

Explore Our Local Area!

# DISCOVER EXCITING EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS NEAR US.



Explore Our Local Area!

# CULZEAN CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK

Robert Adam's cliff-top masterpiece rises above a world of woods, beaches, secret follies and play parks



Embark on an enchanting odyssey through this vast castle & country park, where excitement beckons at every twist and turn! Discover an array of 40 captivating edifices and concealed wonders, with the majestic cliff-top castle reigning supreme among them.

Marvel at the breathtaking Oval Staircase, a masterful creation by Robert Adam, stealing the limelight within the castle's walls. Traverse verdant woodlands, frolic upon sandy beaches, and meander through expansive parklands. Encounter the tranquil Swan Pond, catch glimpses of regal deer in the park, and behold the rugged grandeur of the cliffs.

Prepare to be enthralled by the remarkable assortment of flintlock pistols and military swords. Let your imagination soar in Adventure Cove and Wild Woodland play areas, where boundless fun awaits.

The park is a botanical marvel, adorned with towering conifers and majestic beech trees. Sandy coastlines stretch for miles, dotted with mysterious caves, while the Swan Pond, ice house, and beautiful formal gardens add a touch of magic. Don't miss the chance to explore the fruit-filled glasshouses, brimming with botanical wonders.

Perched atop Ayrshire cliffs, the castle stands as a testament to opulence and grandeur. Designed by Robert Adam in the late 18th century, it boasts a rich history and treasures that whisper tales of bygone eras.

Step into a world where each corner holds a story waiting to be unveiled!

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culzean>

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# BURNS COTTAGE & BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM



STEP INTO THE VIBRANT WORLD OF SCOTLAND'S  
BELOVED POET AT THE BIRTHPLACE OF A GENIUS!  
THE NATIONAL POET OF SCOTLAND.

Explore the humble cottage where Burns first drew breath and spent his formative years.  
Dive into the museum, home to over 5,000 Burns artefacts, including his precious handwritten manuscripts.

Follow the spirited footsteps of Tam o' Shanter to the atmospheric Alloway Auld Kirk and across the iconic Brig o' Doon. Pay homage at the Monument, where Burns tourism began over a century ago.

No visit is complete without savouring traditional haggis, neeps, and tatties in the museum café, celebrating Burns' culinary delights.

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum promises an unforgettable encounter with Scotland's cherished bard.

Whether you're a seasoned Burns enthusiast or new to his captivating works, this immersive experience in the picturesque village of Alloway will ignite your imagination and deepen your appreciation for Scotland's literary hero.

The perfect day of discovery and revelry, and enjoy the enduring genius of Robert Burns!

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum>

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# HEADS OF AYR FARM PARK

FUN FILLED DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY



From exhilarating quad bikes to sandpits, there's excitement tailored for every age at Heads of Ayr! Outdoors, four expansive themed play areas await, along with playgrounds, jumping pillows, sandpits, outdoor slides, trampolines, and an array of other delights.

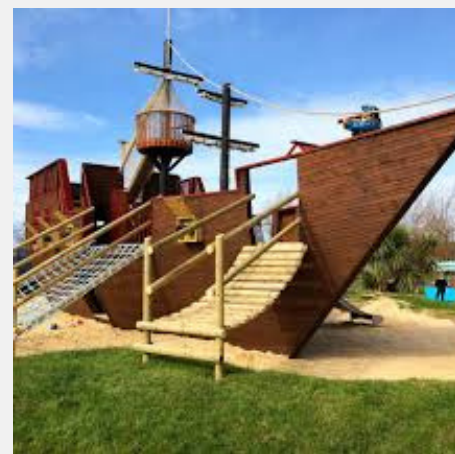
Seek refuge from the elements in our indoor play barn, where soft play adventures beckon for all ages. Zoom down drop slides, test your aim at the Fowl Play Shooting Arena, or introduce the littlest ones to sensory play designed just for them.

Come rain or shine, there's never a dull moment at Heads of Ayr. Discover sheltered outdoor play areas, a sprawling indoor soft play barn, and an assortment of amenities including a restaurant, Coffee Bar, gift shop, and an indoor animal barn.

In true Scottish spirit, the outdoor animals remain accessible even on rainy days, undeterred by the weather. Meet miniature horses, donkeys, goats, llamas, alpacas, chickens, ducks, and more, adding a touch of charm to your visit.

