

5 SOUTH AYRSHIRE SNORKEL TRAIL

Launched by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the South Ayrshire Snorkel Trail highlights the best spots to get up close to the Biosphere's marine life. From scorpion fish and sea potatoes to starfish and dog whelk, the sea is filled with wonders that Biosphere-certified activity providers can help you explore. Girvan, Maidens, Culzean and Dunure are among the best locations for snorkeling. More information is on the SWT website including downloadable resources for planning your dip.



Various sites along the coastline accessible by bus



6 GIRVAN BEACH

Girvan has a mile-long sweep of sandy beach – perfect for a walk, a picnic, and enjoying the views out towards Ailsa Craig, a craggy uninhabited island famous as the site where granite for curling stones is traditionally quarried. With plenty of choices for dining (including fresh fish and chips) Girvan makes for a great family day out – and you may even spot a seal in the harbour!



20-minute walk from Girvan Station

3 DUNURE

This quaint fishing village is full of colour and has attracted extra visitors since Dunure Castle (photo on route map) featured in the hit TV series *Outlander*, which used CGI to transform the ruins into an island fortress. Built in the 15th century, the castle was once visited by Mary Queen of Scots. Dunure is ideal for a slow stroll or a spot of rockpooling in its lovely sheltered bay.



30-minute bus ride from Ayr



4 CULZEAN CASTLE

One of the grandest castles in the Biosphere, Culzean is owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland. Designed by Robert Adam as the ancestral home of Clan Kennedy, Culzean stands atop South Ayrshire's rugged cliffs and is surrounded by beautiful grounds that include woodland trails, pebble bays at the foot of the cliffs, and gardens filled with secret follies. The estate is open year-round, but the castle closes during the winter season.



35-minute bus ride from Maybole Station

1 BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

No trip to Alloway is complete without visiting the birthplace of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard, who farmed, travelled, and wrote in many locations across what is now the UNESCO Biosphere. Run by the National Trust for Scotland, the museum and cottage have over 5,000 Burns artefacts on display, including his original manuscripts. The site is also where you'll find the Brig O' Doon, made famous in Burns' poem *Tam O'Shanter*.



20-minute bus ride from Ayr



2 GREENAN BEACH & CASTLE

A stroll or cycle through Alloway towards the beach will lead you to Greenan Castle, one of many atmospheric castle ruins along the South Ayrshire coastline. The remains of the tower house date back to the 16th century and the views from the beach towards the castle are a photographer's dream. Bring a picnic and enjoy the sea air!



50-minute walk from Burns Museum



The GSA Biosphere Partnership supports sustainable business and tourism. Look out for our Proud Supporter and Biosphere Certification Mark logos as you explore.



GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO CONTACT OUR TEAM, EMAIL
INFO@GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK

FOR NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT
WWW.GSABIOSPHERE.ORG.UK

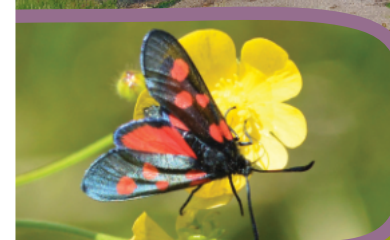


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GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE
LOW CARBON DAYS OUT



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Low Carbon Days Out allow you to explore the Biosphere in a sustainable way. They spotlight some of our best outdoor activities, cultural attractions, and nature-watching sites, all of which are accessible by train, bus or bike from the Biosphere's main transport hubs.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire was designated a UNESCO Biosphere in 2012. Internationally recognised as a world class environment for people and nature, the Biosphere covers more than 9,700 km² of southwest Scotland, following the rivers that flow out of the Galloway Hills through forests and farmland, villages and towns, all the way to a ruggedly scenic coast. It is a place for adventure, discovery and inspiration, where we work together to support wildlife, build stronger communities, and find sustainable ways to live.

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership is proud to share our ideas for Low Carbon Days Out - find us on social media using #gsabiosphere.



For up-to-date timetables for buses and trains, visit: www.scotrail.co.uk www.stagecoachbus.com



Scan the QR code to access this leaflet on your mobile phone and for information on Low Carbon Days Out and bookable Biosphere Experiences right across the UNESCO region.



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GIRVAN'S BUILT HERITAGE

Take a wander round historic Girvan to see some of the Biosphere's architectural highlights. Stumpy Jail (open in summer) is all that remains of Girvan's courthouse and jail; 'Auld Stumpy' now houses a museum with exhibits over four floors. Along the road the McKechnie Institute, built in 1889, serves as the town's cultural hub, hosting events and exhibitions year-round. Look out for the octagonal tower, hidden garden, and replica Victorian decor inside.



Both 10-minute walk from Girvan beach



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AYRSHIRE COASTAL PATH

This stunning route for walkers stretches for 106 miles and is divided into sections for better accessibility. Joining points in the Biosphere cover all the way from Glenapp to Greenan, a mix of beaches, clifftops and caves. There's opportunity along the way for birding, sea bathing, and following the footsteps of Robert the Bruce with a visit to historic locations like Maidens and Turnberry. Planning resources are available online.



All section start points along the path are accessible by bus

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BALLANTRAE

The Biosphere Community of Ballantrae sits on South Ayrshire's coast and is world-renowned for its geology; some rocks in the area were formed 500 million years ago, and are extensively studied for bettering our understanding of the Earth's ancient oceanic crust. Explore to find ancient lava formations, granite pebbles from nearby Ailsa Craig, and the cave associated with the local legend of Sawney Bean and his family of cannibals!



45-minute bus ride from Girvan



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COLMONELL

Tucked away in the scenic Stinchar Valley, Colmonell is a great base for exploring Ayrshire's hills and native woodlands. The River Stinchar passes through the village and is a popular fishing spot offering some of the Biosphere's most beautiful riverside walks. History buffs will enjoy a visit to St Colmon's Church which has unique stained-glass windows and connections to the Covenanting martyrs. Colmonell is a designated Biosphere Community – look out for the 'Explore the Biosphere' information board next to the park.



40-minute bus ride from Girvan