EVENTS IN SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND

ON THE TRAIL OF SCOTLAND'S WORLD-ACCLAIMED POET





Discover a sense of place in the south west of Scotland during Homecoming Scotland 2014.

This region is home to a host of vibrant events, festivals, exhibitions and attractions which celebrate the life, work and legacy of Robert Burns. As you explore with these itineraries, be sure to navigate your way to one of the showcase events in the calendar including: Big Burns Supper, Alloway 1759, Burns an' a' that! and Mauchline Holy Fair to discover the area's relationship with and influence on the nation's culture, identity and creativity.

For detailed listings of these and many more events and festivals taking place throughout the year, visit www.burns-southwest.com

Burns M and the South West





New itineraries to see places in south west Scotland where Robert Burns was born and chose to live. Discover more about the man, his life and his work in the land which inspired him so deeply.

www.burns-southwest.com



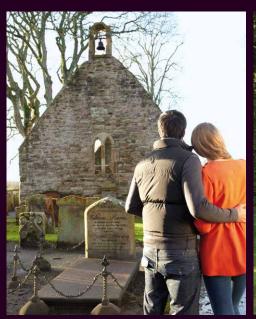
Welcome to Burns Country

These three new visitor trails take you on journeys to discover more about Robert Burns and his inspirational poetry while also enjoying the visitor attractions and incredibly beautiful landscapes of Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire & Arran.

The story of Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest bard, loved and celebrated across the world, begins in a simple kitchen. Here he was born in his family cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, on 25 January 1759.

Select an itinerary and plan your visit to follow the Burns story until his death in 1796 at his home in Dumfries.

Alloway Auld Kirk features in Burns' most famous poem, Tam o' Shanter



Don't miss the attractive walk along Poet's Path at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



FOLLOWING BURNS

Discover the man behind the poetry.

This itinerary reveals Robert Burns' life through the places he lived and the people he knew. Through picturesque Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway, follow Burns on his own journey

from son of William and Agnes Burnes to husband, lover, father and national bard.

"There was a lad was born in Kyle, an' whatna day, an' whatna style..."

Rantin', Rovin' Robin Robert Burns, 1785

Burns House Museum, Mauchline



1. Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Alloway Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayrshire KA7 4PQ 0844 493 2601; www.burnsmuseum.org.uk

2. Burns Club, Irvine 'Wellwood', 28 Eglinton Street, Irvine Ayrshire KA12 8AS Easter to September: Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat 2.30 - 4.30pm October to March: Saturdays 2.30 - 4.30pm Pre-booked visits are welcomed; 01294 274511 Admission free

3. Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton 1 Sandgate Street, Tarbolton, Ayrshire KA5 5RB 0844 493 2146 www.nts.org.uk/Property/Bachelors-Club

MAUCHLINE

4. Mossgiel Farm Cairn Tarbolton Road, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5LL

5. National Burns Memorial Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5LQ; 01563 554 902 Give 2 days notice for best chance of admission.

6. Burns House Museum

Castle Street, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5BZ 01290 550045

DUMFRIES

7. Globe Inn

56 High Street, Dumfries DG1 2JA; 01387 252335 www.globeinndumfries.co.uk

8. Ellisland Farm

Holywood Road, Auldgirth, Dumfries DG2 ORP 01387 740426; www.ellislandfarm.co.uk

9. Friars Carse Country House Hotel Auldgirth, Dumfries DG2 0SA; 01387 740388 www.friarscarse.co.uk

10. Robert Burns House

Burns Street, Dumfries DG12PS; 01387 255297 NB: Access via steps (no ramp) www.dumgal.gov.uk/museums

21. St Michael's Churchyard & Burns Mausoleum St Michael Street, Dumfries DG1 2QF



Globe Inn, Dumfries



NATURALLY BURNS

landscape

Two days of light walking take you into the heart of Burns Country to explore the very land that inspired our poet.

The two walks have completely different settings: the first follows a broad river to explore the richness of earthy woods

whereas the second hike reaches the vantage point of Brown Carrick, from where you can survey a coastal panorama. Along the way, you will take in a few Burns attractions and enjoy places to eat and drink.

