

DESTINATION GUIDE

INVERARAY, KNAPDALE, KILMARTIN & CRINAN
THE HEART OF ARGYLL



INVERARAY, KNAPDALE, KILMARTIN & CRINAN



This is the Heart of Argyll, a place rich in natural and historic wonder, surrounding the scenic and popular waterway of the Crinan Canal. You can seek out and explore countless natural, cultural and built heritage features and places, get active in the forests and native woodland, delve into our lochs and spark your creative spirit through many of our artists who live and work here.

With so many nooks and crannies, winding roads, hidden pathways and linked waterways to find and enjoy, you'll realise physical distancing has always come naturally here. Perfect for day trips or longer stays, this is the ideal base, literally in the middle of Argyll and the Isles.

INVERARAY AND NORTH LOCH FYNE

Overlooking the waters of Loch Fyne, Inveraray is the traditional county town of Argyll. Established in 1745 by the 3rd Duke of Argyll, head of the Clan Campbell, Inveraray is a stunning piece of Scottish Georgian architecture. The town is home to excellent eateries, shops, accommodation and the historic Inveraray Jail, a unique award-winning living museum.

A short walk from the town is the fairytale 18th century Inveraray Castle which remains the family home of the Duke of Argyll. The castle is set in extensive grounds with a number of walks, one of which climbs to the folly on Dun Na Cuaiche from where there is a spectacular view over the castle, town and loch.

Also worth a visit, just a few miles north at the head of the loch, is the legendary Loch Fyne Oyster Bar.

LOCHGILPHEAD, PORT ANN, LOCHGAIR, MINARD AND FURNACE

Lochgilphead is home to an exciting mix of independent shops and galleries, cafes and gift shops. Travelling north along the A83 on the banks of Loch Fyne there are great places to stop off and explore including Crarae Gardens, Leacainn Forest Walk, Auchindrain Township Museum and many woodland and forest walks close to Lochgair, Minard and Port Ann.

CRINAN CANAL

Sail, walk, cycle or kayak along the UK's prettiest shortcut. At just 9 miles long and in operation since it was built over 200 years ago, the canal connects the charming harbour at Crinan overlooking the Sound of Jura with Bellanoch, Dunardry, Cairnbaan and Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne.

KILMARTIN GLEN

One of Scotland's richest archaeological landscapes with over 800 ancient monuments is ready for you to unearth. All set within a 6 mile radius, this is the densest collection of ancient rock art in Europe. Also Kilmartin Glen has been occupied for over 7000 years and was once the heart of the ancient kingdom of Dalriada. Kilmartin Museum hosts guided walks in the Glen each Wednesday afternoon.

ARDUAIN, ARDFERN AND THE CRAIGNISH PENINSULA

A small and perfectly formed peninsula reaching into the Sound of Jura with a choice of walks, water sports, horse riding and wildlife spotting. Craignish Loch is always active with yachts moored around the pretty village of Ardfern.

KNAPDALE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

The land of 'knaps and dales' is characterised by twisting and turning lochs and steep ridges carved by the forces of nature and clothed in forests and woodland. Today Knapdale is home to the beavers released during the Scottish Beaver Trial. The pretty village of Tayvallich nestles around a natural harbour on west Loch Sween with sandy Kilmory Beach on the east shore just south of Castle Sween.

Taynish and Moine Mhor National Nature Reserves and the wetlands of the Add Estuary are some of the most rare and precious habitats in Europe, including sections of Scotland's ancient rain forest, literally dripping with epiphytes and mosses.

STAY CONNECTED Visit wildaboutargyll.co.uk/destinations/inveraray-knapdale-kilmartin-and-crinan

INVERARAY, KNAPDALE, KILMARTIN & CRINAN

TARBERT AND THE KILBERRY PENINSULA

The pretty historic fishing village of Tarbert with its cafés, bistros and galleries sits on the narrow neck of land linking the Kintyre peninsula to the rest of Argyll. To the north is the Kilberry peninsula with its beautiful unspoilt coastline overlooking the Paps of Jura and wealth of notable features, such as the Kilberry Sculpted Stones and St Columba's Cave.

CORRYVRECKAN WHIRLPOOL AND ARGYLL HOPE SPOT

The world's 3rd largest whirlpool and the marine protected areas of Argyll Hope Spot includes tidal races, deep water trenches just offshore, narrows, rocky islands and sheltered inlets, sand, shell or pebble beaches. This unique marine environment is host to some of the world's most endangered species, above and below the waterline. Wildlife and whale watching boat trips from Crinan Harbour, Craobh Haven or Seil Island all take in this remarkable area.

EXPERIENCE IT ALL WITH THE LOCALS

Book for you, friends and family to get out and about for a memorable experience.

THE FYNE DEN

A unique wood & sand indoor play area for children, featuring climbing, clambering, balancing, hiding and sand play.

[Website](#) | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)1499 320429
+44 (0)7931 656706

ARGYLL BESPOKE CAR TOURS

Guided, personal tours in a private vehicle with experienced guide, Cameron.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)7511 852245

CRAOBH HAVEN WATERSPORTS

Get on the water in Argyll with our dinghies, kayaks, power boats and paddleboards. Come and fish, explore and enjoy!

