

*We want everyone to enjoy
this beautiful island!*

You may not be able to climb to the top of Goatfell but you can still enjoy exploring the exciting scenery, wildlife and cultural history of Arran.

This guide describes 'easy access' trails, viewpoints and facilities that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities and highlights some of the wildlife you may see along the way.

Whilst the trails have been designed specifically for pushchairs and wheelchairs or for those looking for level paths and smooth surfaces with plenty of resting places, they are there to be enjoyed by everyone! Accessible vantage points, beach access and sea front walks are also described.

We hope the advice will help you to make the most of your visit. In addition to the information in this guide, a CD and tape describing a driving tour of the south end of Arran and a Braille version of Kildonan Bay trail guide are available from Brodick Tourist Information Centre.



About Arran Access Trust (AAT)

The AAT aims to improve access opportunities, to restore and repair path damage and to reconcile differences over access demand and provision. In addition to the path improvements and signing, interpretation panels and leaflets have been produced to widen appreciation and understanding of Arran's natural heritage. The future success of the AAT depends on the continued support of the public; you can help by joining. Your support will help the AAT to carry out improvements and repairs to the island's path network, and you will receive the quarterly newsletter 'Going Places' keeping you up-to-date with progress.



If you have any comments or suggestions relating to Arran's access, the AAT would like to hear from you. For further information (and a membership form) please contact the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Centre on 01770 302462, or visit www.arran-access-trust.org.uk

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

Know the Code before you go...
Enjoy Scotland's outdoors - responsibly!



Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions;
- respect the interests of other people;
- care for the environment

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or by phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

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Argyll & the Islands
ENTERPRISE



ARRAN ACCESS TRUST ACCESS FOR ALL ON ARRAN

Tracks and Trails for the less able



Trails, Paths & Viewpoints

Key to the symbols

- Parking
- Toilets, no wheelchair access
- Toilets, including wheelchair access
- Path type and route length
- Points of interest
- Map reference

- 1** **Fishermans Walk, Brodick.**
 - Parking at rear of the small Co-Op store off Brodick High Street.
 - By the car park.
 - The path starts from the rear of the car park and is fine gravel running for about 900m behind the beach and alongside the mouth of Glenclroy Water. Mainly level and suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. At extreme high tide the path is liable to flooding.
 - This is where fresh water and sea water meet. It is a good place to see herons, ducks and wading birds on the salt marsh and river banks. Views include Beinn Nuis and Goatfell.

- 2** **Shore Access, Cladach.**
 - Opposite the entrance to the Cladach Visitor Centre.
 - The nearest facilities are at Brodick Castle.
 - The path starts at the far end of the left-hand car park. It is about 150m to the beach on a solid fine gravel path. The path is flat with no resting points and is suitable for all wheelchairs and pushchairs.
 - The short stretch of mixed woodland (listen out for song thrush and blackbird) quickly changes to open gorse and broom at the bridge over the fast-flowing Cnocan Burn. The view opens out across the long sweeping beach and Brodick Bay, from where elder, diving gannet and, if you're very lucky, a playing otter may be seen.



Sawbill Ducks
This is the collective term for goosanders (photo above) and red-breasted mergansers, coined because they have narrow red bills with a serrated inner edge, used to hold fish caught while surface-diving. Both have elongated bodies, however the merganser is smaller with a shaggy crest. The male has a rusty-brown breast and is common around Arran

- 6** **Glen Sannox**
 - At the north end of Sannox village, on the seaward side of road.
 - These are signposted in the car park. There are steps.
 - The start of the path, across the road from the car park, is through the large gate. It is tarmac for about 150m to the cemetery, and is suitable for all wheelchairs and pushchairs. After the cemetery the surface becomes solid fine gravel and the path passes through a 2nd gate (please keep your dog on a lead). About 50m beyond this gate are a couple of boulders that can be used as a resting point. After the second 'measured mile' beacon (used for trawling ships' speed between these and another set of beacons at North Sannox) the path becomes much rougher, which could be challenging for wheelchairs and pushchairs. There is a grassy area, but no seating or benches. The total trail length to the second beacon is about 400m.
 - A burn bubbles behind the stone dyke, with hawthorn, holly and beech making up the hedges on both sides. Watch out for the shy dunnock and the bold chaffinch in the hedge. After the cemetery, the landscape opens up into moorland, revealing views of the hills and the splendour of Cir Mhor and Caisteal Abhail. Buzzard and hen harrier may be hunting.



Seal
Most seals you will see around Arran are common seals, with rounded dog-like faces. They favour shallow, sheltered coastal waters. Although agile in the water (diving for fish and shellfish), they are ungainly on land moving with difficulty onto rocks to sunbathe, adopting a banana-like pose. The pups are often born on a rock, from which they float at the first high tide.



