

Ferns in the Wild

Apart from the gardens described in this leaflet, ferns can be found in the wild all over Scotland – in woodland, in the hills, on uncultivated land, by the sea, on old walls, along old railway tracks, and even in trees. The following are a few easily accessible places, each with a good variety of native ferns.

The Birks of Aberfeldy, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

Culzean Country Park, off A719, 4 miles west of Maybole, Ayrshire.

Dollar Glen, Dollar, Clackmannanshire.

The Falls of Falloch, off A82, Loch Lomond.

Glen Ogle Cycle Path (old railway), north of Lochearnhead, Perthshire.

The Hermitage, off A9, north of Dunkeld, Perthshire.

Lochalsh Woodland Walk, Balmacara, off A87, east of Kyle of Lochalsh.

Puck's Glen, off A815, 5 miles north of Dunoon, Argyllshire.

Roslin Glen, Roslin, Midlothian.

Taynish Nature Reserve, 1 mile south of Tayvallich, Argyllshire

British Pteridological Society

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in ferns and pteridology. Please write for details to:

The Membership Secretary

The British Pteridological Society

Department of Botany, The Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road, London. SW7 5BD. UK

Email: membership@eBPS.org.uk

www.eBPS.org.uk Registered Charity No. 1092399



Fern Gardens of Scotland



British Pteridological Society

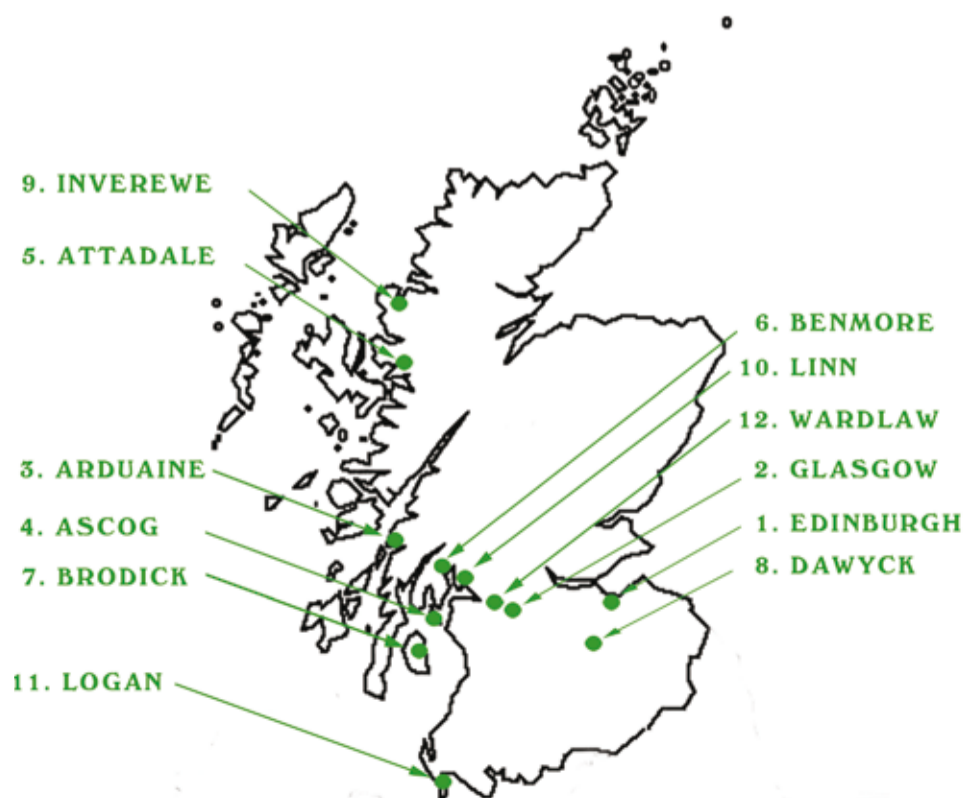
for fern enthusiasts

Fern Gardens of Scotland

Scotland's climate makes it ideally suited for the cultivation of ferns, and many Scottish gardens, taking advantage of the humid conditions, grow ferns to show off their beautiful, filigree foliage or as a foil for other plants. Here the BPS (the society for fern enthusiasts) highlights twelve of the best fern gardens in Scotland. Each grows an extensive range of ferns, both exotic and native, species and cultivars, demonstrating the wide variety of size, shape, texture, and, yes, colour that ferns provide.

