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THE WORLD'S BEST CRUISING GROUND

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COPY



2020
COASTS
& WATERS

“Escape from the hustle and bustle of modern, “always on” living. Enjoy the freedom and adventure to be found by taking to the sea and sailing under the stars.”

Sail
Scotland

2020, Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters



Cliffs of Hoy, Shetland © VisitScotland

Key to marina plans

- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| BAR | DISABLED FACILITIES | LANDING POINT | PUBLIC PHONE | SHOWERS |
| RUBBISH BINS | ELECTRICIAN | LAUNDRY | POST OFFICE | PUBLIC SLIPWAY |
| BOAT HOIST | FERRY | MARINA OFFICE | PROVISIONS | TROLLEYS |
| BUS STOP | FIRST AID POINT | MARINE ENGINEER | PUB | VISITORS MOORING |
| CASH MACHINE | FUEL (CANS) | MARINE HELP POINT | PUMP OUT POINT | VISITORS BERTHS |
| CHANDLERY | FUEL PUMP | MECHANIC | RAIL STATION | WATER |
| CINEMA | GAS | NEWS AGENT | RECYCLING POINT | TOILETS |
| CRANE | HOTEL | CAR PARK | RESTAURANT | WEATHER BUREAU |
| CUSTOMS | ICE | PETROL (CANS) | RIGGER | WIFI |
| DIESEL (CANS) | IMMIGRATION | PETROL PUMP | SAILMAKER | YACHT CLUB |
| DIESEL PUMP | INTERNET | PHARMACY | SHORE POWER | BOAT YARD |

The world-wide fame of our sailing waters is being celebrated through a year-long programme of events under the banner of **Year of Coasts and Waters 2020**. Scotland has so much to offer the visiting sailor through; varied seascapes, islands, lochs, wildlife, shore side castles, stunning shore-side food and much more. Together with a growing number of new local facilities and businesses looking to welcome you ashore, it all makes for sailing in Scotland even more enjoyable and memorable.

All that choice can make it difficult to know where to start, but that's where Sail Scotland's *Official Guide* comes in. It has been designed to make your planning as easy as possible. Flicking through these pages you will not only be introduced to Scotland's world-class sailing waters; you will also find stories and views from our visitors and insights from some of our local member businesses.

The guide is aimed at helping you take to the water so you will find contact

details for a whole host of sailing holiday companies, charters and sailing schools, marinas, harbours and more. Not to mention plenty of ideas to help you get the best possible experience of Scotland – both on and off the water.

We look forward to welcoming you during Scotland's Year Coasts and Waters and look out for #YCW2020 and our very own information at #mustseascotland across all the usual digital channels for all the latest news and insights to sailing in Scotland.

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CREDITS

An electronic copy of this brochure can be downloaded at www.sailscotland.co.uk where you can also find further details of events and new developments throughout the season.

Cover image: Tarskavaig off Scarp, Isle of Scarp © Graham Kilgour

All marina plans have been provided by SailingAlmanac.com they are indicative only, and not to be used for navigation.



Barra Airport – Traigh Mhor Beach, © Outer Hebrides Tourism/Mairi Thomson

Travel Information

By Air

Aer Lingus | www.aerlingus.com
T: 0843 903 3248

Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int)

Air France | www.airfrance.co.uk
T: 0207 660 0337

Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int)

BMI Regional | www.bmiiregional.com
T: 0330 333 7998

Fly to Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int)

British Airways | www.britishairways.com
T: 0844 493 0787

Fly to Aberdeen, Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree, Wick

Eastern Airways | www.easternairways.com
T: 08703 669100
Fly to Aberdeen, Wick

Easyjet | www.easyjet.com
T: 0330 365 5000
Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Inverness

Flybe | www.flybe.com
T: 0371 700 2000
Fly to Aberdeen, Barra, Benbecula, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree, Wick

Jet2 | www.jet2.com
T: 0800 408 1350
Fly to Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int)

KLM | www.klm.com
T: 0207 660 0293
Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Inverness

Loganair | www.loganair.co.uk
T: 0344 800 2855
Fly to Aberdeen, Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree, Wick

Icelandair | www.icelandair.com
T: 0207 874 1000
Fly to Aberdeen, Glasgow (Int), Glasgow (Prestwick)

Norwegian Airlines | www.norwegian.com
T: 0330 828 0845
Fly to Edinburgh

Ryanair | www.ryanair.com
T: 0871 246 0000
Fly to Edinburgh, Glasgow (Int), Glasgow Prestwick

SAS | www.flysas.com
T: 0871 226 7760
Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh

Edelweiss Air | www.swiss.com
T: +41 848 700 700
Fly to Inverness, Edinburgh, Glasgow

Wizz Air | www.wizzair.com
T: 0911 752 2257
Fly to Aberdeen, Glasgow (Int)

By Ferry
Caledonian MacBrayne | www.calmac.co.uk
T: 0800 066 5000

Northlink Ferries | www.northlinkferries.co.uk
T: 0845 600 0449

P & O Ferries | www.poferries.com
T: 0800 130 0030

Stena Line | www.stenaline.co.uk
T: 08447 707 070

By Rail
Scotrail | www.scotrail.co.uk
T: 0344 811 0141

Virgin | www.virgintrains.co.uk
T: 0344 556 5650

By Coach
Scottish City Link | www.citylink.co.uk
T: 0871 266 3333

National Express | www.nationalexpress.com
T: 0871 781 8181

2020, Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters



Canna Harbour Isle of Canna Small Isles © SailScotland

In 2020, Scotland celebrates its Coasts and Waters with a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

Our Coasts and Waters are host to an amazing array of riches, come in all shapes and sizes, and are greatly valued and cherished by communities and visitors alike.

