

Trail to Largiebeg Point

Length: 1.5 – 2 hours, from footpath sign next to Seaview at Largiebeg Point, taking into account the need to walk slowly carefully along the shore stretch (a third of a mile approx.) If walking from the village centre of Whiting Bay allow an extra 40 minutes each way.

Type: moderate to fairly challenging – most of the walk is flat but care is required on large pebbles/small boulders along the shore. There is one downhill section at the beginning and one uphill section on the main road if starting in the village.

Good footwear is recommended due to the uneven walking surface along the shore. One or two stiles (good condition) are involved.

Access

The walk can be accessed on foot from the village centre (40 minutes). Head South along the main road towards Kildonan and follow it uphill, past six or so houses at Largiemeanoch until just beyond Seaview on the left.

The 323 bus (South Island) will stop at Largiebeg, just beyond Seaview, if requested.

If travelling by car you can park at the large lay-by at the Gerry slip layby which is one minute's drive beyond Seaview and the two houses on the right just past it (one is named Ayr View). From there it's a five minute walk back towards the village to the starting point.

1. The starting point is the signposted Arran Access Trust footpath just before, or after, Seaview (depending on whether you arrive from the North or South). This heads downhill and can be a bit muddy and, at times, slippery in places. The second half is drier as it has been scattered with ash from Archie Nicol's fireplace. As the view opens up you will see Seaview and some outbuildings to your left.
2. Head right and walk to the bottom of the grassy, wide track. This is can be a bit slippery in one or two places after rain. The track ends

with a stile to the left and excellent views to Ailsa Craig to the South. Note the large house on the shore (Trareoch) and a small house directly on the beach below (Shore Cottage), the gate to which will be in front of you.

3. Climb over the stile to the left, signposted Arran Coastal Path and skirt around the field towards the headland, visible ahead and to the right. A few yards beyond the stile and looking East you will see another small stile which, if you climb it, leads you to a steep, stepped, narrow path through a crevice in the rock to a pebbly shore and the just visible remains of a large natural arch. If you tackle this small detour, you will probably need to retrace your steps back up to the field as the area between here and the headland is rocky and may not be accessible, depending on the tide.
4. Once back on the path in the field skirt around a small mound of grass-covered stones (possibly once a small cottage or settlement?) and follow the grassy path down onto Largiebeg Point. Here you will see two small standing stones which, once aligned correctly, form a straight line between Holy Isle to the North and Ailsa Craig to the South. There is some suggestion that these were deliberately placed to form a type of ley line.
5. The headland offers panoramic views to Holy Isle and Ailsa Craig, and you can take in the view of a long stretch of the Ayrshire Coastline from Hunterston and Little Cumbrae to the North and to Turnberry and beyond looking South.
6. Leave the headland and follow the grassy path downhill, heading North back towards Whiting Bay village. To start with this path, which is part of the Arran Coastal Way, stays within the field and follows the line of a short stretch of low raised cliffs on the inland side. The path is fairly clear although uneven in places and you may need to fight with bramble branches in Summer. After thirty yards or so you can step down onto the shore. It is possible to get onto the shore before the field path but this little cove is a haven for seabirds, swans and ground-

nesting birds such as oyster-catchers so may be best avoided at breeding times.

7. The shore heading North can be walked with care; you will need to pick your way across rocks and large pebbles and two or three shallow streams. In summer the groves of small trees and shrubs to your left are full of jolly yellow Flag Irises. This stretch takes about 20-30 minutes to walk, at the end of which the houses at Largiemeanoch will come into view.
8. You will come to a fence and five-bar gate and you can open the gate to enter the first of three fields which run one after another alongside the shore. These usually have 5-8 Highland Cows living in them – if you are wary of large beasts you can drop down onto the shore to avoid them.
9. Climb the stile into the final triangular shaped field and either follow this to the end or exit through one of two gaps in the hedge onto the main road into the village. As the road flattens out you will pass the sign to Ardmor and you will then be at Largiemhor, just before the start of the village and at the end of the walk. From there it's a 20-minute walk to the centre of Whiting Bay village.

The 323 bus passes here or you can walk to the Ashdale Bridge for a more frequent service. The walk back up to the Gerry Slip layby to retrieve your car will take around 15 minutes.

NB

Largiebeg - The little hillside

Largiemeanoch - The medium hill

Largiemhor - The big hill