



The 360 degree view from the bench at the end of the boardwalk takes in everything that makes this trail so special.

and to frame the views of and from the 'new' castle. were welcome. Other fine trees were planted to create parkland that Roman Catholics (the religion of Bonnie Prince Charlie) were planted - still there alongside the B8000, said to be a sign the sea is creeping back into the field. Avenues of lime trees land to be drained for agriculture. This is still evident although an earthenwork was built around the bay to enable the marshy

canalised in the 19th Century. From the bridge, notice how straight the river is - it used to meander through the field in front of the 'new' castle but was

#### 4. The Landscape

*Return to the bridge and cross the Lachlan River.*



The chapel is all that remains of a bigger church, and the tranquil burial ground contains many historic graves of local families. In 1792, the then MacLachlan chief built a new church which is half a mile away on the B8000 towards Strachur. It is still in use. The ruined chapel was close to collapse until it was stabilised and conserved by the Lachlan Trust in 2006.

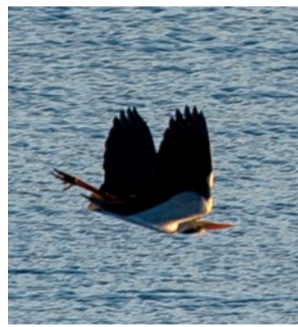


Kilmorie Chapel is one of the last medieval church buildings in west Scotland and the final resting place of the MacLachlan clan chiefs. Every chief with the exception of three who died in battle have been buried here since the 15th century.

#### 3. Kilmorie Chapel

*At the oval deck take the right fork to gates along the path.*

enjoy in autumn. Wild flowers such as Bluebells and Woodland Anemones hide in the grass in spring and in summer there are butterflies and damselflies to spot. Waders and ducks are often seen out on the bay in all seasons, most often Oyster Catchers, Herons and Mallard Ducks. Buzzards can also be heard calling overhead and there are rare sightings of sea eagles.



No matter what the season you can enjoy the surrounding plant and wildlife as you walk. This first part of the trail has Silver Birch trees and Rowans which are native to Scotland. The Rowan is the official tree of Clan MacLachlan. The trees provide shelter for flocks of small birds such as blue tits and great tits and welcome colour for us to

#### 2. Flora and Fauna

*Cross the little bridge over the burn at the side of Inver Restaurant and follow the path through the trees towards the new river bridge*



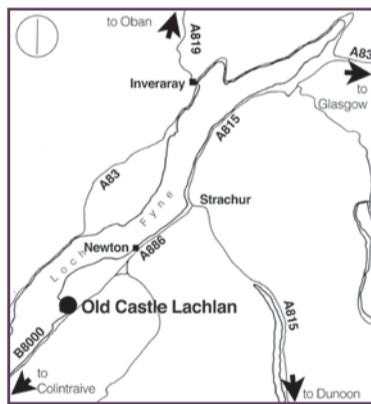
The cottage was converted into a restaurant in 1968 by the 24th MacLachlan clan chief, Madam Marjorie MacLachlan of MacLachlan, the only woman ever to lead the clan. The architect was pioneering conservationist Geoffrey Jarvis, who kept the building small and intimate, making the most of its position by the bay with its views of Old Castle Lachlan.

Inver Restaurant was once a croft, a small farm typical of the Highlands. The original cottage is best viewed from the burn to the side. The burn was the fresh water source for the tenant farmers, three generations of the Crawford MacFadyen family. Part of their rent to the MacLachlan estate was paid in fish. Herring especially was plentiful in Loch Fyne throughout the 19th century. The boathouse was the flat roofed part of the building.



#### 1. Inver Restaurant

## How to Find us



Old Castle Lachlan, Lachlan Bay, Strathlachlan, PA27 8BU

Old Castle Lachlan is about six miles south of the village of Strachur in Argyll, on a single track road, the B8000, a turning off the A886.

Journey Times by Car:  
Glasgow - 1 hour 30  
Edinburgh - 2 hours 30  
Inveraray - 30 minutes  
Dunoon - 30 minutes

Old Castle Lachlan, Kilmorie Chapel and Lachlan Bay are free to visit and open all year round.

Old Castle Lachlan  
@loveourcastle  
www.oldcastlelachlan.com



Donations towards the upkeep of the trails are much appreciated and can be made at [www.oldcastlelachlan.com](http://www.oldcastlelachlan.com)

Designed by EWDP Limited.

#### The Trail

The trail is freely accessible to the public and across private land. The walk to the Old Castle takes approximately 1 hour. The Lachlan Trust, which protects and conserves the historical buildings linked to the MacLachlan clan, is responsible for the new paths, bridge and conservation work at Kilmorie Chapel and Old Castle Lachlan.

