

Island Adventures



Your Detailed Itinerary

Island Adventures

Day 1

From the Ayrshire port of Ardrossan, take the ferry to Arran. This island, sometimes called 'Scotland in Miniature' because it has features of both Highland and Lowland Scotland, has been a popular holiday destination for generations. **Brodict Castle and Country Park** is a popular attraction and the island also has an excellent heritage museum.

Take time to drive round the island by the coast road (the A841), with a **distillery**, castle and prehistoric sites to visit including atmospheric standing stones on Machrie Moor; also fine mountain views, including Goat Fell, to the north. In addition, fresh local produce is an island feature and there is also a Taste Trail.

Day 2

Leave the island by the Lochranza to Claonaig ferry. Back on the mainland, called Kintyre, take the

B8001 north to Kennacraig for the ferry to Islay, arriving at Port Ellen. Islay is noted for whisky distilling and there is a choice of distilleries to visit, one being Bowmore Distillery, north of Port Ellen on the A846.

Take the A847 westward for the **Museum of Islay Life**, return east for **Loch Gruinart** a nature reserve with fine seascapes, seals and geese in winter.

Day 3

Take the A846 east for the short ferry crossing from Port Askaig to Jura. This island has one road, one distillery, one hotel, few people and lots of red deer. Visit it for a flavour of the wild and remote. A sign lets you know where the public road stops! – and beyond this is the remote farmhouse where the writer George Orwell wrote his futuristic novel '1984'. Either stay overnight on Jura or return to Islay.

Day 4

Leave Islay from Port Ellen, ferry returns to Kennacraig. Take the A83 north to Lochgilphead and join the A816, heading north to Oban. Cross from Oban to Craignure on Mull.

Duart Castle is seen as you cross on the ferry from Oban, can be found to the west of the ferry terminal along the A849. Many visitors continue west on the A849 for the Ross of Mull and the beautiful Isle of Iona.

Day 5

Cross on the foot passenger only ferry to **Iona**. Explore the island, its abbey and beaches, then return to Mull, going back east on the A849. If time permits loop around the west coast of the island on the B8035, enjoying wild coastal scenery by Loch na Keal and Ulva, then taking the B8073 via Calgary for Tobermory. There is a museum, distillery, craft shops and a gallery in

this attractive little town, founded originally as a fishing station.

Day 6

Leave Mull on the ferry from Tobermory to Kilchoan, continuing on the B8007 through the beautiful scenery of the Ardnamurchan peninsula. Take the A861 at Salen for the 'Road to the Isles', the A830, and the ferry port of Mallaig. Cross to Armadale on Skye.

Visit the **Clan Donald Skye Visitor Centre**, with its expansive estate including castle and museum, then, taking the A851 north for the A87, overnight in the Broadford area.

Day 7

From Broadford, take B8083 for **Elgol** and views of the Cuillin Hills. Return to Broadford, taking the A87 for Portree, the island's main town.

Continue north on A855 – magnificent scenery at several points, notably the Quiraing. Circle west to join A87, then continue west on A850 for **Dunvegan Castle**. Return to the mainland, crossing on the Skye road bridge to **Kyle of Lochalsh**.

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From Arran in the Firth of Clyde to the romance of the Isle of Skye, the western seaboard has islands which vary from the traditional holiday playground to the wild and empty. A good network of ferry services makes getting around straightforward and will give you the freedom to hop from island to island.



1
BRODICK CASTLE AND COUNTRY PARK
Former seat of the Dukes of Hamilton, with furniture, paintings and trophies on display. Famous collection of rhododendrons in the gardens.



2
ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY
Lochranza, one of Scotland's newer distilleries, is in an attractive setting and offers popular tours and tastings plus a visitor centre.



3
MUSEUM OF ISLAY LIFE – Housed in a former church, island heritage presented by way of artefacts and photographs. Edwardian and Victorian times well represented; also the story of whisky distilling.



4
LOCH GRUINART, ISLAY – Gentle, level walking here on the north coast of the island, with magnificent deserted beaches and views across to Colonsay.



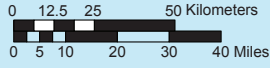
5
DUART CASTLE – 13th-century fortress, the ancestral home of the Clan Maclean, standing on a crag overlooking the Sound of Mull. Spectacular views from the battlements.



6
IONA ABBEY – Historic site connected with early Christianity in Scotland. Restored abbey buildings originally founded around 1200. Burial place of early Scottish kings.



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7
CLAN DONALD SKYE VISITOR CENTRE – Mature gardens with extensive walks and nature trails plus museum telling the story of the powerful Clan Donald – the Lords of the Isles.



8
ELGOL – Signposted walk (car park on the hill before the harbour) for magnificent view of the Cuillins across Loch Scavaig. Only the first part is suitable for the casual walker.



9
DUNVEGAN CASTLE – Seat of the Clan Macleod for seven centuries, with many family artefacts on display.



10
SEAPROBE ATLANTIS, KYLE OF LOCHLASH – The UK's only passenger carrying semi-submersible boat allows visitors close-ups of marine life through its underwater observation windows.