

5 THREAVE CASTLE & ESTATE


With its evocative location on an island in the middle of the River Dee, Threave Castle (cover photo) was built in the 14th century by the uniquely-named Archibald the Grim, and acted as a stronghold for the Lords of Galloway. The surrounding estate is a haven for nature and is part of a pioneering 100-year restoration project with progress being keenly observed by ecologists worldwide. Threave includes Scotland's only Bat Reserve and is often visited by ospreys, which catch fish in the Dee.

 30-minute bus ride from Kirkcudbright  60-minute cycle



6 BORGUE PENINSULA

For those travelling by bike, you can explore the Borgue peninsula within easy cycling distance of Kirkcudbright. The Dhoon beach is the perfect spot to take in the beautiful Solway Coast, with views looking back towards Kirkcudbright Bay and towards the lighthouse on Little Ross Island. Carrick beach (pictured) is another scenic spot, where you can explore some of the rocks that capture the Biosphere's geological history.

 Roughly 60 minutes cycle to Carrick Beach (furthest point)

3 BROUGHTON HOUSE & GARDEN

Former home of E A Hornel, one of the Glasgow Boys with whom Kirkcudbright has an especially strong connection. Broughton House is now a National Trust for Scotland property displaying a range of Hornel's works alongside books and other items from his personal collections. The gardens are particularly special, demonstrating the influence of Hornel's travels in Japan. Please note Broughton House closes over winter.

 5-minute walk from Kirkcudbright town centre



4 CASTLE DOUGLAS

Castle Douglas is a traditional market town known as Dumfries & Galloway's Food Town for its array of restaurants, bakeries, and historic pubs serving lunches and dinners all year round. Special treats will be found in the independent delicatessens and chocolatiers, and at the monthly producers' market. After browsing the high street, why not take a short walk down to Carlingwark Loch, a place teeming with waterfowl and a rich history of settlement that can be traced back to the Bronze Age.

 30-minute bus ride from Kirkcudbright  60-minute cycle

1 THE ARTISTS' TOWN

Kirkcudbright is famous for the number of artists that have lived and worked in the town, and for its enchanting variety of galleries and craft shops; it could perhaps be described as the 'cultural capital' of the UNESCO Biosphere. Many creatives working in the town today host open studios, or for something a little different, try Kirkcudbright's heritage walks, the Stewartry Museum, and the vast cemetery of St Cuthbert's - look out for the grave of the gypsy king!

 70-minute bus ride from Dumfries



2 MACLELLAN'S CASTLE

Originally built in the late 16th century, the atmospheric ruin of MacLellan's Castle was the residence of the Provost of Kirkcudbright and holds an appropriately commanding position in the town. Right next to the castle you'll see Kirkcudbright's unique war memorial, and across the road is a lovely stretch of green space with benches to sit and watch the boats in the harbour.

 5-minute walk from Kirkcudbright town centre



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



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO CONTACT OUR TEAM, EMAIL
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THE STEWARTRY

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.

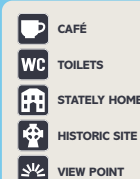
The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership is proud to share our ideas for Low Carbon Days Out - find us on social media using #gsabiosphere.



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



7 GATEHOUSE OF FLEET

Gatehouse is an 18th century planned town on the River Fleet, and today a designated Biosphere Community. Surrounded by the Galloway hills and with ancient woodlands close at hand, the town has excellent pubs and restaurants to grab a bite. The forest tracks around Gatehouse are a big attraction for gravel cyclists and host world class competitions each year.



20-minute bus ride from Kirkcudbright



50-minute cycle



8 MILL ON THE FLEET

This former cotton mill has been restored into a museum and exhibition centre. The main exhibition space showcases the history of Gatehouse and the Fleet valley, with an upstairs gallery showcasing the work of local artists. Lose yourself among the shelves and passageways in the delightful bookshop on the upper floor, and afterwards head down to the riverside café for tea and cake!



5-minute walk from Gatehouse of Fleet town centre



9 CARDONESS CASTLE

Just outside Gatehouse of Fleet sits Cardoness Castle, a 15th century fortified residence that used to be the home of the McCullochs, a prominent Galloway family infamous for thievery and lawlessness. The ruins of the castle are now cared for by Historic Environment Scotland. Look out for red squirrels, one of the Biosphere's High Focus Species, which inhabit the castle grounds.



20-minute walk from Gatehouse of Fleet



5-minute cycle



10 CAIRNSMORE OF FLEET

Sitting at the heart of the UNESCO Biosphere, Cairnsmore of Fleet is a National Nature Reserve and one of our largest unforested upland areas. The habitats here are vitally important for conservation supporting rare and enigmatic species of flora and fauna – you may even be lucky enough to see a Golden eagle. The Big Water of Fleet viaduct, which used to carry a railway line, is now a well loved local walk with wonderful views. The reserve has a range of outdoor environmental art to happen upon while you explore.



45-minute cycle from Gatehouse of Fleet