Basking Shark
This is the world's second largest fish. It is a cold-water plankton-feeder reaching up to 10m and weighing 5 tonnes. A gentle giant, which can sometimes be seen while it feeds near the surface. Although legally protected in British waters, it is still being fished for its fins, liver oil and meat in some regions.



Gannet
Ailsa Craig is one of the world's largest gannet colonies with up to 50,000 pairs breeding there. The adults incubate the single egg under their large webbed feet, in the style of penguins. Once the young are hatched as food by coastal communities. Adults plunge dive at up to 60mph, swallowing mackerel and other fish whole.



Dunnock

Like a mouse (both in colouring and behaviour), it creeps about unobtrusively in the thick growth under hedges and woods, making only short flights in the open.

It draws attention to itself with its frequent wing-flicking, an insistent 'peep' call, and thin warbling song. It feeds on insects and seeds found foraging amongst fallen leaves.



North Sannox

3 Brodick Castle Gardens and Country Park

- ▢ About 3.5km north of Brodick along the A841, parking is at the NTS Shop. There is disabled parking at the back of the Castle, please ask at the NTS shop for directions.
- 🚶 Facilities available at the NTS Shop, inside the Castle, and at the Ranger Centre.
- 🚶 There is a mixture of tarmac and solid fine gravel paths. Maps are provided in the NTS Shop and at the Ranger Centre. Some of the paths have inclines, but there are many well placed benches. Electric buggies are available from the NTS Shop for use within the Gardens.
- ☞ There are spectacular views over Brodick Bay and up to Goatfell. Amongst other delights, do visit the formal Upper Walled Garden, the Horlick Collection and Wilma's Walk.

4 Seal car park

- ▢ Parking is on the seaward side of the coast road between Brodick and Corrie, just over 800m north of the entrance gates to Brodick Castle.
- 🚶 The nearest facilities are at Brodick Castle.
- 🚶 Although there is no designated access from the car park to the shore, it is a good place to watch seals, either from the car or from a nearby bench.
- ☞ Look across the rocky shore to Brodick Bay and the Firth of Clyde. You may be rewarded with the sight of red breasted merganser, or busy oystercatcher and redshank at the water's edge.



Red Squirrel
Fortunately there are no grey squirrels on Arran, so the red isn't threatened by its bigger cousin. As well as feeding on small seeds, nuts and fruits (and occasionally eggs and young of small birds), they often visit bird feeders. In autumn they store food by burying it in the ground, although they don't always find their stash again!

5 Pirate's Cove car park

- ▢ This stopping place is about 800m south of Corrie village, and is on the seaward side of the coast road between Brodick and Corrie.
- 🚶 In Corrie village, at the harbour.
- 🚶 There is no designated access from the car park to the shore, however it is a good place to watch for seals, dolphins and porpoises moving through the Firth of Clyde, either from the car or from one of the picnic benches.
- ☞ There are great views over the rocky shore across the sea to the Ayrshire mainland. In summer you may be lucky and see basking shark from here.



Peacock Butterfly
This butterfly's spectacular pattern of eyespots evolved to startle or confuse predators. They can be seen almost anywhere, looking for breeding and food sites. Large nettle patches are normally chosen for egg laying. Adults hibernate in hollow trees and buildings

7 North Sannox, views of Fallen Rocks

- ▢ At North Sannox, by the picnic area.
- 🚶 At the car park.
- 🚶 Taking the route to Fallen Rocks, start through the wide gate. From the outset, the path is level, rough stone; what you see at the start is indicative of the whole route, which could be challenging for some types of wheelchairs and pushchairs. The first resting place is a bench about 150m beyond the navigation beacons (over 1km from gate), with a picnic bench about 200m beyond that. Beyond the turning circle at 2km the path becomes narrower, undulating and rougher.
- ☞ Within the woodland there is evidence of raised beaches and former sea cliffs. In the spring, amongst the birch, hazel, ash and larch you will see and smell wild garlic, bluebells and wood sorrel, with orchids appearing later in the year. All along the walk there are views across the rocky shore and the Firth of Clyde to Cumbrae, Little Cumbrae and Isle of Bute. The Fallen Rocks are huge boulders that tumbled down the hillside during a major rock fall in the 1700s.

8 Boguillie

- ▢ On the left-hand-side of road when heading from Sannox to Lochranza.
- 🚶 The nearest facilities are at the picnic site at North Sannox.
- 🚶 The path starts in the car park and is solid fine gravel from the outset. There are two walks. There is a short (50m), flat, wide path suitable for a wheelchair as far as the bench. Beyond this the longer (about 600m) narrower, gently undulating path is wide enough for two to walk side-by-side but may not be suitable for all types of wheelchairs and pushchairs. The path ends at the stepping stones. There are benches and large stones all the way long this path for rests, with boulder 'seats' by the burn near the stepping stones.
- ☞ The North Sannox Burn flows through wild open moorland of heather, bracken and bog myrtle with fluttering pipit overhead. On the rugged slopes of Suidhe Fhearghas you might spot red deer or see golden eagle soaring over the glen.



