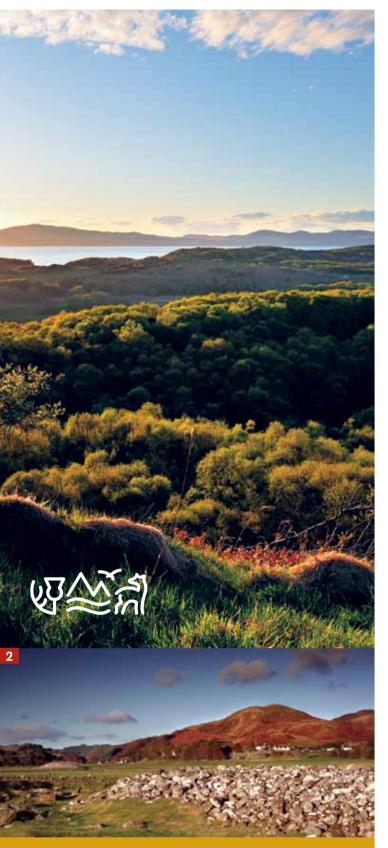
### Scottish Natural Heritage

# Explore for a day Heart of Argyll



A uniquely rich legacy of natural and built heritage can be found here in the Heart of Argyll. Atlantic oakwoods and mires of international importance, the visible remains of human occupation over many thousands of years and traces of early Christian history combine to make the area fascinating and unmissable. From the archaeological treasures of Kilmartin Glen, historic strongholds and medieval places of worship through to the places which made this area prosper in the Industrial Revolution, the rich cultural heritage of Argyll is waiting to be discovered. Add to this lavish mix and the fine scenery of the Knapdale National Scenic Area the chance to experience nature close up and see the work of beavers living wild in Scotland, Explore the rich woodlands, shady ravines. beautiful coastline and the maritime routes which made this area abundance of opportunities to watch wildlife. Visit lush gardens warmed by the Gulf Stream, take to the water in some of the best cruising grounds in the world or simply relax in a picturesque fishing village for a meal of locally-caught seafood.

Scottish Natural Heritage is the government agency charged with looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes, across all of Scotland, for everyone.

Find out more at: www.snh.gov.uk



### 1 Kilmartin House Museum

This world class centre for archaeology interprets the internationally important archaeological landscape and the artefacts that have been found in Kilmartin Glen. An intense audio-visual experience gives you a feeling for the beauty of the landscape of Mid Argyll and the layers of history and the memories that lie within it. The award winning permanent exhibition contains ancient artefacts found locally as well as archaeological objects on loan from other Museums. You can also try out some hands-on activities including quern stones and a stone axe polisher! Pick up a podcast to guide you along the Dalriada Heritage Trail or visit the award-winning gift shop.

### Paid admission

Open March till October, 10am – 5.30pm and reduced hours in November and December.

Tel: 01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

# P (2) (1) 🗗 (3)



### 2 Kilmartin Glen

Kilmartin Glen is famous for its rich historical legacy. There are at least 350 ancient monuments within six miles of the village. They include burial cairns, rock carvings, and standing stones, as well as the remains of the fortress of the Scots at Dunadd and three more recent castles. The Dalriada Heritage Trail leads you through some of the sites in this remarkable Glen. An easy walk from Kilmartin House Museum is the 'linear

cemetery' a row of burial cairns along the valley bottom. You can access the chamber of the north cairn at Nether Largie to see the axe carvings on a cist slab inside.

Close by is the stone circle at Temple Wood. Walk around these 5000 year old monuments and wonder at their use. A mile or two south of Kilmartin on the A816, park at Dunchraigaig to visit the Bronze Age Cairn and the Ballymeanoch standing stones. You might want to visit Achnabreac - the crest of a rocky ridge with well-preserved cup and ring markings of early prehistoric date.

www.kilmartin.org

 $\mathbf{P}$ 

## 3 Dunadd Fort

Dunadd is one of the most significant monuments in the whole of Scotland and its summit offers a breathtaking panorama of the outstanding surrounding landscape. This fort is thought to have been constructed and occupied by the Dál Riata, a group of people who, from at least AD 500, held lands both in Northern Ireland and in Argyll. Dunadd became an important centre for trade and a political power-base for the Scotti tribe who later gave their name to modern Scotland and was probably a royal centre where Scotland's earliest kings were inaugurated. It was a massive fortress with 10 metre thick walls and a centre of learning, art and the law. At Dunadd you can see a carved footprint where a king would place his foot during a coronation ceremony. This is in accordance with an Irish tradition. There is also a basin and the outline of a wild boar carved into the rock

