

# SCOTLAND'S COASTS AND WATERS 2020

## Glasgow, Ayrshire & Arran, Dumfries & Galloway, Argyll & the Isles



📍 Iona from Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, Argyll

There's a saying that 'Glasgow made the Clyde and the Clyde made Glasgow', which you can understand when you look up and admire the splendid Victorian architecture of **Glasgow** city centre. Beautiful carvings of Poseidon, sailing ships, globes, fish and jutting prows tell the story of how the famous River Clyde has defined the fortunes of this area since the 6th century. You can experience the famous river for yourself with one of the operators offering boat trips from paddle steamer to powerboat.

**The Isle of Bute** is an easy day trip from Glasgow. The jewel in the crown of this lovely island is **Mount Stuart**, one of Scotland's most stunning and unusual stately homes, where the extensive grounds include seafront walks. The **Ayrshire** coastline has miles of scenic beaches, perfect for picnicking and walking, admiring the views all the while. Golf fans are spoiled for choice as there is a high concentration of excellent golf courses here, with the wonderful coastal views coming as a bonus.

Off the mainland, **the Isle of Arran** is often known as 'Scotland in Miniature'. A castle, distilleries, wonderful scenery and amazing food and drink – Arran has the lot! The circular Arran Coastal Way is very popular with cyclists.

**Dumfries & Galloway** is where you'll find the **South West Coastal 300**. This 300 mile circular driving route around the

region and into Ayrshire, features many miles of scenic coastline as well as beautiful areas populated by hills, glens, forests and lochs. Gaze out at the blue horizon at the Mull of Galloway, Scotland's most southerly point.

Stop off at delightful towns and villages, from Wigtown to Portpatrick, visiting historic attractions and a variety of cafes and restaurants as you go. Other attractions include Galloway Forest Park with its 12 scenic lochs.

**Argyll** has been described as the place where 'the Highlands meet the Lowlands and both meet the sea' – a very apt picture of an area where you'll find some of Scotland's most impressive shorelines.

This is a land of sea lochs, inlets and peninsulas. Most magical of all are the islands of the Inner Hebrides, including **Mull, Islay, Coll, Jura, Colonsay** and **Tiree**, where the annual **Tiree Wave Classic** surfing championships are held.

Whether your passion is sailing, wildlife watching, visiting sites that are rich in history such as **Kilmartin Glen**, or simply enjoying the tranquillity of island life, you'll find it here. This is also an area popular with golfers due to the tremendous range of golf courses with amazing views, from well known courses such as **Machrihanish** or the **9-hole hidden gem** on the Isle of Gigha. **CalMac Ferries** offer a range of services and ticket options in this area.

## GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY



**1 Glasgow's shipbuilding heritage** – Unearth the city's maritime history as you board The Tall Ship at Riverside, one of only five remaining Clyde built sailing ships. Following an extensive restoration the TS Queen Mary, the last Clyde built turbine steamer, will also be berthed in Glasgow. This historic vessel, dating from 1933, will become one of the UK's largest interactive maritime exhibits.



**2 Cruising on the Clyde** – There are various ways to set sail on the River Clyde to explore the river and beyond. Take a trip to the Cowal Peninsula or the islands of Bute, Arran or Cumbrae on the Paddle Steamer Waverley, the world's last sea-going paddle steamer, or join Pacific Quay Powerboats to discover the historic Govan shipyard or make a relaxing visit to Rhu Marina.



**3 Seaside towns** – Discover beautiful coastline and picturesque towns in Inverclyde. At Inverkip, tour the historic Ardgowan House and its stunning gardens, and in summer enjoy open air swimming at the heated Gourrock Pool, with amazing views over the Clyde Estuary. Explore miles of walking and cycling routes as well as many water-based activities in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.



**4 New Lanark Visitor Centre** – The magnificent waterfalls known as the Falls of Clyde run through the heart of New Lanark Heritage Village. This enchanting and beautifully preserved cotton mill village is now an award-winning UNESCO World Heritage site where you'll step back in time to discover the fascinating story of how it was founded in the 18th century.



**5 Loch Lomond** – Loch Lomond is one of the most famous lochs in Scotland, and is celebrated in the famous song 'The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond'. It's unusual in that there are 22 islands in the middle of the loch. To explore its beauty set sail with one of the local cruise companies such as Cruise Loch Lomond or Sweeney's Cruises.

## DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY



**1 South West Coastal 300** – On this 300 mile circular route, discover beautiful bays, sandy beaches and rugged coastline. There are plenty of places to visit as you go, from the charming waterside Artists' Town of Kirkcudbright to the tropical paradise of Logan Botanic Garden.