I have some for ourite plants in spring, among which are the mountain daily, the harebell, the fox-glove, the wild bries rose, the budding birkh, and the hoary hawthorn, that I view and hang over with particular delight

> Extract from a letter from Burns to Mrs Dunlop on New Year's day 1789



FACT FILE: 2 DAYS KEY PLACES

11. Mauchline Parish Church Loudoun Street, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5BA www.mauchlineparish.org.uk

12. Fairburn Hotel 12-14 Loudoun Street, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5BU 01290 551011 www.fairburnbotel.co.uk

13. Poosie Nansie's 21 Loudoun Street, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 5B/

14. Failford Inn Failford, Ayrshire KA5 5TF 01292 540117 www.failfordinn.co.uk

15. Minishant

Buses to Minishant are direct from Ayr Bus Station every 30 minutes, except Sunday every 60 minutes You can take your dog on the bus.

16. Souter Johnnie's Cottage Kirkoswald Main Road, Kirkoswald, Ayrshire KA19 8F 0844 493 2147 www.nts.org.uk

17. Rozelle House

Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Monument Road, Ayr Ayrshire KA7 4NQ 01292 445447 www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries/rozellehouse Monday to Saturday: 10am – 5pm

LENGTH OF WALKS

Day One:

Failford to Stair and back – 4 hours walking plus allow time for lunch

Day Two: Brown Carrick – 2 hours plus allow picnic time

ACCOMMODATION TIP

Ayrshire Bed & Breakfast Association – quality B&Bs across all of Ayrshire

Book online at www.ayrshirebandb.con

This fun itinerary includes cycling, walking and horse riding in and around Dumfries where Burns moved to live with his family in 1791.

Depending on which activities you choose, you may wish to book bikes, reserve horse riding and buy theatre tickets so take a little time to plan ahead.

ACTIVELY BURNS

A particular highlight is to head to the top floor of Dumfries Museum to experience the Camera Obscura. This rare historic instrument is not operational on rainy days. Perched at the top of a hill, the Camera Obscura, of which there are only three in Scotland, is housed in a former windmill. Burns would have seen the windmill tower in its working day. This unique experience is fascinating for all ages. As you study the images on the table top screen, you'll spot many of the places you are going to visit over the next few days. There is an entry charge - worth every penny!

The Windmill Tower, Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura



FACT FILE: 4 DAYS KEY PLACES

18. Dumfries Museum & Camera Obscura The Observatory, Rotchell Road, Dumfries DG2 7SW 01387 253374; www.dumgal.gov.uk/museums

19. Theatre Royal

58-70 Shakespeare St, Town Centre, Dumfries DG12JH 01387 254209; www.theatreroyaldumfries.co.uk

20. Robert Burns Centre / Film Theatre Mill Road. Dumfries DG2 7BE: 01387 264808

www.dumgal.gov.uk/museums

21. St Michael's Church & Burns Mausoleum St Michael Street, Dumfries DG1 2QF

22. Gracefield Arts Centre 28 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries DG1 1JQ; 01387 262084 EATING OUT

23. Globe Inn

56 High Street, Dumfries DG1 2JA; 01387 252335 www.globeinndumfries.co.uk

24. Casa Mia restaurant

53 Nunholm Road, Dumfries DG11JW; 01387 269619 www.casamiadumfries.co.uk

Plenty more suggestions of where to buy local produce from Dumfries & Galloway Farmers' Markets: www.dgmarkets.org

25. Brow Well DG14NL

26. Ghost Walk

Children under 16 must be accompanied. Larger parties must book. Price approx £7 www.mostlyghostly.org

BIKE RENTAL

If you don't have your own bike it's easy to hire from a local scheme: Bike2go, 01387 280042; www.hourbike.com Open 24/7 for approx £10 per day. You need to register in advance and then have freedom of using unmanned cycle stalls at 9 locations.

See also www.7stanesmountainbiking.com

RIDING IN DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

27. Barend Riding Centre

Sandyhills, Dalbeattie, Dumfries DG5 4NU 01387 780533. Prices vary according to age (6+yrs) and length of booking from £15 - £40 for a 2-hour trek.

