



Irvingine

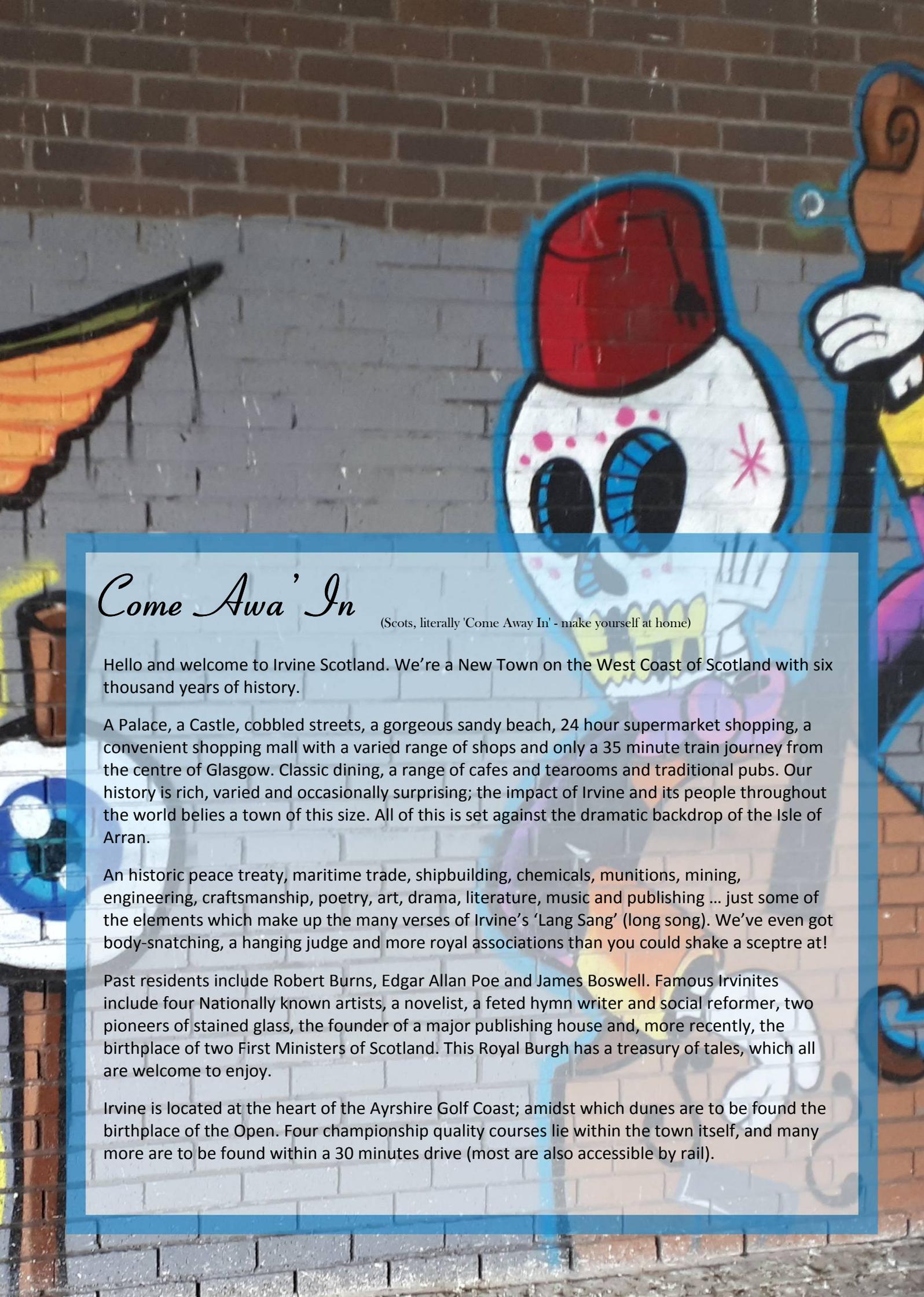
SCOTLAND

*There's So
Much MORE!*

**Information Pack
2017**



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Come Awa' In

(Scots, literally 'Come Away In' - make yourself at home)

Hello and welcome to Irvine Scotland. We're a New Town on the West Coast of Scotland with six thousand years of history.

