



🕒 Walking time  
total 1.50 hours  
Check ferry times at [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)

## 1/A CABBIE'S REST

Rothesay Harbour  
Alexander Stephen / Saracen Foundry

The Cabbie's Rest is an early and ornate example of a cast-iron structure. It was erected in 1930 using components manufactured by the renowned Saracen iron foundry of Glasgow under the direction of Rothesay's Burgh Engineer, Alexander Stephen. It was originally located on the West Pier of Rothesay Harbour where a complimentary cast iron office remains, the shelter was relocated to the Mid Pier in 2010 as part of Rothesay Harbour development works. The Saracen foundry (1851-1966) has other strong connections with the Isle of Bute, including the Winter Garden and Wemyss Bay Railway Station. It is an excellent example of early prefabrication and reuse of structure. It should also be noted that Thomas Russell a Saracen Foundry partner built model tenements along the street which now bears his name - Russell Street.

For further information of Bute's history please go to [www.discoverbutearcheology.co.uk](http://www.discoverbutearcheology.co.uk)

## 2 DISCOVERY CENTRE (ROTHESAY WINTER GARDEN)

Victoria St, Rothesay, PA20 OAP  
Alexander Stephen / Saracen Foundry

The Winter Gardens is a wonderful example of flamboyant seaside architecture and one of the most important pieces of work from the Saracen foundry surviving in Scotland (the majority of their work having been exported). As with Cabbie's Rest the Winter Gardens was constructed in collaboration with Burgh Engineer Alex Stephen. It was originally a Victorian octagonal plan bandstand to become a circular plan domed winter garden in 1923-4 and was more recently converted to a cinema and visitor centre in the late 20th century, the building retains a number of significant cast iron details. Although during the sentries the building was under threat it's continued use is testament to the flexibility of large span structures.

## 3/B ROTHESAY PAVILION

45 Argyle St, Rothesay, PA20 OAU  
James Andrew Carrick / Elder and Cannon Architects

This grade A listed building was opened in 1938 and is an outstanding example of international modernist architecture, having been designed by James Andrew Carrick of J&JA Carrick from Ayr. The architectural commission was won via a design competition which was organised by Rothesay Town Council and James Andrew's entry won because it best met the requirements of the brief for dancing and indoor games.

Almost 80 years later and the Pavilion has suffered severely from its seaside location and is now the subject of a £14M restoration project led by Argyll and Bute Council and designed by Elder and Cannon Architects. The final pieces of the 'funding' jigsaw are being put in place and it is hoped to commence work before the end of 2017 which will result in the building re-opening in the summer of 2019. When completed the building will be a focus for cultural and community events and will accommodate a large hall capable of holding 800 people, a smaller more intimate venue, a shop, café and mini art gallery. The refurbished Pavilion will be managed by a newly formed charity known as Rothesay Pavilion Charity.

## 4 LADE GARDENS / FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES

Ladeside St, Rothesay, PA20 ODN  
Mike Hyatt Landscape Architects

Completed in 2005 Rothesay's flood defence scheme which turned it's back on it's main seaside promenade, was completed in a more sympathetic manner along the 'Water of Rothesay' mill lade from Loch Fad. The environmental works incorporated Rothesay Lade Park by Mike Hyatt Landscape Architects. Unfortunately the years have not been kind and a number of the proposals have fallen into disrepair.

## 5 BUTE BREW CO

15-17 Columhill St, Rothesay, PA20 ODN

Bute Brew Co was established in 2014 after a Christmas Day beach barbecue conversation about getting some good beer out and about on Bute. The brew house is capable of producing 1000 litres of beer at a time using local and organic ingredients where ever possible. The brewery is also open as a venue where Greenfry provide food (try the pear and blue cheese pizza).

## 6 BUTE RECYCLING CENTRE

Colbeck Lane, Rothesay, PA20 OAP  
Collective Architecture

Completed in 2004 by Fyne Futures working in partnership with Bute Waste Watchers, Bute Recycling Centre has been considered as more than a processing plant for aluminium and plastic. It was envisioned, designed and constructed with the principles of sustainability at its core. The majority of materials used to construct the centre are recycled, reclaimed or supplied from sustainable sources. The bricks are a variety of quality seconds, the roof is 100% recycled aluminium, the timber cladding is from a local sustainable source and recycled glass screens were constructed from locally sourced broken bottles. More recently the centre has been used as a recycling interpretive centre for local school children.

