

FOR THE TRAVEL TRADE

WILD FOODS OF ARGYLL



Experience Wild Foods of Argyll



In Argyll, nature's larder offers a delightful array of wild foods, with a particular emphasis on exquisite seafood and bountiful foraging treasures. Along the rugged coastline, the waters teem with an abundance of fresh catches, from lobsters and mussels to delicious oysters, all enticing seafood enthusiasts with their oceanic flavours. In the lush, green forests and meadows that carpet the land, keen foragers can discover a diverse array of wild edibles, including fragrant wild garlic, earthy chanterelle mushrooms, and tangy bilberries. Argyll's wild foods not only tantalise the taste buds but also connect its people to the natural rhythms of the land and sea, offering a truly authentic and immersive culinary experience.

#sustainable #slowtravel #nature #food #cartouring #FIT #SmallGroups

DAY ONE: WILDERNESS AND RELAXATION

Your clients might come from the northern part of Scotland or they might have enjoyed an overnight at [Knipoch Hotel](#) just north of Oban.

With this in mind, we start the adventure with a visit to Caledonian Oysters, a family business, governed by the tides at Loch Creran, not something Judith, the owner had in mind when she set off to Paris on a gap year working as an au pair. Your clients will hear the inspiring family story and learn about growing oysters. Of course, your guests will be able to see how Oysters are expertly shucked before trying it for themselves and tasting the delicious fruits of the sea.

If time allows, make a stop in Oban for a brief visit to the town with the opportunity for some shopping or a visit to Oban Distillery. From here the route will take your clients south and over the Bridge of the Atlantic, the Clachan Bridge which dates back to 1792, so called because the Clachan Sound connects at both ends to the Atlantic Ocean, and might therefore be considered part of that ocean. On the southern part of the peninsula, you will take the Cuan Ferry on its 3-minute journey to the Isle of Luing (pronounced 'Ling') for an experience of true Scottish Island Life.

Designed and built by local craftsmen, the [WildSuites](#) are the place where luxury accommodation meets raw Atlantic beauty. The suites are set up for self-catering however a private chef can be arranged for guests to prepare meals at the Observatory, a custom-designed event space nestled in the centre of the site.

Devoid of street lights and traffic noise, your guests will enjoy a peaceful night.



DAY TWO: ISLAND EXPLORATION

With a population of less than 200 people, Luing has so much to offer. Clients could be watching wildlife right from the deck of their suite. There is a family of Otters living in Torsa Bay, right below the site, and a favourite hangout spot for Grey and Common Seals. If they are keen birdwatchers, keep the eye on the skies and sea around the island for Sea Eagles, Golden Eagles, and rare species such as Great Northern Divers and even Puffins.

Clients could also be visiting Cullipool and Toberonochy to see the picturesque white Hebridean cottages perched on the edge of the sea within the conservation villages and learn more about the rich history of the quarrying industry that gave the Slate Islands their name.

For those after a more adrenaline-fuelled activity, take a tour with nearby [Sealife Adventures](#). All trips operate in one of the most highly protected marine areas in Britain. The Firth of Lorne is a Special Area of Conservation and a Marine Protected Area. The trips include the Corryvreckan whirlpool, Ballachuan Hazelwood (a Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve), dramatic sea cliffs and uninhabited islands where golden and sea eagles are resident.

Or your guests can simply wander along the famous Luing slate beaches and find geological marvels like fool's gold embedded in smooth round pebbles that make the perfect skimming stones so much so that the World Stone Skimming championships are held nearby on Easdale Island. Another peaceful evening and night on the island await.

DAY THREE: TIME TRAVEL AND FORAGING ADVENTURE

It is time to leave the wilderness of the Isle of Luing behind and take back a step in time with a visit to the newly opened Kilmartin Museum.

Kilmartin Museum, nestled in the picturesque Scottish countryside, is a testament to Scotland's ancient past. This cultural gem, located in the historic Kilmartin Glen, invites visitors on a fascinating journey through millennia of history and archaeology. Through carefully curated exhibits the museum unveils the rich tapestry of Scotland's prehistoric and medieval heritage, showcasing remarkable artefacts, ancient stone carvings, and captivating archaeological finds.