Rain or shine, adventure awaits at Heads of Ayr!

<https://www.headsofayrtickets.co.uk/>





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# DUMFRIES HOUSE ESTATE



Prepare to be enchanted by the splendour of Dumfries House, a jewel among Britain's grand stately homes!

Nestled within 2,000 acres of picturesque land, this 18th-century masterpiece, adorned with an unparalleled collection of original furniture, promises delights for all.

Rescued from obscurity in 2007 by the noble intervention of His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, Dumfries House is a harmonious blend of neoclassical architecture by Robert Adam and exquisite furniture crafted by Thomas Chippendale and esteemed Scottish cabinet makers of the 18th century.

Step into the enchanting Queen Elizabeth Walled Gardens, a crowning achievement of the Dumfries House Estate restoration. Spanning five acres, this expansive garden boasts one of Scotland's largest walled enclosures, featuring a unique 12-meter elevation change from north to south. Transformed from a neglected wasteland into a meticulously restored oasis, the garden showcases terraces, greenhouses, formal areas, and a charming Education Garden spanning one and a half acres.

For a whimsical adventure, venture into the Woodland Adventure Playground, where boundless fun awaits visitors of all ages. Let your imagination run wild amidst the wonders of Dumfries House, a haven of beauty and joy!

<https://dumfries-house.org.uk/>



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# CASTLES IN THE AREA



Greenan Castle, a 16th-century tower house in South Ayrshire, Scotland, lies about 2.5 miles southwest of Ayr. Perched atop a sea cliff, its origins trace back to a promontory fort transformed into a motte-and-bailey during the 12th century. In the 15th century, the Lords of the Isles constructed a tower house, eventually acquired by the Kennedy family. Today, it stands as a testament to Scotland's rich history, captivating visitors with its rugged beauty and storied past.

