

FOR THE TRAVEL TRADE

# ARGYLL BY TRAIN



## ARGYLL BY TRAIN

A sustainable travel programme into the heart of the Argyll and the Isles region. An opportunity to sit back and enjoy the landscape as it changes into the amazing western Highlands. The journey takes a little over 3 hours from Glasgow to Oban with trains running 3 times per day.



**#sustainable #traintravel #relaxed #islandexperience**

### DAY ONE: LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

From Glasgow Queen Street station the train travels uphill towards the Kilpatrick hills, providing impressive views down the Clyde Estuary towards the Firth of Clyde. Pass through the small villages and towns on the Clyde – such as Bowling, Cardross (where Robert the Bruce lived) and Garelochhead – you will be treated to your first glimpse of the ‘Arrochar Alps’.

At Garelochhead station you get stunning panoramic views of the Gare Loch, with Loch Long just starting to come into view. Approaching Arrochar, look left for great views of the celebrated ‘Arrochar Alps’, including such craggy peaks as the Beinn Narnain, Beinn Ime and the well-loved Cobbler.

Shortly after departing Arrochar & Tarbet station, the world-renowned bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond appear on

the right. Across the loch, dominated by the towering presence of Ben Lomond, this area was once home to Rob Roy MacGregor, legendary warrior, robber and folk hero. He used to question captives in a nearby cave – and wasn’t averse to dipping them in the loch to extract information!

Enjoy the magnificent scenery surrounding Loch Lomond before arriving in Crianlarich. Here the train line divides, with the western route turning towards Oban, and the north route continuing up to Fort William and Mallaig.

The Oban line passes through Tyndrum Lower and takes you through beautiful Glen Lochy to Dalmally; and just beyond stands the ruin of Kilchurn Castle, ancient stronghold of Clan Campbell. Around the head of Loch Awe is the Pass of Brander, which skirts the towering bulk of Ben Cruachan – the Hollow Mountain

which houses an innovative hydro power scheme inside. To the left is the River Awe, setting for Sir Walter Scott’s romance ‘The Highland Widow’.

Nearing Oban now and approaching Connel Ferry, you can see the Falls of Lora, a tidal race at the narrow entrance to Loch Etive. This natural occurrence, caused by a fast-moving tide, produces white rapids that can last for up to five days.

Your final stop on this section of the Line is Oban, Scotland’s Seafood Capital. Disembark and make the way to your hotel either on food or taxi.

From Left to right.  
Seafood at the Pierhouse Hotel  
Highland Explorer Train to Oban  
Puffins on the Isle of Staffa



## DAY TWO: AN ISLAND ADVENTURE

Experience two beautiful Inner Hebridean islands in one day with [West Coast Tours](#). Rugged landscapes, breathtaking scenery, coastal cliffs, sparkling lochs, white sandy beaches and ancient history are just a few of the things that make this day trip both magical and memorable.

Departing from Oban Ferry Terminal on the CalMac ferry, you will sail to Craignure, Mull. The West Coast Motors coach and friendly driver will meet you at Craignure for a guided tour through the island's spectacular scenery towards Fionnphort, where guests will take the ferry and sail to Iona. Guests have two hours to soak up Iona's peace and tranquillity as well as discovering its stunning beaches and awe-inspiring history. We recommend a visit to the Benedictine Nunnery, the Reilig Oran and Iona Abbey. The ferry will take guests back to Oban for just before 18.00hr.

There are several different excursion options available from West Coast Tours, visit their website for more information.

## DAY THREE: EXPLORING IN AND AROUND OBAN

Mountains sweep down to the fishing port of Oban, known as 'Scotland's Seafood Capital', overlooking the island of Kerrera that sits in Oban Bay. This Victorian resort is full of life, with ferries to the Hebrides coming and going, bars and streets packed with shops.

The town is easily explored on foot and guests may want to start the day with a visit to [Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds](#), a Heritage Site located only 1.3 miles (2km) north of Oban. Humans have lived on this site for millenniums, and it has been in the seat of the Clan MacDougall for 1000 years. Whilst Dunollie Castle is now in ruins, it can still be visited and is especially known for its breath-taking views across Oban Bay and the Isles. Part of the Laird's House below has been transformed into what is now the 1745 House Museum.

Returning to Oban guests can pay a visit to [Oban Distillery](#). Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban, the Distillery is one of Scotland's oldest sources of Single Malt Scotch Whisky is just a short meander from the sea. Founded in 1794, the distillery is the heart of the town. In fact, there wouldn't have been an Oban town if it weren't for entrepreneurial brothers Hugh and John Stevenson. During a tour, visitors gain insight into our whisky making process while enjoying a dram of our single malt in our Mill room, followed by a visit of our production area, old filling store and dram room.

The day can be rounded off with a seafood dinner in one of the many renowned restaurants in Oban. The dinner might even be accompanied by a stunning west coast sunset.

From Left to right.  
Iona Abbey  
Oban Distillery  
Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds

#### DAY FOUR: TAKING TO THE WATER

Spend an adventurous day out today making the best of Oban's seaside setting. It's a great place to get active in the outdoors, with kayaking, sailing and wildlife cruises on offer. Fire the imagination with trips to ruined castles in achingly romantic places or go island hopping to visit the myriad small island off the coast. Or how about going on an exciting boat trip to see the local wildlife? Keep an eye out for basking sharks, whales, dolphins and eagles.

Basking Shark Scotland organise tours from July to September to coincide with the shark migration to the areas where they feed on the abundant plankton. Other wildlife cruises are on offer including also wild swimming with seals and scuba diving. For those who wish to...

The climb from the town centre to McCaig's Tower is well worth the effort. The view across Oban Bay to the Atlantic Islands is stunning. The gardens inside the tower are lovely, and a great place to sit and enjoy a bit of peace.

#### DAY FIVE: HASTE YE BACK

It is time to say farewell, to continue the journey by train or bus, heading either north or south.



#### ACCOMMODATION

If you need accommodation recommendations in Oban please email [traveltrade@wild-aboutargyll.co.uk](mailto:traveltrade@wild-aboutargyll.co.uk) and ask for our travel trade directory.

#### BEST KNOWN FOR:

-  Seafood
-  Castles
-  Gardens
-  Boat Trips & Ferries
-  Cycling



From Left to right,  
Basking Shark Scotland Tour  
Spot local wildlife  
McCaig's Tower entrance  
McCaig's Tower in Oban

For all you need to know  
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ARGYLL & THE ISLES

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