

# GLASGOW & ARGYLL

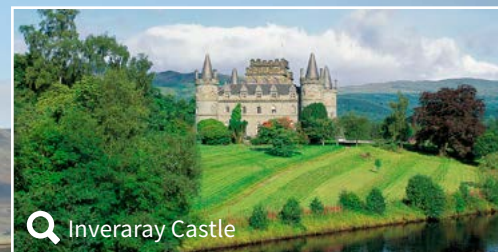
## The best of both on Scotland's Adventure Coast



Q The view of Eorsa from the Isle of Mull



Q Riverside Museum, Glasgow



Q Inveraray Castle



Q The Kintyre Way

Glasgow is the perfect place to find your urban adventure, from keeping active indoors to cycle routes, riverside walkways and even exhilarating water adventures, all alongside a rich cultural offering, renowned shopping and a vibrant nightlife.

Discover the works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, whose influence is seen throughout the city. From The Mackintosh House within the Hunterian Art Gallery and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum to the sympathetically restored Mackintosh at The Willow, where you can sit and have tea in the only surviving Tea Rooms designed for Miss Kate Cranston.

Delve into the exciting art scene at various studios and galleries including the Gallery of Modern Art, Centre for Contemporary Arts or Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre. Be entertained by The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra or the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland before sampling gastronomical delights at countless eateries across the city including Finnieston in the West End, described as one of the 'top coolest neighbourhoods' in Europe by *The Independent*.

Explore the city by bike and hire one of the many Nextbikes, located at various hiring stations throughout the city, or join Glasgow Bike Tours for a guided tour. There are various walking tours too, from the more traditional to bespoke music, and eating and drinking tours, where the experts are your guide.

From the vibrant city lights of Glasgow less than an hour away, welcome to Scotland's adventure coast where mountains, beaches, lochs, islands and forests provide an awe-inspiring setting for outdoor adventures, all within easy proximity of Glasgow. So why not experience the heart and soul of both?

A spellbinding fusion of dramatic Highland terrain, glorious beaches and beautiful gardens bursting with colours, Argyll & The Isles is a glorious coastal region of glittering sea lochs, islands, hills, forests and glens just waiting to be explored.

From surfing to kayaking, long distance walking to mountain biking, get off the beaten track and find your own adventure. Go island hopping, walk in the wilderness, breathe pure air, watch magnificent sunsets and see starry skies that will take your breath away. Get up close to wonderful wildlife on boat trips to uninhabited islands, in National Nature Reserves and forest parks. From mighty sea eagles and seabirds on the Isle of Mull, to playful otters at the Taynish National Nature Reserve and beavers at Knapdale Forest, who knows what you'll encounter?

Fall in love with the inspiring scenery and heart and soul of Glasgow and Argyll & The Isles. Thanks to excellent transport links available year-round, it's never been easier to explore this enchanting corner of Scotland.

## EVENTS

### JANUARY

Celtic Connections, Glasgow  
[www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

### MAY

ScapaFest, Ardkinglas, Loch Fyne  
[www.scapafest.com](http://www.scapafest.com)

### JULY

Bute Fest, Isle of Bute  
[www.butefest.co.uk](http://www.butefest.co.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

Mendelssohn on Mull, Isle of Mull  
[@MendelssohnonMull](https://www.instagram.com/MendelssohnonMull)

## DAY 1 - GLASGOW



**1**  
**Mackintosh at the Willow** – the only surviving Tea Room designed by the renowned Charles Rennie Mackintosh, this iconic 200 seat restaurant recently reopened after extensive refurbishment and can be found at 217 Sauchiehall Street. Relax in the sumptuous surroundings of Mackintosh's designs, lovingly restored to their 1903 glory.  
**T: 0141 204 1903**  
**E: caitlin@mackintoshatthewillow.com**  
 (for larger bookings)  
[www.mackintoshatthewillow.com](http://www.mackintoshatthewillow.com)



