


5 PORTPATRICK

Portpatrick was founded on fishing and trade. Today it's a picturesque spot to watch sailing boats from the comfort of the cafés and hotels overlooking the harbour. Note the ruins of St Patrick's Church, a 17th century construction with its unusual round tower.



 20-minute bus ride from Stranraer Port Rodie bus stop

 50-minute cycle



6 DUNSKEY CASTLE

Just a short walk south of Portpatrick these ruins sit on a rocky outcrop jutting out into the Irish Sea. Structures at this historic site date back to the 12th century; the present castle was built by the Adairs of Kinhilt. A circular walk from Portpatrick to the castle and back along the old railway lines takes roughly an hour.

 20-minute walk to the castle from Portpatrick  5-minute cycle

3 LOCH RYAN

Loch Ryan is a birder's paradise, from turnstones and teals to whoopers and wigeons. During winter months you might spot the light-bellied Brent goose, which migrates over 5,000km every year from Arctic Canada to the western tip of Dumfries & Galloway. This vast sea loch is home to Scotland's last remaining wild oyster fishery, and the Stranraer Oyster Festival attracts top chefs and seafood fans annually in September.

 5-minute walk from Stranraer station




4 STRANRAER MUSEUM & CASTLE OF ST. JOHN

Located in the Old Town Hall, built in 1776. Exhibitions explore the history of Wigtownshire from ancient relics to Victorian treasures. You'll also get to see Scotland's oldest ploughs! Just a short walk from the museum is the Castle of St. John, a medieval tower built c.1510. The castle has previously been used as a prison, and an ARP (Air Raid Precaution) base during World War II.

 5-minute walk from Loch Ryan

1 TRAIN TO STRANRAER

The train journey from Ayr to Stranraer is a chance to take in the amazing view of the Biosphere's west coast and the sweep of the Galloway Hills, while travelling through the heart of Burns country. From the comfort of your carriage you'll see Ailsa Craig, the famous seabird colony just off the coast; the remains of the 12th century Glenluce Abbey (just before Stranraer); and Merrick, the tallest summit in the south of Scotland.

 Roughly 1-hour on the train between Girvan and Stranraer



2 BARRHILL STATION & VILLAGE

Barrhill Station is well worth a visit for any railway enthusiast. Located just outside the village, the station is a rare passing loop on the single-track line and has a traditional signal box that is still operated by the stationmaster today. Barrhill village is just a short walk away and has some great scenic walks, including the Martyrs' Tomb, a memorial to local Covenanters who died for their beliefs in the 17th century.

 15-minute walk to Barrhill village from the station



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 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



STRANRAER & THE RHINS OF GALLOWAY

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STRANRAER & THE RHINS OF GALLOWAY

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.