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk





### 4 Crinan Canal

This nine-mile waterway was built as a strategic transport route to connect the west coast and islands to the industrial heartland of Scotland. Linking Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne with the attractive harbour at Crinan on the west coast it was a vital link in Scotland's transport system, which removed the need to make the journey around the Mull of Kintyre. Now used mainly by leisure vessels, the towpath alongside this peaceful maritime route makes a lovely walk or cycle. Pick up a podcast from hubs in either Crinan or Ardrishaig to find out more about this historic waterway.

www.scottishcanals.co.uk





### **5** Dunardry Burn Near to Nature Trail

The ravines of Knapdale are draped in a mosaic of small plants a collage of mosses, lichens and liverworts in greens, browns, reds and yellows - the variety of which is seldom matched anywhere else in the world. The trail on the Dunardry Burn offers you the chance to experience nature's riches close up and explore one of Argyll's most secretive habitats. This spectacular world of woods, steep rocks and waterfalls can be reached on a trail which runs across the steep sides of the gorge and crosses the burn on a series of walkways and bridges. The Near to Nature Trail starts from the Forestry Commission car park on the B841at Dunardry, 3 miles west of Lochgilphead near the Crinan Canal from where you can also access a number of other walks and cycle rides.

Tel: 01546 602518 www.forestry.gov.uk



### 6 Moine Mhòr National Nature Reserve

Crinan's Great Moss (that's what the Gaelic 'moine mhor' means) is a remarkable remnant of one of our most ancient landscapes. It began to form over 5000 years ago and once covered a vast area. One of the last raised bogs left in Britain today, it is a bogland showpiece - a wild landscape of hummocks, hollows and pools, rich in spectacular wildlife. For views over Moine Mhòr, walk along the canal bank at Bellanoch or climb the hill at Dunadd. If you want a more intimate experience there is a car park about a mile south of Slockavullin on the B8025 where a path gives easy access to the north part of the National Nature

Tel: 01546 603611





### 7 Carnassarie Castle

This handsome tower house and hall remains an unusually good example of a 16th century castle and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was destroyed by Royalist forces after the 9th Earl of Argyll supported the failed Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 against the Catholic monarchy and was never repaired. Originally built by John Carswell, first Protestant Bishop of the Isles, today it is hard to imagine the importance of the castle in the turbulent times of the 17th century, as you climb to the top of the tower or

Glen Nant is a renowned Scottish woodland with a fascinating history, having played an important role in the history of ironmaking in Argyll. A remnant of the extensive native forests which once covered the Scottish Highlands, this lovely woodland is dominated by oak and birch interspersed with holly, hazel, willow and ash and provides a home for a wide variety of birds, mammals, plants and insects dependent on this moist, sheltered environment. Along the trails in Glen Nant you might be lucky enough to see squirrels or deer or evidence of the Scottish wood ants living in this woodland. Bird watchers can look out for jays, treecreepers, warblers, woodpeckers and many others. Enjoy the woodland interpretative trail as well as other trails along the river.

Tel: 01631 566155

 $\mathbf{P} \mathbf{Q}$ 





### Paid admission Tel: 01866 822432 www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

P 🚯 👶

Across the 'Atlantic Bridge' on the Isle of Seil, the picturesque village of Ellenabeich is today a peaceful spot, with fantastic views over the islands of Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs. However in the 1870's, at the height of the slate industry that led to the growth of the village, this was a busy place. Ten steamers a week filled with slate left the pier built in the channel between Seil and Easdale. By the shore you'll see a large, roughly circular line of rock apparently enclosing an arm of the sea. This is all that remains of the 250ft deep slate quarry whose wall was breached by a storm in 1881, bringing to an end nearly 150 years of quarrying at Ellenabeich. Why not spend some time in this scenic village and enjoy the spectacular sea views? Or if you're feeling adventurous why not visit the famous Corryvreckan whirlpool on a cruise from the Isle of Seil, departing from Ellenabeich or nearby Balvicar?