**2**  
**Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum** – one of Glasgow's best loved attractions, this 22 gallery strong treasure trove is packed full of an astonishing 8,000 objects. Exquisite art, historical artefacts, animals and much more, and don't miss the extensive programme of exhibitions and displays. Opened in 1901, the collections within are wide-ranging and internationally significant.  
**T: 0141 276 9599**  
**E: museums@glasgowlife.org.uk**  
[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums)



**3**  
**Riverside Museum** – this multi-award winning Riverside Museum is home to over 3,000 objects that detail Glasgow's rich past from its days as a maritime powerhouse to a glimpse into daily Glasgow life in the 20th Century. The fine collection ranges from cars, bicycles, trams and locomotives to prams and skateboards!  
**T: 0141 287 2720**  
**E: museums@glasgowlife.org.uk**  
[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums)



**4**  
**Shopping / eating out** – the city is a mecca for shoppers of all tastes and budgets, with specialty stores, designer labels, high street brands and vintage boutiques. Look out for Glasgow's Style Mile with its high concentration of shops. And the city's food & drink is second to none too - including the trendy West End.  
[www.peoplemakeglasgow.com/things-to-do/shopping](http://www.peoplemakeglasgow.com/things-to-do/shopping)

## DAY 2 - LOCH LOMOND & AROUND



**1**  
**Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch** – this stunning visitor destination offers shopping, eating, outdoor activities and events for all the family. Bike, pedal boat, segway and canoe hire services are available on the beach. Or how about a 45-minute boat cruise on Loch Lomond with Sweeney's Cruises?  
[www.lochlomondshores.com](http://www.lochlomondshores.com)



**2**  
**Cruise Loch Lomond, Tarbet** – Loch Lomond is renowned for its natural beauty, history and tranquility. Experience the serenity of the 'bonnie banks' from the comfort of one of seven vessels in the fleet. Or you could hire a bike and take in Loch Katrine in the Trossachs, hike up Ben Lomond, check out the RSPB Nature Reserve or Rob Roy MacGregor's cave.  
**T: 01301 702 356**  
**E: stuart@cruiselochlomond.co.uk**  
[www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk](http://www.cruiselochlomond.co.uk)



**3**  
**Clyde Sea Lochs Trail** – take a fascinating and scenic journey of discovery. Don't miss the stunning viewpoints at: Ardmore Point (car park); Denny Tank, Dumbarton; Helensburgh; Gareloch A817; Whistlefield; Arrochar; Clynder; Kilcreggan and Cove. For the more active, take a cycling tour, with more than 35 miles of dedicated cycle ways and quiet roads.  
[www.lovelochlomond.com/loch-lomond-and-clyde-sea-lochs-trails](http://www.lovelochlomond.com/loch-lomond-and-clyde-sea-lochs-trails)



**4**  
**Hill House, Helensburgh** – anyone with a passion for design and architecture will love the Hill House, Charles Rennie Mackintosh's domestic masterpiece on a grand scale, beautifully restored by the National Trust for Scotland. Inside, admire a visually arresting mix of Arts & Crafts, Art Nouveau, Scottish Baronial and Japonisme architecture and design.  
**T: 0131 458 0204**  
**E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk**  
[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

## DAY 3 - INVERARAY & COWAL PENINSULA



**1**  
**Inveraray Castle & Gardens** – the ancestral home to the Clan Campbell provides a fascinating insight into Scottish heritage and the way our ancestors lived. The castle's beautifully maintained garden and expansive estate offers some fantastic beautiful walks alongside first-class holiday accommodation.  
**T: 01499 302203**  
**E: enquiries@inveraray-castle.com**  
[www.inveraray-castle.com](http://www.inveraray-castle.com)



**2**  
**Ardkinglas Woodland Garden** – situated on the shores of Loch Fyne, Ardinglas offers a range of walks and is renowned for its fine collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, plants and conifer trees, including one of Britain's tallest tree. Families will enjoy searching for the Gruffalo amongst the trees or following the treasure trail.  
**T: 01499 600261**  
**E: info@ardkinglas.com**  
[www.ardkinglas.com](http://www.ardkinglas.com)



