

3 Glentool

Glentool Visitor Centre

Glentool is nestled deep in Galloway Forest Park. Relax in the café and watch woodland birds at the feeders or choose trails through the woods or along the glen to lovely Loch Trool.

These hills are rich with history, Robert the Bruce, the great warrior king, took refuge here 700 years ago during the Wars of Scottish Independence.

Way out west

Glentool is one of the renowned 7stanes mountain biking trail centres that span the south of Scotland. The trails here explore Galloway's 'Wild West', with fun routes for families and beginners and the unique Big Country Ride, all with stunning scenery.

7 stanes
mountain bike trails

Go beyond your horizons

Come to Galloway Forest Park at night and enter an area of wonder and exploration. Enjoy a perfectly dark sky, studded with thousands of stars, with the Milky Way arching overhead. Without light pollution to spoil the view, we're proud to be the UK's first Dark Sky Park.

Want to wonder at the magic of the night sky? Just grab some binoculars, wrap up warm and head out into the Forest Park. The best places to watch the starry show are marked on the maps here. Find more information at the visitor centres and look out for our Dark Skies leaflet.



A viewpoint fit for a king

It's a short easy stroll from the Loch Trool car park up to Bruce's Stone, one of two sites in the Forest Park linked to Robert the Bruce. Enjoy the magnificent loch and hill views from the Stone and discover the tumultuous past of this peaceful spot.

For the very adventurous (and well-prepared), this is also the start of the hill route to the Merrick, the highest summit in the Southern Uplands.

Goldcrest Trail

Can you spot tiny goldcrests on this circular trail through tranquil conifer woodland?

A smooth gravel path with moderate gradients, with some short fairly steep ramps.



1½ miles / 2 km
Allow ¾ hour

Two Waters Trail

Wind through the birch woods along the rushing Waters of Minnoch and Trool and look up to the high Galloway Hills.

Mostly loose gravel surface, with short uneven section. Includes one steep slope. Look out for vehicles along the short road section.



2½ miles / 3.7 km
Allow 1½ hours

Water of Trool Trail

A scenic trail through the oakwoods alongside the Water of Trool. Discover the tragic Martyr's Tomb and a magnificent viewpoint by Spout Head Waterfall.

Loose gravel surface throughout, with occasional uneven sections. Long slopes with several short steep sections. Includes two road crossings and a pair of bridges (one 0.9m wide).



4½ miles / 7.2 km
Allow 2½ hours

Loch Trool Loop

A circuit of stunning Loch Trool and its untouched native oak woodlands. Great views throughout over the loch to the foothills of the Merrick.

Loose and occasionally uneven gravel surface. Steeply rolling terrain with some long fairly steep slopes. Includes a bridge 0.9m wide, some steps and a section along the road.



5½ miles / 9.2 km
Allow 4 hours

Welcome to Galloway Forest Park

Want to get up close to a red deer, spot shooting stars or follow in the footsteps of a king? Looking for world-class mountain biking, stunning hill walks or scenic lochside strolls? Find all this, and much more, in Galloway Forest Park, Britain's largest Forest Park and the UK's first Dark Sky Park.

A fantastic forest adventure

Use this leaflet to help you explore and enjoy these special places in the heart of the Forest Park. For more information, visit our three welcoming Visitor Centres at Kirroughtree, Clatteringshaws and Glentool. Each visitor centre has car parking, toilets, souvenirs and trails – and glorious Galloway views from their comfortable cafés.

