

# OFF THE BEATEN TRACK...

**Ayrshire is well known for its coast and castles but venture off the beaten track and discover first class attractions and unique experiences. Slow down the pace and take time out amidst stunning landscapes or get active in the great and magnificent outdoors. It's all right here waiting to be explored!**

Step back in time to a key period in Scotland's history at the dramatic wilderness setting of Loch Doon Castle, built by the family of Robert the Bruce in the late 1200s. The castle was originally located on an island in the loch but was moved stone by stone to its current location in the 1930s. Set on the banks of Loch Doon, close to the village of Dalmellington, this is an incredible spot to explore Scotland's past amidst its magnificent natural heritage.



Loch Doon Castle

Cumnock boasts a fascinating Heritage Centre which has a range of refurbished industrial, agricultural and emergency vehicles as well as a memorabilia from the past. It is a real step into the past. You'll love reminiscing about days gone by as you wander round this marvellous collection. Booking essential.



Ness Glen

There are many opportunities for walkers in this area including an extensive network of footpaths at Craigengillan Estate which lies within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire biosphere. The estate encompasses an area of spectacular scenery, waterfalls, woodlands and wildlife.

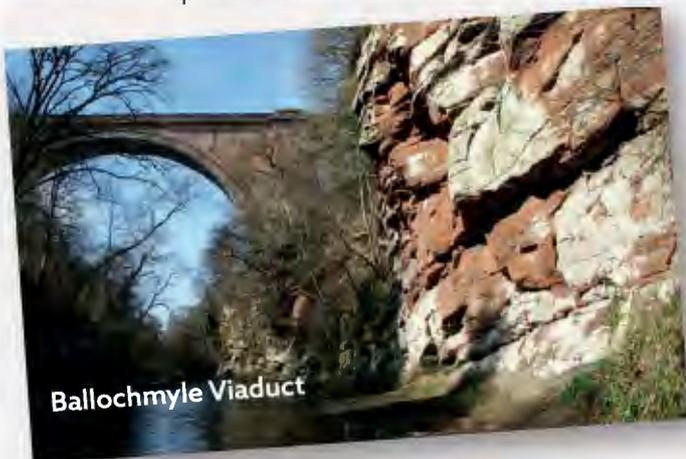


Cumnock Heritage Centre

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**With lush rolling countryside, hills, lochs, rivers and networks of walking and cycling paths, there's every chance to enjoy the great outdoors.**

The Ballochmyle Viaduct built during the 1840s is situated on the River Ayr Way close to Mauchline and featured in the Tom Cruise film Mission Impossible.



Ballochmyle Viaduct

The monument to William Wallace "The Spirit of Scotland" is located at Loudoun Hill on one of the Irvine Valley Trails. Loudoun Hill was the scene of a historic battle by Robert the Bruce depicted in the film "Outlaw King".



The Spirit of Scotland



Rowallan Castle

Play a round of golf at Rowallan Castle Golf Club, a course designed by Colin Montgomerie and set between two spectacular castles.



Craufurdland Estate

Fly fishing is widely available in Ayrshire including at Craufurdland Estate. A new tree top adventure facility has also opened at Craufurdland with courses for both adults and children.

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Saved for the nation by the intervention of His Royal Highness The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, Dumfries House is one of Britain's most beautiful stately homes with an unrivalled collection of original Chippendale furniture. Visitors can explore this stunning 2,000 acre estate, enjoy a woodland walk or take a guided tour of the house.



For industrial heritage, the magnificent Barony A Frame, near Auchinleck is an outdoor monument celebrating the mining past of the region with spoken stories from some of the men who worked there. It is the last remaining example of its type in Britain, and was restored in 2007 by the Barony A Frame Trust.



The Dick Institute in Kilmarnock is one of the most important cultural venues in the south-west of Scotland, featuring the largest museum and galleries space in Ayrshire. It has a programme of nationally important exhibitions, permanent displays of the museum's own diverse collections and innovative work by contemporary artists, film makers and young people from the area.



Widely considered as Scotland's national poet, Ayrshire's Robert Burns lived in Mauchline between 1784 and 1788, years widely regarded as being his most creative and productive period. Burns' home is now the Burns House Museum. Why not have a wander around the village and find some of Burns' old haunts!



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Blackstone Clydesdales is a working family stock farm with a small select breeding herd of prize winning Clydesdale Heavy Horses and Champion Highland Cows. Other farm pets include alpacas, micro Boars, sheep, hens, geese, ducks, peacock, peahens, dogs and Bubbles the donkey.

There are various activities on offer for family days out. Pre booking required.

Dean Castle Country Park offers over 200 acres of parkland to explore using scenic paths and trails - each season brings with it ever changing plants and wildlife to see along the way. Explore the recently renovated 14th-century Castle which houses world-class collections and find out more about its rich and bloody history!



Alpaca



Dean Castle Country Park

The New Cumnock outdoor swimming pool was fully refurbished in 2017 and offers a wonderful experience for everyone to enjoy in a wonderful, colourful setting. There are various classes on offer as well as public swimming, so check ahead for opening times.

Right in the heart of rural Ayrshire lies this community run charity ski slope. You can book lessons or have a few practise runs if you are more experienced. There is also a new slope dedicated to tubing.



New Cumnock Pool



Newmilns ski slope