stile", turn left along a broad path to another stile; continue to the right along the edge of the field with views of Kilchattan Bay and Bute on the right with Arran's Sleeping Warrior ahead. As you prepare to descend, look down to Sheriff's Port. At the foot of the hill, cross the stile and follow the path to the road. Turn left at the road and continue to Millport's West Bay. Just after joining the road, where the power cables come on to the island, stop at the seat opposite the cliff and try the echo!

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Starting from Millport Old Pier, walk along the main street, following the coast, past Newton Bay and past Kames Bay to Marine Parade. Continue to follow the coast till you reach a path to the right (opposite number 49). Take the path to the tip of Farland Point, where you may see keen anglers fishing from the rocks. On the Ayrshire coast Hunterston Deep Water Terminal, Oil Rig Construction Yard and Nuclear Power Station blemish the landscape. At the end of the coastline Portencross Castle is silhouetted. Return to the main road and turn left to return to the town and right to the nearby Marine biological Station which is worth a visit.