



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 Achabreac 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.

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 Kilniver 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 Ardferrn, signposted off the A816 a few miles south of Arduaine. Cruises to the Corryreckan whirlpool also leave from Ardferrn and Craobh Haven.



Itinerary 2

- Fuel for the fiery furnace and the islands that roved 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.

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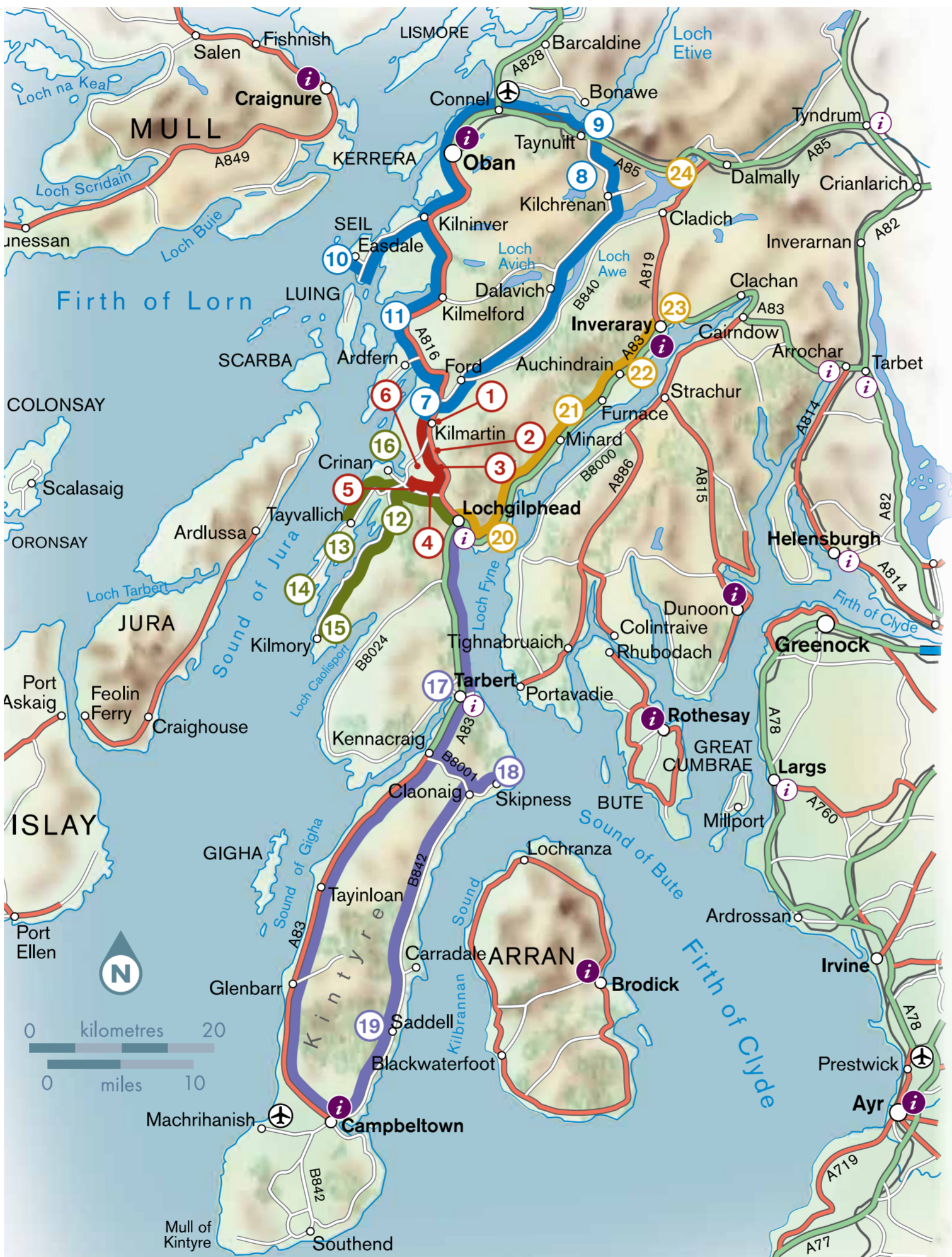
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Itinerary 3

- 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 Corryreckan 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

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 explore to the top of the loch.

Otter Ferry Forest Walk

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 Port Ann village.

Crarae Gardens

Continue along the A83. Crarae Garden is signposted off the road just after the village of Minard.

Auchindrain

Continue along the A83 in the direction of Inveraray. Auchindrain Museum is signposted off the road to the right just after the village of Furnace.

Inveraray Jail

Continue towards Inveraray. As you enter the town you will see the imposing structure of the jail on a promontory by the lochside. The jail is in the main street.



This leaflet has been prepared with the help of the Heart of Argyll Tourism Alliance. If it has whet your appetite for a longer stay, visit their website at www.heartofargyll.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 Facebook and Twitter @heartofargyll.