Oyster Catcher
This boldly coloured wader is a familiar sight on mud flats, beaches, and coastal fields. Unusually for a wading bird, it collects food for its chicks as they take time to master the adult's specialist feeding technique. This involves stalking their prey, waiting for a chance to strike the bill into a half open shell or finding a shellfish and hammering it open with the powerful chisel-tipped bill.



Red Deer

Only red deer live on Arran. When deer numbers are too high, there isn't enough new growth on moorland and pinewood plants to sustain them, so numbers are controlled by culling. In autumn you may hear the eerie call as the males compete with each other for females. Only the stag grows antlers, which are shed each spring, with a new pair grown by late summer.

3 Newton Point, Lochranza

At the road end towards Newton Point there is a 'Turning Area'. Turn here and park on the hard gravel about 20m back along the road, on the left-hand-side. Please do not park in the 'Turning Area'.

Public toilets are beyond the Lochranza ferry at Collemore Point. There are steps.

Beyond the last house the path is solid fine gravel. The 200m to the view indicator and boulder 'seats' at Newton Point is flat. The path past the indicator point remains level but the surface is much rougher so may not be suitable for all wheelchair and pushchair types.

Loch Ranza is to your left with the castle ruins at the head of the loch and the ferry jetty at the mouth. You may see oystercatcher and curlew busy feeding at the shore, whilst swallow fit overhead. To the right is a raised beach backed by earlier sea cliffs. The cliffs were formed 10,000 years ago, and the raised beach 6,000 years ago. Both features came about when the land rose after glaciers from the last Ice Age retreated. Hutton's Unconformity (NR934518), identified by Dr James Hutton in 1787 is an unusual geological formation which helped to redefine theories on the age of the earth. Look across Kilbrannan Sound to Skipness Castle on the mainland.

0 Whitefarland, near Pirmill

After travelling from Lochranza head through Pirmill. Just before Whitefarland (1km south of Pirmill) there is a car park on the left-hand-side. Access to beach is at the swings across the road. In Pirmill village.

The path (about 150m long) is solid fine gravel from outset, and has a gentle slope. It runs along the edge of a field to a bench which overlooks the beach.

Willow edges the path on the seaward side, but from the bench there are views up to Pirmill, and across to Kintyre. Fishing boats will be working in Kilbrannan Sound, their position marked by swooping gulls. The white sand is the result of many thousands of years of weathering of the local rocks. You may also see shag, black guillemot, and gannets here and red throated divers further out in the Sound.



Dolphin.

A sea-bound mammal, they use echolocation in a similar way to bats. They utter clicking sounds, which travel through the water and bounce back when the sound hits a solid object.

The dolphin detects this echo so avoiding collisions and allowing it to swim at top speed at night or in muddy water.



Otter

These are superbly adapted for living in water. They are streamlined like seals, have webbed feet, and special muscles for closing the nostrils and ears when underwater. Although otters hunt for fish, crabs and mussels at sea, they spend time inland relying on freshwater for bathing.



Shelduck

They are found on sandy and muddy shores, and feed on molluscs, insects and crustaceans dug or sieved from the mud or water. The broad, short bill is ideally suited to sieving through wet mud, and often you'll see the adults upended in the shallows.

13 Eas Mór, near Kildonan

On the A841 heading east from Kilmory, turn left into the car park directly opposite the first junction down to Kildonan. With permission, you can drive up to a lay-by just before entering the woodland - contact Albert Holmes 820274

It is a very steep solid fine gravel path up the start of the pine plantation. There is one resting place towards the top of the slope. Once in the plantation the solid fine gravel path, with a covering of pine needles, becomes level to the viewpoint. From the viewpoint to the woodland library (about 300m) the path remains solid gravel but becomes undulating.

The plantation is spruce (Norway and Sitka), with oak, ash and Scots pine in the gorge. At the woodland edge, you might spot peacock butterfly fitting and may hear the 'pheet' of the tiny acrobatic coal tit. From the viewpoint there are outstanding views of the gorge and waterfall, and across to Pladda and Ailsa Craig.

14 Kildonan Bay

There is limited space on the seaward side at Kildonan Stores.