P 🚯 🖻



National Nature

Arduaine is a wonderful coastal garden, sheltered by a Larch canopy and influenced beneficially by the Gulf Stream. Twenty acres of outstanding woodland plants include not only a major rhododendron species collection, but also all the usual springlowering favourites such as camellia, azalea and magnolia. Other trees and shrubs take the flowering season on into the autumn along with an inspiring miscellany of bulbs, perennials, climbers, water plants and ferns, all interesting and beautiful in their diverse wavs. A spectacular coastal and island panorama can be enjoyed from the easily accessible cliff top viewpoint.

Paid admission Open every day of the year, 9.30am to Sunset. Extra charge for guided tours by prior arrangement. Well-behaved dogs on short eads welcome

Tel: 0844 493 2216 www.nts.org.uk

This very special experience gives you a chance to look for signs of beavers living and breeding in the wild in Scotland. The release of 3 families of beavers into the woods and waterways of Knapdale in 2009 is a scientifically-monitored trial to see whether they should be reintroduced permanently. Start at Barnluasgan information centre and take the 3-mile walking trail around Loch Coille-Bharr where beavers have been very active building dams. As you make your way round the trail, you'll see signs of nibbled trees and walk along a new section of path which takes you right past a beautifully constructed beaver dam. The best time to see them swimming around tends to be in the early morning and evening. Bring your binoculars, walking boots and midge nets on your visit.



wander among its quiet ruins.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

**P Ø** 

8 Glen Nant National Nature Reserve

www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

### 9 Bonawe Ironworks

The most complete charcoal-fuelled ironworks in Britain, Bonawe was founded in 1753 by a Cumbrian ironmaster attracted by the extensive woodland in this part of Argyll, which guaranteed an almost endless supply of charcoal. Importing iron ore from Cumbria, the furnace produced 700 tons of pig iron annually, and employed up to 600 people, most of them 'charcoalers' working in the woods throughout the summer. The entire manufacturing process can be traced at Bonawe, where displays bring to life the industrial heritage of the area and illustrate how pig iron was made.

Open 1st April - 30 September, 9.30am - 5.30pm.

## 10 Ellenabeich, Isle of Sei

### **11** Arduaine Gardens

## 

### **12** Beavers in Knapdale

www.scottishbeavers.org.uk or www.forestry.gov.uk

# 

### **13** Taynish National Nature Reserve

Situated on a scenic peninsula in the heart of Knapdale, Taynish is one of the finest examples of ancient Atlantic oak woodland in Europe. Having survived here for over 7000 years, this 'temperate rainforest' is home to a wealth of wildlife. Mosses, lichens and ferns thrive in the mild, humid climate of the west coast. A wide range of insect life including butterflies, moths and dragonflies flourish in flower rich grasslands and water-logged mires. Admire the springtime carpet of wildflowers or search out evidence left by a secretive otter as it slips through the wood. A June day on the woodland edge gives you a good chance of seeing the delicate dance of the rare marsh fritillary butterfly or the metallic flash of a passing dragonfly.

Information signs and leaflets, available at the Reserve car park, offer visitors a choice of self-guided trails. These include an all-abilities trail to the Taynish Mill picnic site, a longer woodland trail circuit of 5km and a trail to the viewpoint at the top of the Barr Mor.

Tel: 01546 603611 www.nnr-scotland.org.uk



### 14 Keills Chapel

Complete peace and tranquility can be found further down the little-used single track road to Keillmore. Overlooking the beautiful Sound of Jura, Keills Chapel houses a collection of 12th-century grave slabs and early medieval sculpture, including the Keills Cross, which now stands inside the chapel to protect it from the elements which can batter this headland in winter storms. The chapel is in the care of Historic Scotland as is Kilmory Knap Chapel on the opposite shore of Loch Sween.

### 15 Kilmory Knap Chapel and Kilmory Beach

This small medieval Christian chapel, in a beautiful situation near the mouth of Loch Sween houses a large collection of Early Christian cross slabs and late medieval graveslabs. In the church is Macmillan's Cross, a splendid piece of medieval carving, portraying the Chief of the clan with hunting dogs. The chapel, which is cared for by Historic Scotland, can be reached by road at Kilmory or via a lovely cycle from the end of the public road at Ellary, which is on the other side of the headland and is reached from the B8024. Why not enjoy a picnic or fly a kite on the beautiful nearby Kilmory beach?