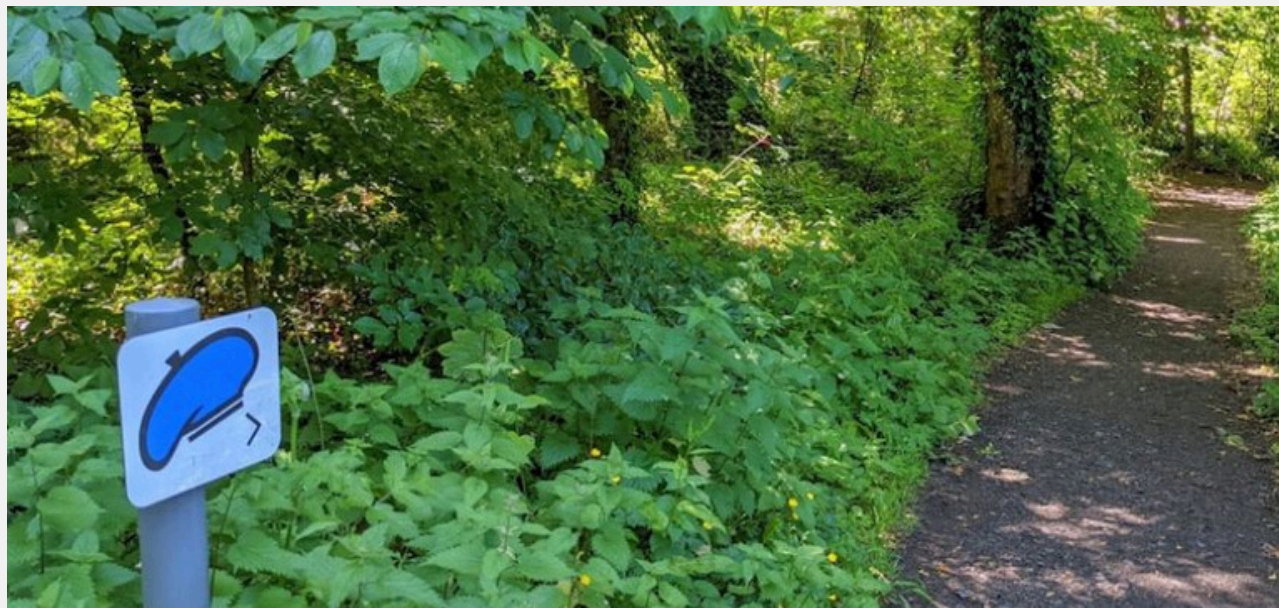


Dunure Castle, a ruin for over three centuries, was once the stronghold of the influential Kennedy family, Earls of Cassilis. While today Culzean Castle, nearby along the coast, is more closely associated with the Kennedys, Dunure Castle held primacy for several centuries from the 1200s. Built on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Firth of Clyde, its origins likely date back to that era. Over time, the castle expanded with additional structures, including a kitchen, chapel, great hall, and prison, reflecting the family's prosperity and stature. Notably, Dunure Castle witnessed historical events, like a 1429 meeting between James I of Scotland and the Lord of the Isles, ending in violence, and hosting Mary Queen of Scots in 1563 during one of her royal progressions.

Nestled on a 100ft high mound near Dundonald village, Dundonald Castle dominates the landscape. While its appearance suggests artifice, the crags on its west side hint at nature's hand. Built around the time of Robert II's reign in 1371, it was his favored residence until his death in 1390. Yet, despite its historical significance, Dundonald Castle's austere grandeur belies any notions of comfort. Dr. Johnson, in 1773, found it unfit for royalty. Ravaged by wars and time, its legacy lives on amidst its stark, monumental ruins.

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# WALKS FROM HERE



## The Blue Bonnet Trail

Embark on a captivating self-guided historical walking trail marked by 23 Blue Bonnet signs spanning 31 locations from Ayr town center to Alloway, revealing the town's rich heritage as you traverse its streets and parks. Access the experience through the "Ayr Through The Ages" app under "Historical Tours." Trace the footsteps of Robert Burns' legendary character, Tam o' Shanter, from his renowned poem published in 1750. Begin your journey from multiple starting points, tailoring the length and duration to your preferences. Navigate the trails with ease, guided by the Blue Bonnet signs, and stay mindful of urban traffic and golf course hazards along the way.

[https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/2615/Blue-Bonnet-Trail/pdf/Blue\\_Bonnet\\_Trail\\_Online\\_Version\\_2.pdf?m=1630581446880](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/2615/Blue-Bonnet-Trail/pdf/Blue_Bonnet_Trail_Online_Version_2.pdf?m=1630581446880)

## The Lang Scots Mile

Prior to the 18th century's standardization of weights and measures, the term "mile" in Scotland varied in distance, often exceeding English miles. Robert Burns immortalized this discrepancy in his poem "Tam o' Shanter." The "Measured Scots Mile" spans between Miller's Folly and Blackburn Car Park, characterized by flat terrain and wheelchair accessibility. En route, enjoy panoramic vistas of the Firth of Clyde, Arran, Kintyre, and the Cumbraes. A midway point features a children's play park, enhancing the experience for families. This scenic trail not only offers historical insight but also invites exploration amidst Scotland's picturesque landscapes.



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# A DAY AT THE RACES



Ayr Racecourse stands as Scotland's sole Grade 1 track, renowned for hosting premier horse racing events throughout the year, encompassing both flat racing and jumps.

Set amidst picturesque surroundings, it is the esteemed venue for the Coral Scottish Grand National Festival in April and the William Hill Ayr Gold Cup Festival in September. In 2018, Ayr Racecourse boasted a record-breaking 37 fixtures, many accompanied by live entertainment. Beyond racing, it plays host to various organized events.

With roots tracing back to 1576, the racecourse relocated to its present site in 1907, later undergoing a £20 million transformation in 2006. Today, the Princess Royal Exhibition, Banqueting, and Conference Centre offer luxurious amenities across four floors, including the Ayrshire Suite, champagne gardens, fine dining establishments, corporate boxes, and chic bars. Indulge in a variety of culinary delights at Silks Café Bistro and Colours outlets.

