

3-2 Brodick to Sannox

Map	Panel 1 (page 64)
Distance	8 miles (13 km)
Terrain	roadside pavement, footpath, forest track and mountain path, challenging in places by the Goat Fell route; the shorter, lower alternative combines main road and cycle track
Grade	flat path, then gentle ascent followed by stiff climb to 630 m/2050 ft at Goat Fell shoulder; steepish descent to sea-level; the cycle track rises only to 130 m/425 ft
Food and drink	Brodick (choice), Cladach (bar and bistro), Corrie (shop and hotel), Sannox (hotel and bar)
Side-trip Summary	optional climb of extra 244 m/800 ft to summit: see page 36 a potentially strenuous first day, with a big altitude gain and loss by the Goat Fell route, rewarded by amazing 360° views; in poor weather, choose the low-level alternative

The Way skirts the edge of the golf course

Brodick

5

Goat Fell

2

Sannox

8

3½

1
Corrie 1½

A841 / cycle track

- Start from the ferry terminal, and walk along the beachside pavement west through Brodick for about 1 km, leaving the main road at the putting green (shown at lower centre of page 33) to pick up the Fisherman's Walk.
- The Walk sticks to the coastline, whilst the main road goes inland. The Way crosses three footbridges over streams, and the first one appears very soon on your left. After crossing it, head north, soon walking around the edge of the golf course. Give way to golfers (and beware of golf balls) from here on.
- After 600m, cross the golf club's metal footbridge over Glenrosa Water. Turn right *immediately* to follow the path downstream.
- Look out for the discreet ACW waymarker pointing you through a gorse-lined path which leads to Brodick's north beach. Behind you there are lovely views over Brodick Bay, and ahead Goat Fell towers above you, whilst Brodick Castle nestles in the trees ahead.
- At the end of the beach, cross the timber footbridge, and follow the path past the new Mountain Rescue Post. Cross the main road to the Cladach Visitor Centre with its cluster of shops.
- Walk through the car park, past the footpath to Brodick Castle, to the Goat Fell track, marked by a timber post. Follow this wide track gently uphill, which at first is lined with fine mature trees, managed by the Forestry Commission Scotland.



Low-level alternative (saves 2.5 km and 500 m of altitude gain)

In poor weather, or if you are unsure of navigation, an easier route follows the main road from Cladach past the main entrance to Brodick Castle. After 350 m take the Merkland Track and follow it for 500 m, where it forks. Bear left to pass through the metal forestry gate.

At the "Maol Donn Loop" sign, bear right uphill and take the new cycle path to Corrie on your right. This climbs gently, passing through dense forest, and levels out. Once the path heads downhill, there's a few breaks in the trees, giving glimpses of the Clyde islands and the Corrie shore.

After a zig-zag descent, you meet the main road and turn left, within 300 m passing the junction where the Goat Fell route rejoins. You reach Corrie within 1 km (0.6 miles): see page 37, fourth bullet.

- Various other trails are signed, to left and right: ignore them all, sticking to the well-signposted main track. Above Cnocan Wood, the path climbs north-easterly, narrowing and crossing some small streams that feed Cnocan Burn. It passes through heather and bracken, and is mostly well-drained, stony in places.
- About 3 km above Cladach, you cross a stream by footbridge and pass through a tall timber gate through the deer fence, entering land managed by the National Trust for Scotland. There are great views behind you to Holy Isle and the Ayrshire coast.
- The path continues to climb, in places steeply, heading northerly towards a ridge. You must identify this ridge, which runs west-east, to find your descent route to Corrie. The 2006 OS Explorer map shows a cairn at NR 998 415, altitude 630 m, at the path junction. Sadly, it was removed, and the NTS (which owns Goat Fell) may not permit any replacement marker. The two paths (from Brodick and to Corrie) merge at an angle of about 30 degrees: the photograph below should help.
- Depending on the conditions, your energy level and the time available before dark, this is your decision-point. If in doubt, head straight down to Corrie, almost easterly at first. However, there is no more rewarding viewpoint than Goat Fell's summit, and if you are tempted, read page 36 before deciding.

