PRINTABLE TRIP ITINERARY

Isle of Arran Day Trip from Edinburgh

Our real 13-hour island day trip by train and ferry: Brodick Castle, Blackwaterfoot, Drumadoon Point, dolphins and red squirrels for £70.50 per person.

1 day	£70.50 pp	Scotland	1 days
TRIP	BUDGET	DURATION	GUIDE

What this guide includes

Actual or planned costs, a readable day-by-day itinerary, practical food and accommodation notes, and public transport station pairs where available.

Important: Historical costs are budgeting references. Verify current prices, route numbers, opening times and entry rules before travel.

Budget and transport

Expense	Per person
Return train: Edinburgh ↔ Ardrossan Harbour	£25
Return ferry: Ardrossan Harbour ↔ Arran	£40
Bus: Blackwaterfoot → Brodick	£2
Coffee	£3.50
Food brought from home	£0
Brodick Castle visit	£0 paid
Total	£70.50

Bus, train, tram and ferry route card

Mode	Service	Board at	Get down at	Approx. fare	Note
Train	ScotRail	Edinburgh Waverley	Glasgow Queen Street	Included in £25 return rail fare on our trip	Walk or use the city connection to Glasgow Central.
Train	ScotRail Ayrshire Coast service	Glasgow Central	Ardrossan Harbour	Included in £25 return rail fare on our trip	Some journeys require a change at Kilwinning; match the train to the ferry.
Ferry	CalMac Ardrossan–Brodick service	Ardrossan Harbour ferry terminal	Brodick ferry terminal	Included in £40 return ferry fare on our trip	Seasonal operational changes can move sailings to Troon; verify the departure port.
Bus	Stagecoach 322	Brodick ferry terminal	Blackwaterfoot	£2 one-way on our trip	Get down in Blackwaterfoot for the west-coast walk toward Drumadoon Point.

Checked October 2026: confirm live schedules and disruptions in the official operator planner.

Day-by-day itinerary and practical notes

Three people, one long summer day and no hotel: we left Edinburgh at 7 AM, travelled by train and ferry, explored Arran mostly on foot and returned by 8 PM.

Prices are historical rather than live quotations. Use them as a budgeting reference and verify current fares, entry fees and booking conditions before travelling.

The Isle of Arran gave us a true island escape without paying for accommodation. We took the train from Edinburgh to Ardrossan Harbour, crossed to Arran by ferry and combined long walks with one low-cost bus journey from Blackwaterfoot back to Brodick.

Is the Isle of Arran expensive to visit?

It does not have to be. Our completed day trip from Edinburgh cost £70.50 per person: £25 for the return train, £40 for the return ferry, £2 for one island bus and £3.50 for coffee. Transport was almost the entire cost. We brought food from home, walked most of the route and chose free outdoor sights rather than paying for accommodation or attractions.

A visitor buying more meals, using several buses or staying overnight will need a higher budget. Check current ScotRail and CalMac fares because our figures record what we paid on 18 July 2026.

Exactly what we spent

For three travellers, our combined confirmed spend was £211.50.

Our 13-hour Arran day

We took the train to Ardrossan Harbour. Our return rail ticket cost £25 per person.

The return crossing cost £40 per person, and we spotted dolphins from the ferry.

We visited Brodick Castle, walked for most of our time and enjoyed the woodland, wildlife and coastline.

These stops gave us the rugged coastal scenery we had hoped for.

We took a one-way bus from Blackwaterfoot back to Brodick and connected with the ferry.

We completed the island trip in one day and avoided accommodation costs.

Edinburgh → Ardrossan Harbour → Brodick → Brodick Castle → Blackwaterfoot → Drumadoon Point → Brodick → Edinburgh.

Ferry crossing and dolphins

The ferry was part of the experience. Looking towards Arran’s mountains was memorable, and spotting dolphins made the crossing even more special.

Brodick Castle

We did not pay a castle admission fee during our visit, so our recorded personal cost is £0. Access and ticketed areas can change, so check current information if entering the castle is essential to your plans.

Blackwaterfoot and Drumadoon Point

Blackwaterfoot felt calm and open, with a rocky shoreline and long coastal views. Nearby Drumadoon Point added rugged cliffs, grassy terrain and expansive views across the sea.

Red squirrels and woodland birds

We saw many red squirrels and beautiful birds during the day. The wildlife was an unexpected bonus and made the walking sections feel full of discovery.

Why this worked as a budget trip

The biggest savings came from returning the same day, carrying our own food and walking for most of the island visit. Our only food-and-drink purchase was a £3.50 coffee per person.

Budget traveller’s quick summary

Trip: Edinburgh → Ardrossan Harbour → Isle of Arran → Edinburgh

Date: 18 July 2026

Timing: 7 AM to 8 PM

Cost: £70.50 per person; £211.50 total

Highlights: ferry dolphins, Brodick Castle, Blackwaterfoot, Drumadoon Point, red squirrels and birds

More real Scottish budget trips

Before you travel

Reconfirm every fare, stop, timetable, visa or entry requirement, baggage rule and food-import restriction with the responsible provider.