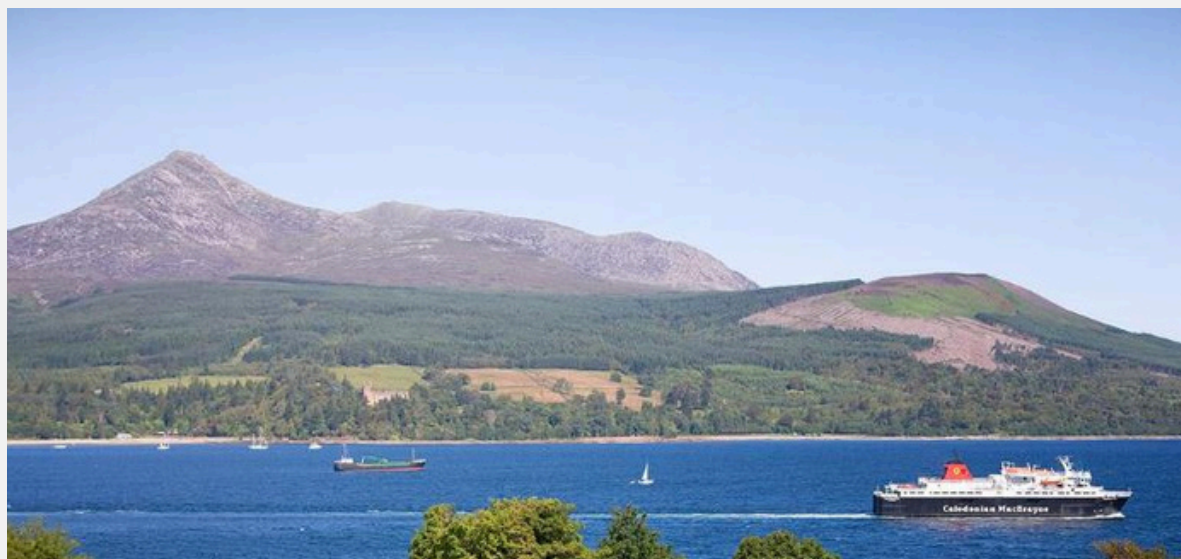
With 32 thrilling fixtures annually, featuring live entertainment and Family Racedays where under 18s enjoy free admission, Ayr Racecourse promises unparalleled excitement for all.

<https://www.ayr-racecourse.co.uk/>



Explore Our Local Area!

# DAY TRIPS TO THE ISLANDS



## Isle of Arran

A short ferry ride across the Firth of Clyde leads to the captivating island of Arran, boasting ancient castles, breathtaking scenery, and abundant wildlife. Lochranza, a mere 15 miles from Brodick's ferry terminal, offers a delightful blend of these attractions, making it an ideal day trip destination for families or nature enthusiasts alike.

## Island of Great Cumbrae

A 10 minute ferry trip from Largs takes you to the Island of great Cumbrae and the town of Millport. A haven for wildlife, there are over 120 species of birds and seals which can be spotted in the bay. Millport boasts safe beaches for kids and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor amusements as well as Europe's smallest Cathedral.. The perfect place to hire a bike and cycle round the island.

## Isle of Bute

Beautiful Bute is one of the most accessible Scottish islands, just a short ferry ride across the Firth of Clyde.

It is a short trip from Wemyss Bay to the Victoriana meets art deco-style resort of Rothesay, with its palm trees and promenade. Attractions include Rothesay Castle, the stately home at nearby Mount Stuart, and some of the country's best toilets.

For such a compact island, Bute has some extraordinarily varied landscapes. From the lush, fertile and rolling hills of the island's heart to the craggy, heather-covered moorlands of the north and the delightful sandy beaches around the coastline, the island is a haven for walking, cycling, fishing and wildlife.

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# CROY (ELECTRIC) BRAE



Located on the A719 south of Dunure, between Drumshrang and Knoweside in South Ayrshire, the Electric Brae presents a mesmerising spectacle: vehicles appear to defy gravity as they roll uphill, sparking curiosity and wonder among visitors.

This optical illusion, known as a gravity hill, has intrigued generations, captivating the imagination with its seemingly supernatural allure. Despite its name, "Electric," which originated from earlier misconceptions regarding electric or magnetic forces, the phenomenon is purely visual in nature. The term "brae," derived from Scots, denotes a hill-slope or brow, emphasizing the landscape's crucial role in crafting this enchanting illusion.

As visitors traverse the Electric Brae, they are enveloped in a sense of mystery, reminding us of nature's ability to confound and challenge our perceptions.



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# PIRATE PETE'S & SEAFRONT PLAYPARK



Pirate Pete's beckons with four decks brimming with slopes, slides, climbs, and tubes—a treasure trove for honing your pirating prowess. Navigate ball lagoons, bounce on soft surfaces, glide along aerial runways, and spiral down the slide, whirling from mast to keel. At the finale, dare to walk the plank, sealing your adventure with a thrilling plunge into the unknown depths. This immersive playground invites adventurers of all ages to embark on a journey of discovery and daring, where every twist and turn tests your mettle against the challenges of the high seas.

