

DAY TRIP THURSDAY 9TH JUNE 2022

Some of you will be aware that I spend much of my time at my house in Rothesay than I do in Pollokshields. I am keen therefore to be the sponsor for a day trip to Bute.

Whilst Rothesay Castle has not reopened yet post Covid, there is of course Mount Stuart House for those that would wish a bit of culture. In Rothesay and environs itself there are some fine walks and several tempting cafes, to say nothing of Zavaroni's ice cream or fish and chips. A short bus trip away takes you to Ettrick Bay with views over to Arran, a fantastic beach to walk or even paddle in the sea. First class lunch available at the tearoom there.

The date is Thursday 9th June, with the suggested ferry to get to the island being the 11.15 from Wemyss Bay. Travel to Wemyss Bay can either be by car - the station carpark is just £3 for the day - by train from Central departing 09.57, or you can even use your bus pass from Braehead on the 901/906 route leaving there at 09.40.

I plan to meet those joining us at Wemyss Bay from 10.45 onwards.

Kind regards
David Walker

To register for this Day Trip please contact Ranald or Mags
You can also register on our website
www.sherbrookemOSSpark.com



Date: Thursday 9th June



Ferry Time: 11.15 from Wemyss Bay.



Traveling by Train

Leave: 09:57 Glasgow Central Rail Station

Operator: ScotRail

Route: Glasgow Central Rail Station - Wemyss Bay Rail Station

Duration: 50mins

Arrive: 10:47 Wemyss Bay Rail Station



Leave: 11:15 Wemyss Bay Ferry Terminal

Operator: Caledonian MacBrayne

Route: Wemyss Bay Ferry Terminal - Rothesay Ferry Terminal

Duration: 35mins

Arrive: 11:50 Rothesay Ferry Terminal



Return by Train



Leave: 15:05 Rothesay Ferry Terminal

Operator: Caledonian MacBrayne

Arrive: 15:40 Wemyss Bay Ferry Terminal



Leave: 15:57 Wemyss Bay Rail Station

Operator: ScotRail

Route: Wemyss Bay Rail Station - Glasgow Central Rail Station

Duration: 51mins

Arrive: 16:48 Glasgow Central Rail Station

How to spend a day on Bute - Taken from the website - Adventures Around Scotland

First stop as you leave the ferry terminal should be the Victorian Toilets. The toilets date back to 1899 when Rothesay was a fashionable and popular seaside holiday resort. The decor, fixture and fittings are almost completely original to the day they were built and are quite special to see. Although it is the gent's lavatories that are the real attraction, ladies can visit too, just check with the attendant that they are empty first! There is a small entry charge.

Next, take a short walk to The Discovery Centre which is housed in the old Winter Gardens. Here you will find tourist information and a free multi-media exhibition that explains some of the history of Bute. It is only a few minutes from the ferry terminal and a great introduction to the island.

If the sun is shining, take a stroll along the Esplanade, admire the beautiful flower displays and the views over the Firth of Clyde to the mainland. You can even enjoy a shot on the putting green or take a seat by the pretty fountain.

The town centre is compact and easy to navigate. Browse the many independent shops. Bute Museum at the rear of the castle (a small entry fee applies).

It is quite small but it has some fascinating displays and important artefacts found on the island. It covers the story of Bute's long history from Neolithic to the present day. It is a great wee museum.

Lunch in Rothesay. Next to the castle you will find a few recommended places to eat which are almost next door to each other. Musicker Cafe, The Coffee Stop and Harry Haw's are all good choices and if you are lucky enough to get a seat at the window, you can admire the castle view.

CITY SIGHTSEEING BUTE OPEN-TOP BUS TOUR

This would be my first choice as I think this is a good way to get a flavour of the rest of the island which is very different to Rothesay. The tour takes you past open countryside, beaches, sea views and some historic attractions as it travels on a circular route. The addition of live commentary from a local adds to the experience and you will learn some interesting facts about Bute as you sit back, relax and take in the scenery. Tours run from May to September and leave from Guildford Square. Your ticket also gives you travel on local buses for the rest of the day.

During the tour I recommend taking the option of getting off and visiting Mount Stuart (see below) and returning to town either on a later tour bus or a local service bus.

MOUNT STUART

The biggest and most popular tourist attraction on Bute is Mount Stuart, a Gothic style mansion with impressive grounds. To reach the visitor centre you can either get a public West Coast Motors bus direct from Rothesay near to the ferry terminal which takes about 10 minutes or hop off the sightseeing tour bus mentioned above.

An entrance ticket to Mount Stuart gives you access to the house and grounds - allow at least 2 hours to make the most of the experience. Depending on the time of day and year you visit, you will be directed to explore the house at your leisure or join a guided tour. The interior is just incredible and really has to be seen to be believed. If you have enough time, finish your visit with a walk around the gardens.

ETTRICK BAY

If the weather is good and you prefer to spend some time soaking up the rays than exploring an indoor attraction, then head to Ettrick Bay. It is

arguably the best beach on the island with a mile of clean, golden sand. It also has a little tearoom if you are in need of refreshment.

Local buses run direct from Guildford Square in Rothesay to the tearoom.