



Guide to Cumnock for ancestry tourists

compiled by Cumnock History Group
April 2025

Advance planning

Best times of year to visit.

Weather is never reliable in Scotland. Even in the height of summer you may need a jacket. In June, July (in the weeks around the summer solstice on 21st June with sunrise at 4.34am and sunset at 10.05pm) there is daylight till after 10pm and it never gets totally dark at this time of year. You will be wakened early by birdsong!

In winter (around December solstice 21 December sun sets around 4pm) there is less daylight and it can be cold, icy or wet. So April - October is probably best for visits.

Wednesday is a traditional traders' holiday, so many of the smaller shops are shut at least in the afternoon, if not all day. Probably best to aim for a visit Thursday – Tuesday.

Do get in touch with Cumnock History Group in advance info@cumnockhistorygroup.org and we can locate places your ancestors lived and were buried.

Getting to Cumnock

Note: Cumnock in the parish of old Cumnock is a different town to New Cumnock in the neighbouring parish of New Cumnock. It can be confusing!

Public transport isn't great!

Traveline Scotland website is for planning journeys on public transport on a particular date.
<https://www.travelinescotland.com>

By plane

Nearest airport is Glasgow Prestwick (PIK), then Glasgow (GLA) but you are most likely going to arrive at Edinburgh (EDI) as there are more flights to there.

Taxi firms

<http://www.ayrshiretransport.com> 01290 423440

<https://www.a1lux.co.uk/> in Mauchline but serves Cumnock 01290 430099

Pre-booked taxis are generally cheaper than getting one at the airport.

Car hire from the airport. Most cars in UK are stick shift. Book an automatic in advance.

By Rail

Nearest railway station is Auchinleck, 2 miles away.

Accommodation

2 excellent hotels in the town centre

The [Royal Hotel](#), on the Square, 1 Glaisnock Street

The [Dumfries Arms Hotel](#), 54 Glaisnock street

Also

[Lochside House Hotel](#) between Cumnock and New Cumnock.

In Mauchline about 10 minutes away there's the [Fairburn Hotel](#) and [Ardwell guesthouse](#)

Cumnock History Group has an informative website and an online family tree. We have no premises and we are all volunteers. We can help and can do tailor-made tours for a donation.

<https://cumnockhistorygroup.org>

<https://cumnockconnections.tribalpages.com>

info@cumnockhistorygroup.org

The Baird Institute is a council run museum. It has the Keir Hardie room, collections of Mauchline ware and Cumnock Pottery. Mining and weaving artefacts. Knowledgeable staff. It is only open on Thursday 12-8, Friday 10-4 and Saturdays 10-4. This may change later in 2023 so do call 01290 427084 or email to check opening times or email

BairdInstitute@Eastayrshireleisure.com

Free entry.

Access: There are steps at the front door.

Cumnock Heritage Centre is a privately run museum open on Friday afternoons and there are open days on the second and last Sundays of each month and at other times. It houses farm and service vehicles, steam engines, farm equipment, a police station, lots of transport related material, photos, books, local history, Mauchline ware and Cumnock pottery. Well worth a visit. Run by volunteers.

Free but a donation is welcome. Check upcoming events on their website.

<https://heritagecentrecumnock.com>

Access: no stairs

Lugar Heritage Centre

Craigston Square, Lugar

In Lugar church, it has been recently adapted to house a café and heritage centre. Open at Wednesday lunch time or by arrangement. Run by volunteers.

<https://www.lugarchurch.com>

Free entry. Access: on ground floor

Old Maps of Cumnock (and UK) online, with modern overlay

[nls maps](#)

Visitor attractions

Other places nearby to visit and get lunch

[Dumfries House](#) and Gardens

[Boswells Coachhouse](#) on the Auchinleck Estate

[Cumnock Factory Outlet](#), Craighens Road, Cumnock

[Timbermills Café](#), Townhead St, Cumnock

Words of Wisdom, café in the Square run by the parish church. Home baking, local books for sale