



the National Trust
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Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park

Teacher's information



Brodick Castle, Gardens and Country Park stretch from the shores of Brodick Bay to Goatfell, the highest peak on Arran. The castle is the ancient seat of the Dukes of Hamilton, and was home to the Duke and Duchess of Montrose until 1957. It spans 800 years of history. The castle is filled with beautiful furniture and paintings, and precious objects. There are also (it's rumoured) ghosts who have shared the castle with the owners for many years.

Brodick Country Park was created from the gardens and extensive grounds of Brodick Castle in 1980. The gardens and park cover a wide variety of habitats for learning opportunities: seashore, freshwater ponds, woodland, heathland and blanket bog, as well as mountain areas. There is also a wildlife garden, a weather station, an interpretative Nature Room and a well-equipped classroom. The classroom offers projection facilities, fieldwork equipment, reference books and wildlife audiovisuals.

Brodick is a wonderful place for a whole day visit - why not book a tour of the castle and the country park?

The school visit to Brodick offers many opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence:

- Teachers notes and site information will be sent your school on booking.
- Brodick staff work with pupils of all ages, and at all Levels.
- The castle tour focuses on the Victorian era, and there are many primary resources in the castle to bring the period alive for pupils. Tours are led by trained education guides. Please phone Brodick castle team, if you have particular requirements. The Education Guide can adapt the content of tours to suit your needs..
- The ranger/naturalists are experienced in leading school groups. They currently offer programmes on woodlands, archaeology and geology, in the country park. The emphasis is on providing learning opportunities not readily available in the classroom: experiential learning, with pupils able to explore the natural world. Please contact Brodick Ranger Service for more details.
- Secondary school pupils can undertake practical conservation work, study footpath erosion on Goatfell, or to look in more detail at conservation/access and tourism issues. Please contact Brodick Ranger Service for more details.
- For older pupils, you can book a whole day excursion into Glen Rosa or a mountain walk to Goatfell summit.
- Other topics, using a variety of habitats and/or the classroom, may be covered by prior arrangement.
- The country park has several way-marked trails (and a country park map is available). There is also an adventure playground.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk/Learn

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Brodict Castle, Garden & Country Park

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Planning your visit:

- To book: please contact Brodict for a booking form
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment
- Brodict is open for educational visits from Easter – end October. School programmes run throughout the day and are tailored to the ferry timetable. Castle tours last for a minimum of 1 hour, and ranger activities last a minimum of 1.5 hours, depending on class size. Mountain activities require a minimum of 4.5 hours for Glen Rosa and 7 hours for Goatfell.
- Maximum number of pupils per visit: 60, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils. For guided tours and walks, classes will be divided into smaller groups.
- There is no charge for schools with NTS educational membership
- Non-member schools are welcome but there is a charge of £2 per pupil – accompanying adults are admitted free
- To apply for educational membership, please go to the NTS Learn website: www.ntslearning.org.uk – or contact Brodict.
- Class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site
- Please contact Brodict for full information on access for people with sight, hearing or mobility impairment.
- Toilets are available at the Reception Centre, the castle and the Countryside Centre. All are fully accessible.
- Pupils may eat packed lunches in the countryside centre. If this is unavailable, alternative space will be provided
- Wet weather shelter is available
- The shop, selling books, souvenirs, plants and ice creams is open during the open season from Easter to the end of October. For the health and safety of all visitors, pupils may visit the shop in small groups only
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit

Getting to Brodict:

A regular Cal-Mac ferry service runs between Ardrossan harbour and Brodict. This service connects with the Glasgow Central train service to the harbour.

By car: on reaching Brodict, turn right at the ferry terminal and take the A841 main road north towards Lochranza. Brown road signs direct you to the entrance, which is 2.5 miles from the ferry

By foot: Walk along the "Fisherman's Walk" which follows the beach and golf course, reaching the castle at the pedestrian entrance. Takes 30-45 minutes.

By bus: Buses meet the ferry to go to the castle reception centre (Service 324).

Parking is available for school buses/coaches in the grounds

During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead the school programme
- For the programme, depending on your activities and class size, your class will be split into groups. Full details, with a timetable of activities, will be sent prior to your visit
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour
- Pupils do not need to bring materials for the school programme
- Photos may be taken in the gardens and country park, but not inside the castle
- Coats and bags can be left either at the Countryside Centre, or at the castle entrance
- On arrival: please report to the Reception Centre

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For more information and a booking form contact:

Brodick Castle, Garden and Country Park, Isle of Arran KA27 8HY

Tel: 0844 493 2152 Email: brodickcastle@nts.org.uk

Brodick Ranger Service (for enquiries): 0844 493 2154

www.ntslearning.org.uk – www.ntslearning.org.uk – www.ntslearning.org.uk

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