2. North Down Coast

Ballymacrines Point, designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest, is located between Ballinderry Bay and Greencastle. Follow the 3.5-mile (5.5 km) south-west (on the north side of the North Down Coastal Path) from Greencastle. There are a range of high quality public toilets and places for refreshments in Greencastle.

Look out for:
- Birds such as chough and turnstone in winter, and breeding auks and fulmars at sea.

Driving route
Car: Refer to map (2) (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
Bus: There is a popular destination for boat trips on Strangford Lough. The National Trust runs a number of ‘Seals and Seabirds’ trips during May and June. Contact Exploris (028 9146 3933)

3. Ards Peninsula South

Lighthouse Island, one of the Copeland Islands, is 2 miles (3 km) south of Strangford. There are 2 miles of paths along the coast, which are mostly rough grass, but are suitable for cross-country running.

Look out for:
- Free camping, no permits required. The site is open to the public from 1 April to 31 October.

Driving route
Car: Refer to map (2) (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
Bus: There are regular bus services to Tidal Bay from Portaferry and Newtownards. National Trust – Rowallane Garden: (028) 9751 0131

Salt Island is accessible to the general public by boat and foot. Many volunteer rangers undertake coastal walks and boat trips during the summer months. Ask at the Visitors Centre for further details and to book the boat, please contact Strangford Lough reception on (028) 4278 8337.

Other useful numbers:
- National Trust: (028) 4278 8337
- National Trust - Strangford Lough Reception: (028) 4278 8337
- National Trust - Strangford Lough: (028) 4278 8437
- National Trust: (028) 9751 0131

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/strangford-lough

Nugent’s Wood, along the shore of Strangford Lough immediately to the north of the National Trust’s Salt Island, has 4 miles (6.5 km) of bridle path. The island can park in Portaferry itself. Parking a good range of shops, public toilets and small interpretative centre at Kearney village.

Look out for:
- Birds such as chough and turnstone in winter, and breeding auks and fulmars at sea.

Driving route
Car: Refer to map (2) (www.nationaltrust.org.uk)
Bus: There is a popular destination for boat trips on Strangford Lough. The National Trust runs a number of ‘Seals and Seabirds’ trips during May and June. Contact Exploris (028 9146 3933)

The wreck of the cargo liner Empire Tana, which was used in World War II, can be seen in the bay. Contact Exploris (028 9146 3933)

There is a bus service between Newtownards and Comber (Ulsterbus 5A), Comber and Killyleagh (Ulsterbus 511), and Killyleagh and Downpatrick (Ulsterbus 515). However, there is still very good public transport to the majority of National Trust sites from these bus routes.

Bus: Route 20 of the Regional Cycle Network links the west side of Strangford Lough.
4. Ards Peninsula North

Ballynahag Car Park, less than 1.5 miles (2 km) south-east of Newtownstewart, on the A27 Ards Peninsula Road.

Mount Stewart House and Gardens, a grade I listed house and gardens building, and the Ards Peninsula, a steep and dramatic part of the North Arm.

Wildlife Information

4. Ards Peninsula North

Northern mud

Wintering wetland birds - over 80,000 wetland birds regularly

Known as

• Wintering wetland birds - over 80,000 wetland birds regularly en-masse each autumn from their breeding grounds in Arctic areas. The Ards Peninsula has one of the few surviving populations of red squirrels in Northern Ireland. The Red Squirrel Group has been set up to protect this vulnerable population, as the on-shore invasive grey squirrel is now firmly established in Newtownstewart and Downpatrick.

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Greasby Car Park, on the southern outskirts of Greyabbey, on the A20 Strangford Lough Road.

Ballyhalbert on the Outer Ards Peninsula.

There is a car park in the southern half of the clay pits and a short trail along mown grass paths. The area to the north of the road includes former sh traps and an old land clay pits and an old land.

• Relax and enjoy a leisurely picnic in enticing open spaces with

• Go rockpooling and see an underwater world full of life. Some

• Put your best foot forward and step out on one of the

• Go geocaching –

• Discover amazing spaces and places around Strangford Lough and the Ards Peninsula. The diversity of landscape, the exceptional wildlife and the ever-changing views make it a wonderful place to explore – for all the family.

Go enjoy!

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