Scotland's Coasts and Waters have shaped our history: from fishing and textiles to whisky and wave power they have influenced our culture, our stories, our way of life. So whether you want to navigate your way around distant isles

or canals, experience Scotland's maritime heritage ashore at a visitor attraction, enjoy Scotland's abundant natural larder or discover Scotland's wildlife on a local boat trip - Scotland's coasts and waters are perfect for get-away-from-it-all adventures.

More information at www.sailscotland.co.uk/ycw2020 and look out for #YCW2020 and #mustseascotland

IMMERSE YOUR SENSES

Make 2020 the year you immerse your senses in the sights, sounds, tastes, textures and aromas of Scotland's West Coast Waters.

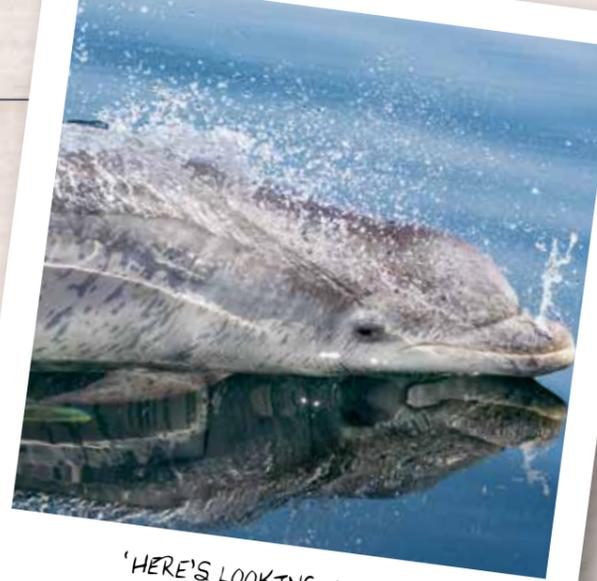


Immerse yourself
westcoastwaters.co.uk
For inspiration follow us
f t i @WCWScotland

Image: Isle of Arran



'LUNGA PUFFIN, ARGYLL'
by David Higgins



'HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU...
BABY BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN'
by Charlie Phillips



'CURIOUS SEAL, MALLAIG'
by Calum Price



'RAINBOW OVER SKYE'
by Hilary Dyson



'WHITE SANDS OF VATERSAY, OUTER HEBRIDES'
by Kevin Neilson



'SOUND OF SLEAT, SKYE'
by Lynn Wilkie



'ANCHORAGE TO OURSELVES, ERISKAY'
by Lynn Wilkie

Photographer of the Year 2020

The Sail Scotland Photography competition has attracted more images than any previous competition and has set a fair challenge to top sailing photographer Marc Turner to pick the finalists.

The response was so big again this year that Marc and the judges again shortlisted the entries in three categories: Landscape & Light, On the Water, and Wildlife.

He said: "The entries have been just stunning across all categories again, and choosing our finalists gets harder and harder each year. As you can see, our three eventual winners each have something really special about them.

Having selected the shortlist for each category we put each to a public vote. The winner of each category then went forward to a final vote for the top prize.



'STORM BREWING OVER CRINAN'
by Mike Beard



'HIGHLAND RAINBOW, APPLECROSS'
by Mike Beard



'ELGOL ON A CLOUDY DAY, ISLE OF SKYE'
by Pete Stevens



2019
On the Water
 and OVERALL WINNER
Barry Scollay

“This year has really raised the bar yet again. With 2020 being Scotland’s Year of Coasts & Waters, I want to see what makes our coasts and waters so special – the people, the places, the wildlife that makes Scotland’s sailing waters so special... get snapping and show me something that makes me want to get out and onto our Coasts and Waters!”

2019 On the Water and Overall winner Barry Scollay

Magic hour which surround sunrise and sunset provides some rich textures and colours. This image captures this so well, the warmth ahead of coming into harbour after time at sea, especially in a small boat, with limited comforts is conferred beautifully by this image.

2019 Landscape and Light winner Pete Stevens

Neist Point at Sunset - Isle of Skye
 © Pete Stevens

Neist Point on the west of Skye is a dramatic place and this image captures the rugged barrier between the coast and the sea. The evening light produces rich colours highlighting the cliffs and giving the clouds a nice hue, while we often concentrate on the sun itself at this time of day, the effect the light has on the landscape can provide some great results.

Neist Point at Sunset - Isle of Skye © Pete Stevens

2019
Landscape & Light
 WINNER
Pete Stevens



2019
Wildlife
 WINNER
Mairi Fleck

Sailing into Wick at Sunset © Barry Scollay

A Shower of Puffins, Treshnish Isles © Mairi Fleck

2019 Wildlife winner Mairi Fleck

A Shower of Puffins, Treshnish Isles
 © Mairi Fleck

This is an image with a story throughout it. Capturing the movement of the rain with a slow exposure is tricky, but very effective to provide an atmosphere. The empathy with the subject is strong as one Puffin appears hunched with their back to the rain, while another casts an eye skywards as if to say, “When’s it going to stop!” A brilliant shot that captures the character of one of our most identifiable island birds.

OUR 2020 PHOTO COMPETITION WILL BE EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER SO KEEP AN EYE ON www.sailscotland.co.uk our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds for entry details.

