

DESTINATION GUIDE

COWAL



COWAL



Beautiful contrasts and hidden treasures are waiting for you to uncover here. The Cowal peninsula is the seaboard gateway to Scotland's first National Park and is a vast land of rich Highland diversity with charming little villages, mighty mountain peaks, dense forests and deep glacial lochs. What's more, this is a place where time moves differently, yet is so easy to get to from Glasgow – and its shores are known as world-class sailing destinations!

Create space in your life to go that extra mile and enjoy short trips and breaks to Cowal, guaranteed to enrich your well-being no matter which pace you like to travel at. It's all here for you, what are you waiting for?

ARGYLL FOREST PARK

Be deep in nature in the first ever designated forest park in the UK, named in 1935. Situated in the north of the Cowal peninsula, Argyll Forest Park extends to 22,500 acres with two main areas; the gentler forested area around the Holy Loch, Loch Eck, Kilmun, Blairmore and Ardentiny with lush gardens and shady woodland walks and biking trails, and the higher more rugged and dramatic landscape of Munros and Corbetts to the north around Loch Long and Loch Goil which has attracted mountaineers for over a century, and more so now today! A must-visit is Benmore Botanic Garden with its majestic redwood avenue and stunning plant collections and nearby magical Pucks Glen which has to be an all-time favourite gorge walk.

ARGYLL'S SECRET COAST

Tucked away in a corner of south west Cowal, Argyll's Secret Coast is a much-loved hidden treasure for those who travel that extra mile to seek it out. The winding coastline reveals wildlife, tranquillity and impressive scenery at every turn – you'll be overwhelmed at the amount of beauty. It's wild and remote with hills, glens, rugged coast, white beaches, sea lochs, clear waters and ancient forests. Bordered by two beautiful stretches of water – the Kyles of Bute and Loch Fyne – this treasured lovely pocket of Argyll is also peppered with pretty villages with eateries and galleries at Kames, Tighnabruaich, Colintrave and Otter Ferry, not to mention the stunning world-class Portavadie on the shores of Loch Fyne. Will you share the secret coast with others or keep it all to yourself?

DUNOON AND SOUTH COWAL

Dunoon is home to the annual world highland dancing championship at the Cowal Gathering (a festival of Scottish culture and family entertainment) which will take place this year 25th -27th August 2022 - and is also the main resort on the Cowal peninsula, sitting proudly on the Firth

of Clyde with great local shops, health, leisure and cultural facilities as well as pubs and eateries. The PS Waverley (the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world!) sails on the Clyde, and regularly drops off and picks up, at Dunoon Pier. This season they celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Waverley's maiden voyage which took place on 16th June 1947.

South Cowal is bounded by Glen Massan and the Holy Loch in the north and stretches southwards to Ardyne Point and Toward Castle with several forest walks and cycle tracks to relish with panoramic views across the Firth of Clyde and Bute.

NORTH LOCH FYNE

Venture along the east shore of upper Loch Fyne to discover numerous villages and stop off to capture and explore the scenery and local friendly hospitality at Strathlachlan, Strachur, Creggans, St Catherines and Cairndow – with the famous Loch Fyne Oyster Bar at the head of the loch, where you can get a real taste of Argyll. For those wanting to roam, there are great woodland and garden walks, pebble beaches, old castle ruins, chapels, churches and monumental grounds.

STAY CONNECTED Visit wildaboutargyll.co.uk/destinations/Dunoon-and-Cowal



PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

Travel to and from Cowal by bus or car via the A82 along Loch Lomondside and then the A83 over the Rest and Be Thankful, turning south onto the A815 shortly before Cairndow – or by ferry across The Firth of Clyde from Gourock. A passenger ferry (operated by Argyll Ferries) links the train station and the car ferry (Western Ferries) runs from McInroys Point to Hunter's Quay.

Alternatively, you can take the ferry from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, then across to Cowal at the north of the island on the Rhubodach to Colintrave ferry.