The gardens all have a wealth of other horticultural interest too, and whether privately or publicly owned, they are all easily accessible. So visit and enjoy them for yourself and be inspired.

Fern Garden Locations



1. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Address: Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

Tel: 0131 552 7171

Web site: www.rbge.org.uk

Open: November to February 10.00am-4.00pm
March and October 10.00am-6.00pm
April to September 10.00am-7.00pm

Glasshouses close:

November to February 3.30pm

March to October 5.00pm

Getting there:

1 mile north of city centre.

Buses 8, 23 & 27

The garden at Inverleith is a "must visit" for any fern enthusiast with among the best collections of warm temperate and tropical species under glass in Britain. These can be found in the Ferns and Fossils Glasshouse in the main glasshouse complex and in the foyer of the John Hope Gateway. In both places the plantings are dominated by tree ferns, towering specimens of *Cyathea* and *Dicksonia*, but there are also many rare and unusual species. Outdoors the main planting of temperate ferns can be found in the Woodland garden where there is a variety of native species including *Polystichum* and *Dryopteris* flourishing among the rhododendrons.

2. Glasgow Botanic Gardens



Address: 730 Great Western Road, Glasgow, G12 0UE

Tel: 0141 276 1614

Email: gbg@glasgow.gov.uk

Website: www.glasgow.gov.uk

Open: Gardens, 7am until dusk every day,
Houses 10am – 4.15pm Winter,
10am – 6.00pm Summer

Getting there:

Buses 20, 66, 118, 89, 90.

Underground Hillhead.

Blessed with a moderate climate and an excellent water supply, Glasgow is a great place in which to grow and appreciate ferns and their allies. These are grown and displayed in four separate areas, three of which are open to the public on every day of the year. The unique Kibble Palace is noted for its tree ferns, the Main Range features a wide variety of tropical ferns while the Filmy Fern House, which is open on request, houses notable plantings of delicate ferns from Europe and New Zealand. In addition, there is an outdoor garden near the Main Range where hardy ferns may be seen.

3. Arduaine Garden



Arduaine Garden grows many exotic and native ferns which flourish here on the moist and mild Atlantic coast, maybe as many as 350 taxa. A grove of tree ferns, mostly *Dicksonia* in four species, enjoy the shelter of the woodland, and many young *D. antarctica* are growing around the parents. Other outstanding ferns are *Lophosoria quadripinnata*, whose huge fronds have a glaucous reverse, and *Thyrsopteris elegans*, the Juan Fernandez endemic, in two large groups.

We grow numerous species of scores of other genera and have an expanding collection of different forms of native ferns.

Address: Arduaine, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4XQ
Tel: 0844 493 2216
Email: mwilkins@nts.org.uk
Web site: www.nts.org.uk
Open: 9.30am – sunset all year round
Getting there: Off A816, between Lochgilphead and Oban

4. Ascog Hall Gardens and Fernery

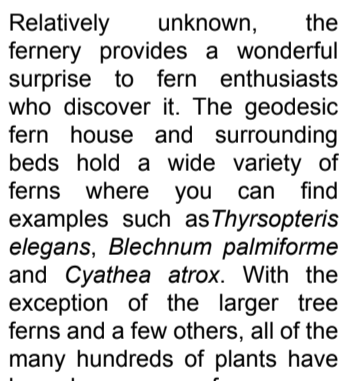


This splendid sunken fernery on the Isle of Bute was built circa 1870 when the Victorian passion for ferns was at its height. Restored and replanted to its former glory in 1997 it now houses one of the most impressive and rare collections of ferns to be found outwith a botanic garden including a famous survivor from the original collection, a *Todea barbara*, believed to be 1000 years old. The L-shaped fernery has an exquisite quartz pebble path and water

features. Surrounding the fernery are 3 acres of established garden planted with a wide variety of choice perennials, shrubs and trees to give interest throughout the season.