Scotland and the Hebrides – my favourite anchorages



📍 Fingles Cave Staffa © Alex Hawley

Throughout my seagoing career I have been fortunate enough to travel some of the planet's unique coastlines. From the deep gorges of New Zealand to the jungle covered shores of Vietnam, tropical island paradise and dark fjords, I have found that the most interesting, beautiful and versatile sailing can be found right here in our waters off the west coast of Scotland. For the past 15 years I've spent cruising this unique sailing ground from our base in Oban, aboard restored historical ketch Bessie Ellen. Each year I find new and special places but there are some anchorages that touch the soul for their beauty and tranquillity, where sea meets sky and the only sound is the seabirds cry.



📍 Nikki Alford Skipper & Owner © Bessie Ellen

Loch na Drom Buidhe

Loch of the Golden Hill: This wonderfully sheltered anchorage is a perfect stop at the western end of the Sound of Mull approached through a narrow rocky entrance opening out into a sheltered loch surrounded on all sides. The shores are by ancient woodland of oak and rowan timber cladding the hillsides and the trilling of rock pipits resound around the sleepy valleys. White tailed Eagles are a frequent visitor, if we are lucky they come to rest in branches close to, or flying low overhead back to their nesting sights on Mull. A good walk from the stony beach takes you westwards up along the track towards Drimmin. Stop at the summit overlooking Drom Buidhe and marvel as the evening light shines across Loch Sunart and Ardnamurchan

Loch na Cille

This lesser known loch is a firm favourite although not frequently visited. Situated on the Argyll coast adjacent to Loch Sween, here you will find a little bit of heaven. Green fields dotted with sheep sweep down to the shore and the old stone pier provides a suitable spot for hopping ashore to visit the wonderfully restored St Churmaig's chapel situated half way up the hillside with stunning views overlooking the sound of Jura. From here it's an easy journey to catch the

tide through the Sound of Luing with great views through the Coryvreckan.

Treshnish

Sitting in a sparkling sea to the west of Mull, the Treshnish group of islands are the jewel in the crown of the west coast. Each island carries its own identity in shape, being made from volcanic basalt. Cathedral-like Staffa, the extraordinary volcanic plug that creates the Dutchman's cap before reaching Lunga and Fladda and the surrounding rocky islets. Anchor off Lunga among bobbing puffins in clear turquoise water but be aware of a strong tidal stream that runs through the main islands. Most days the islands are visited by the tourist boats from Iona, so the best is to anchor late afternoon and have this magical kingdom to yourself with all the time in the world to explore. Spring time, the sea birds come to Treshnish for breeding, so a careful walk along the cliff edge to the guillemot colony is a must!

Mingulay

We love Mingulay - generally used as a day anchorage before moving to Vatersay overnight, Mingulay is a close cousin to St Kilda becoming a jewel in the Hebridean crown. Approaching from the Atlantic, stark black cliffs reaching

out of the blue ocean rising over 200m are the breeding ground to ocean wandering sea birds such as fulmar and kittiwake. During the summer months it is not unusual to find basking sharks feeding in the small Sounds between the island, where plankton is rich in the calmer waters. Heading to the East anchor in the small bay, where paradise beckons. Ashore, above the tide line the large colony of seals lounge on the white sand, fringed by green machair hardly disturbed by the intrusion of man. A good walk to the top of the cliffs offer magnificent views over Barra Head and the islands to the North. This gem of an island really does have it all for perfection and seclusion; a real must for the serious cruiser.

Shiants

The Shiant Isles make a perfect stopover if you are sailing across the Minch between Skye and the Outer Hebrides and are well worth the visit. Here, sea birds come in their thousands to breed over the summer months, Fulmar, Puffins,

Razorbill and Guillemot are most numbered and easiest to see from the bay as they sit and feed from the sand eels below. A good walk up the hill passes remains of the old black houses with promises of great views across the Minch.

Loch Nevis

This long and deep sea loch offers some of the most dramatic scenery on the West coast and when approaching down the Sound of 'Sleat there are magnificent views of the Small Isles and Skye. Inverie is the most popular anchorage in Loch Nevis, both for its views and pub, but on windy days, I like to anchor at Loch Tarbet, a small indentation off the loch on the south side. A short walk takes you up and over the hill to absolutely stunning views over Loch Morar.

Nikki Afford
Bessie Ellen
www.bessie-ellen.com



Loch Nevis Skye © Venturesail



Puffins on Treshnish © Clare Kendall



Bessie Ellen Sailing the Hebrides near Ardnamurchan © Nick Brooks



Cruising Essentials

A Hamish Haswell-Smith Reading © Moonshadow Yacht Charter Ltd

An adequate folio of corrected charts is, of course, a given for exploring the Hebrides, but if you wish to immerse yourself in this connoisseur's cruising ground, you'll need the works of Scotland's cruising triumvirate!

The Clyde Cruising Club has published Sailing Directions for Scottish waters since its inception in 1909, first as the well-known Blue Book which was published in ten editions until 1974 and latterly in five separate volumes. Since 2011 these books have gradually been merged with Martin Lawrence's Yachtsman's Pilot series with editorial control remaining with the CCC (www.clyde.org/publications).

Then there is Bob Bradfield's Antares Charts – a source of 'unofficial' very large-scale electronic charts and related pilotage information created by yachtsmen for yachtsmen. Focusing on the West Coast of Scotland, it is aimed at experienced navigators to supplement information available from

more authoritative providers. The UK's official surveying and charting authorities have not resurveyed many of the more interesting channels and anchorages of the West of Scotland since the advent of satellite positioning and often do not publish charts to a sufficiently large scale to meet the needs of the more adventurous yachtsman. Bob's 461 charts can run seamlessly with UKHO-type charts on PCs, iPads, iPhones and Android tablets and phones (www.antareshcharts.co.uk).

With the advent of Antares Charts, we have safely navigated our Oyster 68 Moonshadow into some of the more "interesting" nooks and crannies of the Hebrides.

