



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for nature

Goatfell

Wild Arran

Description

The Arran skyline is dominated by the jagged summits and ridges of Goatfell and the surrounding hills, providing a dramatic backdrop to Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park. It is a spectacular example of an open, rugged, upland landscape formed during the last Ice Age.

Grade

A strenuous summer hill walk but a serious undertaking in winter or in bad weather

Terrain

A rough mountain path which can be indistinct near the top

Distance

From the car park 6½ miles / 10.5km
to the summit

Time

Approximately 4½ – 6 hours
The time taken will depend on the fitness and pace of the walker.

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 69

Facilities

Parking and toilets at car park



Hen harrier – This bird (with a strikingly owl-like face) has a buoyant, graceful flight and can occasionally be spotted flying low across the heather moorland. The male (left) is an unusual slate grey colour with black wing tips but the female is dull brown in colour with a distinctive white rump.



Ptarmigan – The Goatfell area is the most southerly home in Britain for this grouse. The ptarmigan is brilliantly camouflaged on the summits with a plumage that changes from mottled brown in summer to white in the winter.



Dwarf willow – You'll have to look carefully for the smallest willow in Britain, as it grows to just 5cm tall on the higher parts of the mountain. The small red fruits open to release feathery seeds.



Dwarf juniper – If you keep an eye out on the main path up Goatfell you will almost certainly see this plant. Native to Scotland, this rare spreading plant lives in remote areas with a cool, wet climate and has short, broad needle-like leaves.



SAFETY FIRST

Goatfell is a very popular high-level walk enjoyed by many thousands each year. On a clear day you may see as far as Ben Lomond to the north and the coast of Ireland to the south-west. However, mountains must be treated with respect and dramatic changes in the weather conditions can occur throughout the year. The summit can be cold, wet and windy, even in summer, and visibility can be quickly reduced to a few metres. Be prepared by carrying a map, compass, torch, food and drink, and waterproof and warm clothing – it's easy to be caught out! The final 200m is steep and rocky and the path isn't always apparent, so take care on loose stones, especially in winter.

The Trust is supported by  Scottish Natural Heritage
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