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)7904 284 310

HEATHERY HEIGHTS

Personal guide, Heather, will take you on a range of bespoke outdoor, adventure experiences including bagging peaks, challenging walks and navigation skills in Argyll and across Scotland.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)7899 765240

INVERARAY JAIL

Take a step back in time to this 19th century jail and experience what life was like behind bars as you explore this living museum and meet the costumed characters along the way.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
[Book online](#) >
+44 (0)1499 302381

BOAT TOURS

Venture West, Crinan Classic Charters, Sealife Adventures and Fyne Sea Tours - I know Martin from Fyne Sea Tours.

KATHLEEN CAMERON TOUR GUIDE

Explore Argyll and Scotland with experienced tour guide, Kathy, as she takes you to whisky distilleries, castles, incredible views and her 'secret' hidden gems.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)7775 691 641

VISIT CLADICH

Meet some real Highland cows with your very own tour guide on this farm tour with farm manager, Stuart.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >
+44 (0)7718 524158

CAKES IN THE CALLBOX

Pick up some homebaking (and locally-made jams) from an old-fashioned, traditional red call box. Payments through an honesty box. On the B840 about 1.5 miles from Cladich and 1 mile before Ardbrecknish and Loch Awe Boats, opposite the road end for Keppochan Farm.

ARGYLL BEAVER AND WILDLIFE CENTRE

Learn about the Argyll Beavers, spot wildlife at the hide, take a guided walk into the temperate rainforest or a seashore safari.

[Website](#) > | [Email](#) >

SWIM - DAN THE MERMAN - ARGYLL

Experienced, qualified open water swim coach, Dan is your guide to safe wild swimming and dipping in the pristine waters of the Argyll Hope Spot or in secret bays of Loch Fyne in collaboration with Fyne Sea Tours.

[Website](#) >

HEART OF ARGYLL

A local group of tourism businesses who are passionate about this area. We work together to ensure your visit to this special destination is magical. Our free downloadable guidebook available here.

[Website](#) > | [Guidebook](#) >

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Go the extra mile and visit some less well-known hidden gems and places. They are well-worth exploring to make the most of your post-lockdown trip.

- Achnabreck Cup and Ringmarked Stones
- Auchindrain Township
- Argyll Beaver Centre at Barrandaimh and Bellanoch Viewpoint
- Castle Sween, Kilmory Knap Chapel and Beach
- Carnasserie Castle
- Crarae Gardens
- Dun na Cuaiche Viewpoint, Inveraray

- Kilberry Sculptured Stones
- Keills Chapel
- St Columba's Cave, Ellary

MEET OUR PRODUCERS

Read our Taste of Place Trail Stories at
www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk/taste-trails



STAY CONNECTED Visit wildaboutargyll.co.uk/destinations/inveraray-knapdale-kilmartin-and-crinan

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

Travel to Inveraray and onwards to Kilmartin and Knapdale by car or bus via the A82 and then the A83. Alternatively, travel via the A85 and then south after Dalmally to Inveraray, or go as far as Oban and then follow the A816 southwards to Kilmartin.

Or catch the ferry connection from Arran or Cowal to Kintyre and northwards to the Heart of Argyll.

Guided experiences including beaver walks, foraging, dark skies, wild swimming, archaeological treasures, sea shore safaris.



Castles



Marine & Boat Trips



Nature & Wildlife



Artists



Pre-historic Monuments

From Left to right.
Standing Stones in Kilmartin Glen
Tarbert Harbour and Castle
Argyll Beaver & Wildlife Centre at Barrandaimh,
Knapdale



Go wild and plan your adventure
at wildaboutargyll.co.uk

STAY SOCIAL WITH US

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#WildAboutArgyll #ScotlandsAdventureCoast