Ayr Seafront Playpark – Free Fun & Frolics for the kids on the Ayr Seafront – A Great Day Out.....

A massive climbing frame with two huge slides, sand pits, swings, roundabouts, a pirate boat and much much more...

The play park is right on the sea front so once you've had enough head onto the beach for a nice long walk along the sea front – build some sandcastles and get a little wet – make sure you bring the wellies and a spare pair of clothes for the kids!





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# AYR GAIETY THEATRE & ASTORIA CINEMA

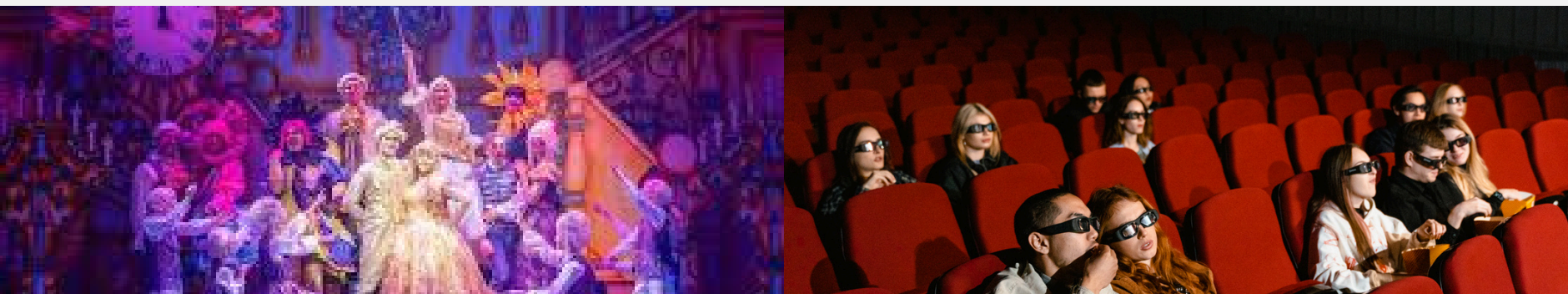


For over a century, Ayr Gaiety has been a beacon of Scottish Variety entertainment. Its Main Auditorium, with 484 seats, and Studio Theatre, with 75 seats, offer versatile spaces for a wide array of shows, including lively musicals and gripping dramas. Each seat provides an intimate view of the stage, enhanced by unparalleled acoustics. Adjacent, the Stage Door Café beckons with its family-friendly ambiance, serving delectable fare from 10 am to 11 pm daily. Opened in 2013, it swiftly became a beloved dining spot in Ayrshire, perfect for casual catch-ups over a latte or indulging in a pre-theatre feast with friends.

<https://thegaiety.co.uk/>

Astoria Cinema was reopened by Merlin Cinemas in March 2024, restoring its former art deco cinema splendor. Originally an Odeon cinema since July 13, 1938, the Astoria now begins a new chapter. Its restoration project offers accessible entertainment with a full programme of movies and screened concerts and plays.

<https://tickets.co.uk/cinemas/merlin-astoria-cinema-ayr/>





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# LOCAL FOODIE & DRINK TRIPS



## Renaldo's

Established in 1920 in Ayr, this iconic store boasts a rich lineage of Italian proprietors. Linda and Silvio Galli, the present custodians for three decades, have meticulously preserved its essence, endearing it to locals and visitors alike. Their commitment to tradition is evident in the continued use of authentic Italian Gelato recipes, boasting a mere 3% fat and 130 calories per scoop, sourced from the finest local milk. Linda, the skilled chocolatier, crafts an exclusive range of decadent chocolates, available solely at Renaldo's. Complementing these delights are delectable cakes and hot beverages, exclusively savoured within the store, ensuring a delightful start to your day. <https://renaldosayr.co.uk/>

## A D Ratray Whisky Shop

Visit this venue on the West Coast of Scotland, where a warm welcome awaits you. Located in the heart of Ayrshire, you will find them within the beautifully renovated old village school in Kirkoswald, less than an hour South of Glasgow. Discover their own award-winning whiskies alongside a fine selection of wines, beers, rums, gins, Scottish foods, cigars, gifts & more... <https://www.adratray.com/our-whisky>

## Corney & Barrow Wine Merchants

ICorney & Barrow merged with Whighams of Ayr, one of the UK's oldest wine merchants.. Situated in Academy Street aew the historic Ayr Cellars, built in 1766 used for storing imported wines, ports, and sherries from Europe. Today, these cellars are still used for long-term customer reserve storage.

