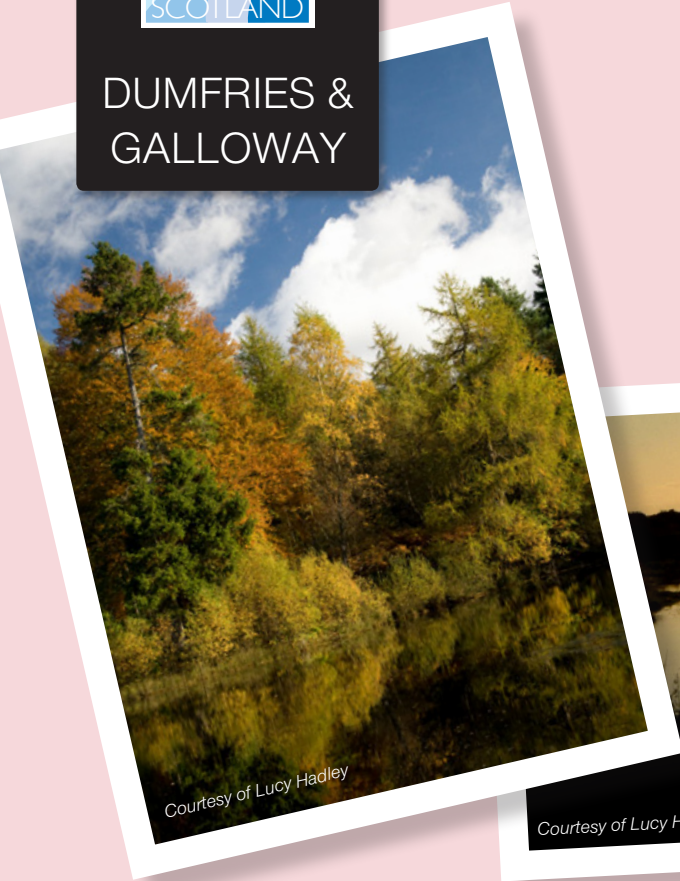




An Autumn Weekend in Dumfries & Galloway

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY



Day 1

Take the A75 west from Gretna Green and follow signs into Annan. Turn onto the B724 and follow this pretty road along to Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve (visitor centre and cafe, run by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust). This is a beautiful estuary at any time of the year, but in autumn and winter the mudflats are alive with barnacle geese and knot, as well as whooper and bewick swans. (In early summer visit at dusk to hear the toad chorus of natterjack toads competing for mates).

From here, follow the coast road to RSPB Mersehead Reserve where a large proportion of Svalbard's barnacle geese spend their winter. They arrive in the autumn and there are always plenty of waders and ducks to enjoy. The reserve is open at all times and there is a 2.5mile circular walk which includes a number of hides.

Day 2

Just off the A75 near Gatehouse of Fleet, Cream o' Galloway is an excellent place to spend the morning. Not only is it an organic farm with tours, but it has 4 miles of nature trails with wildlife hide and ponds, cafe, adventure playground and they make organic icecream! Book yourself onto a farm tour or ranger walk.

Then head across to Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre in Galloway Forest Park, located on the A712 between Newton Stewart and New Galloway. The park has marked cycle and walking trails as well as three visitor centres. In 2009, Galloway Forest Park won a Dark Sky Award as one of the best places for stargazing in the world. Autumn is a great time to see wild goats as well as red deer at the Red Deer Range.

Day 3

On your last day, enjoy the Galloway Red Kite Trail. The self-guided driving route is centred on Loch Ken. Stop at the Red Kite Feeding Station at Bellymack Farm at 2pm where dozens of red kites can be seen feeding. Another option is a walk at the Ken Dee Marshes (RSPB) along Loch Ken. This reserve is good for red squirrels and woodpeckers. Or you could walk to the 'Secret Cages' to see where the red kites were reared in captivity before being released into the wild.

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1 Barnacle goose	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
2 Natterjack toad					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3 Nightjar					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
4 Northern Brown Argus butterfly							✓	✓	✓			
5 Red deer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 Red kites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 Red squirrel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 Whooper swan	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
9 Snowdrops		✓	✓									
10 Bluebells				✓	✓							



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ROUTE STATISTICS

Length	3 days / 2 nights
Mode of transport	Car
Start/finish	Gretna Green

1 CREAM O'GALLOWAY

Organic farm offering nature trails, wildlife events, cycle tracks in beautiful Galloway scenery.

Tel: 01557 814040

www.creamogalloway.co.uk

2 KIPPFORD HOLIDAY PARK

Coastal and beautifully landscaped holiday park near the Colvend Coast.

Tel: 01556 620636

www.kippfordholidaypark.co.uk

3 REAL FARM HOLIDAYS

Farmhouse and cottage self-catering accommodation near Annan.

Tel: 01576 510200

www.RealFarmHolidays.co.uk

