It’s the little things which leave a big impression on you in Dumfries & Galloway. Located in south west Scotland, the first thing you’ll notice is the beauty of the region, from the rocky and sandy coastline to verdant forests and rolling countryside. Delve into rich history, be captivated by nature and let the universe reveal itself to you in the UK’s first Dark Sky Park.

There are plenty of truly memorable moments from coming up with your own flavour of ice cream at Cream o’ Galloway, to making your own chocolate creations at The Cocoabean Company. To quench your thirst why not have a drink at one of Scotland’s most famous and oldest pubs, The Globe Inn, a favourite of Robert Burns.

The scenery of the area is second to none; the lush green landscapes emulate a scene from a fairy-tale. The beauty of the land has caught the eye of many artists who have left their own unique mark on the countryside – Crawick Multiverse and Striding Arches both complement the delicate beauty in their own way. Not to mention the hundreds of walks through unspoiled landscape that enhance the tranquillity of Dumfries & Galloway.

The region is a historical heavy-weight when it comes to the past. With the likes of Robert Burns, Scotland’s National Bard, gracing the region and some of the most iconic castles in Scottish history can be found here.

Use this four day itinerary to help plan your group break. Experience the homely spirit of Dumfries & Galloway and take home memories that will last a lifetime.

**EVENTS**

**JANUARY**
**Big Burns Supper**
Experience ten days and nights of cultural celebrations dedicated to the National Bard, Robert Burns.
www.bigburnssupper.com

**MAY**
**Spring Fling Open Arts Festival**
Discover the region’s creative side as you step inside the workshops of artists and crafters.
www.spring-fling.co.uk

**Knockengorroch World Ceilidh**
Expect magic, music and mystery in the mountains from the biggest little world and roots music festival.
www.knockengorroch.org.uk

**Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival**
In this region-wide festival, explore a feast of music, theatre, comedy, dance and spoken word.
www.dgartsfestival.org.uk

**JUNE**
**Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival**
Hear the sound of New Orleans and swing jazz in south west Scotland.
www.kirkcudbrightjazzfestival.co.uk

**JULY**
**Langholm Common Ridings**
See tradition come to life at this equestrian spectacle which is almost 250 years old.
www.returntotheridings.co.uk

**AUGUST**
**Galloway Country Fair**
This fair brings together food and drink, country sports, entertainment, children’s activities and more.
www.gallowawaycountryfair.co.uk

**SEPTEMBER**
**Moniaive Bluegrass Festival**
Listen to music from an array of talented musicians in the pretty village of Moniaive.
www.moniaivebluegrass.co.uk

**Stranraer Oyster Festival**
Sample delicious fresh local produce and uncover the region’s coastal heritage at this festival.
www.stranraeroysterfestival.com

**Portpatrick Folk Festival**
Enjoy lively music sessions in the coastal village of Portpatrick as well as ticketed concerts and ceilidhs.
www.facebook.com/portpatrickfolkfest

**Galloway Hills Rally**
Hear the rev of engines and watch thrilling motorsport action take place in the Galloway forests.
www.gallowayhillsrally.co.uk

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**
**Wigtown Book Festival**
Join in with 10 days of literary celebrations in Scotland’s National Book Town
www.wigtownbookfestival.com
Day 1

The Museum of Lead Mining, Wanlockhead – hear how lead ore or ‘galena’ was extracted and the processes it went through to become the products that we know today. This real mine is unique in Scotland. Join the museum’s friendly and knowledgeable guides to discover treasures including the genuine 18th century lead mine where you can experience the thrill of going underground.
T: 01659 74387
E: info@leadminingmuseum.co.uk
www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk

Drumlanrig Castle, near Thornhill - set in the 120,000 acre Queensberry Estate, complete with a country park and Victorian gardens, this 17th century castle is one of the most important Renaissance buildings in the country. The Dumfriesshire home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. Parking available on site.
T: 01848 331555
E: info@drumlanrigcastle.co.uk
www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk

Crawick Multiverse, near Sanquhar – linking the themes of space, astronomy and cosmology, the project has created a truly inspiring landmark with a wide appeal for art enthusiasts, scientists, visitors and the wider local community alike. It features a network of paths which navigate features and landforms representing the sun, universes, galaxies, comets, black holes and more.