The route heads west under the old cliff face. The path between the two gates (about 200m) is solid fine gravel, but there are no resting places. After the 2nd gate there is a seat and opportunities to get onto the beach. The path beyond this gate stays level but becomes more challenging and is unsurfaced over the grass fields

There are open views across a rugged rocky landscape to Pladda and Ailsa Craig. At low tide the view along the shore is of a 'dyke swarm' where hard volcanic rock has broken through the softer sandstone. On the rocks you might spot seals, or even an otter, whilst on the tideline turnstone, ringed plover, oystercatcher, and sanderling feed. A truly wild exposed place!

15 Kildonan Shore

In a parking area opposite the swings.

At the swings there is a short concrete ramp from the road, with a metal handrail, that takes you to the top of the beach. There are benches at the swings.

The peaceful scene belies a turbulent past when volcanic activity shaped the landscape some 60 million years ago. Pladda, 800m offshore is an igneous sill, formed when molten lava cooled and Ailsa Craig, some 21km to the south, is a volcanic island which is now a large gannet colony.



Kildonan



11 Machrie Moor

There is a lay-by on the right as you head from Machrie to Blackwaterfoot, just south of Machrie Bridge (NR895330).

In Blackwaterfoot village.

The path starts at a gate, across the road and a little south of the layby. The round trip is about 4km mainly along farm track which is rough in places with a short section of incline after 1km. Please close any farm gates you need to open along the route. There are hut circles and standing stones either side of the path, although the stone circles beyond the derelict Moss Farm are the most impressive.

The Machrie Moor stones have been described as possibly the best group of architecturally varied stone circles in Western Europe. Excavations have found remains dating back to the Neolithic (5,500 years ago) and Bronze Age (3,000 years ago). Watch out for hen harrier and short eared owl that may be hunting on the moor.

12 Torrilyn Cairn, Kilmory

Kilmory Village Hall

Next to the Kilmory Village Hall, steps involved.

The path runs down the left-hand-side of Kilmory Village Hall, alongside the swings. The path continues into mature woodland and heads towards the sea. There is a seat by the cairn. The gate to Torrilyn Cairn (a Neolithic chambered tomb) is wide enough for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Return the same way.

There are Scots pine, larch, oak, and birch in the woodland and views into the gorge of Torrilyn Water. Bluebells, primrose, red campion, and wild garlic flourish in spring and red squirrel can be seen here. In the fields next to Torrilyn Cairn you might see lolling hares in the early morning, and at dusk a ghostly barn owl. There are great sea views and on a clear day you will see across to Ailsa Craig, Kintyre and Ireland.



Black Guillemot (tystie)

Widespread along rocky shores, where it nests in crevices or among boulders - although you will see it darting about at Brodick Pier.

It flies very fast and low over the water, diving for food (generally butterfish and sand eels), submerging for up to a minute in shallow inshore waters.

16 Esplanade Walk, Whiting Bay

There is parking in the centre of the village, and at points along the sea front. By the Post Office.

A pavement runs through the village, although it isn't always on the seaward side. Along the shore, amongst the red sandstone rocks that are over 250 million years old, redshank and oystercatcher are likely to be feeding, with sanderling (the twinkle-toes of the beach) darting over the wet sand. Close to the shore you may see a stately pair of swans, or an informal line of eider. During the summer the bay is a good place to see gannets diving at close range for mackerel.



Eider

They are generally seen close to shore, where they ride the sea-swell, strung out in long lines. The distinctive cooing call of the courting male sounds very like the "ooh, ohh" made by gossiping people.

Eiders eat slow-moving, bottom-living creatures, which they take in dives from the surface.

They are famous for their eiderdown, taken from their nests to provide filling for bedspreads and pillows.

17 Shore Access, Lamlass

At the tennis courts in the heart of the village.

At the slipway

A hard gravel path.

There are spectacular views across Lamlass Bay to Holy Island, which was the home to St Molias around 700AD. Holy Island is an igneous sill, which was formed about the same time as Goatfell. Rather more recently the bay was an important gathering point for the navy during World War II.

18 Esplanade Walk, Lamlass

At the tennis courts in the heart of the village, or near the slipway.

At the slipway

A tarmac walk running between the two car parks, for about 1km. There are benches and picnic tables on the green.

Look out across the green to the rocky and sandy shore, and out to Holy Island. This is a busy stretch of water with the sailing boats and Holy Island ferry, gannet plunge-diving and gulls wheeling overhead.

19 Esplanade Walk, Brodick

Along the sea front.

At the swings near the Boathouse.

Flat tarmac pavement parallel to the main road. There are benches and picnic benches throughout.

Panoramic views of Beinn Nuis, Beinn Tarsuinn and Goatfell with Brodick Castle nesting in the woods. The red sandstones on the Brodick shore are about 270 million years old. On these rocks cormorant and shag stand with wings half open to dry. Just beyond the shore line there may be eider, black guillemot, or merganser surface-diving for food.