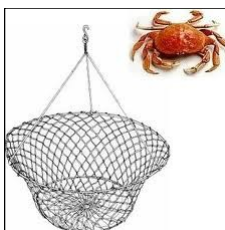




Taking the kids crabbing when visiting Millport on The Isle of Great Cumbrae is really good fun. Seaside activity will keep the children interested and occupied and is quite addictive for adults too. This guide will help you get started, will give you a good idea how and where to catch the crabs, what bait to use, what you should and shouldn't do and the types of crabs you might catch. So get kitted out, get some bait and get 'doon the watter' and give it a try.

GETTING STARTED—WHAT YOU NEED

1. Take a bucket to put your crabs in. Fill half full with sea-water, a few rocks and a piece of seaweed.
2. You will need either a line with a small weight or a crab net (hoop net)
3. Bait, bacon rind is very good or any type of discarded meat. The best bait is usually frozen mackerel, a tin of sardines or a fish head.



WHERE TO CATCH YOUR CRABS IN MILLPORT

Crabs hide in crevasses and rocks all around the Isle of Cumbrae, however the best places are the piers in Millport. These piers are:

1. Leck Pier (near Crocodile Rock).and The Dancing Midge Cafe.
2. Strathwherry Pier (near The Garrison Building).
3. The Stone Pier (the big pier near the Royal George Hotel)



HOW TO CATCH YOUR CRABS AND LOOK AFTER THEM

Find a suitable place and make yourself comfortable. No need for a hook just tie on the bait (bacon rind etc) onto your line or crab net.

Drop your line or crab net into the water and wait. We said wait..... All crabs need a little coaxing. About 5 minutes should do it.

Raise your line or net, it should feel a little heavier. Clustered to your bait, there should be a few happy crabs munching away. Bring up the line and net very slowly.

Place your crabs in a bucket to look at, make sure you only put a few in at a time. They don't like crowds and can become quite tetchy.

Make sure you place your bucket in the shade, crabs are not accustomed to bright sunlight.



CRABBING DO's AND DONT'S

DO: Be very careful when crabbing, don't lean over too far and make sure children are always accompanied by an adult at all times.

DO: Add rocks and seaweed to your bucket to make the crabs feel at home. Change the water every 15 minutes and keep the bucket out of sunlight.

DON'T: Keep the crabs all day, let them go after a reasonable time. Separate any crabs that are fighting (but be very careful).

DON'T: Use a line with a hook.

DO: Hold your crab correctly. Either hold either side of the shell or place one finger on top of the shell and one finger underneath (but be very careful or you will be bitten)

DO: Take all your equipment and rubbish home with you.