Events



Mountain Biking & Cycling



Forests & Gardens



Artists & Crafts



Food & Drink

From Left to right.
The Infinity Pool at Portavadie
Gorge Walking in Pucks Glen
Mountain biking at Corlarach near Dunoon

EXPERIENCE IT ALL WITH THE LOCALS

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

ARDKINGLAS WOODLAND GARDEN

Open all year round, this glorious woodland garden in Cairndow is home to nature walks, a Fairy Trail and a Gruffalo Trail.

No booking required.

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

+44 (0)1499 600261

BEAGLE CRUISES

Offering sailing holidays around the stunning West Coast of Scotland on our fully prepared and comfortable yacht, Yemaya.

[Website >](#)

CLAN MACEWAN

Contact Sandra to find out more about the MacEwan clan and their history in the Cowal area.

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

DRIMSYNIE ESTATE HOLIDAY VILLAGE

A stunning leisure complex with a spa, gym, pool, restaurants and bars as well as thrilling 'Go Active' activity sessions such as snorkelling, fencing, golfing and carting.

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

Download the app

or book online [here >](#)

+44 (0)1301 703 344

DUNOON BURGH HALL

Exhibitions, art installations, music and workshops at this gallery and creative space in Dunoon's fully-accessible cultural hub.

[Email >](#)

+44 (0)1369 701776

DUNOON PRESENTS

See what's on and find things to do in Dunoon and the surrounding area.

[Website >](#)

FYNE SEA TOURS

Wildlife and scenic cruises and private charters on Loch Fyne leaving from Portavadie Marina.

[Website >](#) | [Book online >](#)

+44 (0)7961 530974

HISTORIC KILMUN

The Argyll Mausoleum is located adjacent to Kilmun Church in the village of Kilmun, Argyll, Scotland on the shores of the Holy Loch. The history of Scotland has been associated with this area for thousands of years.

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

HUNTERS QUAY HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Find lots of 'Go Active' activities such as carting or crazy golf or enjoy the pools, gym, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi.

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

Download the app or book online [here >](#)

+44 (0)333 270 2782

LOCHGOILHEAD KAYAK HIRE

Kayak, canoe, sport yak and stand-up paddleboard hire on Loch Goil with Carrick Castle as a backdrop.

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

+44 (0)7901 751810

PORTAVADIE

Outdoor infinity pool, gym, spa and leisure experience at this 5-star resort and marina.

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

+44 (0)1700 811075 (ext 225)

QUEEN'S HALL

Multipurpose building hosting live music events, fitness studios, a spin studio, a children's soft play area, an extensive library and café.

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

+44 (0)1369 800 500

RIVERSIDE LEISURE CENTRE

The Riverside has two pools, a fitness suite and a health suite as well as a café for coffees and snacks.

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

+44 (0)1369 701170

TIGHNABRUAICH SAILING SCHOOL

Sailing tuition on the Kyles of Bute in sheltered coastal waters surrounded by stunning scenery.

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

+44 (0)7876 227021

WRECKSPEDITIONS

The Clyde's most amazing landmarks and beautiful islands are all within easy reach.

[Website >](#)

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Go the extra mile and visit some less well-known hidden gems and places, that are well-worth exploring.

- Ardentiny Beach and Forest Walks
- Ardkinglas House Woodland Gardens and the Gruffalo Trail
- Ardlamont Point and the walk to Ostel Bay
- Argyll Mausoleum and Historic Kilmun
- Blairmore Pier and Cafe
- Castle Lachlan and Kilmorie Chapel
- Cormonanchan Woodland Walks, Loch Goil
- Kilmodan Church and Carved Stones, Glendaruel
- Kilmun Arboretum
- Strachur Smiddy Museum