WILD ABOUT
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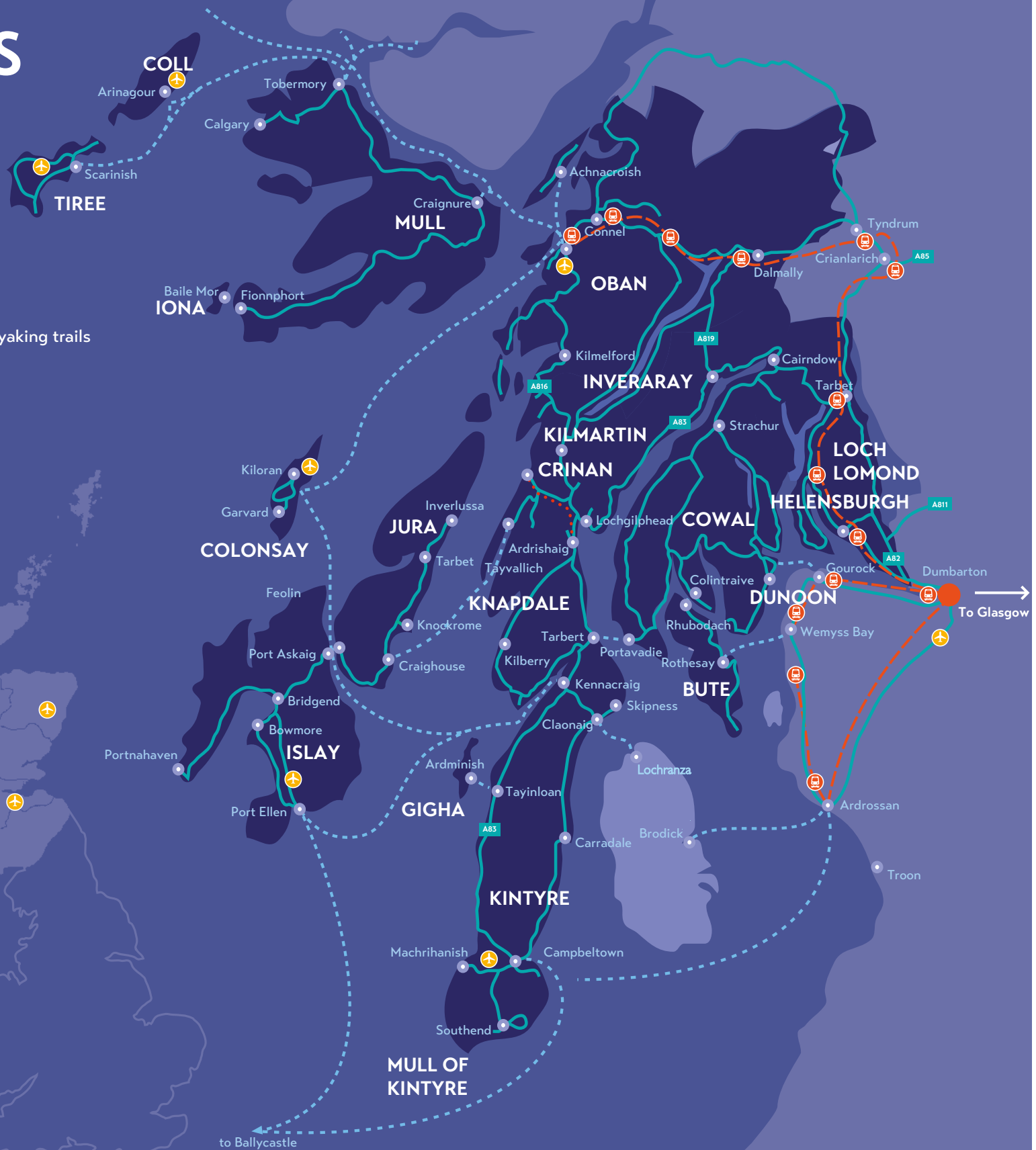
ARGYLL & THE ISLES

SCOTLAND'S ADVENTURE COAST


-  **3723km** of coastline
-  **1555km** of hiking, biking & kayaking trails
-  **61** medieval castles
-  **24** gin and whisky distilleries
-  **23** inhabited islands
-  **4** national nature reserves

-  Main Roads
-  Vehicle Ferry Routes
-  Passenger Ferry Routes
-  Canal
-  Airports
-  Train Stations


Transport links are changing regularly as lockdown lifts. Please always check before travelling and book ahead where possible.
wildaboutargyll.co.uk/travel




GET ACTIVE WITH YOUR TRAVEL

 Pack up the car and bring all your gear with you, ready to explore by land or sea with a ferry crossing. Plan your route and prepare your car for the weather.

 Take advantage of great bus services with West Coast Motors from Glasgow and the central belt, with connections throughout Argyll and the Isles with all other modes of transport. Sit back and enjoy the views or hop on and off as you please. Plan ahead at westcoastmotors.co.uk

 With a direct rail link from Glasgow to Oban, The Gateway to the Isles, you can make your journey in good time, and less stress. The ScotRail Highland Explorer launched early 2021, has cycle carriages so you can be as active as you like once you arrive. Plan ahead with scotrail.co.uk and check out the Rail and Sail tickets with CalMac Ferries too.

 If you are moving in and around areas within Argyll and the Isles, make the most of the great outdoors in all its

Day trips, short breaks and longer holidays all start with the journey. The joy of Argyll and the Isles is that all routes to and from all areas enjoy beautiful scenery, stop off places, and points of interest.

beauty, by exploring on foot. There are an abundance of walk trails to discover, inland or via the coastline. To get those legs moving check out wildaboutargyll.co.uk

 Argyll and the Isles has as many waterways as it does road and rail links. Ports and harbours are spread throughout the west coast, our islands and peninsulas to give you access to amazing sailing routes.

Or start by land at any of the many ferry ports and start your journey with a unique CalMac experience. For sailing routes visit sailscotland.co.uk and plan with ferry timetables at calmac.co.uk

 Cycling really is one of the best ways to actively travel throughout Argyll and the Isles. With carefully designed cycle routes soaking up the best landscapes and places of interest, you can enjoy a gentle pedal or step it up a gear on a more intense ride on one of our many long distance cycle routes with the **Wild About Argyll bike packing trail**.