**3**  
**Loch Lomond and the Cowal Way** – enjoy glorious scenery on one of Scotland's Great Trails, known as 'Scotland in 57 miles', starting at Portavadie on Loch Fyne and ending at Inverglaz on Loch Lomond. You'll get a tantalising taste of everything the Highlands has to offer, from coastline to glen, forest to hill, or ruined castle to historic houses.  
[www.lochlomondandcowalway.org](http://www.lochlomondandcowalway.org)



**4**  
**Benmore Botanic Garden** – enjoy this magnificent mountainside setting including an impressive avenue of Giant Redwoods, arguably one of the finest entrances to any botanic garden in the world. Established in 1863, these majestic giants now stand over 50 metres high. Enjoy seven miles of beautiful trails from the restored Victorian Fernery, to exotic plants from Bhutan, Chile or Japan.  
**T: 01369 706 261**  
[www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)



**ITINERARIES FOR GLASGOW AND ARGYLL AND THE ISLES**  
 The best of both on Scotland's Adventure Coast



🔍 Tobermory, Mull

Please note some attractions have seasonal opening hours. Please check opening times with the attraction.

For more ideas and contacts go to [www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com](http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com) or email [traveltrade@visitscotland.com](mailto:traveltrade@visitscotland.com)

## DAY 4 - MID ARGYLL



**1**  
**Crarae Garden** – cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, this exotic garden is a Himalayan-style glen. The sparkling Crarae Burn form the centrepiece for a paradise of rocky gorges, wooden bridges and thickets of maple, birch and evergreens, blending with colourful flowers. There is a visitor centre (open seasonally), which includes a gift shop and small café  
**T: 0131 458 0204**  
**E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk**  
**www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/crarae-garden**



**2**  
**Kilmartin Glen & Museum** – explore one of Scotland's richest prehistoric landscapes with over 800 historic monuments, cairns, standing stones, stone circles and rock art dating back over 5000 years. Marvel at these artefacts in the museum gallery and then step outside into the landscape to enjoy the sites and monuments where they were found.  
**T: 01546 510278**  
**E: admin@kilmartin.org**  
**www.kilmartin.org**



**3**  
**Dunadd Fort** – clamber to the top of this spectacular rocky outcrop fort that's been occupied since the Iron Age and discover the Gaelic Kingdom of Dalriada. It was home to a fort 2,000 years ago, and a royal power centre of Gaelic kings in the 500s to 800s AD. Discover some extraordinary features carved into the rock, including two human footprint shapes..  
**T: 0131 668 8831**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**



**4**  
**Atlantic Islands Centre, Isle of Luing** – discover the Atlantic Islands of Argyll and explore this former slate island on foot, bike or car. In this exciting new visitor destination, you'll find a wonderful community hub, natural and cultural heritage exhibitions that showcase the Atlantic Islands of Argyll, a great restaurant with stunning sea views and quality local produce.  
**T: 01852 314096**  
**E: info@atlanticislandscentre.com**  
**www.atlanticislandscentre.com**

## DAY 5 - OBAN AND NEARBY



**1**  
**Oban Distillery & Visitor Centre** – this is one of the oldest distilleries in Scotland and one of the smallest with just two pot stills. The distillery's tours offer visitors the chance to witness the traditional craftsmanship of whisky production first-hand before enjoying complimentary drams of the Oban 14 year old West Highland Malt.  
**T: 01631 572004**  
**E: oban.distillery@diageo.com**  
**www.malts.com**



**2**  
**Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel, Dunbeg** – visit the mighty stronghold of the 'Kings of the Isles' where Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald was believed to have been held in prisoner. On an immense rock stands the remains of one of the oldest stone castles in Scotland. Stand in awe of the daunting curtain wall explore the special 13th-century Dunstaffnage Chapel.  
**T: 0131 668 8831**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**