**WALK** ... *imagine*

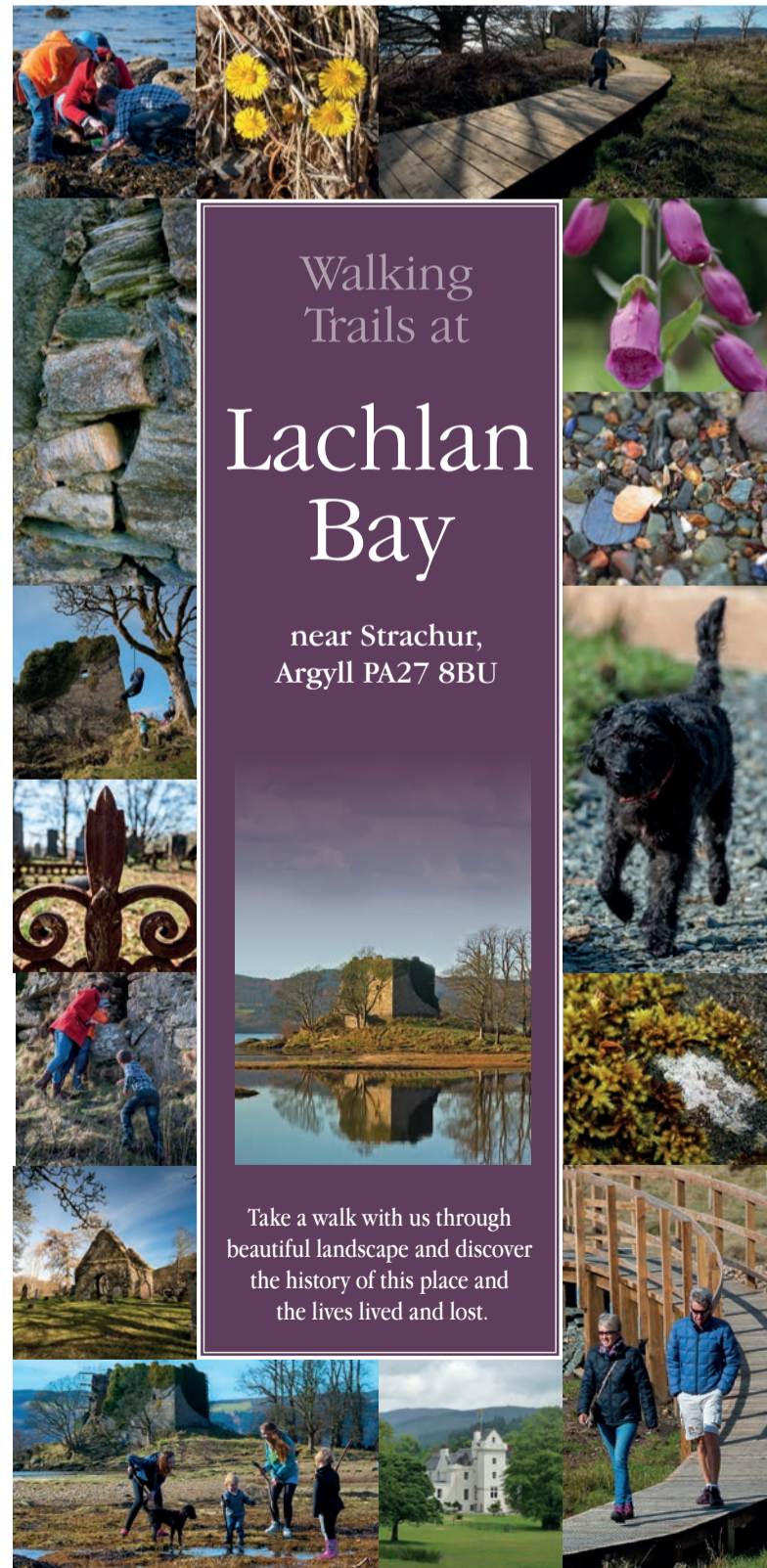
*relaxing* ... **DISCOVER**

**ENGAGING** ... *peaceful*

*clans* ... **CASTLE**

**CHAPEL** ... *the past*

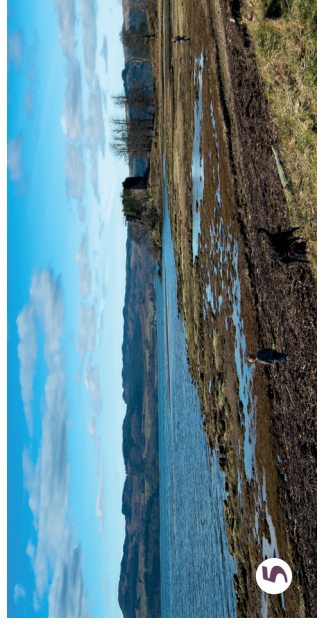
*the present* ... **REAL LIVES**



Walking Trails at  
**Lachlan Bay**  
near Strachur, Argyll PA27 8BU

Take a walk with us through beautiful landscape and discover the history of this place and the lives lived and lost.