And then, when you have arrived at yet another intriguing anchorage, Hamish Haswell-Smith's book "The Scottish Islands – A Comprehensive Guide to Every Scottish Island" will tell you everything about the island; from geology, history and ownership to flora, fauna and folklore. Described by the *Sunday Times* as "the acknowledged Rosetta Stone of island hopping" there is seldom a day goes by onboard Moonshadow without a reading from the good book!

Colin Taylor
Moonshadow Yacht Charter Ltd
www.symoonshadow.co.uk

West Coast Day Trips



Lochaline Pontoons © Edinburgh Boat Charters

After relocating one of our yachts to Dunstaffnage Marina, situated just north of Oban we were keen to explore day sailing options. These are just a few of the stunning places we explored.

North - Dallens Bay

After leaving Dunstaffnage Marina and sailing out into the Firth of Lorn, you cannot help being impressed by the panorama of mountains that surround you. Sailing up the Southeast shore of Lismore Island we passed Port Appin, where you can stop for lunch at The Pierhouse Restaurant. We continued on past the world famous and iconic

Castle Stalker before following a buoyed channel to the East of Shuna Island which opens out into Dallens Bay. This is a gorgeous anchorage with stunning views.

We tendered ashore with a picnic lunch and walked along the coast to the castle before sailing back. A great destination for our first day sail, and we couldn't wait to get back out.

South - Puilladobhrain

Heading South from Dunstaffnage we sailed between the island of Kerrera and Oban itself. Passing Dunollie Castle, you enter a narrow channel and have to keep a lookout for the big Calmac ferries which share the same route. The sail down Kerrera Sound is very picturesque and Oban looks fantastic from the sea with McCaig's Tower standing atop.

Leaving the Sound of Kerrera we sailed south for Puilladobhrain which is an inlet at the North end of Seil Island. After finding a good spot to anchor we tendered ashore and took a walk to Clachan Seil, a small village which is known for the Bridge over the Atlantic. This is an impressive stone bridge built in 1793 and definitely worth a visit. After exploring the area and having lunch at the Tigh An Truith Hotel we made our way back to the boat.

We took a slightly different route back sailing West of Kerrera, passing Gylen Castle en route. This route has uninterrupted views of Mull which gave us the inspiration for our next trip.

West - Tobermory

Sailing West from Dunstaffnage we crossed the Firth of Lorn, routed South of Lismore Island and passed Duart Castle before entering the Sound of Mull. We stopped for lunch at Lochaline and discovered The Whitehouse Restaurant, taking note that this would be another option for a fantastic day sail. Lochaline is a superb anchorage for all weathers and has visitor bouys, pontoons and shore facilities.

After lunch we set sail towards Tobermory and after an enjoyable afternoon sail we berthed in the extremely picturesque harbour. We then spent a bit of time exploring before enjoying dinner and a couple of pints in the famous "Mishnish".

The next day we had a leisurely start and then sailed back down the Sound of Mull and across the Firth of Lorn to Dunstaffnage, touching 10kts at some points with a steady breeze and a following tide. It was fantastic being able to get further afield and stay overnight in such a stunning place.

It's safe to say that after exploring these fantastic places on the West Coast, we can't wait to get back out next season for more day trips and explore further afield to places like Jura, Coll, Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

Colin Henderson, Edinburgh Boat Charters
www.edinburghboatcharters.com



Inspired Capital Underway © Edinburgh Boat Charters



Castle Stalker from Mainland © Edinburgh Boat Charters

Scotland's Boat Show a 'roaring success'



Scotland's Boat Show 2019

Over 13,000 visitors headed to Scotland's Boat Show 2019 as the largest Scottish and 2nd largest UK boat show returned to Kip Marina, Inverclyde over the October weekend. The event attracted visitors and exhibitors from across the UK, Ireland and even as far afield as Europe.

Visitors enjoyed a host of attractions, from free on the water training sessions with RYA Scotland, to the latest displays of marine equipment and technology.

The buoyant Scottish boating market was in full force, with Michael Schmidt & Partners Brokerage Manager Roseann Sweeney saying, "With over 10 boats sold during the show and a host of strong enquiries to follow up afterwards, Scotland's Boat Show was absolutely fantastic for us this year!"

In the new boat business, Miles Stratton of Inspiration Marine said "It was great to see the good weather back this year and with it we were delighted with the high level of interest in our new Hanses and our latest addition Ballistic RIBS. For us it was a roaring success and we are already looking forward to next year's show".

The expanded display of powerboats from Marine Sales Scotland attracted many visitors with MD Stan Prosser to saying, "We are delighted being at Scotland's Boat Show - it was better for us than Southampton this year as we sold five boats during the show. We are happy to support SBS and it is again proving to be the must attend event for boating in Scotland".

On shore the RYA Scotland pavilion was filled with exhibitors showing the latest trends and developments in boats and equipment including the Scottish debut of the world's leading charter company, Dream Yacht Charter, whose team were on hand to discuss their bareboat, crewed or by the cabin charters around the world. NYC's Andy Byham said, "It was an absolute pleasure to be part of this year's Scotland's Boat Show. Having met some of the area's keen sailors and we look forward to welcoming guests to our stand again in 2020".

The Cruising Association returned as sponsor of the CA Stage for SBS2019, providing a popular schedule of fascinating talks and presentations. The CA's General Manager, Lucy Gray said, "We have enjoyed attending Scotland's Boat Show for a number of years but were honoured to sponsor the stage in 2019. We hosted a full line up of talks and were impressed, as ever, with the atmosphere and attendance at the show as well as the impeccable organisation. Scotland's Boat Show is quickly becoming a not-to-miss event in the CA's calendar and we very much look forward to sponsoring the stage again in 2020".