From here the journey takes your guest onto the Mull of Kintyre where clients can immerse their senses in the beautiful grounds of Torrisdale Castle Estate. Here lush woodlands meet the stunningly beautiful coast of Kintyre and your guests will be warmly greeted at the award-winning Beinn an Tuirc Distillery.

A welcome drink awaits before being treated to an immersive stroll through nature within the Estate grounds. Amongst age-old trees by Torrisdale Water, they will learn about Scottish wild foods, their history and the art of foraging with their guide Heather. On return to the Distillery, the guests will enjoy a tasting selection of seasonal wild foods that have been carefully prepared to compliment wild botanicals used in the pick of the Distillery's own superb gins and spirits.



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On return to the Distillery, the guests will enjoy a tasting selection of seasonal wild foods that have been carefully prepared to compliment wild botanicals used in the pick of the Distillery's own superb gins and spirits. This memorable fusion creates a wonderful and unique experience on this historic Estate, connecting food and drink with the unique flavours of nature at its heart.

Move on to Campbelltown on the southern part of the Mull of Kintyre, with overnight at the Royal Hotel, a beautiful 4-star hotel overlooking the harbour.

DAY FOUR: WATERFALLS AND OPEN FIRE COOKING

This morning your guests will be travelling to Tarbert where they will be able to make the short walk up to Tarbert Castle. The view is a captivating blend of rugged coastal grandeur and serene loch waters. To the north, Highland hills add to the scenery, while the nearby village of Tarbert, with its colourful houses and bustling harbour, paints a picturesque scene.

From here the ferry will take them across to the Cowal Peninsula from where they embark on a scenic drive from Portavadie's ferry port to Dunoon's Puck's Glen. The route winds through charming villages, past tranquil lochs, and into the mystical ambience of ancient forests.

Puck's Glen welcomes visitors with its fairytale-like atmosphere – moss-covered rocks, babbling brooks, and enchanting woodland trails.

Your guests can follow a trail that winds along a Victorian walkway up the dramatic rocky gorge that is said to be home to mischievous spirits. Pass several waterfalls beneath the towering Douglas firs. Keep a sharp eye out and you might just spot the mystical Ghillie Dhu! Sturdy shoes will be required for this 1 hour trail.

Late afternoon your guests will be travelling to Ardkinglas Estate. Here your clients are invited to explore the connection between food, fire and nature with Chef William Hamer & Kabn Company in a beautiful characterful greenhouse at the stunning Ardkinglas Estate, Loch Fyne.

Guests will meet Chef William Hamer on the shores of Loch Fyne and will be walked through the Estate gardens to a charming, characterful greenhouse which is draped in old-growth vines, and charming lights offering a wonderful romantic experience. Guests will be able to embrace the fire and watch William cook or sit back and enjoy the meal in complete privacy.

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If time allows a private guided visit at [Ardkinglas House](#) can be arranged. The present house at Ardkinglas was completed in the autumn of 1907 and is generally considered to be the architect Sir Robert Lorimer's masterpiece. It was built at a time when traditional materials were skillfully and creatively mastered by expert craftsmen but when a wealth of new technology could be incorporated into the design. The house remains practically unaltered, it is a family home and generally not open to the public.

After the meal, you travel just a little further with the option to stay overnight at the beautiful shores of Loch Lomond, at [Loch Lomond Arms](#), a luxuriously hotel which has been restored to its former glory as a 17th century coaching inn.

DAY FIVE: FARMING EXPERIENCE

Before leaving the Argyll and Isles region why not include a visit at Lennox Farm. Established in 1750, [Lennox of Lomond](#) has seen eleven generations of the Lennox family running the farm right here on the western shores of Loch Lomond.

The family offers a range of activities for visitors from Sheepdog demonstrations to guided walks across the 1500 ha farmland.

After the visit, your guests might travel on to Glasgow or to Stirling and the central belt to continue their journey of Scotland.



Top Tip:

Golfers might extend their stay to two nights and spend a day of golf at Machrihanish Dune Golf Club (free shuttle service from the hotel) and visit some of the whisky distilleries that can be found in Campbeltown, such as Glen Scotia Distillery

Images:
Mount Stuart House



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