

GOOD TO KNOW

START/FINISH

Brodick, Arran, Scotland

SEASON

The main hiking season is April to October, but from June to August it can be quite busy, making April and May an attractive choice.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodation options are frequent, from hotels to hostels and campsites. Book ahead in summer. Responsible wild camping is legal and encouraged, but suitable camping spots can be hard to find on the rugged coastal sections. Plan ahead.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The dinosaur footprint between Dippen Head and Bennan Head
2. The Doon Fort
3. King's Cave
4. The village of Lochranza, with Lochranza Castle and the Arran Distillery
5. Hutton's Unconformity and Fairy Dell
6. The views over Arran from Goat Fell

HELPFUL HINTS

WHAT TO BRING

Midge repellent and a head net are essential in summer. If camping, carry a compact tent that can be pitched in a small spot and will stand up to high winds.

FOOTWEAR

The trail is often boggy and rocky, making good sole grip essential.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The CalMac ferry runs from Ardrossan to Brodick several times a day throughout the year.

NAVIGATION

The route is only intermittently waymarked and route finding can be tricky, making detailed navigation required. Carry a map and compass as well as the route saved offline

in a navigation app on your phone and/or a GPS.

SAFETY

Check the tides before venturing onto sections that are impassable or dangerous at high tide. Take great care on slippery shoreline rocks or in caves.

SUPPLIES

There are several pubs, restaurants, and cafés along the route. Most of the larger villages have food shops, but some may have limited opening hours. You may need to carry food for one or two days on some of the less-populated stages.

WATER

There are countless streams. Filter or treat all water you collect as there is often livestock around. You can also top off at pubs, cafés, and campsites.

BONUS TRACKS

HOLY ISLAND

This small island, just off the coast of Arran from Lamlash, can be reached by ferry and is well worth exploring. A challenging 7 km (4.4 mi) route with 373 m (1,224 ft) of ascent starts from the Centre for World Peace and Health—a Buddhist retreat facility—before heading steeply into the moors towards the summit of Mullach Mòr (314 m/1,030 ft). The route descends southeast just as steeply to a lighthouse and then skirts back around the western shore to the ferry.

LOW-LEVEL ROUTE AVOIDING GOAT FELL

An alternative path avoids the Goat Fell ascent from the start of the climb by zigzagging uphill through woodland. This variant is 5.8 km (3.6 mi) in length with 155 m (509 ft) of ascent.

BACKGROUND

HUTTON'S UNCONFORMITY

On the north coast of Arran is a site of great geological significance: Hutton's Unconformity, one of the junction points where Dalradian schists meet Carboniferous sandstone. Scottish geologist James Hutton made the discovery in 1787, and it helped him to deduce that the Earth must be significantly older than commonly believed. The Unconformity provided evidence of rocks being formed by different forces and at points separated by a vast span of time, which led Hutton to deduce that the land had been through multiple phases of rock-forming processes.

FLORA & FAUNA

DINOSAURS OF ARRAN

The fossilized traces of prehistoric reptiles can be spotted at several points on Arran. *Chirotherium*, a crocodile-like creature around 3.7 m (12 ft) in length, lived around 240 million years ago, and left footprints in Triassic rocks that can be found throughout the island. The name *Chirotherium* means "hand beast" because the footprints look similar to the prints of a human hand.

