



Like a Duck to Water

Who: Families
Where: Castle Espie, Scrabo Country Park, Cockle Row Cottages, Donaghadee.
Duration: Full Day

Castle Espie Wetland Centre, Comber, BT23 6EA, 028 9187 4146

Start your day on the shores of stunning Strangford Lough. Three times award winning WWT Castle Espie Wetland and Wildlife Centre is a tranquil and friendly centre for all the family.

Hides and nature walks allow you to get close to the wild birds and collection of endangered birds from around the world. Take time to look for bugs and feed the ducks. Children will love the natural playground - The Secret Swamp. Children can connect with nature through active and imaginative play. Secret Swamp adventures abound with the discovery of a log den secret hide out, curious stumpery, a pixie phone musical clearing, magical toadstool glade and a tall tree house adjacent to the dazzling green secret swamp.



Scrabo Country Park, Newtownards, BT23 4SJ

(14 mins from previous)

Head to Scrabo Country Park for a picnic. There are lots of opportunities for a walk through the fine beech woodlands of Killynether Wood and around the disused quarries. Venture up to Scrabo Tower and take in the fabulous view of Strangford Lough and North Down. The tower, which was built in 1857, is one of Northern Ireland's best-known landmarks and the views from the top are spectacular. Inside the tower you can see an exhibition and short video detailing its history. The Tower is open seasonally.





Cockle Row Cottages, Groomsport, BT19 6GH, 028 9127 0069

(20 mins from previous)

Cockle Row Cottages are situated in the quaint seaside village of Groomsport beside the harbour. Open just in time for Easter, these lovingly restored fisherman's cottages host free themed entertainment from Easter Sunday to the first Sunday in September.

Set within the picturesque Groomsport Harbour, Cockle Row Cottages are the perfect place to spend an afternoon. Bird enthusiasts can enjoy live video feeds which have been set up on Cockle Island giving visitors the opportunity to watch birds on two large screens, control cameras for a more interactive bird watching experience and this year even follow from home via the internet.



Donaghadee, BT21 0HE

(10 mins from previous)

A short drive will take you to Donaghadee. Finish the day watching the boats bobbing on the water under the watch of Donaghadee Lighthouse whilst eating fish and chips.



For more information on any of these places to visit or more ideas on other locations call into or phone [Ards Visitor Information Centre on 028 9182 6846](tel:02891826846).