A Palace, a Castle, cobbled streets, a gorgeous sandy beach, 24 hour supermarket shopping, a convenient shopping mall with a varied range of shops and only a 35 minute train journey from the centre of Glasgow. Classic dining, a range of cafes and tearooms and traditional pubs. Our history is rich, varied and occasionally surprising; the impact of Irvine and its people throughout the world belies a town of this size. All of this is set against the dramatic backdrop of the Isle of Arran.

An historic peace treaty, maritime trade, shipbuilding, chemicals, munitions, mining, engineering, craftsmanship, poetry, art, drama, literature, music and publishing ... just some of the elements which make up the many verses of Irvine's 'Lang Sang' (long song). We've even got body-snatching, a hanging judge and more royal associations than you could shake a sceptre at!

Past residents include Robert Burns, Edgar Allan Poe and James Boswell. Famous Irvinites include four Nationally known artists, a novelist, a feted hymn writer and social reformer, two pioneers of stained glass, the founder of a major publishing house and, more recently, the birthplace of two First Ministers of Scotland. This Royal Burgh has a treasury of tales, which all are welcome to enjoy.

Irvine is located at the heart of the Ayrshire Golf Coast; amidst which dunes are to be found the birthplace of the Open. Four championship quality courses lie within the town itself, and many more are to be found within a 30 minutes drive (most are also accessible by rail).

How to get here



BY CAR

FROM GLASGOW

Take the M77 from Glasgow, leave the M77 at the A71 sliproad at Kilmarnock and make your way along the A71 heading towards Irvine. Leave the A71 at the Warrix interchange, taking the second exit from the roundabout.

FROM PRESTWICK AIRPORT

Travelling on the A79 from Prestwick Airport, and join the A78 at the Monktonhead Roundabout. Follow the signs for Irvine and leave the A78 at the Warrix interchange, taking the first exit from the roundabout.

PARKING

Short stay parking, for a maximum of 3 hours, is available in the following council controlled car parks.

West Road (Bridgewater) in Irvine - the car park behind Bridgewater House, accessed from West Road.

Kirkgate in Irvine - the car park to the rear of M&Co, accessed from Kirkgate.



BY TRAIN

Trains run on the Ayrshire Line every 30 minutes (additional trains run at rush hours), the journey from Glasgow Central Station takes around 35 minutes. Railway Station.



BY BUS

Buses run from Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station hourly (service X34), and take around 1 hour 5 minutes to make the journey, with stops available at the Train Station and Main Street.



BY CYCLING

National Cycling Route 7 from Ayr loosely follows the coast through Troon and Irvine and then heads inland to Glasgow on disused railway paths.



Irvine Fact File

Irvine is the biggest town in North Ayrshire, with a population of just under 34,000.

Robert Burns lived in Irvine in the early part of the 1780s; Scotland's foremost poet worked in a flax mill in the town. There are two streets named after him: Burns Street and Burns Crescent.

Edgar Allan Poe lived in Irvine as a boy, attending school in the town's Kirkgate, while residing with his Aunt in Irvine High Street (she is buried in the Old Parish Kirkyard a few metres away from the site of the school).

Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party, was born and raised in Irvine.

Former First Minister Jack McConnell was also born in Irvine, making the town birthplace to 2 of the 5 people who have served as First Minister.

Irvine has a military history, in the 12th Century, Irvine was Scotland's military capital and was once the headquarters of the Lord High Constable of Scotland, Hugh de Morville.

