

DESTINATION GUIDE

BUTE



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Bute is an island of wildlife, adventure, beautiful scenery and great beaches. Bute is also the most accessible of Argyll's islands, with a short 40 minute ferry crossing across the Firth of Clyde from Wymess Bay and an even shorter 3 minute crossing at the top of the Island from Colintraive. Thanks to its quick accessibility, and its balmy climate with lots of palm trees, it has been a popular holiday spot to come 'doon the watter' for a week of fresh air and sunshine. Only 15 miles long and 5 miles wide, Bute is a lovely place to explore on foot or by bike, or even on the popular open-top bus tour!



Bute is a lovely place to explore on foot or by bike, or even on the popular open-top bus tour! Most of Bute's inhabitants live around the two wide bays on the island's eastern side, so if you're looking for peace, solitude and the best beaches, head west. Ettrick Bay is a fantastic stretch of sand with a great café, while Scalpsie Bay is home to a seal colony. The West Island Way is 25-mile walk that takes you the length of the island with a loop in the South.

Most of the island's towns and villages are on the east with wonderful villas and mansions lining the coast whereas the west is much quieter with sandy beaches and amazing views across to Arran, Inchmarnock and Cowal.

NORTH BUTE & BUTE COMMUNITY FOREST

North Bute is characterised by ancient woodland, commercial forestry, moorland, a rocky coastline and a strong sense of remoteness. A large area is the Bute Community Forest which has a number of fascinating trails and paths including the Balnakailly Loop, a stunning viewpoint at the WWII Bunker, a Bio Cache Challenge, composting loos and BBQ area for kayakers and much more.

The Balnakailly path leads through the Rhubodach Forest to an abandoned settlement with great views over the Kyles of Bute National Scenic Area and ample opportunity to spot wildlife virtually every step of the way. Just perfect for those who love the great outdoors and getting up close and personal with nature.

SOUTH BUTE, MOUNT STUART AND GARDENS

The landscape of South Bute is much softer with rolling farmland and pockets of forest and woodland, and idyllic views across to Arran and over the Firth of Clyde.

Mount Stuart is one of the world's most impressive neo gothic mansions. Home to the Stuarts of Bute, descendants of the Royal House of Stuart, the flamboyant house and its 300 acres of gardens reflect the artistic, religious and astrological interests of the 3rd Marquess of Bute in its architecture, furnishings and outstanding art collection. Mount Stuart is Bute's jewel in its crown.

ROTHESAY TOWN

Rothesay, is Bute's main town, a seaside resort brimming with character, great places for refreshments and traditional, welcoming shops. It is a striking town stretching along the shores of Rothesay Bay with Rothesay Castle at its heart surrounded by a moat. The town dates back to medieval times but it was during the Victorian era that it developed as a much loved thriving seaside resort.

LOCH FAD

Loch Fad, the 'long loch' cuts the island in half along the Highland Boundary Fault and is renowned for its scenic beauty, fishing, boat hire and huge diversity of bird life.

ETTRICK BAY, SCALPSIE BAY AND ST NINIAN'S BAY (THE STRAAD)

For beach lovers, the west coast of the island presents three sandy beaches with short walks with way marked features of interest including a bird hide at the south of Ettrick Bay, St Ninian's Chapel near the Straad and panoramic views over Arran and the Holy Isle above Scalpsie Bay.

STAY CONNECTED Visit wildaboutargyll.co.uk/destinations/bute

EXPERIENCE IT ALL WITH THE LOCALS

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

MOUNT STUART

A remarkable stately home with detailed craftsmanship inside and out and surrounded by gardens boasting arboricultural and horticultural collections of global significance.

[Book online >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44 (0)1700 503877

ISLE OF BUTE GIN

Small batch craft-gin distillers offering distillery tours, cocktail-making and gin-tasting experiences.

[Website >](#)

BUTE KITCHEN

Enjoy a box of Bute produce delivered to your Bute holiday accommodation or book a private chef who will cook up a meal using local Bute produce.

[Book online >](#)

BIKE BUTE

Explore the Isle of Bute by electric bike. The e-bikes can be hired for a full or ½ day and there is a VeloPlus companion e-bike available for wheelchair users plus trailers for young children.

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

Hire your car with this community car club to explore the wonderful Isle of Bute.

[Website >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44 (0)1700 503181

ROTHESAY LEISURE CENTRE

Full-length swimming pool with a beach area, a fitness suite with Origin equipment, a health suite including a sauna and a steam room.

[Website >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44(0)1700 504300

STUNNING BEACHES

Butes coast line is nearly all beach, with many places to sunbath perfect for beach lovers, the west coast of the island presents three sandy beaches with short walks with way marked features of interest including a bird hide at the south of Ettrick Bay, St Ninian's Chapel near the Straad and panoramic views over Arran and the Holy Isle above Scalpsie Bay. All our beaches are swimmable so bring your towel, bikini and trunks.

MARINAS

Bute is the perfect sail way adventure with two marinas to moor up in. Port Bannatyne has a spectacular amenities to get settled and clean with Rothesay Harbour bringing you into the heart of the Island.



PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

Start your adventure with a ferry crossing from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay, either as a foot passenger or with your car. The ferry connects with a regular train and bus service to and from Glasgow and there are service buses and bike hire on the island, so why not leave the car behind?