They host regular cellar tours, events and tastings for small private groups and larger events.

To arrange a tasting or tour, contact the shop at 01292 267 000



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# DAY TRIP TO GLASGOW



Embark on an exhilarating day trip from Ayr to Glasgow, conveniently reachable by car, bus, or train, thanks to its excellent transport connections and frequent services. Prepare for a day brimming with cultural delights and historical wonders. Indulge in the masterpieces housed at Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, MoMA, and the Hunterian Art Gallery, each offering a unique perspective on artistic expression.

Delve into Glasgow's rich history at the Riverside Museum of Transport & Travel and the hauntingly beautiful Necropolis. Don't miss the opportunity to wander through the enchanting Botanic Gardens, where verdant lawns, tree-lined pathways, and vibrant floral displays create an idyllic setting. Take refuge under the shade of trees or bask in the warm sunshine, with picnic tables at the entrance for a leisurely outdoor meal.

Immerse yourself in the park's storied past, and marvel at its fascinating greenhouses, a glimpse into botanical wonders from around the world. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the west end, find serenity and solace in this verdant oasis, where moments of peaceful contemplation await.

Families seeking an interactive and educational experience will delight in a visit to the acclaimed Glasgow Science Centre, lauded with a VisitScotland 5-star rating. Embark on a journey of discovery across three floors, where around 300 hands-on interactive science exhibits await. Explore the intricacies of human health and well-being in "BodyWorks," contemplate the future of energy in "Powering the Future," and a cosmic adventure in the digital planetarium.

Glasgow promises a day filled with excitement, enlightenment, and unforgettable memories. Whether you're exploring its cultural gems, delving into its rich history, or embarking on a scientific odyssey, Glasgow offers a captivating destination for a day trip from Ayr.



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# AYRSHIRE GOLF



Ayrshire remains one of the very best golf destinations in the world, with nearly 50 courses to choose from including 5 of the UK's top 100 courses and three Open Championship venues. Play links golf, parkland golf or even golf on an island.

Ayrshire offers the visiting golfer perhaps the finest collection of links golf courses in the world and with it comes easy access, quality accommodation, fine dining and a history and heritage to match.

In 2024 The Open Championship revisits the wonderful challenge of Royal Troon and the world's finest golfers will once again return to the Ayrshire coastline. It provides a superb showcase for everything that this wonderful little county on the south west coast of Scotland can offer the visitor.

Why not look at what's on offer on the website and then start planning your trip to the 'Birthplace of The Open'.

<https://www.ayrshiregolfscotland.com/>





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# BELLEISLE PARK & ROZELLE MUSEUM & GALLERIES



Spanning 12 hectares south of Ayr along the Clyde coast, Belleisle Park boasts expansive parkland, diverse woodlands, a serene deer park, and a charming walled garden adorned with formal plantings, ponds, and rockeries. Among its attractions are play areas, manicured lawns, and two 18-hole golf courses. A meticulously restored Victorian conservatory and garden grace the landscape, while the Visitor Hub hosts dynamic exhibitions highlighting the park's heritage and wildlife. The versatile Exhibition Area accommodates both permanent and rotating displays, featuring wall-mounted and freestanding exhibits. Completing the experience are a cozy coffee shop and a well-stocked golf emporium.

Located on Ayr's southern side, Rozelle Park boasts a storied estate featuring the original 1760s Mansion House, The Maclaurin Art Gallery, and the inviting Rozelle Tea Room. Its expansive grounds encompass serene ponds, winding woodland walks, and vast playing fields. The poignant Remembrance Woodland, adorned with a striking tree sculpture trail, commemorates the WWI Centenary. Rozelle House Museum & Galleries, along with The Maclaurin Gallery, welcome visitors daily, while the Tea Room offers its delights from 9 am. This cultural hub showcases South Ayrshire Council's diverse collections and hosts a dynamic array of exhibitions and events. Meanwhile, the park bustles with weekly Park Runs, sports, orienteering, dog agility contests, and music festivals year-round.