**2 Galloway Forest Park** – Often referred to as 'the Highlands of the Lowlands' and established in 1947, Galloway Forest Park is home to dramatic ancient woodland, magnificent scenery and an astonishing range of local wildlife, as well as a tearoom. It also has 12 scenic lochs offering varied fishing opportunities and is home to the UK's first Dark Sky Park.



**3 Grey Mare's Tail Nature Reserve** – This reserve takes its name from the mesmerising Grey Mare's Tail waterfall – one of the UK's highest. The name is inspired by its tall, thin line of white frothing water. Hike up the steep slopes to its source at Loch Skeen, or challenge yourself to reach the summit of White Coomb for the awe-inspiring views.



**4 Loch Ken** – With its picturesque setting, Loch Ken is the ideal place to get active on the water. Loch Ken Water Ski School not only offers water skiing lessons, but also activities such as banana boat rides and speed boat trips. Nearby Galloway Activity Centre also offers a range of water and land based activities for all ages.



**5 Dumfries** – As well as being the final home of celebrated poet Robert Burns, the market town of Dumfries is home to the Devorgilla Bridge over River Nith, one of Scotland's oldest. In this area you can also explore historic Sweetheart Abbey and Caerlaverock Castle, with its unique moated, triangular design.

## AYRSHIRE & ARRAN



**1 Isle of Arran / Cumbrae** – Arran has so many things you'd want from a Scottish island - an ever-changing coastline, dramatic mountain peaks, sheltered beaches, fascinating attractions and wealth of tasty local produce. The Isle of Cumbrae has a lovely Victorian promenade in the main town of Millport and is a mecca for activities such as golf, cycling and watersports.



**2 Scottish Maritime Museum** – The Ayrshire town of Irvine is home to this fascinating museum, where you can explore a national collection of historic boats, maritime art and ship building machinery. Hear stories of Scottish invention, boat building and derring-do. The museum also manages the Denny Ship Model Experiment Tank in Dumbarton where you can step back in time to the world of Victorian ship design.



**3 Beautiful beaches** – Ayrshire has riches of stunning beaches. Maidens Beach is a popular destination for watersports, picnic areas and horse riding. On Arran, exploring Kildonan Beach is a must. It is one of the most beautiful beaches on the island, plus it boasts incredible views across to the mainland. You may even be joined by some seals! Croy Beach has great views towards Ailsa Craig.



**4 Great golf courses** – With three Open Championship venues, five of the UK's top 100 golf courses and golf passes, it's easy to see why Ayrshire & Arran is one of Scotland's top regions for golf. There are nearly 50 in total, many of which have stunning coastal settings and superb views, such as Royal Troon and Prestwick Golf Course.



**5 Ailsa Craig** – Lying off the coast of the town of Girvan, Ailsa Craig is one of Scotland's best known landmarks. The island is home to Europe's biggest gannet colony and an increasing number of puffins. Its blue hone granite is considered ideal for the manufacture of curling stones, used in the popular winter sport. A number of operators offer boat trips to explore Ailsa Craig close up.

## ARGYLL & THE ISLES



**1 Inner Hebrides island hopping** – The islands of the Inner Hebrides off the coast of Argyll offer the ideal island hopping opportunity. Board CalMac ferry services to experience these magical islands, from the grandeur of the Isle of Mull to the whisky island of Islay, the stunning beaches of Coll, Colonsay and Tiree and the tiny tranquil Isle of Iona with its atmospheric abbey.



**2 Crinan Canal** – Completed in 1822, it was built to provide safe passage and a short cut, saving sailors the long trip round the Mull of Kintyre. There is a magical network of paths, lock gates, towpaths and shoreline to explore. Don't miss nearby Kilmartin Museum, your starting point to discover the fascinating prehistoric landscape of Kilmartin Glen.



**3 Wildlife cruises** – In an area so abundant in wildlife, islands and stunning coastline, taking to the waters offers the ideal way to spot many species of seabirds and marine creatures, including the opportunity to see the famous Corryreckan Whirlpool and the Isle of Staffa. Sea. Fari Adventures, St Hilda Adventures and Majestic Line are among the operators worth checking out.



**4 Loch Fyne** – A picturesque sea loch in a wonderful scenic location between the Cowal and Kintyre Peninsulas. At the entrance to the loch is Portavadie Marina, an ideal stop off point thanks to its Five Gold Anchors Award. Near Cairndow at the head of the loch you'll find Loch Fyne Oyster Bar serving fish and seafood fresh from the loch. Be sure to visit nearby Inveraray Castle.



**5 Distinctive whiskies** – Argyll is known as Scotland's whisky coast, and with good reason. This is where some of the world's best loved malt whiskies originate. The most distinctive are those from the Isle of Islay – an island which has no less than eight distilleries – thanks to its peaty soil and water. Other famous distilleries can be found in Campeltown, Oban and on the Isle of 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)