See list of other riding centres at www.burns-southwest.com



DAY ONE

• Start your trip with a full morning at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, which has the most significant Burns collection anywhere in the world. Step into Burns' life to see the cottage where he was born and lived in his early years before experiencing a sense of the grown man, his life and work from the main exhibition in the award-winning centre.



You could spend the entire day in Alloway but two optional afternoon visits include a drive around Dalrymple to see places where the young Burns lived and went to school or a trip to the Burns Club in Irvine, which was founded in 1826 and is now a museum on the poet's life in the town. More information on both of these outings is available online from www.burnssouthwest.com

- However you choose to spend the afternoon, make time in Alloway to walk onto the legendary Brig o' Doon and to visit Alloway Auld Kirk, the resting place of Robert's father, William Burnes, and also the eerie place where witches danced to the devil's bagpipes in Burns' most famous work *Tam o' Shanter*. When Burns wrote the poem, the church had already been abandoned and weather-beaten for 30 years so the roofless sight you see today is similar to that which inspired Burns to create his masterpiece.
- **Complete your day** with a meal at the Tam o'Shanter Inn and Restaurant in Ayr or one of the many fantastic restaurants that Ayr and Alloway have to offer.

DAY TWO

- **Travel to Tarbolton** to locate the quaint, thatched square building of the famous Bachelors' Club, which Burns frequented, aged 18, after his family moved to Loch Lea Farm just north of the town. Here, young Robert started a debating club, became a Freemason and learned to dance. Restored, the house is now converted into a museum chronicling the poet's formative years.
- Continue to Mauchline but keep watch for the stone cairn to the left as you pass Mossgiel Farm. Over 10,000 people gathered to celebrate the cairn's unveiling in 1996. Robert Burns and his brother Gilbert rented Mossgiel following their father's death. Elizabeth Paton, a servant girl who had been employed at Loch Lea farm gave birth to Burns' first child in 1785 but returned to live with her own family, leaving the little girl, Elizabeth, to live at Mossgiel in the care of Burns' mother. While living here Burns met Jean Armour and Mary Campbell - his 'Highland Mary'. At Mossgiel, Burns had a tremendous outpouring of work, writing some of his most famous poems and songs including, Holy Willie's Prayer, The Jolly Beggars and To A Mouse.
- Entering Mauchline, you will spot the impressive National Burns Memorial, constructed a century after Burns died from funds raised through worldwide appeal.
- **For lunch**, seek out the Fairburn Hotel. Built in the early 17th century, the hotel is home to Mauchline Burns Club.
- Nearby is the Burns House Museum in a cobbled back street which is relatively unchanged since Burns lived and worked here in 1784-1788. You can also pick up a Robert Burns Blue Plaque Guide which is a walking tour in Mauchline with visits to homes of his friends and places where he spent most time, as well as leading to the statue of his great love, Jean Armour and her home.

"Miss Miller is fine, Miss Markland's divine, Miss Smith she has wit, and Miss Betty is braw:

There's beauty and fortune to get with Miss Morton,

But Armour's the jewel for me o' them a'.

The Belles of Mauchline, Robert Burns, 1784

 Leave Ayrshire and head to Dumfries & Galloway to explore the places where Burns spent his final years. There's a wealth of accommodation choice in Dumfries to suit all budgets but book ahead – especially in summer – and enjoy dinner at any one of the town's many pubs or restaurants.

DAY THREE

 Spend a fascinating morning at Ellisland Farm. At 29, Burns was in his prime and at the peak of his writing, when he lived here from 1788–1791. Burns wrote 130 songs and poems here – about a quarter of his total output – it was the most fertile and productive writing period of his career.



"I was born a poor dog; and however I may occasionally pick a better bone than I used to do, I know that a poor dog I must live and die – my poetry will considerably outlive my poverty"

Robert Burns

 This attraction provides wonderful insight to the life of Robert Burns on his farm two hundred years ago with a good introductory film and his original writings and possessions on display. The mature Burns worked very hard for his family here – not only writing and farming but working as an excise officer and often composing in the saddle as he rode 30-40 miles per day undertaking excise duties. Burns wrote *Tam o' Shanter* here in one day on a long walk along the river bank before hurrying home to keep penning the masterpiece.