An alternative route is a short ferry link between Rhubodach, north of Bute, and Colintraive at the Cowal peninsula. This can link with the ferry between Hunters Quay and McInroe's Point near Gourock on the mainland, or you can drive north on the A82 along Loch Lomond joining the A83 then south on the A815 and A886.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Explore the island and go the extra mile and visit some less well-known hidden gems and places.

- Bird Hides at Loch Fad and Loch Guien
- Bute Museum, Rothesay
- City Sightseeing Open Top Bus Tours
- Dunagoil Vitrified Fort and caves
- Beaches beaches beaches
- St Blane's Chapel, has its roots in a monastery founded here in the AD 500s
- St Ninians Bay and Chapel, where the Vikings used to beath
- The multiple award winning Victorian toilets - a place to spend a penny
- The West Island Way is 25-mile walk that takes you the length of the island with a loop in the South
- Amazing views across to Arran, Inchmarnock and Cowal.
- Otters, seals, wildlife, Bute has it all



Built Heritage



Cycling & Walking



Wildlife



Beaches



Gardens

MEET OUR PRODUCERS

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



From Left to right.
The Open Top Bus Tour on Bute
Arriving in Rothesay Bay on the Calmac Ferry
Paddling at Ettrick Bay on Bute

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

STAY SOCIAL WITH US

@WildAboutArgyll

#WildAboutArgyll #ScotlandsAdventureCoast



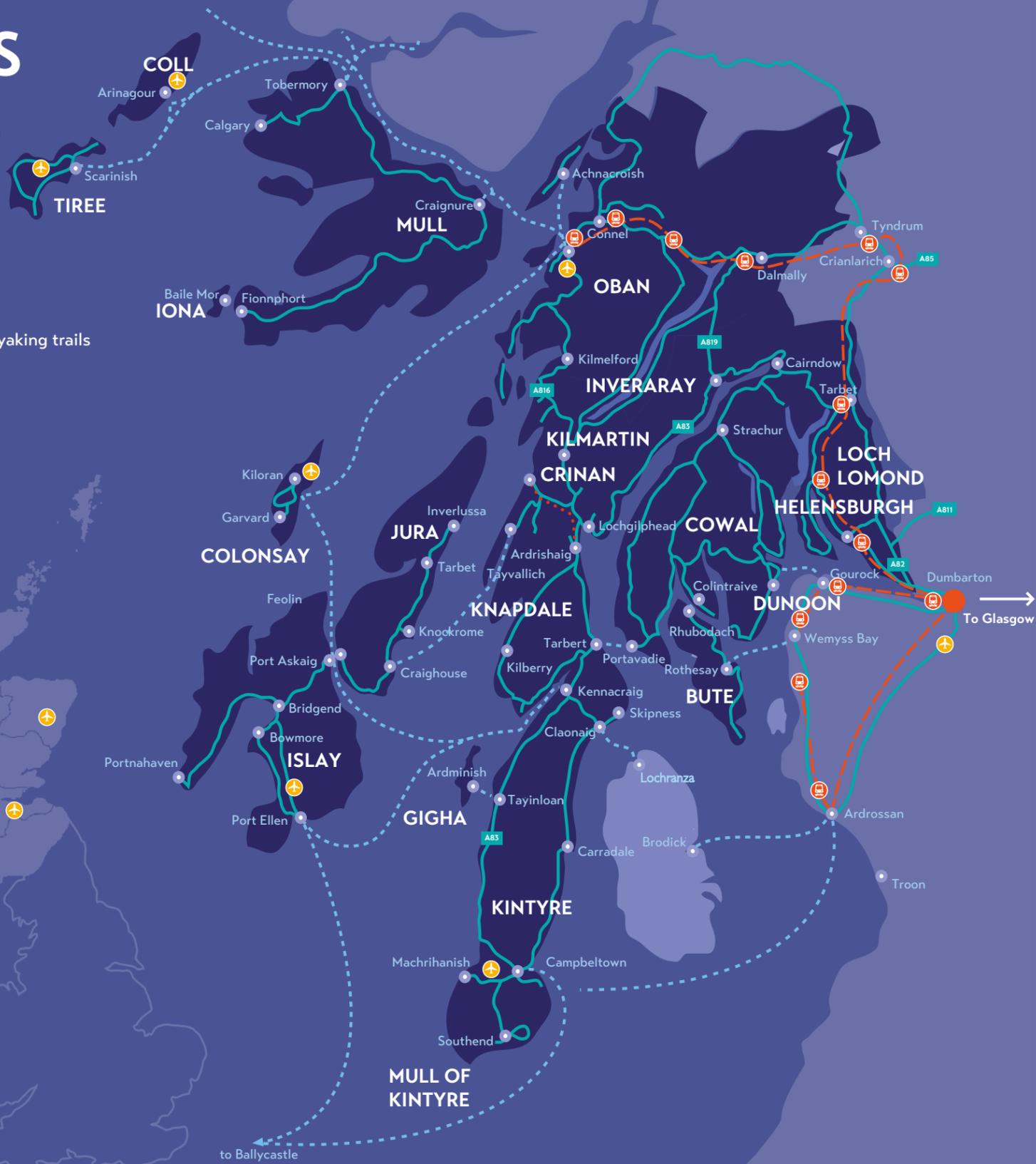
ARGYLL & THE ISLES

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.