Walk from the bridge around the bay (along the top of the old earthenwork) and turn left at the farm track that leads around to Old Castle Lachlan.



## 5. Lachlan Bay

Up to the 18th century Lachlan Bay would have been a place of boats and people and the Gaelic language. Archaeological work and old maps reveal there were cottages near the old castle, a walled garden and a spring named Tobar an Fhion (Gaelic for 'the well of the wine'). This spring's name may be an indication of the bay's use as a landing point for bringing French Claret, the favoured drink of the Highland chiefs alongside whisky. Certainly the bay would have provided a valuable link between land and sea for the goods traded in and out of this part of the Highlands. Nowadays the bay is an anchorage for pleasure craft, a feeding ground for many species of birds and a playground for beachcombers, kite flyers and other visitors.

Walking along the bay we can see both Old and New Castle Lachlans. Comparing them helps us understand a little of how Scotland changed after the turning point of the battle of Culloden in 1746. The old castle was a fortress, a source of clan power during turbulent times, dominating the seaway of Loch Fyne. After Culloden the clan system ended and the chiefs became landowners in peaceful times. The new castle was built as a grand country house, at some distance from the sea, with no need for defence or domination.

From the track follow the path off to the left to the Old Castle.

## 6. Old Castle Lachlan

The castle is of a unique design. It was built in the 15th Century and features a curtain wall with only one small door leading inside to a courtyard. There is a well at the far end and on either side is a tower house. Occupants could cross from one to the other by galleries above the well. The tower house to the left of the courtyard is the most important. At ground level are a kitchen and storerooms. Above these is a solar (private chambers and living area for the chief and his family) and above that a large hall. To have two grand rooms for the chief's use is unusual in Scottish castles.

The Maclachlans were Jacobites who supported Bonnie Prince Charlie in opposition to the neighbouring Clan Campbell. The 17th chief, Lachlan Macdachlan, led his men into battle at Culloden and was killed. His son was only a small boy and was taken in by the Campbells who protected him so that the Maclachlans were not punished harshly by the victors.

The castle was abandoned after Culloden and it has deteriorated over time. The Lachlan Trust is raising funds to complete the conservation work.



Return from the Old Castle to the track. You can either retrace your steps back to your car or turn left and follow the track, which is a little overgrown, until you reach a gate. Go through the gate making sure you close it behind you. Continue on a short distance to the wide, stony expanse of Garbh Channas ('rough bay'), a peaceful spot for a picnic (but please take litter home!)

## 7. New Castle Lachlan

Under the new laws after Culloden, tartan was banned and clan chiefs lost their power.

But the Maclachlans kept their land thanks to the support of the Campbells and by the time the 19th chief, Donald Maclachlan, built a new home, the political landscape had settled.

The new house was built in the elegant but simple Queen Anne style set in a designed landscape of the fashionable picturesque style – with formal, ornamental planting

close to the house, parkland round about and, further afield, scenery of a wild and 'natural' character. The old castle effectively became a ready-made 'folly', an exotic ruin harking back to a past that Scotland had left behind.

Later the Queen Anne style house was extended and altered in a Scottish Baronial makeover. The turret and parapets were added as this grandiose style of architecture popularised by the writer Sir Walter Scott swept through Scotland.

The story goes that after the Battle of Culloden, the Chief's horse made its way home alone from the battlefield. It was a sure sign to the Maclachlans that their Chief had died. The horse, riderless and traumatised, had swum across the loch then refused to leave the castle until it died.

Loch Fyne is a tidal sea loch, Scotland's longest and deepest. It's traditionally been famous for kippers but today it's better known for Loch Fyne Oysters.

The new bridge is a 21st century addition and carries names put forward by donors who help fund the conservation and improvement work around Lachlan Bay.



The only woman ever to lead the clan, Marjorie Maclachlan of Maclachlan, who was the 24th Chief, is buried along side her husband George Rome Maclachlan of Maclachlan at the chapel entrance.



## New Castle Lachlan



Today the Chief of the Maclachlan Clan and his family still live in this stunning Scottish Baronial Castle.

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