- Walk along the river about a mile and you'll arrive at Friars Carse Hotel – a favourite relaxing place for the poet which offers Burns weekends.
- Head back to Dumfries for a complete Burns treat: lunch at the Globe Inn, established in 1610. Tucked up a little lane off from the High Street, this was one of Robert Burns' favourite haunts and today it is still known as 'the Bard's favourite Howff'. The pub is charming and brimming with Burns memorabilia, good food, whisky tastings and a well-stocked bar.
- Walk over to Robert Burns House. The 18th century sandstone building is where Burns spent his final years with his family before he died in 1796 at the age of 37. See his letters, manuscripts

and the chair where Burns sat to write his final poems. Nearby, St Michael's Church is where Robert Burns worshipped and the place of his funeral. This is also the site of the Burns Mausoleum, his final resting place erected by public



subscription 18 years after his death. Robert Burns House offers free escorted tours to the churchyard and the Mausoleum.

Theatre shows, film theatre, pubs and

restaurants are all within easy walking in the town centre. The shopping area is quiet after closing time so stroll to the gleaming Burns Statue amid its colourful flower bed in Burns Square and gaze at the global legend that is Scotland's Robert Burns.

For more details on each of these visits, go to www.burns-southwest.com

NATURALLY BURNS

landscape

DAY ONE

- Start in Mauchline. Get a sense of the man and his social life from a visit to the grounds of Mauchline Parish Church in the town centre. Here many of Burns' friends and family, including his brother and four of his children, were laid to rest.
- For morning coffee, stop at the small Fairburn Hotel within a few minutes' walk of the Church where Robert Burns attended the Reading Club in 1796. Or take a break at Poosie Nansie's: the pub looks much as it would have done in Burns' day from the outside. Named after its owner, the tavern had a poor reputation and its goings-on inspired Burns to write *The Jolly Beggars*. Locals say Burns was often seen peering in the window at the gable end!
- Drive to Failford. Just 100 yards along from the Failford Inn, on the other side of the bridge over the Fail Water Burn, is the Ayr Gorge Woodlands Wildlife Reserve – a beautiful walk following the quiet wooded banks of the River Ayr, which undoubtedly inspired Burns.
- Birds, plants, bats and fungi occupy the ancient woodlands which have remained relatively undisturbed for centuries. Oak, ash and larch crowd the ravine but walking has been made easier under the care of the Scottish Wildlife Trust which has created hand-railed footpaths in places. This 5.4 km walk (3½ miles) from Failford to the hamlet of Stair is part of the River Ayr Way. Keen walkers may prefer to keep hiking but the length of this walk fits perfectly with enjoying a great lunch in Stair and then walking back to Failford (where you may have left the car!) for drinks or a great pub supper at the 1880s Failford Inn. (Dogs welcome in the bar and there is also a beer garden.)
- One of the walk's highlights is Peden's Cove. These steps were cut into the soft sandstone of the gorge by covenanters in the mid-17th century so that their outlawed minister, Alexander Peden, could preach to his followers who congregated on the opposite bank of the river.

"My way is: -- I walk out, sit down now and then, look out for objects in nature around me that are in unison or harmony with the cogitations of my fancy and workings of my bosom, humming every now and then the air with the verses I have framed."

Robert Burns

DAY TWO

- Start in Minishant for a great walk up Brown Carrick. (See Fact File for buses)
- **Before you leave the village,** there's a wee shop in the main street for picnic provisions. Walk south and turn right into School Road. Follow the road through fields and light woods until the crossroad at Culroy. Turn left, then immediate right, following signs for the Carrick Hills.



