

Journey through the Inner Hebrides



Your Detailed Itinerary

Journey through the Inner Hebrides

Day 1

A good bus service links the central belt of Scotland (Glasgow) with the Kintyre Peninsula, where Kennacraig is the ferry terminal for Islay. A local bus service connects both Port Ellen and Port Askaig on Islay with Bowmore, suggested overnight. It is also worth considering using a local guiding service to see the best of the island sites.

island of **Colonsay**. N.B. Check ferry timetables in advance to explore this trip. Spend some time on this beautiful little island, which also has direct links with Oban on the mainland. There is lots to discover: visit the woodland gardens of Colonsay House or cross the tidal sands to the ancient Oronsay Priory. Otherwise, return from Islay to Kennacraig and bus to Lochgilphead, then change for Oban. Overnight Oban.

visitors to Duart Castle, the ancient seat of the Clan Maclean on a spectacular sea-edge location. Overnight Tobermory.

local produce on offer. Take the passenger-only ferry from the north end of the island for Port Appin on the mainland and overnight.

However, accommodation is limited and should be booked in advance. Train connections from Arisaig and Mallaig enable an easy return to Glasgow with spectacular scenery on the way.

Day 2

Visit **Bowmore Distillery** and the Italian-influenced Bowmore Round Church. To sample the more peaty flavours of the distilleries at the south end of the island, take a bus to Port Ellen, and a connecting bus to your selected distillery - for example, Ardbeg. Best to pre-book a tour. Return to Bowmore.

Day 4

Explore the busy ferry port of Oban with its pleasant harbourfront and promenade – excellent shopping, seafood restaurants, distillery, local museum and much more. Make a short excursion to see **Dunstaffnage Castle**. Overnight Oban.

Day 6

From the town it is possible to link up with operators for a **wildlife excursion** – white-tailed sea eagles a speciality! There are also several cruising options and the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Conservation Trust have a shop on the main street. Overnight Tobermory.

Day 9

Go to the main road (A828) for the Fort William bus – about 45 minutes walking or take a low-cost local taxi from Port Appin to the main road (tel: 07530 830 030). If time permits, explore this important town. From Fort William, there are good transport links to Glasgow. Alternatively, for an unmissable visit to the Small Isles (Rum, Eigg, Canna and Muck), either catch the train at Fort William for Arisaig (overnight) or continue to Mallaig (overnight).

Day 3

An optional route back to Oban in the summer months (Apr - Oct) is to take the ferry from Port Askaig to the

Day 5

Depart by ferry for Craignure and bus connection to **Tobermory** on the island of Mull. There is an option in Craignure to catch the coach that connects with some ferries to take

Day 7

Return to Oban from Craignure, then go by ferry from Oban to the nearby island of **Lismore** on Loch Linnhe. Overnight Lismore.

Day 8

Explore the island. Bikes are available for hire in Oban to make the most of the stunning sea views. Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre has a café for refreshment with delicious

Day 10

Explore the Small Isles. Both the **Arisaig** and Mallaig links allow a combination of islands to be visited, depending on departure days. **Canna, Rum, Muck and Eigg** are all welcoming, each with a different character, with wildlife, walking and geology important themes.

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Good integration of bus, train and ferry means it is quite straightforward to sample many of the Inner Hebridean islands. Even if time is limited, there are plenty of 'there-and-back-again' day cruising options for at least a glimpse of island life – and some great views of seabirds, seals and probably whales as well!



1 WHISKY DISTILLERIES ON ISLAY – Bunnahabhain, Caol Ila, Kilchoman, Bruichladdich, Bowmore, Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg are all distilleries on the island. Most offer tours and tastings but check with your VisitScotland Information Centre first.



2 COLONSAY – A Hebridean gem and a superb island experience, unspoilt Colonsay offers beaches, wildlife, walks, historic sites, a woodland garden plus golf and fishing – all on an island only 10 miles (16km) long.



3 DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE – A 13th-century castle with impressive curtain-wall and round towers. This former stronghold of the MacDougalls once watched over the 'sea-roads' of Argyll & The Isles.



4 TOBERMORY – With its colourful harbour frontages, Tobermory has plenty for visitors; including good shops, a museum, distillery, eateries and An Tobar, the Tobermory Arts Centre.



5 WILDLIFE TOURS ON MULL – A choice of operators offer wildlife tours – and all know the very best places to see the island's specialities – including, for example, white-tailed sea eagles and otters.



6 ISLE OF LISMORE – Easily accessible island on Loch Linnhe with good path network, wildlife and historic sites, as well as accommodation. Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre tells the island's story.



7 ISLAND CRUISES FROM ARISAIG – As well as regular sailings from Mallaig, there is a passenger-only service linking Arisaig and the Small Isles in the summer months. This is a great day-cruise option, with a chance of spotting whales!



8 CANNA – Less than five miles long by a mile wide, the westernmost of the Small Isles is noted for its birdlife. Canna House is undergoing a long-term restoration.



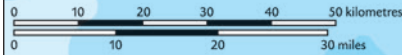
9 RUM – The jagged peaks of the Rum Cuillin is a spectacular sight. Rum is a wildlife haven to otters, sea eagles, deer, seals, manx shearwaters and more. Don't miss the decadent Kinloch Castle!



10 EIGG – Eigg offers spectacular geology – and a warm welcome from the community who own their own island! Discover the 'Singing Sands' – a beach where the quartz sand grains squeak when walked on.



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