The Building is currently run by Fyne Futures a successful business, exporting compacted pallets of aluminium, plastic and textiles throughout the U.K. Through their recycling activities and by harnessing the symbolic qualities of the Recycling Centre they continue to promote and communicate the issues of recycling and sustainability throughout Bute. The building has been recognised by a number of local and national design awards.

## 7 BUTE FABRICS

4 Barone Rd, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 ODP

The mill was founded in 1947 by the 5th Marquess of Bute with the sole purpose of providing employment opportunities for service people returning home from the Second World War. Their work has enjoyed worldwide success including collaborations with Jasper Morrison, Tom Dixon, Barber Osgerby and Timorous Beasties. They remain supported by the Bute family and share in their continuing commitment towards the local community. Within the grounds of Bute Fabrics there is a group of five 'Homes for Heroes' built in 1951 by the Scottish Veterans' Garden Housing Society Ltd. These still offer accommodation to disabled ex-service, merchant marine, police and fire brigade personnel today.

More recently Bute Fabrics have launched the 'Atelier' on 30/31 East Princess Street, Rothesay. This will provide a street presence for the mill where remnant buddies can be bought and a workshop is open to the community and visitors alike.

Opening hours Monday to Saturday 11.00 am - 4.00 pm.

## 8 GROW BUTE ALLOTMENTS

Meadows Road, Rothesay, PA20 OAP

Locally run allotments consisting of 18 plots including an area designated for the adjacent St Andrews Primary School primary school. The allotments are run by Grow Bute a local organisation and provide an excellent source of fresh vegetables for the local community.

## 9 THOM'S CUTS / LOCH FAD FISHERY

Isle of Bute PA20 9PA

Robert Thom was born in Tarbolton, Ayrshire in 1775 and as a result of bankruptcy he purchased the Rothesay Cotton Mills in 1812. The main issue for the mill was machine power. Improvements made in the power output of coal fired steam engines in west and central Scotland had ensured cotton mills there were readily placed to exploit this improving technology. Rothesay Mill, by contrast, had been designed primarily as a hydro powered mill and the essentially medieval system of water management from Loch Fad did not provide enough consistent power to match the mainland competition. To solve the problem Robert designed and constructed a network of lades, aqueducts and sluices to channel water and feed industry in Rothesay. This includes Loch Fad, Loch Quien, Kirk Dam and the Mill Lade. Loch Fad now acts as a fishery however the remaining network still plays a significant role in local land management issues providing local drainage. Thom's Cuts remain an inspiring feat of industrial engineering; a testament to human ingenuity and problem solving that worked not against the natural character of the island, but with it.

## 10 KIRK DAM BIRD HIDE

Loch Quien, PA20 9PA

The fourth in a series of bird hides across Bute it is located on the south side of Loch Quien, a freshwater loch to the south of Loch Fad where a wide variety of water birds can be viewed all year round. The list of Birds spotted on Bute is over 200 species and includes wintering flocks of Greylag and Greenland White-fronted Geese and occasional rarities such as Little and Snowy Egret, and Black-throated Thrush. More information can be found from the Bute Bird Group which is a part of Buteshire Natural History Society.

New members are always welcome and further information can be found via the Bute Museum web site <http://www.butemuseum.org.uk/about/>



## 11/ BUTE PRODUCE

Townhead, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 9JH

Located at Ashfield, opposite Rothesay Joint Campus, Bute Produce is a market garden committed to growing local produce run by Fyne Futures. The project began in 2008 and its official opening was in September 2009. The site stretches over 6 acres and there are 4 acres currently in use, with plans to develop an orchard and other projects on the remaining land. Bute Produce not only aims to provide local, affordable produce for the island but also hopes to help reduce local carbon emissions. Food miles contribute to approximately 3.5% of all Greenhouse Gas Emissions and thus, by reducing how far our food has to travel, Bute Produce is helping to make the island more energy efficient.