Exploring for everyone

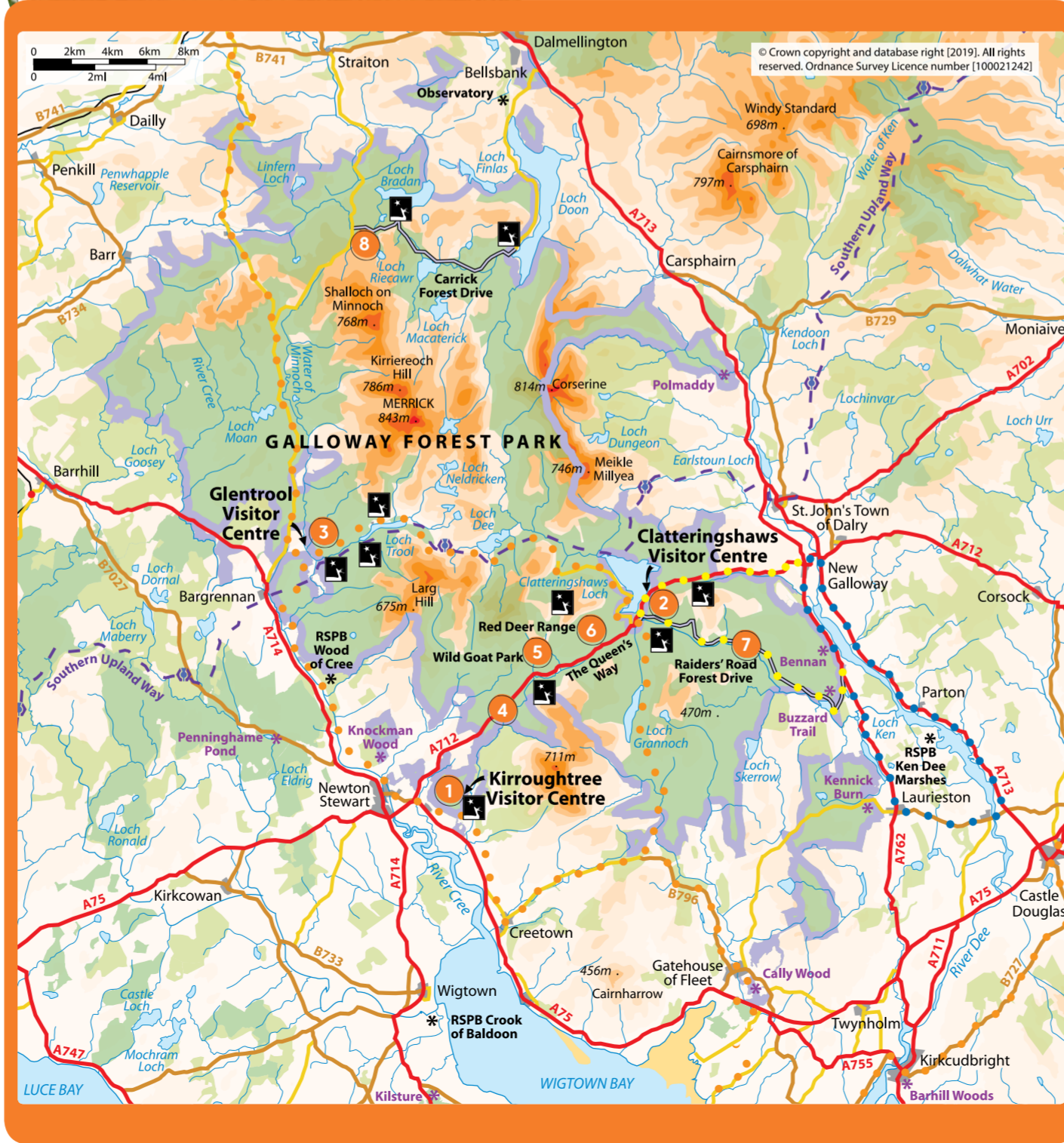
Choose from a rich mix of trails that criss-cross the Forest Park. Select a family stroll or gentle bike ride, or a more adventurous hike deep into the woods or onto the open hill. You can also easily reach the heart of the forest on two scenic forest drives, with picnic sites, play areas and viewpoints – and waterfalls, castles and sculptures – along the way.

Roaring stags and rambling goats

The Forest Park is alive with wildlife. Meet Britain's biggest land mammals at the Red Deer Range and our ancient breed of goats at the Wild Goat Park. Follow the Galloway Kite Trail to spot these distinctive birds of prey and watch out in the woods for cheeky red squirrels. Head for the lochs and burns for waterbirds and waders and perhaps glimpse an otter or an osprey.

Stars in your eyes

Galloway Forest Park is a brilliant place to star-gaze. The night skies are so dark that you can see over 7,000 stars and planets just with the naked eye. Enjoy the celestial show from our three visitor centres or other great viewpoints around the Forest Park. Find out what to look for using the information panels at these sites.



Forest Park favourites

The Forest Park is packed with breathtaking viewpoints, perfect picnic spots, great trails and wonderful wildlife – as well as three welcoming visitor centres.

Kirroughtree

Galloway Forest Park's gateway centre, ideal for active adventures and a great place to unwind, stroll or play.



Glentool

Discover wonderful woods, water, hills and history in this quiet corner of the Forest Park.



Wild Goat Park

Meet these charming long haired characters, descendants of an ancient breed, who live wild in the Forest Park.



Raiders' Road Forest Drive

Follow the winding River Dee, picnic beside the Otter Pool and spot soaring red kites.



Clatteringshaws

Relax and enjoy the view over the tranquil loch and rolling Galloway hills.



The Queen's Way

Take in the Red Deer Range, Wild Goat Park and the dramatic Glen of the Bar viewpoint along this scenic road.



Red Deer Range

Enjoy a close encounter with Britain's largest land mammal from our hide.



Carrick Forest Drive

Explore the remote and splendid northern reaches of the Forest Park, a home to black grouse and a ruined castle.



Get your pulse racing!



World class mountain biking

Kirroughtree and Glentool are two of Scotland's famous 7stanes mountain biking centres. They offer a thrilling mix of trails suitable for everyone from beginners to expert adrenalin junkies. There's a skills area for honing your technique and bike hire at Kirroughtree too.

