

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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**AVAST ME HEARTIES!
PIRATES COME TO CULZEAN CASTLE THIS JULY**

Calling all Pirates! Fun-filled adventures will take centre stage at the National Trust for Scotland's Culzean Castle this July in the inaugural **Pirates of Culzean** weekend. The fun packed weekend event is sponsored by Official Outdoor Clothing Partner, Regatta Great Outdoors and will see families come and enjoy Pirate-tastic fun over two days (15 and 16 July) with unforgettable experiences and pirates galore in the spectacular surroundings of the magnificent Culzean Castle and Country Park, Ayrshire.

Pirates of Culzean invites adventurers of all ages to dress up and come along to enjoy some swashbuckling fun. With exciting Regatta prizes for the Best Dressed Pirate, and the Great Pieces of Eight Challenge where adventurers can enjoy games, challenges and activities in the specially created Port Culzean, there's lots to keep the most energetic young pirate busy all day. They can tackle the Smugglers Run obstacle course which will lead them up to the Smugglers Cove and families can test their sandcastle building skills in The Big Beach Battle. Children and families can explore the beautiful surroundings of the magnificent Castle on a Pirate Trail, or enjoy a seafaring storytelling session in the Boat House. In addition they can discover Culzean's amazing adventure playgrounds, the always popular pirate-themed Adventure Cove and, new for 2017, Wild Woodland, inspired by the estate's rich natural heritage.

Stuart Maxwell, Group Manager for the National Trust for Scotland in Ayrshire and Arran said: "Culzean is one of Scotland's treasures and we are looking forward to sharing its spectacular scenery and amazing history with families at this fantastic event which is inspired by its fascinating links to smuggling. It is so exciting to be working with Regatta to bring this unforgettable experience to our visitors this summer."

Graham Rickard, Managing Director of Regatta said: “Regatta encourage families to live a happy, healthy lifestyle in the great outdoors, so partnering with the National Trust for Scotland for this fun, family event is a good fit for us. It’s an opportunity to get people outside, sharing and celebrating the outdoors and making unforgettable summer memories.”

Pirates of Culzean is open from 10.00am to 5.30pm on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 July. Entry to Pirates of Culzean is £7.50 per child (3 – 16 years, under 3 are free of charge) and can be purchased online at <http://www.nts.org.uk/Event/Culzean-Castle-and-Country-Park/Pirates-of-Culzean>. Accompanying adults are admitted free of charge to the event. Event ticket price does not include admission to Culzean Castle and Country Park. Usual admission prices apply for non-members.