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

STAY SOCIAL WITH US

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WILD ABOUT
ARGYLL

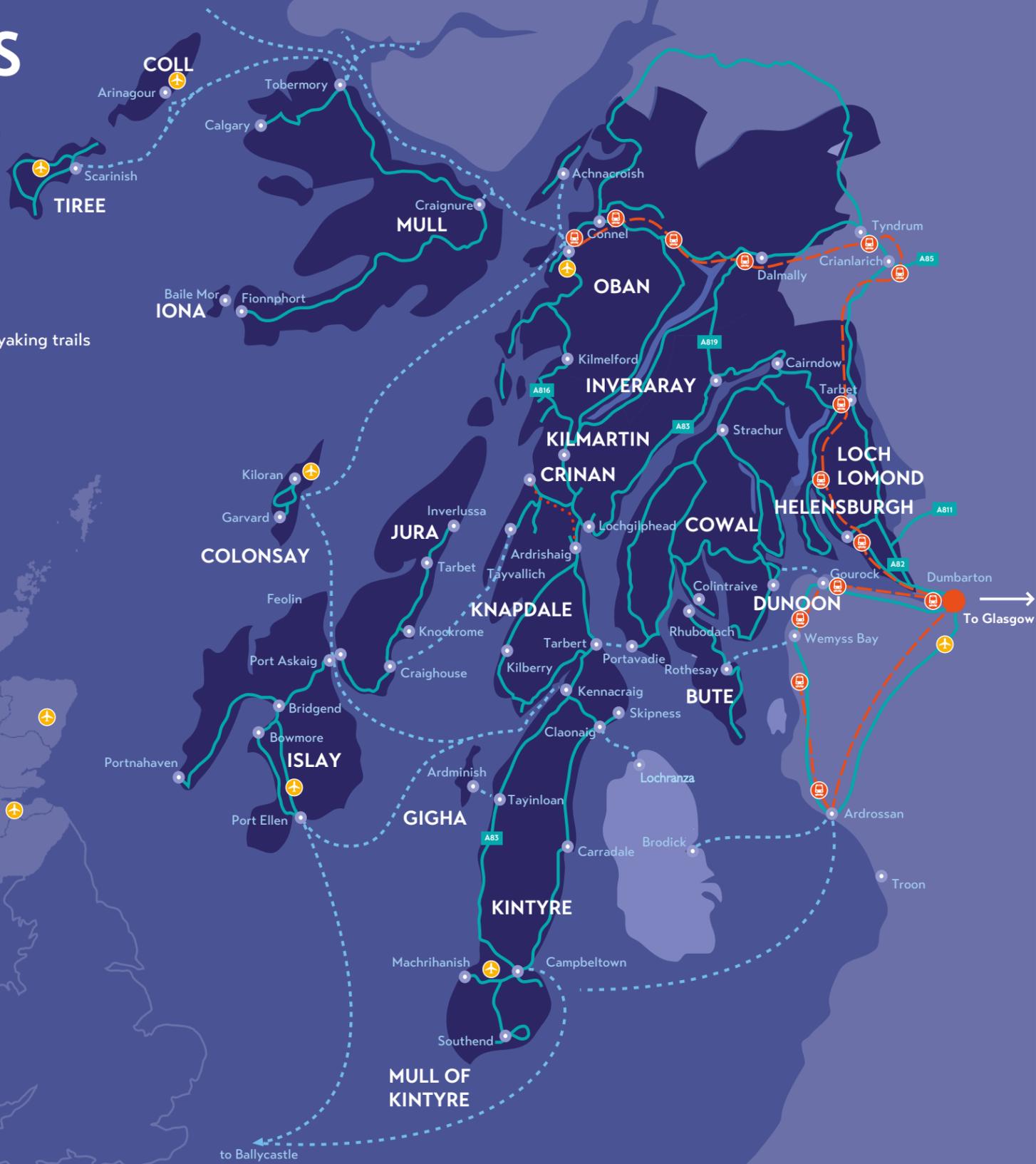
ARGYLL & THE ISLES

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

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**.

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.