The Port of Irvine was, for many years, Scotland's third largest. On its historic quayside was once stacked a variety of goods which were transported to a small, but growing, community, built around an ancient cathedral in northern Lanarkshire (some of you may have heard of it, it is called Glasgow).

At the harbour is a unique building whose role was to indicate the tide level. A pulley system attached to a mast marked 'the state of the tide', and at night, a number of lights were used as markers. This apparatus is no longer in use.

Irvine was extensively developed from 1967 until 1996 as Scotland's 5th New Town (the UK's only seaside New Town). Yet Irvine is not 'new', it had been a Royal Burgh since 1322 (probably much earlier) and part of the area is the longest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe.

Mary Queen of Scots visited the town in 1563 and many believe that the annual Marymass Festival, held in the town during the latter part of August, marks this visit; however, this event dates back at least two centuries before the time of the Royal visit and celebrates the town's patron saint, St Mary the Virgin.

Hugh de Morville, made Irvine a burgh in 1140. The town's status was later enhanced; firstly in 1240 when Alexander II granted it a charter and then in 1308 when Irvine was confirmed as a Royal Burgh by King Robert I.

For more information, please visit: IrvineScotland.info

Irvine Places



Seagate Palace

The Palace overlooks the oldest street in Irvine, which was once the main route between the town and the old harbour at Seagatefoot.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/seagate-castle/



The Beach

Part of the long strip of sand that makes up Irvine Bay stretching from Irvine Harbour towards Troon alongside the beach park

<http://irvinescotland.info/town-walks/harbour-beach-walk/>



Scottish Maritime Museum

The Scottish Maritime Museum In Irvine is a great day out in Ayrshire for all the family to enjoy. Located at Irvine's Harbourside you will find exhibitions and ship models and much more.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_is/scottish-maritime-museum/



The Port of Irvine

In 1665 a totally new harbour for Irvine was begun at Fullarton, flanking the estuary on its left bank some distance from Seagatefoot, provided with a masonry quay,.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/irvine-harbour/



The Townhouse & The Portal

The Portal - North Ayrshire's new Culture, Community and Leisure Centre. Located in the heart of Irvine. The Townhouse provides the cultural element of the centre.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_is/the-portal-leisure-centre/



Rivergate Centre

Largest covered shopping centre in Ayrshire. and is served by 1,178 free car parking spaces and has an Average Footfall of 140,00 people per week.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_is/rivergate-centre/



The Beach Park

The vast Beach Park with a lake that is ideal for remote control boats, and an area for skateboarding. Cycle lanes run throughout the park that seem to run for miles.



Trinity Church

Trinity church was designed by architect Frederick Thomas Pilkington and is situated on Mizar Hill. It was opened on 29th December 1863.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/trinity-church/



Old Parish Church

The present church is probably the third built on the site with the latest being built in 1774 after the medieval one was found to be in a perilous condition.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/old-parish-church/



The Low Green

The Low Green was first mentioned in 1499, since the early 20th century, it has been a popular leisure and recreational area.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/the-low-green/



Hill Street

Hill Street is one of the earliest known streets in the town. By the year 1426, building in the Royal Burgh had extended to an area known as Mizar Hill.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/hill-street/



The Burns Club

The Irvine Burns Club was founded on 2 June 1826 and is one of the world's longest continuously active Burns Clubs.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/irvine-burns-club/



Pilot House

Boyd's Automatic tide signalling apparatus. Opened in 1906 and was designed by Martin Boyd, the harbourmaster at that time.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/boyd's-automatic-tide-signalling-apparatus/



Irvine Golf

Ayrshire & Arran is one of the best golf destinations in the world and includes 3 Open Championship venues and 5 of The UK's top 100 golf courses.



Glasgow Vennel

Robert Burns once walked the Vennel cobbles, he came to Irvine in 1781 to learn the flax trade in a small thatched house at the back of Glasgow Vennel, which still stands.

http://irvinescotland.info/irvine_that_was/glasgow-vennel/



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