

Ayrshire Castle

Region: Ayrshire **Sleeps:** 14

Overview

Just how amazing would it be to stay in an ancient castle for a week! Ayrshire Castle comes with a fascinating history, a fabulous warm atmosphere and an endless list of nods from its glorious past. This exclusive Scottish holiday home at the foot of Law Hill has enjoyed many lives since it was built in the fifteenth century as a wedding gift for Princess Mary, daughter of James II of Scotland and her husband Thomas Boyd, the Earl of Arran. Its colourful history includes life as a court, life as a prison and six hundred years later, life as this one of a kind holiday home for up to fourteen guests. When booking Ayrshire Castle, you will be enjoying a holiday enveloped in stone walls and surrounded by tapestries, ancient relics, stone baths and a lavish atmosphere. The castle is surrounded by lush green lawns and amazing scenery. From its roof you can admire the Forth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran.

From its West Kilbride location, guests can enjoy golf at a number of world-famous courses, enjoy strolls on the Ayrshire coastal shoreline, fish in rivers and lochs or pop into the buzzy cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh on a shopping trip. Bookish guests will be in awe exploring Scotland's literary past in the birthplace of the poet Robert Burns. West Kilbride enjoys some charming craft studios, galleries and some wonderful eateries. Ayrshire enjoys a rich history and heritage with the famous William Wallace and Robert the Bruce having their roots based here. The very first Scottish Parliament was held in Ayr following the Battle of the Bannockburn. Mary Stuart was born at Linlithgow Palace, the daughter of James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise.

Ayrshire Castle enjoys a fabulous blend of the medieval and the contemporary. Throughout the castle you will discover majestic four-poster beds, velvet drapes, wood burning stoves and flamboyant tapestries alongside a large television, iPod dock and underfloor heating. As well as modern roll-top baths, you will discover a unique stone one. The castle offers five floors with a spiral stone staircase connecting them all. The ground floor boasts two atmospheric vaulted rooms, one a utility room and the other the first of the six bedrooms. With regal style and plenty of charm, it also offers a one-of-a-kind ensuite bathroom. The first floor is home to the Great Hall and kitchen and the remaining levels are home to the remaining five bedrooms, bathrooms and a sitting room. The staircase continues to the roof level where there is an unusual 'Caphouse', formally the guard's lookout.

The castle's six bedrooms all enjoy their own personality, all reflecting the character of the castle. The Dungeon bedroom offers a quirky 'ode to a drawbridge' bed and a stone bathroom. You will think you have gone back in time but still enjoy the luxury of crisp cotton sheets. Above, you will find a four poster on a platform, heavenly surrounded by voile, you will find a heavily carved four poster surrounded by heavy, colourful drapes, you will find a four poster with a beautifully carved headboard and another with a tapestry backdrop. Most of the rooms enjoy a wood burning fire for chilly



evenings. Tartan features throughout, another welcome feature. There are five bathrooms in all, some ensuite but all easily accessible to guests.

The Grand Hall and kitchen is absolutely fabulous, so characterful and charming. The kitchen has been fashioned out of what would have been the original cooking chimney at the far end of this magical space. It boasts a four ovened Aga, perfect for hearty breakfasts and delicious feasts. The atmospheric dining space comes next under vintage lighting followed by your attractive living space with its stone chimney, wood burning stove, sofa and chairs.

Ayrshire Castle certainly offers a unique and memorable stay. It is an ideal venue for photo shoots, for intimate weddings, corporate events and family and friends get togethers.



Facilities

Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Weddings • Chateaux & Castles • Ideal for Xmas/NY • Walking/Hiking Paths • TV • Recommended • Wi-Fi/Internet • Golf Nearby • Rural Location • Chef/Cook Available • Quirky (Unique) • Beach Nearby • Walk to Village • Cots (Cribs) • DVD • Heritage Collection • Allow External Caterers • Ideal for Teens • Walk to Restaurant • AGA • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Heating • High Chair(s) • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages

Interior & Grounds

Vault Level/ Ground Floor

- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom
- Utility kitchen

First Floor

- Great hall
- Fully-equipped kitchen
- Cloakroom

Second Floor

- Bedroom with double bed with access to jack & jill en-suite shower room
- Bedroom with double bed with access to jack & jill en-suite shower room

Third Floor

- Bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom
- Bedroom with double bed

Fourth Floor

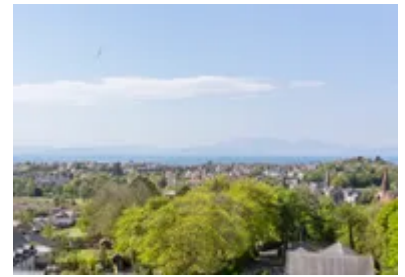
- Master bedroom suite with double bed and dressing area
- Family bathroom
- Living room with sofa bed (*ideal for 2 small children*)

Exterior Grounds

- 1 acre of gardens

Additional Facilities

- Internet
- TV & DVD
- Washing machine & dryer
- Travel cot & highchair available on request
- Parking for 6 cars



Location & Local Information

Ayrshire Castle enjoys a fabulous location at the foot of Law Hill in West Kilbride. It is an excellent location for history lovers, golfers and anyone that loves the outdoors and exploring the coast. The roof of the castle offers excellent panoramic views of West Kilbride, Forth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran.