Day 2

Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum – based around the original control tower of the former RAF Dumfries, the museum houses a fascinating collection of aircraft and flight memorabilia including aviation clothing from the two World Wars. The museum’s prize exhibit is a Supermarine Spitfire Mk II which was recovered from the waters of Loch Doon.
T: 01387 251623
www.dumfriesaviationmuseum.com

Caerlaverock Castle – discover one of Scotland’s great medieval fortresses. With its moat, twintowered gatehouse, imposing battlements and unique triangular shape this awe-inspiring castle is the epimote of the medieval stronghold and one of the finest castles in Scotland. WW7 Caerlaverock is close by, another worthwhile visit.
T: 0131 668 8831
www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade

WW7 Caerlaverock – from October to April, tens of thousands of Svalbard barnacle geese, swans and other birds can be seen from comfortable hides and observation towers. In summer, walk through flower meadows, watch ospreys hunting over the Solway Firth and even spot barn owls and badgers if staying overnight in the charming self-catering farmhouse. Special events include free daily wildlife safaris and family events.
T: 01387 770200
E: info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk
www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock

Day 3

Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery and Tibetan Centre – a large Tibetan Buddhist temple and monastic community located in a quiet rural setting. Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to be established in the west and was named after Samye, the very first monastery to be established in Tibet.
T: 01387 373232
E: tours@samyleing.org
www.samyleing.org

Gretta Green Famous Blacksmiths Shop – steeped in romantic history and magical charm. The past is brought to life when you enter the ancient building of the blacksmiths cottage and workshop where couples have come to marry since 1754. Young couples fled across the border to get married in Gretna Green as it was impossible to marry in England if you were under 21.
T: 01461 338441
www.grettagreen.com/visiting

Day 4

Threave Castle – this massive tower house was built in the late 14th century by Archibald the Grim, Lord of Galloway. It became the stronghold of the Black Douglases and still today, around its base you can see the artillery, fortification, an innovative defensive years ahead of its time. Ring the bell loud-side the building will take you across the river to the castle.
T: 0131 668 8831
www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade

Wigtown Book Town – Wigtown was officially designated as Scotland’s National Book Town in 1998 and is now home to a wide range of book-related businesses. A book lovers haven – and with over quarter of a million books to choose from, old and new – it is impossible to escape empty-handed.
T: 01988 420036
E: mail@wigtown-booktown.co.uk
www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk

Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park – enjoy amazingly dark skies and palm trees or stand in the shade of birds such as the tawny owl and more!

Day 5

Logan Botanic Garden – visitors can walk through gardens of eucalyptus and palm trees or stand in the shade of awesome giant rhubarb-like gunnera. The Walled Garden is a breathtaking celebration of the world of plants. From spring to late autumn, a blaze of colour greets the eye and the air is heavy with rich scents. On a sunny day, the atmosphere is truly tropical.
T: 0131 248 2909
E: visitorwelcome@rbge.org.uk
www.rbge.org.uk/thegardens/logan

The Globe Inn – one of the favourite haunts of Scotland’s national poet, Robert Burns. It was here, in 1819 that the first Burns Supper was held in honour of his memory, leading to the formation of the Dumfries Burns Club in 1820 and the celebration of Burns’ life which is recognised around the world every year on 25 January.
T: 01387 740426
E: friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk
www.ellislandfarm.co.uk

Dumfries Camera Obscura – this museum offers a fascinating journey of discovery through the region’s history. Climb the steps to the top floor of the museum for fantastic panoramic views over the town and the chance to look through the Camera Obscura. This historic optical instrument installed in 1836 is the oldest working device of its kind in the world, on a clear day its range is many miles.
T: 01387 253374
E: dumfriescamera@dumgal.gov.uk
www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsandsemusums

Sweetheart Abbey – this splendid redsandstone ruin of the late 13th century was founded by Lady Devorgilla of Galloway, in memory of her husband Lord John Balliol. When he died in 1268, his embalmed heart was placed in an ivory casket which she carried everywhere with her. On her death, she was laid to rest with her husband’s heart and the monks named the abbey in memory of her.
T: 03131 668 8831
www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade

Castle Kennedy Gardens – these are among the most famous and the most child-friendly gardens in Scotland. A spectacularly designed loch-side landscape covering 75 acres, creates a romantic garden paradise with something for everyone to enjoy. Dogs are welcome too! You’ll discover stunning fauna, beautiful scenery, sculpted landforms, spectatular walks and popular bird hides.
T: 01776 702024
www.castlekennedygardens.com

Please note some attractions have seasonal opening hours. Please check opening times with the attraction.

For more information on things to see and do in Dumfries & Galloway go to www.visitscotland.com/dumfries-galloway