There have been many developments within the garden, including the erection of the first approved wind turbine on Bute. Christened "Jenny the Generator" by pupils at Rothesay Primary School, the turbine is a 15m 6kw proven system which generates approximately 12000 kwh per annum. This means that it can generate enough energy for the garden plus surplus energy that can be directed back to the grid.

Fruit and Vegetables can currently be purchased at the Veg Shack at the entrance to site.

## 12 A'CHRANNAG

High St, Rothesay, PA20 OAP  
Gokay Deveci Architect

Fyne Homes originally commissioned the architects to prepare three options to be presented to Rothesay Academy for consultation, comment and a vote by the school children. The winning design was a 7 storey tower containing 14 low energy flats for rent and was completed in 2004. It has been designed with thermal efficiency in mind with 300mm cavities filled with insulation, triple glazed windows and minimal heating in each flat. All living rooms face south and enjoy fantastic views towards the Isle of Arran each their own balcony spaces. The building was presented with a prestigious RIBA award in 2005.

## 13 MANSFIELD PLACE NEW BUILD

High St, Rothesay, PA20 OAP  
Collective Architecture

Replacing a tenement that had fallen into disrepair the site was developed by Fyne Homes to provide much needed family townhouses. The new homes are super-insulation using recycled rock wool and constructed from facing brick seconds, reclaimed from the manufacturing process. The heating and hot water is provided by solar thermal panels mounted to the roof of each home. Sun pipes provide natural daylighting to each of the central stair wells. Local labour organised by main contractor John Brown (Strone) of Dunoon was used to construct over 95% of the project.

## 14 THE OLD COURTHOUSE

High St, Rothesay, PA20 OAP  
Collective Architecture

The project is the result of 10 years study and campaigning by Fyne Initiatives to save the 'Category B' listed Argyll and Bute Council offices and Sheriff Court from falling into disrepair and demolition. A combination of refurbishment, restoration and remodelling constructed by John Brown (Strone) provides 25 shared equity homes for first time buyer. The sensitive site is located within Rothesay's conservation area and adjacent to the 13th century circular castle. The design retains the sculptural mid-nineteenth century tightly bedded stone facades and rearranges the plan of the building around a new courtyard; a simple shift that provides efficient circulation and a series of quiet external spaces within the busy town centre.

## ROTHESAY CHARITY AND REUSE SHOPS

Rothesay, PA20 OAP

There are a number of charity and reuse shops in Rothesay town centre which do tend to change location and name at a fairly frequent pace. Visitors can therefore will have to rummage through the town centre to discover what is available. Those of note are as follows;

Cancer Research Charity Shop - 101 Montague St, Rothesay Isle of Bute PA20 OHW

Calums Cabin Charity Shop - 61 Mountstuart Rd, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 9LD

Oxfam Charity Shop - 21 Montague St, Rothesay Isle of Bute PA20 9DA

Re Style Furniture Shop - Montague St, Rothesay Isle of Bute PA20 9DA. Part of ReStyle Argyll a Reuse and Repair Hub project led by Fyne Futures who operate the Re-use and Repair Hub on Bute with Spokes based with Rejig in Islay, Lori in Oban and Kintyre Recycling in Campbelltown.

These cycle rides / walks are on public roads and cycle tracks so participants must exercise sound, mature judgement and be responsible for their own and others safety. It is your responsibility to carry out manoeuvres safely and adhere to the rules of the road. The cycle rides include sections of A roads and we recommend that you wear a helmet. Under 18s must be accompanied with a parent or guardian.

SEDA was formed in 1991. Our primary aim is to share knowledge, skills and experience of ecological design. SEDA is a network and links those seeking information and services with those providing them. Members include academics, architects, artists, builders, planners, students, ecologists, landscape designers, materials suppliers, woodworkers, and many more whose work or interest is concerned with design for a sustainable future. SEDA is a charity and is run by a Board of Directors, who are elected at Annual General Meetings. The Board meets 4 times a year for discussion and for planning the activities of the Association. All members are welcome to take part in these meetings. SEDA registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in February 2011. For more information and how to join please visit our web site at [www.seda.uk.net](http://www.seda.uk.net)

## Notes