West Kilbride is a small town in north Ayrshire, four miles north east of Ardrossan. It boasts an excellent golf course and a wonderful array of craft shops, studios and galleries, being know as Scotland's first craft town. The Barony Centre is a fabulous exhibition space with a cafe. You can enjoy art and history displays in the West Kilbride Museum on the first floor of the village hall.

This area is a golfer's paradise with courses including the Turnberry Golf Course, Royal Troon Golf Course, Prestwick Golf Course and the local West Kilbride Golf Course. The local course was founded in 1893 with every tee offering players a sea view from the Kyles of Bute to the Heads of Ayr. It boasts 6523 yards of championship golf over eighteen holes together with practice areas including two putting greens, a chipping green, practice bunkers and nets for driving. The course also offers a lounge, restaurant and a professional coach. Visitors are welcome to play by prior arrangement.

Ayr Racecourse is Scotland's premier racecourse and home to the Scottish Grand National and the Ayr Gold Cup. The racecourse is also the venue of some fabulous events such as Gok Wan performing a DJ set and many others taking to the decks following various prestigious races. You should check out the racedays and see if there is one when you are taking your holiday.

Visitors enjoy trips to Clyde Marina at Ardrossan with its clear waters, abundance of wildlife, spectacular scenery and its fabulous local cuisine. There are some fantastic restaurants where you can dine with a view. Ardrossan is a historic port town with the marina, sandy beaches and stunning views over the Firth of Clyde. It lies on the north



side of Irvine Bay between Irvine and Largs. Shipbuilding was one of Ardrossan's most important industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and today it is home of the ferry port to the Isle of Arran. The town's two beaches are perfect for coastal walks with pretty cafes and tearooms. Largs Yacht Haven is a fantastic sailing destination with a bustling, very busy marina.

The mesmerising Loch Lomond is one of the most beautiful and iconic places in Scotland. It lies in the heart of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park where you will be surrounded by charming, characterful villages and rolling countryside. The loch is 190 metres deep with a shoreling of 153 km. You can enjoy a romantic loch-side amble, a vigorous hike, fun watery adventures, a round of golf or you can explore the islands of the loch. There are dedicated cruises, the Loch Lomond Waterbus ferry service or your can hire boats.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Glasgow or Prestwick (21-25 km)
Nearest Bar/Pub	West Kilbride (1 km)
Nearest Beach	West Kilbride (1 km)
Nearest Ferry Port	Ardrossan (5 km)
Nearest Golf	Seamill (1 km)
Nearest Restaurant	West Kilbride (1 km)
Nearest Town/City	Glasgow or Ayr (21-25 km)
Nearest Village	West Kilbride (1 km)

What we love

- Staying in this Scottish castle offers such a unique stay. You will enjoy the castle's remarkable features such as the prison space, a murder hole for pouring oil on intruders and a secret staircase
- The location is amazing. It is a golfer's and sailor's paradise with fabulous courses and marinas. History lovers are also in awe. Loch Lomond is so captivating, you cannot miss it when you are staying at the castle
- The castle is excellent for special occasions and celebrations. It can sleep many and the rooms are so atmospheric and memorable

What you should know...

- The five floors are linked by a stone spiral staircase which is not ideal for guests with mobility issues or for very young children
- The private garden is not fully enclosed so please keep an eye on adventurous children
- Please let us know if you are celebrating a special occasion and would like to know about extra services that can be provided
- Should you be thinking about Ayrshire Castle as a wedding venue, please note that marquees cannot be put up in the grounds

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £150 charged to client's credit card by Oliver's Travels as a pre-authorisation at least 2 weeks prior to arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection. Small weddings are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges. Stag/hen parties and single sex groups are not allowed. The property owner reserves the right to cancel the booking and retain the security deposit if guests do not comply on arrival.
- **Arrival time:** 4.00 p.m.
- **Departure time:** 10.00 a.m.
- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.
- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pets welcome?:** Not allowed.
- **Other Ts and Cs:** A highchair and cot are available, on request.
- **Changeover day:** Flexible, except in July and August when changeover day is Saturday.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Yes, standard changeover clean included. Guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- **Smoking Allowed?:** No.
- **Minimum stay:** 2 nights, except during Christmas/NY and during July and August when minimum stay is 7 nights.