



DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS IN AYRSHIRE

EXPLORE

Ayrshire and Arran, trace your ancestry, remember family holidays of old and take a trip on the world's only seagoing paddle steamer.



DAY ONE LARGS AND MILLPORT

On the A78 in the north of the region lies the pretty coastal town of Largs with its Victorian promenade, sandy beach and ice cream parlours including the famous Nardinis with over 32 flavours of ice cream. The town is steeped in maritime history from Viking invasions to smugglers, and is now a popular sailing resort and home to Largs Yacht Haven.

A short fifteen minute ferry ride from Largs takes you to the Isle of Cumbrae and the Victorian seaside town of Millport. Wander along the seafront and enjoy the town's sandy beaches and famous landmarks, including Crocodile Rock and Garrison House. For the more energetic, you can hire a bike and cycle around Cumbrae to

enjoy the island's stunning panoramic views of the high peaks of Arran, the Isle of Bute, Dunoon and the Clyde sea lochs. The island is a paradise for wildlife watchers with over 125 species of birds, seals, porpoises and basking sharks.

DAY TWO THE WAVERLEY

A visit to Ayrshire and Arran is not complete without a trip on the Waverley. The world's only seagoing paddle steamer carries thousands of passengers along the Firth of Clyde every year calling at the seaside ports along the Ayrshire and Arran coast. Relax in Jeannie Deans tearoom, restaurant and licensed bar and enjoy the spectacular coastline in comfort from the heated observation lounge.

DAY THREE

BURNS MONUMENT CENTRE AND DEAN CASTLE

Trace your family history at the Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock, a one-stop centre for family history research and local history studies. Search archives from local authorities, private companies, census returns and back copies of local newspapers. Trained staff are on hand to help you with your search and it is possible to book time with a genealogy specialist.

Kilmarnock is also home to Dean Castle and Country Park. The country park, covering over 200 acres, boasts beautiful woodland walks, visitor centre and a fantastic 14th century castle housing world class collections including historic weapons, armour and musical instruments.

DAY FOUR

MUSEUM OF COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME, DALGARVEN MILL AND THE SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM

Just off the A737 between Kilwinning and Dalry is Dalgarn Mill, a treasure trove of costumes and rural life. Step back into the past and experience the sight and sound of the water wheel and the machinery of a Victorian Grain Mill. The granaries on three floors have exhibitions which tell the story of the rural community over the last century, their work, pastimes, dress and life. Enjoy a relaxed day out with Dalgarn's excellent cafe, antique shop and woodland walk.

Back in Irvine, head to the Scottish Maritime Museum situated on the Harbourside. There you will find exhibitions and ship models as well as Scotland's 'Cathedral of Engineering', the Linthouse Engine Shop built in 1872. Inside you can explore the Museum's fascinating collection of ship building machinery, small boats, canoes, lifeboats and much more. A visit includes a tour to the shipyard workers' tenement flat, restored to its pre-1920s appearance and you can board the MV Kyles, the oldest floating Clydebuilt vessel in the world.

CONTACTS

Below are the addresses and contact details for each of the venues mentioned. Each attraction offers different opening times and admission charges and we would recommend that you contact each one before visiting.

Garrison House, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0DE,
tel: 01475 531381, www.garrisonhousecumbrae.org.uk

Waverley Excursions, tel: 0845 130 4647, email: info@waverleyexcursions.co.uk, www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Scottish Maritime Museum, Harbourside, Irvine, KA12 8QE,
tel: 01294 278283, www.scottishmaritimemuseum.org

Burns Monument Centre, Kay Park Terrace, Kilmarnock, KA3 7RU,
tel: 01563 576695, www.burnsmonumentcentre.co.uk

Dean Castle and Country Park, Dean Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 1XB,
tel: 01563 554734, www.visiteastayrshire.com

Museum of Ayrshire Country Life and Costume, Dalgarn Mill, Dalry Road, nr Kilwinning, KA13 6PL, tel: 01294 552448, www.dalgarnmill.org.uk

TRAVEL

Caledonian MacBrayne, www.calmac.co.uk, tel: 0800 066 5000

Traveline Scotland, www.travelinescotland.com, tel: 0871 2002233

