

## GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY, AYRSHIRE & ARRAN, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY AND ARGYLL & THE ISLES.

There's a saying that 'Glasgow made the Clyde and the Clyde made Glasgow', which you can understand when you look up and admire the splendid Victorian architecture of **Glasgow** city centre. Beautiful carvings of Poseidon, sailing ships, globes, fish and jutting prows tell the story of how the famous River Clyde has defined the fortunes of this area since the 6th Century. You can experience the famous river for yourself with one of the operators offering boat trips from paddle steamer to powerboat.

**The Isle of Bute** is an easy day trip from Glasgow. The jewel in the crown of this lovely island is **Mount Stuart**, Scotland's most stunning and unusual stately home, where the extensive grounds include seafront walks. The **Ayrshire** coastline has miles of scenic beaches, perfect for picnicking and walking, admiring the views all the while. Golfing fans are spoiled for choice as there is a high concentration of excellent golf courses here, with the wonderful coastal views coming as a bonus.

Off the coast, the **Isle of Arran** is often known as 'Scotland in Miniature'. A castle, a distillery, wonderful scenery and amazing food and drink – Arran has the lot! The circular coastal route around Arran is very popular with cyclists.

**Dumfries and Galloway** is where you'll find **South West Coastal 300**. This 300 mile circular driving route around the country features many miles of scenic coastline as well as beautiful areas populated by hills, glens, forests and lochs.

Stop off at delightful towns and villages, visiting historic attractions and a variety of cafes and restaurants as you go. Other attractions include Galloway Forest Park with its 12 scenic lochs.

**Argyll** has been described as the place where 'the Highlands meet the Lowlands and both meet the sea' – a very apt picture of an area where you'll find some of Scotland's most impressive shorelines.

This is a land of sea lochs, inlets and peninsulas. Most magical of all are islands of the Inner Hebrides, include **Mull, Islay, Coll, Colonsay** and **Tiree**, where the annual **Tiree Wave Classic** surfing championships are held.

Whether your passion is sailing, wildlife watching, visiting sites that are rich in history such as **Kilmartin Glen**, or simply enjoying the tranquillity of island life, you'll find it here. This is also an area popular with golfers due to the tremendous range of golf courses with amazing views, from well known courses such as **Machrihanish** and **Machrie** to nine-hole gems. **Calmac Ferries** offer a range of services and ticket options in this area.

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## GLASGOW



### TS QUEEN MARY

TS Queen Mary, the last Clyde built turbine steamer, will take up a permanent berth in front of Glasgow Science Centre in 2019 following an extensive restoration. The historic vessel, which dates from 1933, will become one of the UK's largest interactive maritime exhibits and will provide an unparalleled way of learning about our maritime and social history, as well as offering a bar/restaurant and events venue.



### CRUISING ON THE CLYDE

There are various ways to set sail on the River Clyde to explore the river and beyond. Take a trip to the Cowal Peninsula or the islands of Bute, Arran or Cumbrae, on the Paddle Steamer **Waverley**, the world's last sea-going paddle steamer, or join **Pacific Quay Powerboats** to discover the historic Govan shipyard or make a relaxing visit to Rhu Marina.



### SEVEN LOCHS WETLAND PARK

The Seven Lochs Wetland Park is Scotland's largest urban nature park. Lying on the outskirts of Glasgow and encompassing seven lochs, five local nature reserves, a country park and one of Glasgow's oldest buildings at Provan Hall, the park's miles of walking and cycling routes provide the perfect complement to the city's cultural attractions.



### NEW LANARK VISITOR CENTRE

The magnificent waterfalls known as the Falls of Clyde run through the heart of New Lanark Heritage Village. This enchanting and beautifully preserved cotton mill village is now an award-winning UNESCO World Heritage site where you'll step back in time to discover the fascinating story of how it was founded in the 18th Century.



### LOCH LOMOND

Loch Lomond is one of the most famous lochs in Scotland, and is celebrated in the famous song 'The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond'. It's unusual in that there are 22 islands in the middle of the loch. To explore its beauty to the maximum set sail with one of the local cruise companies such as **Cruise Loch Lomond** or **Sweeney's Cruises**.

## AYRSHIRE & ARRAN



### ISLE OF ARRAN / CUMBRAE

Arran has so many things you'd want from a Scottish island - an ever-changing coastline, dramatic mountain peaks, sheltered beaches, fascinating attractions and a wealth of tasty local produce. The Isle of Cumbrae has a lovely Victorian promenade in the main town of Millport and is a mecca for activities such as golf, cycling and watersports.



### SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM

The Ayrshire town of Irvine is home to this fascinating museum which allows visitors to explore a national collection of historic boats, maritime art and ship building machinery. Immerse yourself in fascinating stories of Scottish invention, boatbuilding and derring-do. The museum also manages the **Denny Ship Model Experiment Tank** in Dumbarton where you can step back in time to the world of Victorian ship design.



### BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

Ayrshire has a riches of stunning beaches. **Maidens beach** is a popular destination for watersports, picnic areas and horse riding. On Arran, exploring **Kildonan beach** is a must. It is one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, plus it boasts incredible views across to the mainland. You may even be joined by some seals! **Croy Beach** has great views towards Ailsa Craig.



### GREAT GOLF COURSES

With three Open Championship venues, five of the UK's top 100 golf courses and great value golf passes, it's easy to see why Ayrshire and Arran is one of Scotland's top regions for golf. There are nearly 50 in total, many of which have stunning coastal settings and superb views.



### AILSA CRAIG

Lying off the coast of the town of Girvan, Ailsa Craig is one of Scotland's best known landmarks. The island is home to Europe's biggest gannet colony and an increasing number of puffins. Its blue hone granite is considered ideal for the manufacture of curling stones, used in the popular winter sport of curling. A number of operators offer boat trips to explore Ailsa Craig close up.

## DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY



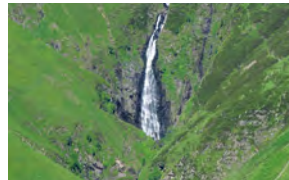
### SOUTH WEST COASTAL 300

South West Coastal 300 is a 300 mile circular route around Dumfries & Galloway. It features many miles of scenic coastline as well as beautiful areas populated by hills, glens, forests and lochs. You can stop off at delightful towns and villages, visiting historic attractions and a variety of cafes and restaurants as you go.



### GALLOWAY FOREST PARK

Often referred to as 'the Highlands of the Lowlands' and established in 1947, Galloway Forest Park is home to dramatic ancient woodland, magnificent scenery and an astonishing range of local wildlife, as well as a tearoom. It also has 12 scenic lochs offering varied fishing opportunities.



### GREY MARE'S TAIL NATURE RESERVE

This reserve takes its name from the mesmerising Grey Mare's Tail waterfall - one of the UK's highest. The name is inspired by its tall, thin line of white frothing water. Hike up the steep slopes to its source at Loch Skeen, or challenge yourself to reach the summit of White Coomb for the awe-inspiring views.



### LOCH KEN

With its picturesque setting, Loch Ken is the ideal place to get active on the water. **Loch Ken Water Ski School** not only offers water skiing lessons, but also activities such as banana boat rides and speed boat trips. Nearby **Galloway Activity Centre** also offers a range of water and land based activities for all ages.



### DUMFRIES

As well as being the final home of celebrated Poet Robert Burns, the market town of Dumfries is home to the Devorgilla Bridge over River Nith, one of Scotland's oldest bridges. In this area you can also explore historic **Sweetheart Abbey** and **Caerlaverock Castle**, with its unique moated, triangular design.

## ARGYLL & THE ISLES



### INNER HEBRIDES ISLAND HOPPING

The islands of the Inner Hebrides off the coast of Argyll offer the ideal island hopping opportunity. Board **Calmac ferry services** to experience these magical islands, from the grandeur of the Isle of Mull to the whisky island of Islay, the stunning beaches of Coll, Colonsay and Tiree and the tiny tranquil Isle of Iona with its atmospheric abbey.



### CRINAN CANAL

The tiny harbour village of Crinan gives its name to the Crinan Canal. Completed in 1822, it was built to provide safe passage and a short cut, saving sailors the long trip round the Mull of Kintyre. There is a magical network of paths, lock gates, towpaths and shoreline to explore. Don't miss nearby **Kilmartin Museum**, your starting point to discover the fascinating prehistoric landscape of Kilmartin Glen.



### WILDLIFE CRUISES

In an area so abundant in wildlife, islands and stunning coastline, taking to the waters offers the ideal way to spot many species of seabirds and marine creatures, including the opportunity to see the famous **Corryreckan Whirlpool** and the **Isle of Staffa**. **Sea.Fari Adventures**, **St Hilda Adventures** and **Majestic Line** are among the operators worth checking out.



### LOCH FYNE

Loch Fyne is a picturesque sea loch in a wonderful scenic location between the Cowal and Kintyre Peninsulas. At the entrance to the loch, is **Portavadie Marina** an ideal stop off point, thanks to its Five Gold Anchors Award. Near Cairnrow at the head of the loch you'll find **Loch Fyne Oyster Bar** serving fish and seafood fresh from the loch. Be sure to visit nearby **Inveraray Castle**.



### DISTINCTIVE WHISKIES

Argyll is known as Scotland's whisky coast, and with good reason. This is where some of the world's best loved malt whiskies originate from. Perhaps the most distinctive are those from the **Isle of Islay** - an island which has no less than nine distilleries - thanks to its peaty soil and water. Other famous Argyll distilleries can be found in Campbeltown, Oban and the Isle of Mull.