Elsewhere there were attractions aplenty for visitors away from the boats, including more than 40 designer, art and craft stalls

in the CalMac Ferries Lifestyle pavilion, the WCS Food & Drink pavilion with local and Scottish food & drink producers together with a series of entertaining cookery demonstrations from the hospitality students of West College Scotland and TV Chef Nick Nairn, pipe bands, children's play areas and displays of cars and motorcycles from Porsche, Morgan and Harley-Davidson, all adding up to a showcase for Scottish boating, marine tourism and a great free family event.

Kip Marina MD Gavin McDonagh said "Once again, thanks to all the Kip staff who put together another very successful boat show, similarly thanks to our sponsors and partners RYA Scotland, West College Scotland, The Herald, The Cruising Association, CalMac Ferries, Inverclyde Council and Dream Yacht Charters.

We are proud to be an ambassador for Inverclyde as a destination for visitors and exhibitors from all over the UK promoting Scotland's world class boating & sailing facilities. The show remains a family event open to everyone that will hopefully inspire our visitors to try taking to the water themselves."

Scotland's Boat Show 2020

Preparations are already underway for next year's show which aims to be the biggest yet and takes place on the 9th, 10th & 11th October 2020 with a special evening event on Saturday the 10th October called 'River of Light!' as part of The Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 #ycw2020

Kevin Blamire
Scotland's Boat Show, Inverkip Marina
www.scotlandsboatshow.co.uk



SUPPORTED BY
2020
COASTS
& WATERS

SCOTLAND'S BOAT SHOW

9th, 10th & 11th October 2020
Kip Marina, Inverclyde

Scotland's largest show for new and pre-owned
sail & powerboats, kayaks, SUPs and equipment!

Free Admission – scotlandsboatshow.co.uk



Oban to Largs via Ballycastle

Oban © Paul Turner, SeaSpray Scotland Yacht Charters

On Saturday morning, John Hulme and I met up at 5am to take the drive to Dalmuir, near Glasgow, to join the early morning sleeper on its way to Fort William from London. We left the “sleepy overnight passengers” at Crianlarich to board our bus for the final leg of our journey up to Oban. After breakfast at Weatherspoon’s, we strolled up to the Oban Town Pontoons to welcome the crews back from the previous Charters. We had good debriefs from our Polish charterers and an excellent recount of their adventures before they commenced their long journey back home. Handbacks over, some routine maintenance on Jay and Midnight Mirage complete, and both boats thoroughly cleaned, we got ready to welcome our new Crews for the week. John’s crew had flown in from Paris and had great plans for Mull and the Small Isles.

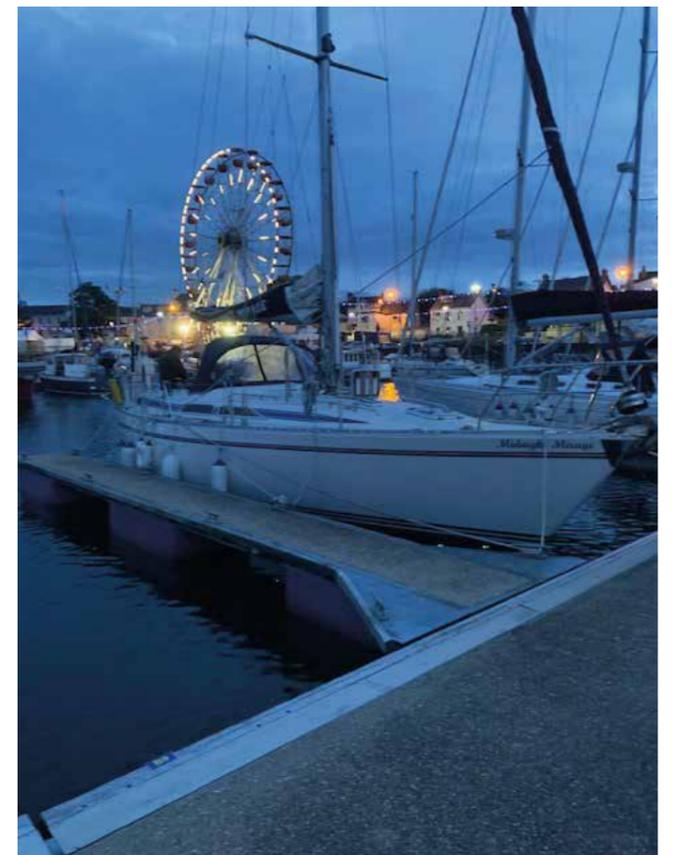
For *Midnight Mirage* the new Crew were in fact regulars and we were looking forward to meeting up with them again. This is their account of their trip back to Largs.

Our crew arrived, all seven having enjoyed the glorious Scottish scenery on route to Oban in their people carrier. This meant for a stalwart display of ‘yachtie teamwork’ commencing in York, picking up in Newcastle & Carlisle on route and in full knowledge that the van was to be transferred from Oban to our final cruise destination by our ever-helpful yacht charterer.

After the comprehensive hand over of *Midnight Mirage* the culinary delights of what was on offer in Oban had to be sampled. Naturally enough freshly caught fish was the order of the day.

On Sunday, after a very leisurely breakfast we slipped Oban Pontoon around midday in glorious sunshine and extremely light winds en-route for Nave Island just off the West coast of Islay. The beautifully smooth sea state enabled numerous sightings of pilot whales, porpoise and seals. We anchored up at dusk.