- Follow the road past arable fields. At the crossroads past Knockdon turn right and follow the road over the rolling hills before you begin the ascent. The gradual climb takes you over streams and brooks, past quaint cottages, along a road virtually untouched for centuries bordered by shrubs, grasses and thistles. Corridors of green shade and lush woods give way to the open hillside revealing tremendous views across the region.
- At the summit, a Cairn indicates the best view point. The 360-degree panorama takes in rolling hills with grazing livestock to the built up coastline of Irvine and Ayr as well as stunning scenes over the Firth of Clyde to Arran. The only whisky distillery on the isle of Arran is a patron

of the World Burns Federation and it created a Robert Burns Single Malt and Robert Burns Blended Whisky.

"Blyth hae I been on yon hill, As the lambs before me; Careless ilka thought and free as the breeze flew o'er me..."

Blythe hae I been on yon hill Robert Burns, 1793

 Begin your descent by continuing on the single track road through more tranquil farmland with traditional buildings. Look out for wildlife – it's easy to spot hovering kestrels hunting for dinner.

"Go live, poor wanderer of the wood and field!

The bitter little that of life remains: No more the thickening brakes and verdant plains

To thee shall home, or food, or pastime yield."

On Seeing a Wounded Hare Robert Burns, 1788

 At the crossroads at the bottom of the hill, turn left to continue walking to the two-way bus stop on the left side of the road. You can catch a No 361 bus back to Ayr (hourly service). Ayr is crammed with a good variety of places to eat and drink. Make sure you sample one of those Robert Burns whiskies from the Arran Distillery!



WET WEATHER OPTIONS

• If it's too wet a day for walking in Burns Country or you don't fancy two consecutive walking days, then visit Rozelle House Galleries with its significant collection of 54 paintings in the Tam o' Shanter series by Alexander Goudie.



Rozelle House was built in the 18th Century as a classical mansion but it was remodelled in the early 19th Century to a more fashionable style. In 1968 the house, with none of its historic interior remaining, was gifted to the Royal Burgh of Ayr leading to its establishment as a Museum and Art Gallery.

• **Or visit Souter Johnnie's Cottage** where Scottish literature comes to life in an 18th-century thatched cottage in the heart of Kirkoswald. This was the home of cobbler (or souter) John Davidson, the real-life Souter Johnnie immortalised in the poem *Tam o' Shanter*.



For more details on each of these visits, go to www.burns-southwest.com

DAY ONE

- Spend your morning at Dumfries Museum and also experience the Camera Obscura (see description overleaf) before heading for lunch: The Globe Inn is a must. Established in 1610, The Globe Inn is crammed with memorabilia. Burns drank here often and slept here on occasion. In the very year he died, 1796, Burns wrote:
- "... the Globe Tavern here, which these many years has been my Howff ...",

and from 1819, the first of what was to become the annual tradition of Burns Suppers was held here. You'll find the Inn just off from the main shopping street – spot the Globe sign above the lane entrance. The bar has a great reputation for atmosphere and food and promotes whisky tastings and live music.

- After lunch, a very pleasant walk across the River Nith suspension bridge will lead you through parkland and along the river to the award-winning Robert Burns Centre which is housed in an 18th century watermill. In addition to audio visual presentations and a model of the town, an exhibition explores and illustrates all of the area's Burns connections. The shop sells tubs of local ice cream and on a sunny day it's lovely to sit outside near the play park on the banks of the river and enjoy the scenery.
- A great place to round off your first day is at the Theatre Royal, one of the oldest theatres in the world. A patron of the theatre, Burns also performed some of his works there.

DAY TWO

- A lovely way to spend a morning in Dumfries is at Gracefield Arts Centre which boasts a collection of around 600 paintings and drawings by Scottish artists, most with links to the south west region. In addition to the permanent collection there is a programme of temporary exhibits, craft shows, Café Gallery exhibitions and workshops. Stay and enjoy lunch at the café.
- Make an afternoon pilgrimage to Robert Burns House, the very home where Burns lived with

his family for the last few years of his life. This simple building retains its 18th century character and the small but very important museum presents original manuscripts and gives an insight into how the poet lived. It's open all year round and admission is free.