Junction between the paths, seen from above



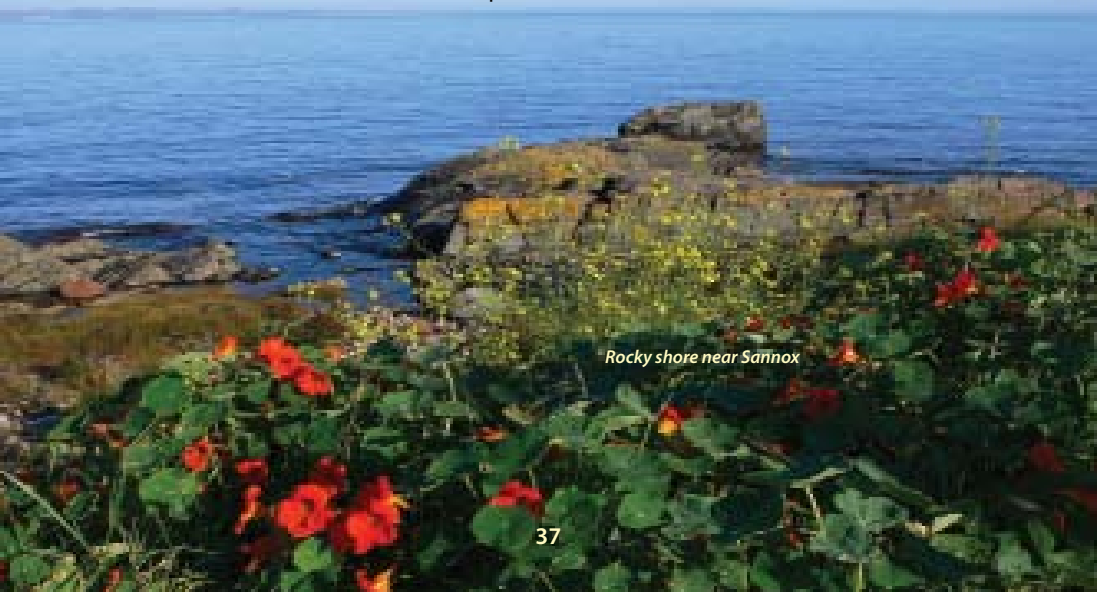
Goat Fell: the summit



Looking northward from Goat Fell's summit

- On a fine day, if time permits, don't miss Goat Fell's summit (874 m), the roof of Arran and only a further 244 m/800 ft of ascent above the path junction. The trail is narrow and rocky, a bit steeper and more strenuous than before, but in good conditions there is nothing to deter a hill-walker with any enthusiasm. You'll probably reach the summit in 30-40 minutes from the junction, but allow 2 hours for the round trip, so you've time on the spacious granite summit to enjoy the superb 360° views.
- The summit location finder identifies not only the mountains of north Arran nearby, but also distant views of Jura, the Kintyre and Cowal peninsulas, the Clyde islands of Bute and the Cumbraes, the Ayrshire coast, Ailsa Craig and the coast of Northern Ireland. Many mountains of mainland Scotland can be seen when it's clear, from Ben Lomond (45 miles) all the way to Ben Lawers, some 74 miles off.
- After enjoying the view, take care to descend by the way you came, leaving the summit area south then east, and looking out for the path junction. (There is also a northerly descent path via North Goat Fell, not described here but easily navigated if you have the skills.)

- Return to the path junction at NR 998 415 and bear left, descending toward Corrie down the rough boulder-strewn ridge that heads east-south-east at first. The path is rough, with a couple of awkward steps where you may prefer to use your hands.
- After about 700m, the path swings to the left, northerly, and becomes more heathery as it descends to the Corrie Burn. Cross it by stepping stones, with care if it is in spate. On its far side, a clear broad path descends from your left, leading down from North Goat Fell.
- Turn right (east) down this path that follows the burn downstream, at first across open hillside. *En route*, you climb a ladder stile, go through a kissing-gate (passing through deer fences) and cross various streams. Lower down, the path is pleasantly surrounded by heather, bracken and bog myrtle.
- Eventually this path meets a rough track where you turn left, past the clachan of High Corrie. The track becomes metalled, descending steeply to the main road. Turn left again, passing a bus stop to reach Corrie's village centre within 1 km.
- Walking north along the right of the main road, the journey through Corrie to Sannox is full of interest, both in geology and marine life. The rock formations are wonderful, both on the beach and roadside, and Corrie's concrete seal reminds you to look out for real ones, basking on the rocks. You'll also see sea birds and possibly even a basking shark if the sea is calm: see page 26.
- You will pass the Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, two small harbours, shops and Corrie Hotel with Ferry Rock opposite. Around the bend in the road, pass the church and primary school, and after 1 km you enter Sannox, past its quay and the Sannox Bay Hotel. Today's walk ends at the car park opposite the Glen Cottage, at the northern end of Sannox, where buses also stop.



Rocky shore near Sannox