After a very peaceful night protected from the swell by Nave Island we enjoyed our ubiquitous leisurely breakfast morning and upped anchor around midday on route for Loch Swilly, Donegal. We had a stiff breeze and a good 6 knots average boat speed, but it wasn’t quite in the direction we might have preferred. With a mildly uncomfortable point of sail,



Ballycastle © Paul Turner SeaSpray Scotland Yacht Charters

The Magic of Millport



View across Millport Bay to the Isle of Arran © Hazel Pearson, Flamingo Yacht Charters Ltd.

If you are looking for a great destination for a wee sailing weekend away, then look no further than Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. No matter what time of year you visit, this quirky little town will surprise you with just how much it has to offer to the yachting visitor.

Running Flamingo Yacht Charters has allowed me the luxury of visiting this lovely wee place on a regular basis. From our base at Largs Yacht Haven, it's only a short sail of less than an hour to reach Millport and moor up. This is one of the reasons that I like to visit so much when I have some free time.

Sailing out from Largs, you are immediately surrounded by the beauty of the West Coast. Looking to starboard you will see the Kyles of Bute and the hills of Argyll with the silhouettes of the mountains stretching for miles. I can stare at this view for hours and never get bored of it no matter what the weather. Immediately to starboard is the "Pencil" monument, a good marker to head for when returning to the marina (obviously changing direction to head into the marina before you sail up the beach!). This is a reminder of the great battle between the forces of King Haakon of Norway and the Scots army in 1263 and conjures up images of sword fights, fire and Viking marauders. It's always a great story for the kids and the battle is celebrated annually at the end of August with a festival including fireworks, Viking battles and the burning of a longboat on the beach.

Once clear of the marina entrance, setting a course for Millport we keep the village of Fairlie to port. This cute little village has a history of classic yacht building and the remains of a pier which was once a stopping off point for the steamer ships ferrying customers "doon the watter" from Glasgow. To starboard we sail along the shore of the Isle of Cumbrae, a low-lying island with ample farmland and a reputation for being the "bicycle island" due to the number of tourists who cycle around

it's 10-mile circumference every day in the summer months. It's a flat, easy cycle and is perfect for families and groups of friends to complete together with enough café stops on the way to keep everyone happy!

Further along the Cumbrae shore, we pass the Lion Rock, a hulking rock dyke that really does look like a lion wandering in from the sea. The kids love to climb this and take great delight from being able to have a photo taken standing under his bottom!

Rounding the corner into Millport Bay, we pass the Field Studies Centre where many marine biology students spend lengthy placements studying the abundant sealife that is to be found along our coast and in our waters. Once ashore, it is worth taking a walk around to the Centre to the small aquarium and museum that they operate. For a few pounds you can learn all about our native species and even handle a few of the inhabitants of the tanks.

The views on the approach to Millport Bay are fabulous, the huge mountains of the Isle of Arran in the distance provide a show-stopping background and the Island of Wee Cumbrae to port helps to complete the feeling of being transported miles away from the hustle and bustle of busy modern life even though you have only left your car on the mainland less than an hour ago.

There are some good spots to anchor in Kames Bay and plenty of moorings to pick up near the pier or at the West Bay end of the town. Once you have made your choice, it's time to get the dinghy out and explore. I usually like to row over to the Eileans, a couple of small islands in the bay, to check out the local seal population and the resident bird life before heading ashore to the town.

In town, there are some great options for hungry sailors. For a totally traditional lunch, why not head to the Deep Sea chippy for fresh hand battered haddock and chips that you can eat on the pier or on the yacht. Or for a lighter takeaway lunch and some coffee, try the Crocodeli or Brewbaker, who bake fresh speciality breads, cakes and treats every day. There are also a few options for sit down meals such as the café in the Garrison, the Dancing Midge or the old-style Ritz café – I can highly recommend a '99 ice-cream with raspberry sauce. I've sampled a few of these in my time!

If you are feeling energetic, there are bikes and canoes available to hire. Or if you just want to explore the little town itself, I would recommend wandering from the pier, along the seafront to the Crocodile Rock and taking in the old-world seaside charm. There are bouncy castles, trampolines, swing boats and a great wee crazy golf course – perfect for kids (and adults) of all ages! Don't miss a visit to the Garrison, which was restored to its former glory recently by a community group and now houses a museum, café, library and the doctor's surgery. In the grounds of the Garrison there is also an unassuming brown shed... if you are lucky enough to be there on a day when it has been opened up by the volunteers, you will find a fabulous model railway inside. The local train enthusiasts have built a replica of the whole island of Cumbrae in one shed and a replica of Glasgow and the West Highland Line in

another. It's an amazing wee gem of a place and run entirely on donations and a bit of grant funding.

Still got some energy left? Then take a stroll through the Cathedral grounds. Built in 1851, The Cathedral of the Isles is officially Britain's smallest cathedral. The grounds are a peaceful place for reflection and at night you can spot lots of bats flying in and out of the spire.

Once you've exhausted yourself and fully explored the town, it's probably time to grab a pint in one of the many pubs before heading back out to spend a blissful night on your yacht as you gaze back towards the multicoloured fairy lights that are strung right along the length of the town and reflect onto the sea making Millport look truly magical from the water.

Hopefully, you will feel inspired and want to sample the magic of Millport for yourself. What better time to do it than in 2020, The Year of Coasts and Waters #YCW2020

Hazel Pearson,
Flamingo Yacht Charters
www.flamingoyachts.com



Heading out of Largs Yacht Haven © Hazel Pearson, Flamingo Yacht Charters Ltd.



Millport's famous Crocodile Rock © Hazel Pearson, Flamingo Yacht Charters Ltd.