P

## 16 Crinan Walk

Starting and finishing at the harbour at Crinan, this spectacular 3 mile walk offers one of the finest views on the Western seaboard. The walk climbs steadily above the harbour and guides you along forest roads taking you in to the heart of Knapdale forest before reaching a high point at Castle Dounie. Look out for the green marker post at the start of the walk as the road reaches the shore at Crinan Harbour.

www.forestry.gov.uk

 $\mathbf{P}(\mathcal{Q})$ 



### 17 Tarbert

The fishing village of Tarbert on Loch Fyne is centred on the attractive harbour. Catch is landed almost daily helping cement Tarbert's reputation for some of the finest and freshest seafood available. Tarbert is also renowned for some of the superb events and festivals that happen annually including the Scottish Series Yacht Race, Tarbert Seafood Festival and the Tarbert Music Festival. No description of this ancient Burgh is complete without mention of the ruined castle on the hill and its connection with Robert the Bruce. At one time ranking in importance with Scotland's best-known strongholds, the ruins are today partly hidden by grass and ivy. A gentle walk around the harbour to the White Shore will give you an opportunity to watch herons on the small island in the harbour. The Kintyre Way also starts from here, including a very pleasant first leg to Skipness.



### **18** Skipness Castle

The story of three nations and three powerful families lies within the thick walls of this stunning 13th century castle. Built as a modest hall either by Suibhne (Sven), founder of Clan MacSween, or his son, it soon passed into the hands of the MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles when the Norwegians were defeated at the Battle of Largs. They built a new church and comprehensively rebuilt Skipness castle, much as we see it today - a formidable curtain-walled enclosure, bristling with arrow slits. The lofty 16th century tower house was added by the Campbells of Argyll who had control of this castle for more than 200 years until its abandonment in 1700.

The castle, now in the care of Historic Scotland, is in superb condition and you can climb the stairs up on to the roof of the castle with the hall house below and marvel at the fantastic views across Kilbrannan Sound to Arran.

Open all year round. www.historic-scotland.gov.uk





### 19 Saddell Abbey

The fragmentary ruins of this 12th century Cistercian monastery do not reveal much of how it must have looked during its more than 300 years of use, as much of its stone appears to have been re-used later in the construction of nearby buildings. The main draw of the abbey is the truly remarkable collection of late medieval grave slabs and effigies that marked burials here during the active life of the monastery. It is believed that the slabs and one of the effigies belong to the "Kintyre School" of medieval carving, once located at Saddell Abbey, while the four largest effigies are most likely to have been carved on lona. These powerful, haunting carvings are now protected from the elements in a purposebuilt shelter at the car park end of the site.

P

### 20 Otter Ferry Walk

Starting from the Forestry Commission car park in Port Ann, this easy 3-mile route leads you to the ruined village and pier at West Otter Ferry where a ferry connected both sides of the loch for more than 150 years. Go off the main route for a worthwhile climb to the viewpoint for stunning views down Loch Fyne towards Tarbert and the hills of Arran. The path can be a bit muddy and slippy so waterproof boots are advised.

www.forestry.gov.uk

**P Ø** 

### 21 Crarae Gardens

This spectacular woodland garden is planted around the Crarae burn which is spanned by several bridges and tumbles through a rocky gorge in a series of cascades. A wonderful collection of shrubs and trees chosen for spring flowering and autumn colour grow in the shelter of towering conifers, and the lush, naturalistic planting and rushing water gives the feel of a Himalayan valley.

Since acquiring the garden in 2001, the National Trust for Scotland has restored the infrastructure, replacing bridges, steps and paths, and new plantings include many recently collected, wild-origin rhododendrons.

Paid admission. Open April 1st to 31st October Thursday to Monday, 9.30am to dusk

Tel 0844 493 2210 www.nts.org.uk



### 22 Auchindrain

Auchindrain brings an historic "farming village" back to life. On entering the township visitors step back in time to witness how the local community lived, worked and played. Visitors can wander at leisure through the cottages, longhouses, barns and byres of this Museum for a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the people who once lived and worked at Auchindrain. As well as experiencing this historic site, on-site attractions include feeding the township chickens, having fun using the children's activity table or just having a picnic.

