

# CRUGGLETON CASTLE & GALLOWAY HOUSE GARDENS

- Linear woodland/shore and cliff walk and various circular garden paths**
- Length 6km/4 miles (return)**
- Allow 2 hours**
- Tracks, beaten earth and garden tracks some of which are suitable for wheelchairs**
- Various stiles on Cruggleton Castle Walk**
- Moderate**
- Boots or stout shoes recommended.**

At the ladder stile climb into the field and follow the boundary wall. Climb two more stiles and follow the fingerpost around the last field boundary to reach the castle enclosure. Return along the same route.

**PARKING** At the crossroads with the B7004 just outside Garlieston you will see a sign for Galloway House Gardens. Follow the drive until you reach the small fenced car park on the left hand side. The shelter in the car park houses an information board and an honesty box alongside the start of the various Garden Walks.

**START** Shorter sign posted walks are available in Galloway House Gardens, with various features of interest, including the walled gardens, a specimen handkerchief tree, the pond and an impressive collection of large rhododendrons. Some of these paths are suitable for wheelchair users and there are various permutations, allowing you to meander through the gardens at your leisure.

For Cruggleton Castle follow the signs for the seashore, this will take you past the walled gardens and on to the picnic site at Rigg Bay. The structure out in the bay is part of the prefabricated 'Mulberry Harbour', which was tested here prior to being used by the Allied Armies at the D-Day landings in Normandy during World War Two.

Turn right and follow the signs for Cruggleton Castle. The path meanders and climbs through a delightful strip of mixed hardwoods with a carpet of dog's mercury, garlic, bluebells and campions punctuated by patches of primroses.

After rounding Slidderly Point the route takes on a magical feel passing through twisted and gnarled oaks, beech and ash before reaching a run-down lodge beside a high boundary wall. Pass through the old iron gates and on to the cliff path. The solitary arch of Cruggleton Castle is your target.



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