Feel on top of the world

There are plenty of peaks in the Forest Park to delight experienced walkers, including the mighty Merrick, highest hill in the Southern Uplands and part of the wonderfully named Range of the Awful Hand. These rewarding but strenuous routes are unmarked, so be sure you are properly equipped.

Take up the challenge

The Forest Park is also a highlight of the celebrated Southern Upland Way, a challenging and dramatic 212 mile (340 km) trail linking Scotland's east and west coasts. The scenic National Cycle Route 7 from Glasgow to Carlisle also winds through the Forest Park, passing close to all three of the Forest Park's visitor centres.

Galloway Forest Park

It's Great Outdoors!



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For more information

Tel: 0300 067 6900
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1 Kirroughtree

Kirroughtree Visitor Centre

This is the **perfect place** to start exploring Galloway Forest Park. Choose **active adventures amongst the trees**, relax in the **café or browse in the bike & outdoor shop**. The woods here are alive with **wildlife**, so scamper along to the **Wild Watch Hide** to spot **red squirrels, roe deer** and a host of woodland birds.

Play, picnic, stroll or cycle

There's something for **all the family** at Kirroughtree, whatever the time of year. Go wild in the play park, have a go at orienteering, watch the stars, hit the trails on foot or by bike or enjoy a picnic beside the picturesque Bruntis lochs. You can hire bikes here too.

Choose the adrenalin rush

Kirroughtree is also home to some of the best singletrack mountain bike trails in Scotland. The trails include gentle family routes on forest roads to technically challenging trails for expert riders, including the infamous McMoab granite slabs.



Wild Watch Trail

A short path to the Wild Watch Hide, where squirrels and woodland birds visit the feeders. Continue further along the path to find Kirroughtree's second play park.

A firm and generally flat path, with some short gentle gradients. No obstacles. Good in all weathers.



¼ mile / 0.5 km
Allow ½ hour

Anniversary Cairn Trail

Follow this trail through mature woods to the stunning viewpoint at the Galloway Forest Park 50th Anniversary Cairn, then back past the tranquil Bruntis Loch.

Firm gravel paths with some wide forest roads. Generally moderate gradients. Includes a bridge. Shares some sections with mountain bike trails – look out for bikers.

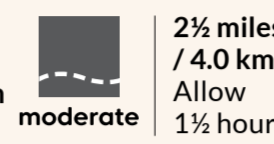


1½ miles / 2.5 km
Allow 1 hour

Little Bruntis Trail

This path visits both the Big and Little Bruntis Lochs, before heading through mixed woodland with beautiful big beech trees. Keep your eyes open for the workings of the historic lead mines, as well as roe deer and red squirrels.

A firm gravel path. Fairly steep gradients. Includes a short section (100m) on quiet public road.

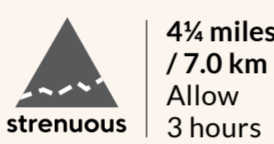


2½ miles / 4.0 km
Allow 1½ hours

Larg Hill Trail

A scenic circuit around wooded Larg Hill rewards you with great views over Newton Stewart, a visit to lovely Bruntis Loch and follows the course of a tumbling burn.

Firm gravel paths and forest roads, with some sections muddy after rain. Long fairly steep gradients. Includes short section of quiet public road. Shares some sections with mountain bike trails.



4 miles / 7.0 km
Allow 3 hours

3 The Queen's Way

Follow the **Queen's Way** (the A712) to reach some **favourite Forest Park places**. Get up close to our **red deer and wild goats**, discover a **spectacular waterfall** and climb up to **Murray's Monument**.

Red Deer Range

Watch the herd from the hide between April and October, or join one of our events.

Glen of the Bar

Stop here to enjoy the view and get a glimpse into the past.

Wild Goat Park

Around 50 of these characters live in the Goat Park.

Talnorty Trail

A beautiful exploration of Grey Mare's Tail Burn and the striking Murray's Monument on Big Doon. There is a wonderful view from the top.

Narrow and uneven grassy paths with rough, muddy and rocky sections. Includes some long steep slopes.



1½ miles / 2.9 km
Allow 1 hour



2 Clatteringshaws

Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre

The views at Clatteringshaws are **spectacular**, whatever time you choose to visit. **Unwind in the café** overlooking the loch and hills in the daytime, watching out for **waterbirds and ospreys**, then return after dark for **stunning star-gazing**. Galloway Forest Park is a brilliant spot to **enjoy the night sky** as it is one of the **darkest places in Europe**.

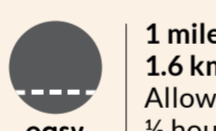
A right royal resting place

Follow in the footsteps of **Robert the Bruce** to reach the Forest Park's second Bruce's Stone. The lochside stroll leads to the point where the **Scottish king rested after a battle with the English** near here in 1307.