• From Robert Burns House, it's a short walk to St Michael's Churchyard and the Burns Mausoleum. If you only have time for one activity this afternoon, choose this visit: it's a fascinating place. Look for the large plan which shows the location of graves of literally dozens of friends and peers of Robert Burns and also shows the position of his original grave before



the mausoleum was built. The gleaming white mausoleum is well maintained. With its renewed copper dome and recent repairs to the cast iron gates and railings, it's a perfect spot for quiet contemplation. At the gates to the Kirk stands the contemporary sandstone sculpture, 'Robert Burns Rock' and just across the road is a statue celebrating Burns' wife, Jean Armour.

For a relaxing evening return to the Robert Burns Centre which transforms into a fantastic film theatre showing the best in contemporary cinema - booking in advance is advised - see Fact File. Make sure to give yourself time to drop into the Centre's Hullabaloo restaurant for a bite to eat before enjoying the evening's film.

DAY THREE

• Cycle to Brow Well, 9 miles south east of Dumfries, which is a spring believed to have healing properties. Before you leave Dumfries, pack a picnic and refreshments.

mudie

In Burns' day, locals and visitors would walk or ride to Brow Well to drink or bathe in the spring water. The area is charming - guiet country

roads, farm houses and small hamlets. When Robert Burns visited here in 1796 to drink from the Chalybeate Spring, which was thought to be medicinal water, he knew he was gravely ill. He met an old friend, Mrs Walter Riddell, who recalled him saying:

"Well, Madam, have you any commands for the other world?"

A similar exchange was remembered by the Minister's daughter, Agnes Craig, when she went to pull down a blind to keep the glare of sun from his face and the poet said:

"Let the sun shine in upon us, my dear young lady, he has not long now to shine on me".

Burns died at home in what is now Robert Burns House on Burns Street, Dumfries, on 21 July 1796. Despite the sad tale, the Well makes a great destination for a family bike ride day.

- Back in Dumfries, enjoy a relaxing evening at Casa Mia at the end of the Burns Walk along the banks of the River Nith, not far from the town centre. An alternative night's entertainment is the Dumfries Ghost Walk!
- The 90-minute ghost walk is available throughout the year but times vary with the season.Tickets can be booked online, by phone or at Midsteeple, Dumfries, where the walk begins.

DAY FOUR

 Burns composed many poems in the saddle.
As an excise officer, he rode 30–40 miles for days on end, covering a broad territory before he managed to secure a better excise job based from Dumfries. Go riding and get a Burns-eye view to experience the great outdoors.

The stables at Barend Riding Centre in Dalbeattie are British Horse Society approved and are well located for visitors to Dumfries. Barend offers lessons and expeditions for riders of all abilities to enjoy trekking or hacking through tranquil forests and rolling countryside with one of the guides. The riding centre has a facebook page where all details can be found. (See website for other riding centre options)

- Head back to Dumfries for a good meal and a last walk around town.
- On Bank Street, look up at the white twostorey building where Burns lived for two years after moving from Ellisland Farm but the place was too small for his family. Robert and Jean moved into what is now Robert Burns House on Burns Street. Someone has now painted a Burns portrait on the upper gable end of the Bank Street flats.

As you head for the main route out of Dumfries, it is likely you will pass the impressive Burns Statue at the top of the High Street.



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ON THE TRAIL OF SCOTLAND'S WORLD-ACCLAIMED POET

GETTING HERE





To find out more about events, visitor attractions and accommodation in south west Scotland, visit www.burns-southwest.com or scan here



Other Useful Contacts:

National Rail Enguiries 08457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

Stagecoach Travel Information www.stagecoachbus.com

Stena Line Ferries Sustrans Sustainable transport charity 08447 707070 www.sustrans.org.uk www.stenaline.co.uk

Traveline Scotland Timetables and journey

planner for public transport 08712002233 www.travelinescotland.com Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries Ayr Information Centre 0800 0665000 www.calmac.co.uk

www.glasgowprestwick.com

P&O Ferries

08716642121

www.poferries.com

Prestwick Airport

08712230700

22 Sandgate, Ayr KA7 1BW 01292 290300

> **Dumfries Information Centre** 64 Whitesands, Dumfries DG12RS 01387 253862

> **Brodick Information Centre** The Pier, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8AU 01770 303774/776





DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Naturally inspiring