

3•5 Carradale to Campbeltown

Map panels 2 and 3 (inside back cover)

Distance 20 miles (32 km)

Terrain roadside and woodland paths, minor roads then shoreline rock-hopping; forest roads, lengthy forest road walk from Lussa Loch to Campbeltown; roadside path in Campbeltown

Grade stiff ascent from Torrisdale and descent to Ifferdale, then tough climb to 285 m/935 ft before dropping down to Lussa Loch and gentler gradients

Food and drink none between Carradale and Campbeltown

Summary a long and demanding, but generally rewarding day; scenic roads to Saddell; varied views from forest and minor roads



Carradale (population 400) lies at the head of Carradale Bay on the Kilbrannan Sound. Its name reflects Norse origins and means 'brush-wood valley'. There's a limited range of accommodation, a small shop and bakery, and a bus stop. The Village Hall has an information board about Carradale water mill. To the west of the village is Carradale House where Naomi Mitchison (1897-1999), a leading 20th century Scottish writer, lived for more than 50 years.

Beside Torrisdale Bay



- From the Heritage Centre, follow the signpost for the Way and Sally's Walk. The grassy path leads to a junction where you turn right.
- Continue to a minor road, then go left and soon, beyond a bridge over Carradale Water, left again towards Waterfoot. Follow this road, then a vehicle track overlooking Carradale Bay.
- From the end of the track, cross shingle, then negotiate about 50 m of rock-hopping, to reach tidal grassland. Keep close to the landward cliffs for easier going.
- Another stretch along the rocky shore leads to a small cove. Cross the small burn then turn inland.



Torrisdale Castle

- Go up to the edge of a grassy bank, veer left for a short distance almost as far as a gully. Swing right and walk up the field to a stile over the fence.
- Turn left and continue along the road edge. Soon, pass the houses at Torrisdale Square then, after another 200 m, turn right past the old Lodge House into the grounds of Torrisdale Castle.
- Bear left at the first junction, cross an old stone bridge and follow the vehicle track past the imposing castle (not open to visitors).
- Turn right at the junction and take the second left track, signposted Lephincorrach. Follow the track through Lephincorrach Farm then turn right to follow the track uphill. These fields are used for lambing: see page 11.
- The track climbs uphill with grand views towards Arran. When the track enters the forest, look out for a sharp left turn into the trees. There is a temporary route through the trees (due to be replaced in 2012/13) and care is needed meantime.
- After emerging from the forest, cross the bridge over Lephincorrach burn and follow the waymarked path uphill until it joins a forestry track. Follow the track south until it is joined by another track from the east. Turn left at the junction and after a few hundred m, turn right to follow a steep path down to Ifferdale. The path turns left to follow a muddy farm track into a large field, probably with livestock.
- At the end of the field, there's a choice: turn right to continue the Way (see page 49) or turn left to detour for Saddell Abbey: see page 48. Walk past Ifferdale Farm and follow the vehicle track east down steep-sided Saddell Glen for over 1¼ miles (2 km). At the B842 turn right to reach Saddell Abbey within 400 m.

