

DESTINATION GUIDE

ISLAY, JURA & COLONSAY



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The three jewels of the sea, these Inner Hebridean islands will fill you with joy and enrich your well-being. The Isles of Islay, Jura and Colonsay all boast spectacular beaches and mesmerising wilderness. Home to a vast variety of birds and wildlife, big unblemished skies and, of course, world famous distilleries, these islands are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean and will have you relaxing with the peace and quiet, tapping your toes to traditional music, tantalizing your tongue with the local produce or delighting your ears with the sounds of nature – not least the elusive Corncrake.



ISLAY

Southernmost of the Inner Hebrides, Islay is famed for its smoky whiskies, overwintering geese and miles of sandy beaches. The island's main features are undoubtedly the single malt whiskies distilled across nine white distilleries, which are sought after the world over. Take a tour at your most loved, or all nine to create a real unique experience you'll never forget, if you keep the tasting to a sensible level! In addition, you can more than satisfy your senses with year round wildlife and bird watching, enjoying quiet unspoiled sandy beaches and meeting the friendly locals.

Islay has a unique sea faring heritage, and many fascinating archaeological sites from standing stones, forts and duns to Finlaggan, the political centre of the 12th century in the Hebrides and headquarters of the Lord of the Isles.

JURA

If you're looking to see more wildlife than you do people, Jura is for you. Considered one of Scotland's last wildernesses with the population of around 200 out-numbered by over 5000 deer. Jura, believed to originate from the Norse 'Island of the Deer' is a walkers' paradise with the Paps of Jura being the main destination. Continue your whisky tour here at the distillery in Craighouse - and venture north to the recently opened gin distillery. The west coast is wild and not the easiest to access, but it really is the ideal place to enjoy solitude at its very best. You can also visit the world's third largest whirlpool, Corryvreckan, which sits between Jura and nearby Scarba in the north – it's a sight like no other.

COLONSAY

For lovers of wildlife and remoteness, Colonsay is one of the most remote inhabited islands in the Inner Hebrides, and is of great interest for birds, the machair and archaeology. The island and neighbouring Oransay, accessible at low tide has been inhabited since 7000 BC meaning there are many archaeological remains to explore and get a sense of life here in years gone by. This tiny island is believed to have the richest flora of all the islands with over 500 different species recorded. Kiloran Bay has to be one of the most stunning beaches in all of Argyll. A delicious local product is the Isle of Colonsay Wildflower Honey. Pack your binoculars as you'll have over a hundred different birds to spot, including the rare chough and corncrake.

STAY CONNECTED Visit wildaboutargyll.co.uk/destinations/islay-jura-and-colonsay

EXPERIENCE IT ALL WITH THE LOCALS

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

ISLAY OUTDOORS

Guided tours on Islay including, wildlife walks, fishing trips, bird-watching, peat-cutting, field sports and much more.

[Website >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44 (0) 1496 850 643
+44 (0) 7985 403 537

ISLAY SEA ADVENTURES

Wildlife, whirlpool and fishing tours and an unmissable on-board seafood dining experience!

[Book online >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44 (0)1496 300129

ISLAY GIN

Sample some of the wonderful Isle of Islay Nerabus gins with distillery owners Audrey and John.

[Website >](#) | [Email >](#)
+44 (0)1496 810 111

BEN SHAKESPEARE PHOTOGRAPHY

A fun Islay photoshoot experience with local photographer, Ben, to capture your holiday memories.

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

JURA BOAT TOURS

Circumnavigate the Hebridean Isle of Jura, spot amazing marine wildlife and visit the Corryvreckan Whirlpool on this fun RIB tour.

[Email >](#)
+44 (0)7976 280195

LAGAVULIN DISTILLERY

Enjoy a cask-strength tasting, a warehouse experience and distillery tours at this award-winning distillery.

[Book online >](#)



PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

Travel to and from Islay and Jura by bus or car to Kennacraig on the Kintyre peninsula and then the 2 hour ferry crossing. If travelling by car to Jura take the Islay ferry from Kennacraig (or Oban on certain days) before taking the short connecting ferry from Port Askaig across to Jura. If by foot, take the passenger only service from Tayvallich near Lochgilphead to Craighouse on Jura.

For Colonsay, drive, take the bus, or train to Oban for the ferry trip to this island.

You can even fly to Islay from Glasgow and to Islay and Colonsay from Oban.

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.

COLONSAY

- Balnahard Beach
- Oronsay Priory

ISLAY

- Big Strand Beach
- Islay Woollen Mill
- Kilchoman Parish Church and Military Cemetery
- Persabus Pottery
- The Oa and Loch Gruinart RSPB Reserves

JURA

- Ardlussa and Lussa Gin Distillery
- Barnhill where George Orwell wrote 1984
- Corran Sands

MEET OUR PRODUCERS

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



-  Distilleries
-  Bird Watching
-  Food & Drink
-  Beaches
-  Golf

From Left to right.
Ardbeg Distillery on Islay
Kiloran Bay on Colonsay
Deerstalking on Jura
Golf on the Machrie, Islay

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

STAY SOCIAL WITH US

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#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. And with the launch later this year of cycle carriages from Scotrail, 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.