Paid admission. Open daily from 1st April until 31st October, 10am until 5pm.

Tel: 01499 500235 www.auchindrain.org.uk





### 23 Inveraray Jail

The award-winning Inveraray Jail is a living museum and top Scottish visitor attraction where real people portray life in a 19th century prison. Explore at your leisure and watch courtroom trials, talk to the prisoners, meet the Warder, go to jail and witness cell life before making your escape.

Paid admission Open all year 9.30am – 6pm April until October, 10am – 5pm November until March.

Tel: 01499 302381 www.inverarayjail.co.uk



# 24 Kilchurn Castle

Easily recognisable from numerous paintings and photographs, the imposing ruin of Kilchurn Castle stands in atmospheric isolation on a headland in Loch Awe. Built in the politics of the 17th century. Today the castle is best the 'modern' barracks and the older tower.

on foot from a car park off the A85 (on the right hand side immediately after you cross the river running into Loch Awe if you are coming from the west heading towards Dalmally.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



# world. Located throughout Scotland, National Nature Reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at: www.nnr-scotland.org.uk

Other visitor information Centres in:

Campbeltown Inverarav (all vear round) Oban (all year round)

www.heartofargyll.com

Tarbert (Loch Fyne) (seasonal) Tel. 01880 820429 A Visit Scotland information point is also available inside Fyne Tackle, Main St, Lochgilphead. Cruise operators based in Ardfern, Crinan, Craobh Haven, Tayvallich and the Isle of Seil villages of Ellenabeich and Balvicar offer a chance to explore this fantastic coast from the sea. More information from For the best of local produce in Argyll visit: www.foodfromargyll.com Single track and winding roads are to be found all over Argyll and are

part of the special charm of the area. Please drive with care, remembering that round the next corner there could easily be a flock of sheep! Please use passing places to let other vehicles pass.

Services and facilities Cycle Network Route 78 passes through this area. More information on: www.sustrans.org.uk

Know the code before you go... Eniov Scotland's outdoors responsibly! Find out more at: www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

Images courtesy of: Lorne Gill, SNH; George Logan, SNH Historic Scotland © Crown Copyright reproduced courtesy of Historic Scotland. www.historicscotlandimages.gov.uk; National Trust for Scotland; B.J. Stewart Photography Edinburgh, © Dalriada Project; P.Tomkins/Visit Scotland / Scottish Viewpoint. Map © Ashworth Maps and Interpretation Ltd 2012. Based on mapping by Hallwag Kümmerly + Frey AG, Switzerland. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. Print ref no: JTCP 30K 0312

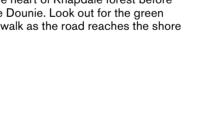
leaflet

www.snh.gov.uk

© Scottish Natural Heritage 2012 and the Islands LEADER 2007-13.



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba U of nature for all of Scotland lider air fed airson Alba air fed





All information is supplied in good faith. Details may change without notice. No

responsibility can be accepted for any changes, errors or omissions. SNH accepts no responsibility or liability for the contents of any third party website listed in this

This leaflet was part-financed by the European Community Argyll

The main towns and villages of Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Oban, Campbeltown and Tarbert all have facilities for visitors, including shops, toilets, cafes and restaurants. Many smaller villages are also home to a number of well-known cafes, restaurants and interesting shops. Rail timetables and information on national and local bus routes can be found on www.travelinescotland.com. The National

Tel. 01631 563122

There are many other sites to discover in the surrounding area. Find out more at www.visitscotland.com or at Visit Scotland Informatic (all year round) Tel. 01586 552056 Tel. 01499 302063

National Nature Reserves are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural

15th century, on what was originally an island, it was converted into a barracks to take advantage of the turbulent appreciated by walking around the promontory on which it stands before climbing inside to sense the difference between Access is either by boat from Lochawe pier (summer only) or





# **Itinerary** 1

### - Explore the heart of the Kingdom of Dalriada

Discover the richest archaeological landscape in Britain and journey through time as you stroll among the treasures of Kilmartin Glen. Stand on the seat of kings of Dalriada at Dunadd and explore the Crinan Canal, Britain's most beautiful shortcut. Then get close to Argyll's temperate rainforest on a walk up the Dunardry Burn. Why not return to the canal side for a leisurely evening stroll?