IN 2020, SCOTLAND CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF COASTS AND WATERS

Scotland's Coasts and Waters have shaped our history and continue to play a vital part in modern day life from fishing and textiles to whisky and wave power. They have influenced our culture, our stories and our way of life. A year-long programme of events, activities and ideas will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have had on Scotland, from the formation of beautiful natural features including coasts, lochs and rivers to our industrial heritage such as our canals, mills and the creation of our national drink – whisky.

Scotland boasts a hugely varied coastline and a rich offering of inland waters in both rural and urban settings. If you have always dreamed of navigating your way around distant isles and canals, being a sea captain or gliding gracefully across a misty loch, a sailing holiday in Scotland is for you. **So what are you waiting for – come on in, the water's lovely!**

Join the conversation using **#YCW2020**

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

🔍 Sound of Mull

YEAR OF COASTS AND WATERS 2020 READY TO SET SAIL

A spectacular new event at Scotland's Boat Show and a celebration of Scotland's waters at The Fife Regatta are just a taste of the events lined up to put Scotland's coasts and waters in the spotlight in 2020. The Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 aims to inspire visitors, locals, and the tourism and events sector to get on board and enjoy everything the year has to offer.

Other events already announced include: Ferry Tales from the National Theatre of Scotland; Edinburgh International Film Festival presents Scotland's Shores; Clydebuilt Festival and RSPB Scotland's DolphinFest 2020.

From water inspired myths and legends to historic harbours, sweeping coastlines to the very best in seafood, whisky, wildlife and wellness – Scotland's enviable reputation for unspoiled beaches, rich natural and cultural heritage and thrill-seeking

adventure activities will be showcased through a year-long programme of events and activities.

In addition to a range of new and existing events, the year will also provide the opportunity to promote and celebrate a variety of unique and authentic experiences showcasing Scotland's unrivalled coasts and waters including The Hebridean Whale Trail, the first of its kind in the UK; and new road trip routes taking in Scotland's winding coastlines and characterful communities including The Coig and the South West Coastal 300. The year will also encourage responsible engagement with Scotland's coasts and waters.

Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 will begin on 1 January 2020 and run until 31 December 2020.

For more information: visitscotland.com/ycw2020



The Fife Regatta 2020

The Fife Regatta will see a spectacular fleet of famous Fife Yachts return to their birthplace on the Clyde to participate in a unique event. The regatta will start and finish in Largs, taking in various locations around the Clyde including Holy Loch Marina, Dunoon, Rothesay, Isle of Bute and Tighnabruach, Argyll for locals and visitors to enjoy.

4 - 11 June 2020

Largs Yacht Haven, Irvine Road, Largs KA30 8EZ

fiferegatta.com

River of Light

Scotland's Boat Show and Kip Marina will make a splash in 2020 with a brand-new event that will see Scotland's biggest boat show's programme extended into the evening on the 10 October. Illuminated boats will light up the Clyde and there will also be entertainment on the shore.

10 October 2020

Kip Marina, Inverkip PA16 0AW

scotlandsboatshow.co.uk/riveroflight



Join the conversation **#YCW2020**

Sailing Holidays



🏠 Sailing life on Zuza © VentureSail Holidays

FROM DISCOVERING SECLUDED BAYS TO EXPLORING ENDLESS HORIZONS, you will see Scotland in a whole new light on a sailing holiday. The country offers so much along its vast and diverse coastline, and out on the open seas, this is a truly magical way to see Scotland and all of its beauty from a new perspective every day.

Explore the nooks and crannies of Scotland's spectacular coastline, guided by professional crew at your own pace. Escape from the hustle and bustle of modern, "always on" living. Enjoy the freedom and adventure to be found by taking to the sea. Visit iconic locations which are renowned the world over or perhaps venture offshore, sailing under the stars.

On sailing holidays, the skipper is responsible for the boat and often spends many weeks during the season on the yacht. Customers can book anything from a single berth to the whole boat and need not be experienced sailors themselves, as the responsibility for the sailing and navigation rests with the skipper. Journeys can be pre-planned or at the discretion of the guests.

Guests can join in as much as they wish, particularly with the washing up, although larger vessels sometimes have a full-time crew who will take care of that as well. With a host of companies to choose from, there's a variety of tailored services to suit every preference.

Some cruises may be based around a theme such as wildlife or a tour of whisky distilleries, while others have a specific aim such as reaching St Kilda or climbing a particular mountain. Many boats have a speciality such as gourmet cooking, walking, mountaineering or adventure sailing. Activities such as windsurfing, water-skiing or diving are often also available on some larger boats.

Increasingly, vessels are venturing further afield to destinations such as Ireland, the Faroes or even Norway or Iceland to let customers experience passage sailing while safe in the knowledge that someone else is in charge. The option may exist to undertake a one-way passage as some yachts cruise to alternative locations during the course of the season. Imagine starting your journey in the secluded anchorages of Scotland's west coast only to finish in an Icelandic fjord!

With opportunities often existing to join organised events such as the Malts Cruise, Scottish Islands Peaks Race or West Highland Yachting Week there is a lot of choice from Scottish shores. Other opportunities involve shorter corporate or private trips, which usually range from a day sail to a long weekend. The length of time offered is often related to the area where the boat operates – holidays of a shorter duration are more likely to be available in the Firth of Clyde and closer to larger settlements with better transport links, while further afield the duration is usually a week or more.

There's a wide range of vessels available for sailing holidays from purpose-built expedition yachts, modern fibreglass sloops, catamarans and traditional wooden craft.