Address: Isle of Bute, Argyll, PA20 9EU (Susannah Alcorn)
Tel: 017 0050 4555 or 07941 019 144
Email: office@ascoghallfernery.co.uk
Website: www.ascoghallfernery.co.uk
Open: 10.00am – 5.00pm, Easter to end Oct., closed Mon, Tues
Getting there: 3 miles south of Rothesay ferry terminal, on A844

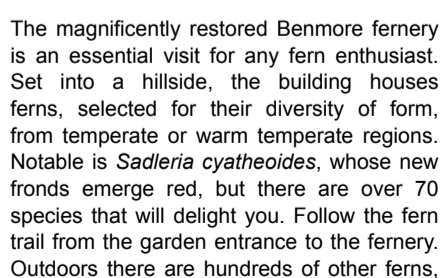
5. Attadale Gardens Fernery



Relatively unknown, the fernery provides a wonderful surprise to fern enthusiasts who discover it. The geodesic fern house and surrounding beds hold a wide variety of ferns where you can find examples such as *Thyrsopteris elegans*, *Blechnum palmiforme* and *Cyathea atrox*. With the exception of the larger tree ferns and a few others, all of the many hundreds of plants have been home grown from spores collected from around the country. A sub-tropical conservatory has recently been created providing space for some of the more tender exotics. The ferns are situated within 20 acres of outstanding gardens, so give yourself time to take in the rest of Attadale.

Address: Attadale, Strathcarron, Wester Ross, IV54 8YX
Tel: 01520 722603
Email: info@attadalegardens.com
Website: www.attadalegardens.com
Open: 10.00am – 5.00pm April – October
Getting there: Off A890 Strathcarron to Kyle of Lochalsh road, or train from Inverness to Attadale (request stop).

6. Benmore Botanic Garden



The magnificently restored Benmore fernery is an essential visit for any fern enthusiast. Set into a hillside, the building houses ferns, selected for their diversity of form, from temperate or warm temperate regions. Notable is *Sadleria cyatheoides*, whose new fronds emerge red, but there are over 70 species that will delight you. Follow the fern trail from the garden entrance to the fernery. Outdoors there are hundreds of other ferns, both native like *Dryopteris aemula* with its crimped foliage, and planted exotics like the finely dissected *Lophosoria quadripinnata*, surprisingly tough despite its delicate appearance. Allow yourself plenty of time to enjoy the 120 acres of this wonderful garden.

Address: Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QU
Tel: 01369 706261 **Email:** Benmore@rbge.org.uk
Website: www.rbge.org.uk
Open: 10.00am – 5.00pm March and October
 10.00am – 6.00pm April – September
Getting there: Off A815, 7 miles north of Dunoon

7. Brodick Castle Garden



Brodick Castle Garden on the Isle of Arran occupies a stunning location at the foot of Goatfell mountain, overlooking the Firth of Clyde. The mild climate (courtesy of the Gulf Stream), sheltered position and generous rainfall allow a wide variety of exotic ferns to thrive - over 50 species - with more plantings planned. Highlights are numerous large *Dicksonia antarctica*, *D. squarrosa*, *Cyathea smithii*, *C. dealbata* and *Thyrsopteris elegans*. The gardens and surrounding country park are rich in native ferns, some 22 species. Not to be missed are the large colony of original clone *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Victoriae' in the Walled Garden and *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* in Merkland Wood.

Address: Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8HY
Tel: 0844 493 2154
Email: brodickcastle@nts.org.uk
Website: www.nts.org.uk
Open: Woodland Garden & Country Park open all year
 9.30am to sunset. Reception Centre, Shop and Walled Garden: 4 Apr to 31 Oct,
 Sat-Wed 10.00am-4.30pm.
 26 Jun-10 Sept open 10.00am-4.30pm every day.
 1 Nov to 20 Dec, Sat/Sun 10.00am-3.30pm
Getting there: Off A841, north of Brodick Village



8. Dawyck Botanic Garden



Ferns here include *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, the shuttlecock fern, whose fronds unfurl gracefully before standing tall and erect. The oak fern, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*, is much smaller with extremely delicate leaflets. *Polystichum munitum*, the sword fern, from western North America, is evergreen and leathery, well suited to Dawyck's climate. Also to be found is the tiny, rare *Woodsia ilvensis*, whose natural habitat includes high rock ledges. On the edge of the cryptogamic sanctuary, other ferns consist of a large representation of *Dryopteris* species ranging from *Dryopteris filix-mas* (male fern) through *Dryopteris carthusiana* (buckler fern) to *Dryopteris oreades* (mountain fern). Garden visitors can compare the very subtle differences, a challenge to the untrained eye!