### Kilmartin House Museum and Kilmartin Glen

Kilmartin House Museum is located 7 miles north of Lochgilphead on the A816 and provides a good starting point to find out more about the archaeological riches of this special glen. From there you might wish to walk the short distance to the Linear Cemetery and Temple Wood. The car park at Dunchraigaig, signposted left off the road, is around 1.5 miles back towards Lochgilphead on the A816.

### Dunadd Fort

3 miles south of Kilmartin, heading in the direction of Lochgilphead on the A816 a sign directs you to Dunadd Fort. After you have explored Dunadd, continue south on the A816, and a little before the turn off to Cairnbaan, turn left to reach Achnabreac and the cup and ring marked stones.

### Crinan Canal and the Dunardry Burn Near to Nature trail

Follow the signs for Cairnbaan, Crinan and Tayvallich. This link road meets the B841 at Cairnbaan. Park at Cairnbaan to join the towpath and explore the canal locks and lock-keepers cottages along this waterway. Continue along the B841 to where, just west of Cairnbaan, a Forestry Commission car park for Dunardry is signposted off the road. Park here to start the Near to Nature trail.



# **Itinerary 2**

### - Fuel for the fiery furnace and the islands that roofed the world

A round trip via the quiet single track road on the west of Loch Awe, starts at the ruined Carnassarie Castle at the top end of Kilmartin Glen and gives you a chance to get off the beaten track and explore this fascinating part of Argyll. Enjoy a walk in the beautiful oakwood in Glen Nant, then follow the path of the oak from this woodland which powered the iron works at Bonawe. Cross the Bridge over the Atlantic to Seil, the most accessible of the Slate Islands, then return by the delightful woodland gardens at Arduaine. Enjoy spectacular views all the way along this coast - particularly striking at sunset as the sun dips into the west.

### Carnassarie Castle

2 miles north of Kilmartin on the A816, brown signs direct you to turn left into the car park for Carnassarie Castle. The castle is a short stroll up hill from the car park.

### **Glen Nant National Nature Reserve**

Just north of Carnassarie Castle, take the B840 signposted Ford. Dalavich and Cladich. At the junction in the village of Ford, leave the B840 and go straight ahead on the road to Dalavich. Remain on this road up the west side of Loch Awe - following signs for Kilchrenan. Just before Kilchrenan, follow the bend in the road left onto the B845 signposted Kilchrenan and Taynuilt and follow the road left again when it bends in front of the Kilchrenan Inn. Around 4 miles from Kilchrenan you will see signs for Glen Nant NNR on the left hand side of the road.

### **Bonawe Ironworks**

Continue down the B845 towards Taynuilt. Once you reach the main A85, turn left in the direction of Oban. After a mile you arrive in Taynuilt, where signs direct you to Bonawe Iron Furnace and the village centre. Turning right onto this road you will once again be on the B845. A short distance after crossing the railway bridge a sign directs you left to the Bonawe Iron Furnaces. Once you reach the lochside, a sign points you right to the Iron works.