Bruce's Stone Trail

Enjoy a short stroll along the shore of Clatteringshaws Loch to the granite stone where Robert the Bruce is said to have rested. Great views of the Galloway Hills.

Firm gravel surface throughout with some loose stones. Includes short moderate slopes. Look out for vehicles sharing the track.



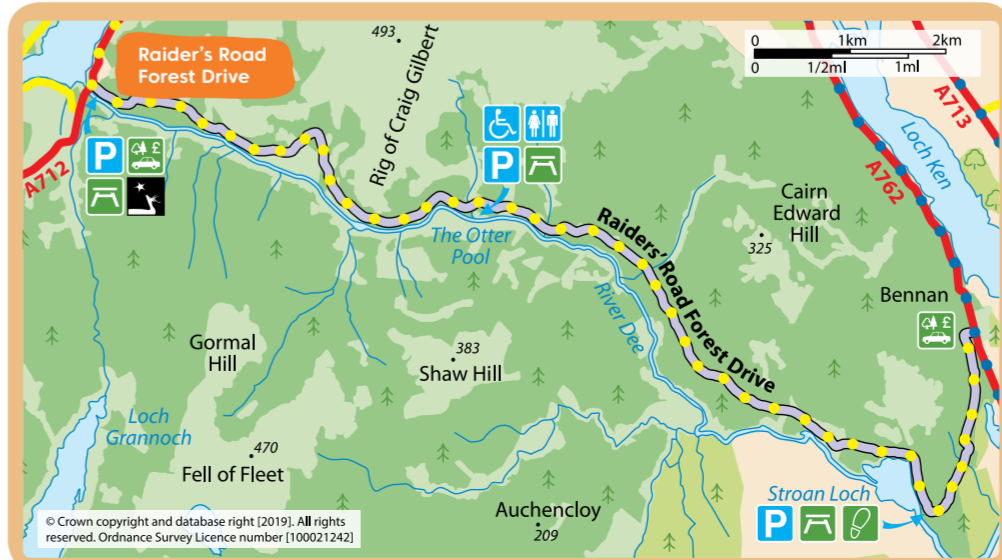
1 mile / 1.6 km
Allow ½ hour



7 Raiders' Road

This is an **easy way** to see more of the **Forest Park's woods and wildlife** without having to walk too far.

The 10 mile (16 km) two-way forest drive links **Loch Ken** and **Clatteringshaws**, and is open to vehicles between Easter and the end of October and for walkers, cyclists and horse riders all year. Head for the **Otter Pool** for a scenic picnic beside the **River Dee** – there are toilets here in summer too. Have some change ready: there's a **small charge** for vehicles using the Forest Drive.



4 Carrick Forest Drive

Get a taste of wilderness on this 6 mile (10 km) two-way route, **connecting Loch Doon and Stinchar Bridge**. This is one of the easiest ways to discover the remote and splendid **mountain scenery** of the northern part of the Forest Park.

Find a **fun adventure playground** and **picnic area** beside **Loch Riecaur**, and look out for **black grouse** and a **ruined castle** on the way. There's **spectacular star-gazing** here too.

(Open first weekend in May until last weekend October. Small charge for vehicles).



Cornish Hill Trail

Get a taste of the rugged Galloway Forest Park Hills by climbing out of the forest onto Cornish Hill. Far-reaching views across Ayrshire to the peaks of Arran.

Long steep slopes for up to 500m. Firm gravel and earth path, with significant rough rocky sections and occasional muddy patches. Includes narrow bridges and a section along the road.



3½ miles / 5.4 km
Allow 2 hours

Map Key and Trail Grades

Forestry and Land Scotland	Parking (no charge)
Land	Parking (charge)
Woodland	Easy access facilities
Other Woodland	Toilets
Forest Park Boundary	Changing places
National Park Boundary	Forest drive (charge)
Main road	Viewpoint
Secondary road	Hide
Minor road	Picnic area
Forest road	Cafe / Refreshments
Road/Track	Shower
Footpath	Ancient monument
National Cycle Network	Bike hire
Railway/Station	Shop
Forest trails (colour waymarked)	Nature play area
Location of Visitor attractions	Wildlife park
Red Kite trail (all year round)	Battlefield
extended summer trail	Artwork in the forest
Southern Upland Way	Orienteering course
Other points of interest	Dark Skies viewing area
Please note: Any symbols that appear black indicate they are not Forestry and Land Scotland facilities.	7stanes biking centres
	Non FLS Fishing
	Non FLS points of interest

Take care on the hills

Please remember that the weather on the hills can change very quickly. Even in summer, conditions on the tops of hills are often much colder and windier than at low levels, despite clear skies.



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- care for the environment.