

Mull of Galloway Circular walk

Distance: 3.5km/2 miles

Allow 1 hour

Grid Ref: NX155304

Park your vehicle at the Mull of Galloway car park on the outskirts of this Nature Reserve. The circular route is marked and the visitor can either turn left or right when entering the reserve. Parts of this walk can take you close to the cliff edge where extreme care must be taken and good footwear is essential. Please keep to the footpaths or road. The reserve at the Mull is one of the RSPB's smallest sites, yet it contains an amazing variety of wildlife. On this small circular walk it is possible to see an incredible number and variety of species.

To the left the footpath makes its way through heathland where wildflowers abound, including several locally scarce species. Some of the butterflies that occur here are restricted to the mild southern coastline of Scotland. The path soon takes you to the Mull of Galloway Visitor Centre where it is worth spending some time.

The track then rises away from the Centre and a left turn takes you down to Lagvag Point, on the east

side of the Mull. It is from here, in spring and summer, that you have the chance to see the few puffin that breed at the Mull which, along with other sea birds build precarious 'nests' or lay directly on the cliff or on boulders. Skeins of gannet sail past in bombing formation, leaving the Scares Rock - seen towards the east of the Mull - where they breed, to fish off the point.

You are looking across Luce Bay, towards the Machars of Galloway, and on a clear day you will see across to the Cumbrian coast.

Returning towards the lighthouse, turn left beside the walled garden, and you will reach steep steps down to the foghorn, now unused. However, this is a good viewing platform from where you may see many sea birds, including puffin. You are looking across to the Isle of Man.

Return towards the lighthouse and continue westwards. Divert temporarily to your right, following the footpath to the orientation cairn.

Resume your walk from the lighthouse, along the footpath beside the road, taking extreme care.

All walks are undertaken entirely at your own risk and Mull of Galloway Trust and South Rhins Community Development Trust accepts no responsibility or liability. It is the walkers own responsibility to check information and carry a compass and detailed map. We do not give any warranty, as to the accuracy of any of the information of the walks on the site. It is each walker's responsibility to ensure that the walk and the weather conditions are within their capabilities.

You may meet grazing sheep, there for a short while in the winter. The views alongside these cliffs are spectacular, of rocks and sea, flowers and birds, the last two being more prolific during spring and early summer.

Please note that all walk times are approximate and appropriate footwear should be worn. Always advise someone of

your intended route and provide an estimate of when you will return. Care should be taken around the coastal routes and we would ask you to adhere to the countryside code at all times. Please be especially aware of gates and mindful of farm property and livestock.

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