

GLORIOUS GARDENS of Argyll and Bute



Kilmory Woodland Garden

ARGYLL, an area renowned for its breathtaking mountain scenery, beautiful coastline and picturesque islands, is also home to some of the most spectacular gardens Scotland has to offer.

From informal woodland retreats to large-scale examples of 18th century design, the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute celebrate the region's rich and varied botanical history.

Each garden has its own individual characteristics and charm. Some of the gardens have been planted in a natural setting while others were specifically designed in a more formal manner. Several were planted as a foil to his-

toric buildings, while others have exceptional plant collections.

With 21 member gardens covering an area from Cardross in Dumbaron to Morvern, by Argyll, as well as the islands of Gigha, Seil, Bute, Mull, Colonsay and Jura, there will always be at least one garden within easy reach of visitors to the area.

Atlantic weather systems tend to dominate the local climate, with high rainfall and westerly winds being the factors which have influenced most Argyll gardeners over the generations.

Most of the Glorious Gardens can be found in coastal or inland areas where the moist, westerly airstreams and the North Atlantic Drift have a moderating influence on temperatures. These provide ideal conditions for many plants from temperate parts of the world such as the Sino-Himalayan region, South America and southern Australasia.

However, high winds mean that shelter is essential for coastal gardens and where this is not provided naturally, gardeners have had to create it, hence the reason for walled gardens at several sites.

Plant collectors from Victorian times to the present day have brought back seed and plants to the gardens of Argyll including the Giant Redwood (*Sequoiaadendron giganteum*) and numerous species of rhododendron.

Each Argyll garden is individual. Some are mainly level with smooth paths, while others are steep and rocky. Facilities also vary from garden to garden but each will do their best to provide access to visitors of every age, interest and ability.

Many of the gardens are open throughout the year. Details of each garden and information on special events, both in the gardens and in the local area over the year, can be found on the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute website at www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk

The 21 gardens in the group are: Achamore Gardens, Isle of Gigha; An Cala, Isle of Seil; Angus Garden, Taynuilt; Ardchattan Priory Garden, Oban; Ardenraig Garden, Isle of Bute; Ardkinglas Woodland Garden, Cairndow; Ardmaddy Castle Garden, by Oban; Ardtornish Garden, Morvern by Argyll; Arduaine Garden, by Oban; Ascoghall Fernery and Garden, Isle of Bute; Benmore Botanic Garden, near Dunoon; Colonsay House Garden, Isle of Colonsay; Crae Garden, Minard, Inverary; Geilston Garden, Cardross, Dumbaron; Glenarn, Rhu, Helensburgh; Jura House Garden, Isle of Jura; Kilmory Woodland Park, Lochgilphead; Kinlochlaich House Garden, Appin; Linn Botanic Garden, Helensburgh; Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute; Torosay



Ardenraig Garden, Rothesay, Isle of Bute



Torosay Castle Gardens, Isle of Mull



The South Walled Garden at Achamore, Isle of Gigha



Benmore Botanic Garden, Dunoon

Kilmory Woodland Garden
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RT
Tel: 01546 602127
Web: www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk

Within the attractive grounds of Kilmory Castle, lies Kilmory Woodland Park. William J Hooker, Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow and later Director of Kew Gardens, is reputed to have laid out the grounds about the year 1830 and to have provided many of the exotic shrubs and plants that flourished there. The garden still retains many rare trees and shrubs, including fine rhododendrons. Kilmory Woodland Park offers a network of woodland walks linking picnic areas, bird hide, superb viewpoints and archaeological sites.



Ardtornish Garden Photo: Ian Lamb

Visit the community-owned
Achamore Gardens
Isle of Gigha
Tel: 01583 505275
e-mail: gardens@gigha.org.uk
Website: www.gigha.org.uk

A short ferry sail from the Kintyre mainland, the Isle of Gigha is host to the magnificent 40-acre mature woodland gardens. The gardens are a glorious tapestry of camellias, azaleas and various sub-tropical shrubs as well as many unique species of rhododendron. In addition to the above, the gardens comprise lovely walks amongst mature woodland. The gardens are open year round from dawn until dusk. Guided Tours are available by arrangement

Ardtornish Garden
MORVERN
ARGYLL
PA34 5UZ
Tel: 01967 421288
Web: www.ardtornish.co.uk

The Ardtornish Garden at the head of Loch Aline is designed to complement the natural flora by introducing plants from all round the world. There is a great variety of shapes and colours at different times of the year. In June come and see the hybrid rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas. In July and August the white of eucryphia and hoheria take the lead. Extremes of colour are kept for autumn. There are 25 acres to explore, along winding paths, and stunning views round every corner. Ardtornish will keep your interest for hours. Come for an hour or two or rent one of the self-catering units

Benmore Botanic Garden

Magnificent Mountainside Garden



"Benmore is one of the most powerful gardens I have seen and is a place of vital mystery and enchantment"
The Washington Post

Café | Shop | Plant sales | Courtyard Gallery | Guided Walks | Open daily from 10am, 1 Mar-31 Oct.

On the A815, 7 miles north of Dunoon on the Cowal Peninsula
Nr Dunoon, Argyll | Telephone 01369 706 261 | www.rbge.org.uk/benmore



Ardencraig Garden
Ardenraig Lane
High Craigmore
Rothesay
Isle of Bute PA20 9EZ
Telephone
01700 504644

The existing gardens originally formed part of the larger layout designed by Perry Cane for the owners of Ardenraig House. The walled garden was acquired by Rothesay Town Council in 1970, and latterly by Argyll and Bute Council, and has been developed to create a propagation, education and show garden. Extensive bedding and avaria displays contain some of the best cultivars available. A number of avaries housing a range of foreign bird species have been built to create further interest.

TOROSAY CASTLE AND GARDENS
Craignure,
Isle of Mull,
Argyll,
PA65 6AY
Telephone
01680 812421
web:
www.torosay.com

A visit to Torosay Castle and Gardens set on the magnificent Island of Mull is an experience not to be missed. We welcome you to a place whose beauty we hope to preserve for future generations, and we invite you to share in its delights with us. Gardens open all year round; daylight hours in winter, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., summer. 1½ miles south of Craignure by road, footpath or narrow gauge railway