### Ellenabeich

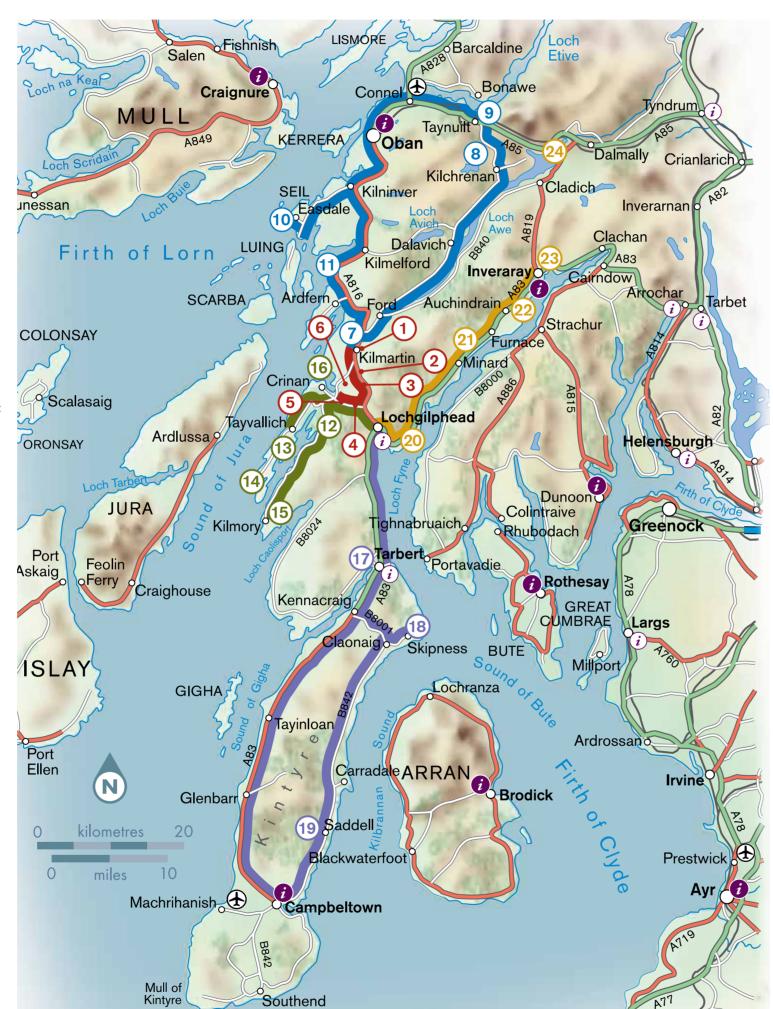
From Bonawe, rejoin the A85 and head in the direction of Oban. Just the other side of the bridge in Connel, a viewpoint offers you a chance to be impressed by the tidal race at the Falls of Lora. Carry on south through Oban, following the signs for the A816 and Lochgilphead. Around 8 miles after Oban you will see a road (B844) branching off to your right, signposted Kilninver and Easdale. Continue to follow the signs for Easdale, and cross the hump backed bridge over the 'Atlantic' that separates the Isle of Seil from the mainland. Remain on the B844 when it splits at Balvicar. Ellenabeich is 2 miles from here.

### **Arduaine Gardens**

Back on the A816, continue to drive south towards Lochgilphead. 4 miles south of Kilmelford you reach Arduaine, where brown signs direct you to Arduaine Gardens.

If you are in no hurry, why not take time for an evening stroll in the pretty lochside village of Ardfern, signposted off the A816 a few miles south of Arduaine. Cruises to the Corryvreckan whirlpool also leave from Ardtern and Craobh Have

















# **Itinerary 3**

### - Atlantic edge – oceanic habitats and highways

This route takes you into the heart of Knapdale, an extraordinary and beautiful landscape of wooded ridges ('knaps') and waterlogged valley mires ('dales'), fringed by an intricate coastline. Recognised as a National Scenic Area, Knapdale is renowned for its Atlantic oakwoods and a rich tapestry of mosses, liverworts and lichens. Start your day with a visit to the site where beavers have been re-introduced to Scotland and see if you can spot evidence of their habitation in these woods. Then explore the peaceful oakwoods of Taynish National Nature Reserve, before crossing to the other side of Loch Sween for a visit to the beautiful beach and medieval chapel at Kilmory.

### Beavers in Knapdale

From the A816 one mile north of Lochgilphead, follow the B841 towards Crinan then turn left at Bellanoch onto the B8025 towards Tayvallich. This takes you into the heart of Knapdale. Barnluasgan Visitor Centre is at the junction of the road to Achnamara village and is the best place to start your exploration.

### Taynish National Nature Reserve

Rejoin the B8025 heading for Tayvallich, which provides an ideal stop for refreshments or a picnic. Depending on the time of year, it may be possible to reach the Isle of Jura or cruise via the MacCormaig Islands to Corryvreckan from here - contact 07789 071188 for more information. Taynish National Nature Reserve is located immediately south of Tayvallich just off the B8025. From the south end of Tayvallich take the minor road signed for Taynish and follow it (with care - it is rough in the later stages) to the small car park.

