



Ayr

“The heart of Burns Country”

Ayr is a popular seaside resort in south Ayrshire. Located 37 miles south west of Glasgow, complete with charming sea front, leafy suburbs and a wide choice of activities. Ayr has a fantastic esplanade with a long sandy beach which is perfect for walking. There are also plenty of parking spaces on either side of the main coastal road that parallels the beach. Ayr Racecourse, dating back to the 16th century, runs many Flat and National Hunt meetings throughout the year and is the venue of the Scottish Grand National, the Ayrshire Handicap and the Ayr Gold Cup. Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, was born in Alloway, on the outskirts of the town. There are also great shopping and dining facilities in Ayr and several championship golf courses in the area.



Touring Burns' Country around Ayrshire offers a fine cultural journey. Burns National Heritage Park in Alloway and the National Trust for Scotland preserve Burns Cottage, townhouses, monuments and museums associated with the writer and provide information for visitors. Today you can visit his childhood cottage, the Bachelors' Club which he founded, Poosie Nansie's alehouse, Old Kirk Alloway, the Brig o' Doon and Soutar Johnnie's house as well as other historic places linked with his life and poetry. Read on for further details of an illuminating tour following in the footsteps of Robert Burns.

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1. Bachelor's Club

A National Trust for Scotland property. Discover Burns' formative years in this restored attraction. See the room where he and his friends gathered to debate the issues of the day. See the "10 Rules of Membership" written by Burns.



3. Burns Monument & Park

Maintained by the National Trust for Scotland, this 70 foot Grecian style temple opened in 1823 and immediately became popular. In the Park are sandstone likenesses of Soutar Johnnie and Nancie Tinnock (Poosie Nancie)



5. Electric Brae

Known locally as CROY BRAE runs the quarter mile from the bend overlooking Croy railway viaduct in the west, toward Craigenroy Glen. There is a slope of 1 in 86 upwards from the bend to the Glen, the configuration of the land on either side of the road provides an optical illusion making it look as if the slope is going the other way.



7. Heads of Ayr Farm Park

There are many different animals to visit. A variety of smaller animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds in the barn. Venture outside to see many of the larger residents including Camel, Tapir, llamas, monkeys, ponies, donkeys and goats.



9. Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

A National Trust for Scotland property. Visit the humble family cottage and explore the museum with over 5000 artefacts and original manuscripts. Follow Tam O Shanter's footsteps to Alloway Auld Kirk and the Brig o' Doon.



2. Belleisle Park & Conservatory

A landscaped estate surrounding an 18th century house with abundant wildlife and birds in their natural habitat. The 19th century Conservatory was restored and reopened in 2016.



4. Culzean Castle

A National Trust for Scotland property, with a dramatic Robert Adams oval staircase and collection of flintlock pistols. Discover 40 buildings and follies while exploring the surrounding estate.



6. Greenan Castle

Perched upon the top of a sea cliff, Greenan Castle occupies a site that has been fortified for thousands of years. Originally a promontory fort, it was converted into a motte-and-bailey in the twelfth century. In the fifteenth century a Tower House was built by the Lords of the Isles which later passed into the hands of the Kennedy family.



8. "Lang Scots Mile"

Created on the Ayr seafront in 2002 to commemorate the tercentenary of the standardization of the Scots and English mile following the Act of Union. Mentioned in Tam o' Shanter



10. Rozelle Park

This historic estate features the original 1760s Mansion House, The Maclaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Tea Room, as well as Ponds, Woodland Walks and vast Playing Fields. The museum and galleries are open all year.

