

ISLE OF ARRAN - ITINERARIES



Itinerary 1 - Brodick Castle & Arran Heritage Museum

Estimated Time - Half Day

Brodick Castle and Country Park

Map Ref: 18

Brodick represents everything that you would expect from a National Trust flagship - a fascinating day out to remember, steeped in the history of Arran.

It has remarkable history. Built on the site of a Viking fortress, it has been occupied by the English, overrun by Robert the Bruce's followers, burnt down during the fifteenth century, and partially destroyed in the sixteenth at the behest of Henry VIII, and is perhaps Britain's most war-weary castle.

The castle and the earldom of Arran was given to the Duke of Hamilton in 1503 by his cousin, King James IV of Scotland, and it remained the home of the Dukes of Hamilton for centuries. It was Mary, Duchess of Montrose, daughter of the 12th Duke of Hamilton who was largely responsible for revitalising the beautiful gardens, and it was on her death in the 1950s that the castle and its grounds passed to the National Trust for Scotland.

Brodick Castle's present day appearance owes much to the Victorians, and it's now a showpiece visitor attraction owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland.

The Castle contains a large collection of porcelain and sporting trophies, as well as a valuable collection of silver and several important works of art, including pieces by Gainsborough and Turner.



The Castle's extensive grounds include beautiful gardens, marked woodland trails and for the children, and adventure playground. In addition, Brodick's rangers conduct a variety of guided walks, including tours of the extensive garden.

Telephone : 01770 302202

Open :Apr-Oct 11.00 - 16.30

Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick

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The Arran Heritage Museum provides an excellent overview of life on Arran over the centuries.

People have lived and worked on Arran since the earliest times, and one of the museum's most fascinating displays is of relics dating back to the Stone Age - including a reconstruction using the latest forensic techniques of an Iron Age man whose skull was found during excavations on the island in the early twentieth century.

Arran's agricultural heritage is explored, with farm machinery, the stable block and milk house all looking today as if they had just come off the pages of a history book.

The maritime history of Arran is also very much part of the museum exhibits, whether relating to its place as a naval base, or its visits by the Waverley paddle steamer - itself the hero of an unlikely life and death rescue.

There's plenty more besides. The Museum may look small from the outside, but it is full of interest, and provides an excellent backdrop to the history, craft and culture of Arran. And the Rosaburn Café provides a taste of Arran before you head off to explore further.



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