

# Dumfries & Galloway



Q Loch Ken



Q Port Logan



Q Robert Burns Statue



Q Sandyhills Bay

## Ideas to inspire

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.returntotheridings.co.uk)

### AUGUST

#### Galloway Country Fair

This fair brings together food and drink, country sports, entertainment, children's activities and more.

[www.gallowaycountryfair.co.uk](http://www.gallowaycountryfair.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com)

# Dumfries & Galloway

## Day 1



**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](mailto:info@leadminingmuseum.co.uk)  
[www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk](http://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk)



**2**  
**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](mailto:info@drumlanrigcastle.co.uk)  
[www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk](http://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk)



**3**  
**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.  
T: 01659 50242  
E: [info@crawickmultiverse.co.uk](mailto:info@crawickmultiverse.co.uk)  
[www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk](http://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk)



**4**  
**Robert Burns Ellisland Farm** – one of the leading visitor attractions in Dumfries dedicated to Scotland's national poet. Robert Burns lived in Ellisland Farm from 1788 to 1791. It was here, inspired by the tranquil setting, that many of Burns' finest songs and poems, including Tam o' Shanter and Auld Lang Syne were penned.  
T: 01387 740426  
E: [friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk](mailto:friends@ellislandfarm.co.uk)  
[www.ellislandfarm.co.uk](http://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk)



**5**  
**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 252335  
[www.globeinndumfries.co.uk](http://www.globeinndumfries.co.uk)

## Day 2



**1**  
**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](http://www.dumfriesaviationmuseum.com)



**2**  
**Caerlaverock Castle** – discover one of Scotland's great medieval fortresses. With its moat, twin-towered gatehouse, imposing battlements and unique triangular shape this awe-inspiring castle is the epitome of the medieval stronghold and one of the finest castles in Scotland. WWT Caerlaverock is close by, another worthwhile visit.  
T: 0131 668 8831  
[www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade)



**3**  
**WWT 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](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)  
[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)



**4**  
**Annandale Distillery** – established in 1836 and reborn in 2014 following an extensive £10.5million restoration project. Once again single malt Scotch whisky is being produced in the region after almost a 100 year sleep. Enjoy a guided tour, exploring the past and find out what lies ahead. Be among the first to taste the new *Make Malt Spirit, Rascally Liqueur*.  
T: 01461 207817  
E: [bookings@annandaledistillery.com](mailto:bookings@annandaledistillery.com)  
[www.annandaledistillery.com](http://www.annandaledistillery.com)



**5**  
**The Devil's Porridge Museum** – discover the remarkable wartime story of the greatest munitions factory on earth – HM Factory Gretna and the extraordinary lives of the Munitions Girls who worked there. Through objects and interactive displays, the museum brings to life this amazing secret wartime history.  
T: 01461 700021  
E: [info@devilsporridge.org.uk](mailto:info@devilsporridge.org.uk)  
[www.devilsporridge.org.uk](http://www.devilsporridge.org.uk)

## Day 3



**1**  
**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@samyeling.org](mailto:tours@samyeling.org)  
[www.samyeling.org](http://www.samyeling.org)



**2**  
**Gretna 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.gretnagreen.com/visiting](http://www.gretnagreen.com/visiting)



**3**  
**Eskrigg Reserve** – this reserve and the nearby woodland walks offer visitors the opportunity to relax in peaceful surroundings and observe or photograph the local wildlife including red squirrel, kingfisher, tawny owl and more!  
E: [jim.rae2012@gmail.com](mailto:jim.rae2012@gmail.com)  
[www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

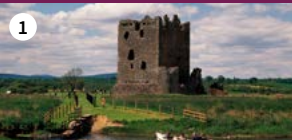


**4**  
**Dumfries Camera Obscura** – this museum offers a fascinating journey of discovery through the region's history. Climb the steps to the top floor of the museum for fantastic panoramic views over the town and the chance to look through the Camera Obscura. This historic optical instrument installed 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: [dumfriesmuseum@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:dumfriesmuseum@dumgal.gov.uk)  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsandmuseums](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/artsandmuseums)



**5**  
**Sweetheart Abbey** – this splendid red-sandstone 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: 0131 668 8831  
[www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade)

## Day 4



**1**  
**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 defence years ahead of its time. Ring the bell loudly and the boatman will take you across the river to the castle.  
T: 0131 668 8831  
[www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/travel-trade)



**2**  
**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 402036  
E: [mail@wigtown-booktown.co.uk](mailto:mail@wigtown-booktown.co.uk)  
[www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk](http://www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk)



**3**  
**Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park** – enjoy amazingly dark night skies in the UK's first Dark Sky Park and you may even be lucky enough to see the Milky Way. Visitors can enjoy a tour with the Dark Sky Rangers or visit the nearby Dark Sky Observatory.  
T: 0300 067 6156  
E: [fcscotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fcscotland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/gallowayforestpark)



**4**  
**Logan Botanic Garden** – visitors can walk through groves 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](mailto:visitorwelcome@rbge.org.uk)  
[www.rbge.org.uk/the-gardens/logan](http://www.rbge.org.uk/the-gardens/logan)



**5**  
**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, spectacular walks and popular bird hides.  
T: 01776 702024  
[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://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](http://www.visitscotland.com/dumfries-galloway)