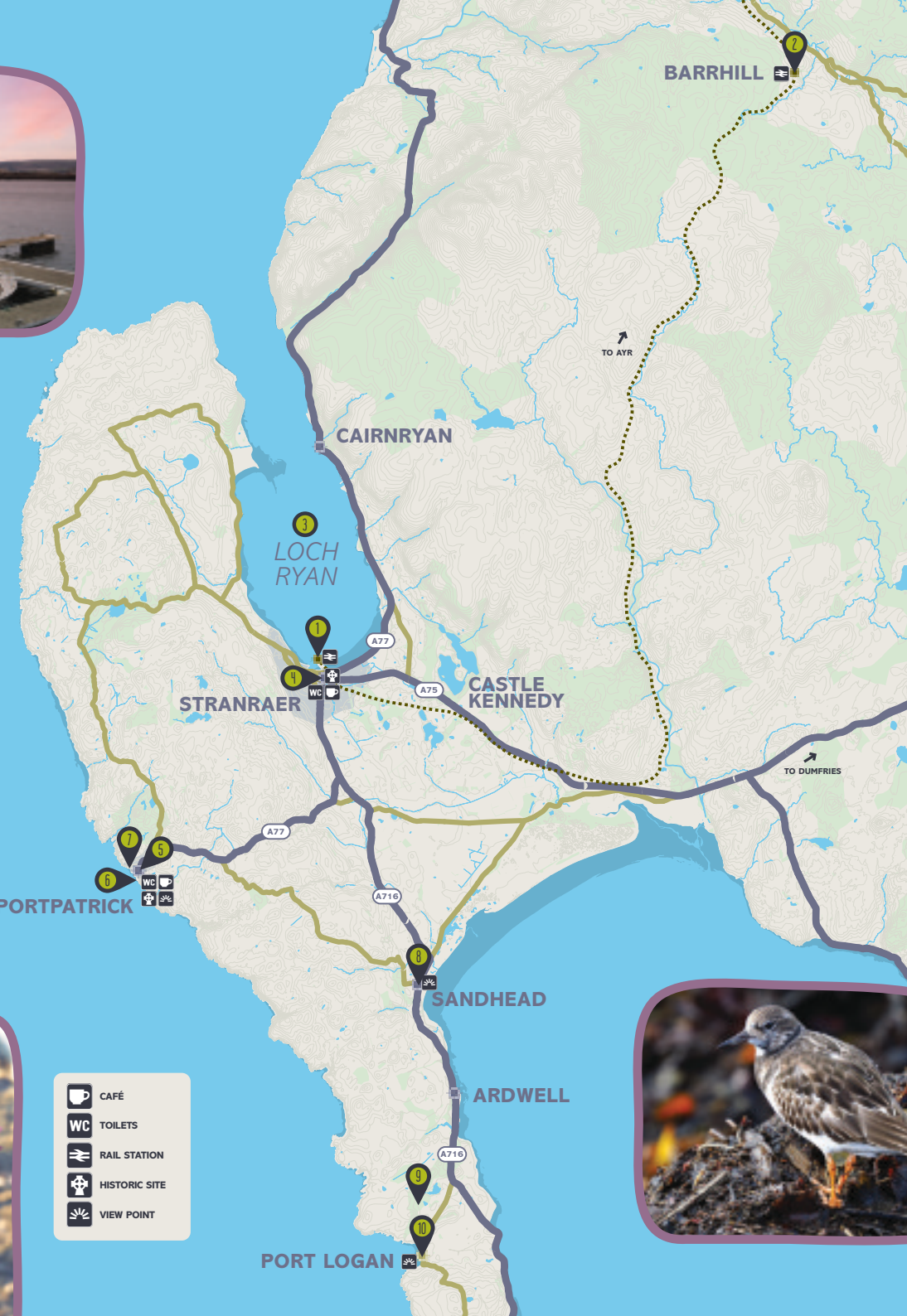
The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership is proud to share our ideas for Low Carbon Days Out - find us on social media using #gsabiosphere.



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.



- CAFÉ
- TOILETS
- RAIL STATION
- HISTORIC SITE
- VIEW POINT

7

THE SOUTHERN UPLAND WAY

This coast-to-coast route covers 214 miles of south Scotland's unique landscapes. Start in Portpatrick at the end of the harbour, before heading along the coastal cliffs, into the heart of the Biosphere and beyond. From Portpatrick you can walk smaller sections of the route in a single day and experience wonderful views out towards Northern Ireland.



5-minute walk from Portpatrick Harbour



8

SANDHEAD

If you're seeking a refreshing stroll on a long, sandy beach, Sandhead is a must! The beach stretches for 3 miles during low tide and has stunning views across Luce Bay. It's also an interesting stop for history fans, with the Kirkmadrine Stones just a short walk away. These carved stones are some of the oldest Christian memorials found in Scotland, dating back to around 500 AD.



30-minute bus ride from Stranraer Port Rodie bus stop



45-mins cycle

9

LOGAN BOTANIC GARDEN

Accessible by bus from Stranraer, Logan Botanic Garden was founded in 1869 and contains a wide range of subtropical flora you might not expect to see growing in the GSA Biosphere! The gardens are warmed by the Gulf Stream, which allows plants from Australia, New Zealand, South and Central America and southern Africa to thrive. The gardens are open March - November.



35-minute bus ride from Stranraer Port Rodie bus stop



1-hour 15 mins cycle



10

PORT LOGAN

Port Logan is a quaint fishing village built by local lairds in the late 17th century. It has a beautiful harbour and sandy beach, as well as an unusual lighthouse erected as part of the harbour development which was completed in 1820. Don't miss out on the Port Logan Fishpond whilst you're there; the 200-year-old fish larder is home to a wide range of marine life and is an ideal spot to get up close to some of the fantastic fish of the Biosphere's coast!



15-minute bus ride from Logan Botanics



10-mins cycle