


GLENAPP
CASTLE



Glenapp Castle is a 17-bedroom Relais & Chateaux hotel, tucked away on the breathtaking Ayrshire coast. The castle sits proudly in its landscape and comes complete with fairy-tale turrets and crenellations. With grand interiors and period furnishings, the castle's regal suites have four-poster beds, and the drawing rooms, library and the gorgeous bedrooms overlook the calming waters surrounding the Scottish Isles.

The castle lies in a 36-acre estate with beautiful gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll and a beautiful walled garden. From magnificent rhododendrons to neck-achingly tall giant redwoods, Glenapp Castle's surrounding gardens are spectacular and one of the many wonders of the estate. Much of the gardens, including the Italian Garden were designed by Gertrude Jekyll (1813-1932), the world-famous horticulturist, remembered for her outstanding designs and her use of colour and texture in the gardens she worked on.

The 36-acre grounds at Glenapp Castle are totally secluded. For a full map of the gardens [please visit this link](#). Paths wander around the azalea pond and through established woodland, with many rare and unusual plants and shrubs to be discovered, plenty of which were brought back by industrialists and traders in the mid-Victorian years from all over the world. Glenapp's relatively mild and moist climate makes it the ideal place for growing many Chilean plants such as *Desfontainia*, *Eucryphia* spp, *Lomatia*, *Embothrium* and *Crinodendron*.

One of the highlights is the walled garden with its fantastic 150-foot Victorian glasshouse. Fresh herbs, fruit and vegetables are used daily in the castle kitchen, with certain rare produce also grown on the estate. With major recent investment in the castle gardens, much more produce is being grown at Glenapp this year, meaning even greater sustainability for the Castle.

Some of the trees here, are now noted in the Tree Register of Britain as champion trees. The *Abies cilicica* (Cilician Fir) is the tallest known in Britain. The *Picea jezoensis* (Hondo spruce) is the joint tallest recorded and the *Abies grandis* (grand fir) is the tallest tree in Ayrshire at present. The *Picea likiangensis* (Likiang Spruce) and *Larix kaempferi* (Japanese

Larch) are regarded as outstanding examples. As well as the champion trees of the Kilphin Glen, we have a *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (Katsura Tree) which is said to be the finest in Scotland.

However, it's not just about the trees! The arboretum is home to red squirrels and red deer, dippers, nuthatches, spotted woodpeckers, treecreepers and jays. And, the woodland floor is carpeted in spring with wildflowers such as Dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Anemone nemerosa (Wood Anemone) and *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebells).

Today, significant time has been focused on restoring these stunning gardens, with Annemarie Mitchel, the Head Gardener (who spent 4 years on the original restoration, left for another position and has now been back for 10 years), and her hard-working team devoting their time to preserving and enhancing this Ayrshire gem.

HOW: from £295 per night – www.glenappcastle.com - 01465 831212