### Kilmory Knap Chapel and Kilmory Beach

Return on the B8025 to the junction signposted for Achnamara and Castle Sween and Kilmory Chapel. Turn towards Achnamara and continue along this road which will take you down the other side of Loch Sween. If you are in no rush, stop to cast an eye over Castle Sween, thought to be one of earliest stone-built castles in Scotland. Once you reach Kilmory, you will see Kilmory Chapel signposted off the road to the right. Kilmory Beach is just down the track that runs beside the field.



## **Itinerary 4**

### - Circumnavigate Kintyre: the Viking Island

In AD1098 the King of Norway had his ship drawn across the neck of land between West Loch Tarbert and Loch Fyne in order to claim Kintyre as an island. This route takes you round this lovely peninsula, starting in the village of Tarbert, then following the quiet road down the east side of the peninsula where fantastic views of North Arran National Scenic Area are waiting to be discovered. Be impressed by the dramatic fortress at Skipness, visit the ruined Abbey at Saddell, with its fascinating collection of medieval grave slabs and effigies.

### Tarbert

Tarbert lies on the A83 13 miles south of Lochgilphead. When you arrive in Tarbert follow signs for the East Loch Pier to bring you into the centre of the village. There is also car parking 150m down the road in the direction of Campbeltown.

### Skipness Castle

Leave Tarbert on the A83 heading in the direction of Campbeltown. Just after Kennacraig, where the boat leaves for Islay, the B8001 road is signposted off to the left for Skipness and Carradale. After 4 miles, by an old church, the B8001 is signposted off to the left for Skipness and the Arran Ferry. Follow this road, past the ferry slipway and into the village of Skipness. Just after St Brendan's church the road crosses a bridge. The car park for the castle is on the left hand side.

### Saddell Abbey

Return to the junction with the B842 by the church and turn left in the direction of Carradale. Continue towards Campbeltown on the B842 until you reach Saddell, where a sign pointing to the right directs you to Saddell Abbey.

Continuing down this coast, you arrive in Campbeltown along the shore. Take time to explore the centre of Campbeltown, where the focus on whisky distilling once led the burgh to declare itself 'the whisky capital of the world'. Or if you prefer, return via Campbeltown and the main A83 up the dramatic Atlantic coast.

If you have the time and long summer evenings tempt you to explore further, the scenic B8024 Kilberry Road is a 30 mile stretch of winding single-track road that hugs the Knapdale peninsula coastline between Tarbert and Ardrishaig. As well as stunning views of the Inner Hebrides, ancient Atlantic woodland and historic standing stones sit alongside secluded beaches and a plethora of wildlife. Stop at the little hamlet of Torinturk and enjoy a lovely circular walk up through the forest where you'll find a Bronze Age Dun dating back to between the 6th and 11th century AD and neolithic and bronze age burial cairns including a Giant's Grave. From the Dun, you can see across West Loch Tarbert, over the Kintyre Peninsula to the hills of Arran and spot the Islay ferry as it departs from Kennacraig.



# **Itinerary** 5

### - Famous Loch Fyne

explore to the top of the loch.

### Otter Ferry Forest Walk

Port Ann village.

### Crarae Gardens

road just after the village of Minard.

### Auchindrain

Continue along the A83 in the direction of Inveraray. just after the village of Furnace.

### Inveraray Jail

lochside. The jail is in the main street.









This leaflet has been prepared with the help of the Heart of Facebook and Twitter @heartofargyll.



This itinerary takes you nearly to the head of Loch Fyne, one of Scotland's longest sea lochs. Important for the herring fishery in the 19th century, the loch remains a prime location for high quality seafood. Walk by the shore to Otter Ferry, explore the lush garden at Crarae, then discover life in past-times in rural Argyll at Auchindrain. The day finishes with a visit to the famous Inveraray Jail. Linger longer in this interesting town or

Join the A83 and head north east in the direction of Inveraray. Otter Ferry Walk can be started from Port Ann which is five miles east along the A83 from Lochgilphead. The car park is on the south side of the road just opposite the entrance to

Continue along the A83. Crarae Garden is signposted off the

Auchindrain Museum is signposted off the road to the right

Continue towards Inveraray. As you enter the town you will see the imposing structure of the jail on a promontory by the

Argyll Tourism Alliance. If it has whet your appetite for a longer stay, visit their website at www.heartofargvll.com for information on where to stay, where to eat and drink and what to see and do in the Heart of Argyll. You can also find them on