Address: Stobo, Peebles, Peeblesshire EH45 9JU
Tel: 01721 760254
E-mail: dawyck@rbge.org.uk
Web site: www.rbge.org.uk/dawyck
Open: Daily from 1st February until 30th November
 10.00am to 4.00pm February and November
 10.00am to 5.00pm March and October,
 10.00am to 6.00pm April to September
Getting there: 28 miles south of Edinburgh on the B712,
 8 miles southwest of Peebles

9. Inverewe



The UK's most northerly grove of tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) is an arresting sight from the top of Bambooselem with the 'Ostrich Fern' (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) naturalised nearby. Down Rhododendron Walk, bold groups of *Dicksonia lanata* grow alongside *Woodwardia unigemmata*, with its elegant arching fronds, while *Blechnum tabulare* creates a textured backdrop. At the Devil's Elbow viewpoint *Blechnum penna-marina* provides a dark foil for the white flowers of *Ourisia crosbyi*.

Alongside the ponds we have *Osmunda regalis* 'Purpurascens', with its bright copper-pink new fronds in springtime. While many well-known species flourish at Inverewe, there are also choice specimens such as *Phymatosorus diversifolius* and *Lophosoria quadripinnata*, making a visit to view our collection always worthwhile.

Address: by Poolewe, IV22 2LG
Tel: 0844 493 2225
Email: inverewe@nts.org.uk
Web site: www.nts.org.uk
Open: 10.00am-4.00pm Apr-Oct 10.00am-3.00pm Nov-Mar
Getting there: Off A832, 6 miles north-east of Gairloch

10. Linn Botanic Gardens



The fern collection at the Linn is grown in the open. There are in the region of 200 different taxa. These are grown throughout the three acres of gardens and complement the non-pteridophytes. They range from the handsome chain ferns and large *Cyathea*

and *Dicksonia* to small filmy ferns and epiphytic *Polypodium* and *Pyrrosia*. Pond marginal species include *Osmunda* and *Onoclea*. There also good collections of *Dryopteris* and *Polystichum*. The collection of *Blechnum* is a speciality, and includes a number of southern trunked species rarely seen. Giant southern *Lophosoria* with white backed fronds is well represented.

Address: Cove, by Helensburgh, G84 0NR
Tel: 01436 842084 (Jamie Taggart)
Email: jamie@linnbotanicgardens.org.uk
Open: Dawn till dusk all year. At quiet times of year (October to March) please phone prior to visit.
Getting there: Off B833 north of Cove on the Rosneath peninsula

11. Logan Botanic Garden



Logan celebrates southern hemisphere ferns. The Tasmanian tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) in the Walled Garden are one of the iconic images of Scotland's most exotic garden. A new under-storey of these has been planted in the Tasmanian Creek beneath a canopy of Eucalyptus trees. In recent years a wide range of ferns from Chile have been added such as *Lophosoria quadripinnata*, *Thyrsopteris elegans*, *Blechnum cycadifolium* and the 'true' *Blechnum chilense*. Drifts of *Cyathea dealbata*, *Cyathea australis*, *Cyathea smithii*, *Dicksonia squarrosa* and *Dicksonia fibrosa* are growing in the woodland garden. A large specimen of *Cyathea medullaris* adorns a sheltered spot in the Walled Garden whilst a new planting of *Blechnum palmiforme* welcomes visitors at the entrance.

Address: Port Logan, Stranraer, DG9 9ND
Tel: 01776 860231
Email: r.baines@rbge.ac.uk **Website:** www.rbge.org.uk/logan
Open: 10.00am – 5.00pm March 15th – March 31st and October
 10.00am – 6.00pm April – September
Getting there: 14 miles south of Stranraer in Dumfries and Galloway

12. Alastair and Jackie Wardlaw's Garden

Alastair & Jackie Wardlaw have developed their 0.4 acre, 'his and her', suburban garden over several decades. Alastair has the shady areas for ferns, and Jackie the sunny side. Alastair's collection of native British ferns, numbering about 140 different types, has been recognized by Plant Heritage as a *National Collection of British Ferns*. It contains around 90% of the native British fern species, together with naturalised aliens and numerous cultivars. Intermingled with the native ferns are over 100 different foreign hardy ferns, including tree ferns. To supply the diverse habitats where ferns grow in the wild, Alastair has provided woodlands, a sphagnum bog, a pond, rocky areas, and high-humidity enclosures.

Address: 92 Drymen Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2SY
Tel: 0141 942 2461
Email: a.wardlaw@tiscali.co.uk
Open: By arrangement with the owners Best between May and October.
Getting there: Side lane off east side of Drymen Road, 100 yards north of Bearsden Station. Park at the station.