**3**  
**Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, Oban** standing on a rocky ridge by the sea, Dunollie Castle housed Clan Chiefs and Lords of Lorn ruling large areas of Argyll for more than 1000 years. Today, it remains the seat and ancestral home of Clan MacDougall. Explore the Museum, Castle and Grounds, learn about the history through exciting exhibitions and displays.  
**T: 01631 570550**  
**info@dunollie.org**  
**www.dunollie.org**



**4**  
**McCaig's Tower** – built in 1897 by local banker John Stuart McCaig, the aim of the tower was to provide work for local stonemasons and a lasting monument to the McCaig family. The climb from the town centre is worth the effort with spectacular views across Oban Bay to the Atlantic Islands. The gardens inside the tower are well maintained and are a peaceful escape.  
**www.oban.org.uk**

## DAY 6-7 ISLAND HOPPING



**1**  
**Isle of Colonsay** – one of Scotland's most peaceful islands, Colonsay is the perfect weekend retreat. Take in the sands of Kiloran Bay or travel to the tidal island of Oronsay and admire the beautiful ruins of Oronsay Priory and medieval carvings of warriors and saints. Don't miss the island's larder such as its award-winning oysters, honey, local ale and gin.  
**www.colonsay.org.uk**



**2**  
**Isle of Coll** – sitting some six miles west of Mull far out in the Atlantic, the Hebridean island of Coll is the place to get away from it all. Walk on the sandy beaches, discover a wealth of wildlife and marvel at the dark sky. It's also one of the best places in the UK to spot basking sharks  
**www.visitcoll.co.uk**



**3**  
**Staffa & Treshnish Islands** – take a boat trip and discover the wonder of Staffa's caverns, nicknamed the "Island of Pillars" by the Vikings. Painted by Turner, it also inspired Mendelssohn to compose his hauntingly beautiful Hebrides Overture. One of the most romantic and dramatic of Scotland's many uninhabited islands.  
**T: 01688 400242**  
**E: info@turusmara.com**  
**www.turusmara.com**



**4**  
**Isle of Lismore** – easy to reach by boat from Oban, Lismore is a tranquil and unspoiled island surrounded by stunning mountain scenery; the ideal place to get away from it all. The island is steeped in history and a great place to spot wildlife, cycle or walk along the coastline.  
**www.isleoflismore.com**

## DAY 8 BACK TO GLASGOW



**1**  
**Bonawe furnace** – visit the most complete charcoal-fuelled ironworks in Britain, at the head of Loch Etive. Learn the history of the iron furnace and the chemistry of iron making – and see cannonballs and iron pigs on display. Visit the nearby Glen Nant National Nature Reserve and walk through the oak woods that supplied the fuel for Bonawe.  
**T: 0131 668 8831**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**



**2**  
**Kilchurn Castle** – look out over Loch Awe from the powerbase of the Campbells of Glenorchy and one of the most photographed castles in Scotland. Kilchurn Castle was a fortress, a comfortable residence and later a garrison stronghold, and contains the oldest surviving barracks on the British mainland.  
**T: 0131 668 8831**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**



**3**  
**Cruachan, the hollow mountain** – Cruachan Power Station lies at the heart of Ben Cruachan - one kilometre inside. A guided tour takes you on a short journey deep into the mountain past sub-tropical plants that grow well with the warm humid conditions inside the mountain and then onto the visitor's viewing gallery.  
**T: 0141 614 9105**  
**E: VisitCruachan@drax.com**  
**www.visitcruachan.co.uk**



**4**  
**TreeZone, Loch Lomond** – high in the treetops, this is the ultimate Aerial Adventure Course - Zip wires, balance beams, hanging platforms, tight-ropes, scramble nets, white knuckle bridges & gap jumps, set on the shores of the awesome Loch Lomond.  
**T: 0138 949 6055**  
**E: lochlomond@treezone.co.uk**  
**www.iye.scot/treezone-loch-lomond/**

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