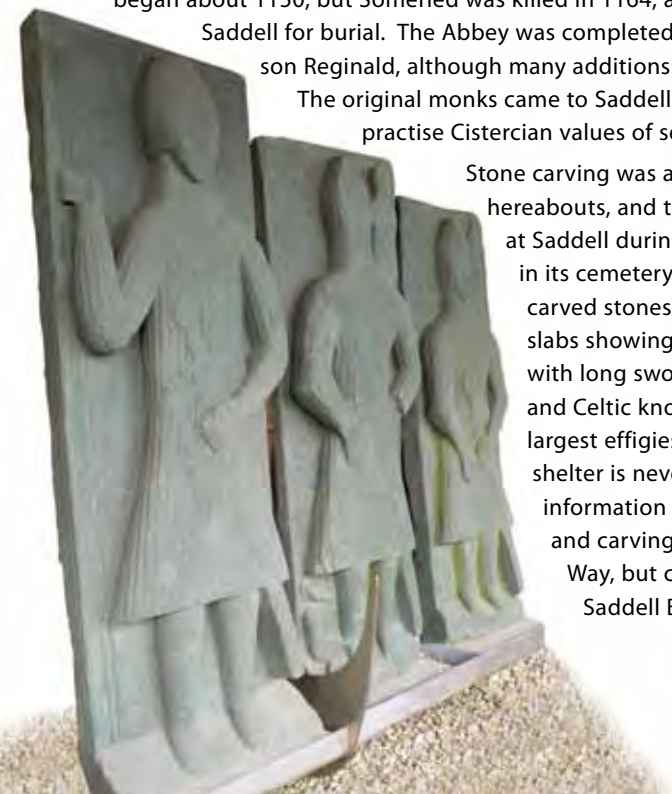


Saddell Abbey nave and choir, from the south

Saddell Abbey and Stones

In the 12th century, Somerled, leader of the struggle against Viking occupation, granted land to the Bishop of Armagh to create an Abbey at Saddell. Building began about 1150, but Somerled was killed in 1164, and his body brought to Saddell for burial. The Abbey was completed soon after 1200, under his son Reginald, although many additions were made in later centuries. The original monks came to Saddell from Mellifont, in Ireland, to practise Cistercian values of self-denial and hardship.

Stone carving was a medieval speciality hereabouts, and the 'Kintyre School' was based at Saddell during the 15th century. Standing in its cemetery, a shelter houses 12 finely carved stones – sculptures and grave slabs showing life-size warriors in armour with long swords, clerics, ships, huntsmen and Celtic knotwork designs. Four of the largest effigies were made on Iona. The shelter is never locked, and it houses information panels about both Abbey and carvings. See page 49 to resume the Way, but consider a 5-minute detour to Saddell Bay first.



Resuming the Way after Saddell

- After the Abbey, there's no need to retrace your steps: follow the B842 south as it hairpins steeply uphill: caution is needed, especially on blind corners.
 - Within 1 km, look for a waymarker turning you right and off-road, through an open gate. Follow this broad forest road as it climbs steadily at first, with great views mainly to your right, at first over Saddell Bay and Arran, soon over the Glen.
 - After 1 km or so, bear right at the Y-junction, cross a stream and continue on the road as it hairpins uphill.
 - The road levels out, then descends gently in a series of bends to another Y-junction, with Kintyre Way panel, almost 1 mile (1.5 km) after the first. Bear left uphill to resume the Way southward.
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- Having turned right at the end of the field (page 47, last bullet) pass Ifferdale Cottage and go back into the forest. For the next 1½ miles (2.5 km), follow the waymarked forest road, ignoring all turn-offs – at first it heads south-west, then swings east and finally south.
 - Once you reach a Y-junction with Kintyre Way panel, turn right to head west.
 - Soon the road starts to descend above Bordadubh Water; ignore a track to the right and continue down to another junction overlooked by the derelict Bord a Dubh cottage, about 2½ miles (4 km) after the Kintyre Way panel. The alternative route that runs east of Lussa Loch turns off here.
 - The small grove of trees nearby is Hughie's Wood, planted in memory of forester Hugh Macmillan (1927-1990) who was brought up in the cottage. Within a few hundred metres, pass two junctions on the right, the second being where the Bellochantuy spur branches off: see page 51.

East over Saddell Bay, to Arran



Northern end of Lussa Loch

- Now close to the shore of Lussa Loch, which has good trout fishing, pass two cottages at Corrylach after about a mile. Soon the loose-surfaced road gives way to tarmac, and although the verge is discontinuous, it is walkable.
- After about 1 further mile, the Way bears right at a junction near Gobagrennan Farm; you may prefer to bear left briefly to divert to the loch shore.
- About 300 m after this junction, pass the entrance to the Peninver spur on your left: see page 51. This is also where the Lussa Loch alternative route rejoins the main Way.
- The road rises to a crest then descends into a wide valley, leading south on an undulating route. It climbs quite steeply to a high point, about 300 m past Calliburn quarry, from where Machrihanish comes into view.
- Past one more dip, the descent towards Campbeltown begins in earnest, down to the A83. Cross to a roadside path and turn left.
- About 700 m further on, turn left along the B842 (towards Carradale), and continue along the residential street.
- Just after Dalintober Primary School, look out for where the Way turns right at a crossroads, leading south to the Esplanade at the head of Campbeltown Loch.
- Soon you reach the Visitor Information Centre opposite a roundabout, on which stands Campbeltown Cross: see page 53.