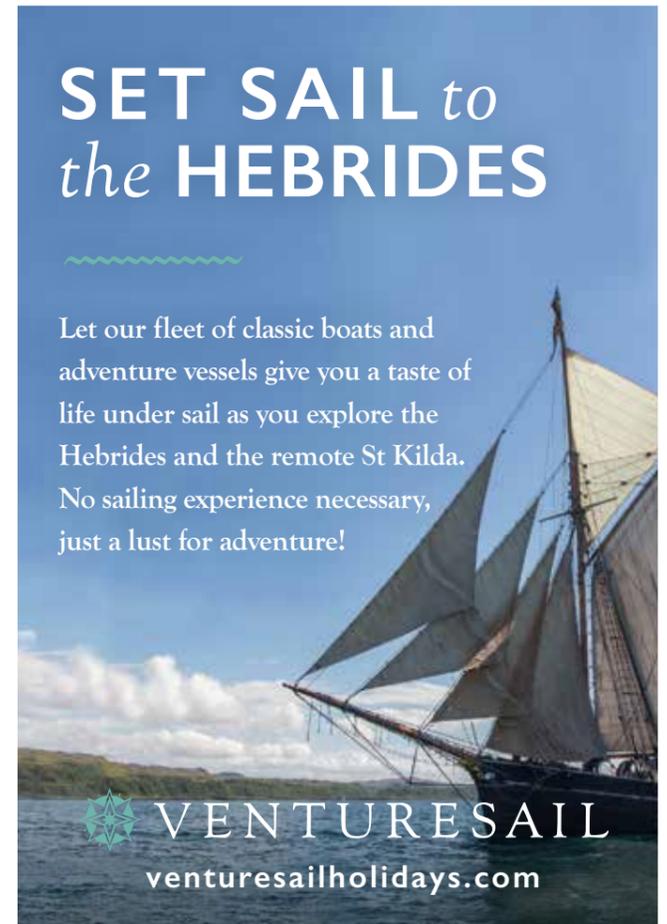
Most skippers will provide informal tuition for those who wish to learn and some boats are also accredited RYA training centres offering a range of courses.

Accommodation and levels of comfort vary from private cabins with en-suite facilities to more communal living. Whatever package you choose, the boats and crew are sure to be fully equipped to allow you to get the most out of your holiday and Scotland's magnificent scenery and hospitality.

SET SAIL *to* the HEBRIDES

Let our fleet of classic boats and adventure vessels give you a taste of life under sail as you explore the Hebrides and the remote St Kilda. No sailing experience necessary, just a lust for adventure!

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Selkie Explorers



Explore Scotland's beautiful coast from aboard Selkie, a high latitude, aluminium, lifting keel, expedition sailing yacht. Access the wilder, hidden and hard-to-get-to places of the inner and Outer Hebrides, St. Kilda and beyond. Book the whole boat or just a bunk to join us for a fantastic sailing adventure. Each Selkie voyage is a unique experience created by the wind, waves, birds, sea creatures, fellow crew, great food and weather. Whether you are a keen sailor, photographer, wild swimmer, wildlife enthusiast, an adventurer, on your own, with a group of friends or a family... there is a wonderful holiday for everyone. Selkie is based on the Isle of Eigg and voyages depart (mainly) from Mallaig year round. See our website for 2020 trips and availability or email Celia to ask about bespoke or scheduled voyages, summer, winter and 2021. We look forward to welcoming you on board.



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WWW.SELKIE-EXPLORERS.COM
FACEBOOK: @SelkieExplorers
Instagram: @sailselkieexplorers

Lovely Lochaber...



📍 Castle Thioram, Loch Moidart - view from hills above beach © Red Moon Cruises

Heading north from Oban to Kyle for our first 2019 Red Moon Cruise we had a few days in hand so we thought we would take a peak in the sea lochs of Moidart and Ailort, as yet unexplored by us. We were very excited to enter Loch Moidart as it is an interesting navigational challenge to get in there and we were keen to get our first view of Tioram Castle – and importantly to assess whether this could be a new cruise option for us.

Red Moon's Skipper Scott Atkinson relates... "I was not too fazed having looked at the Pilot Guide* for the area and studied our charts before we entered. However, it proved to be a little more exciting than I thought it would be. There is a point at which you need to do a couple of significant turns and we were in the process of starting the first when our GPS had a position failure - so back to first principle navigation and mark ones eyeballs! I also had the advantage of Antares detailed chartlets but be warned the feeling of that turn when you are actually on the water is somewhat more pronounced than expected!"

We came to a deep pool centred behind Riska island and as we looked to starboard there was the Castle, picture perfect. We anchored there and excited to explore ashore we jumped into the tender and were able to do a beach landing. We walked along a lovely white sandy beach to take a look at the Castle which is a ruin, but a very handsome one. It really is a picturesque, rather romantic spot and we were already planning bringing our guests back later in the season.

The next morning was a glorious day and we decided to take the tender to head deeper into the loch. We cruised up the Moidart river and suddenly from feeling like we were miles from anything...there was a road! This was the A861 which winds around the Lochaber coast from Mallaig to Strontian. Leaving this behind us we took the North channel, leading to the loch's North Harbour, which is only 6m wide at its narrowest with a flooding causeway to cross. This place feels really quiet and peaceful and we were rewarded for our patience in navigating the shallows by the sight of an otter and then deer grazing on the shore. Wonderful.

We left the lovely Moidart to continue up the coast. On our way we were joined by a welcome and joyous pod of dolphins – a propitious start to our cruising season! The feel of Loch Ailort is quite different with its open winding passage through numerous islands and disappearing rocks with steep hills along one edge – and a main road on the other. However, it was a sublime evening and we chose to anchor close to the south end of the 'Black Islands'. We were not bothered by traffic and we saw a fair amount of wildlife, particularly birds, and we toasted the beginning of another exciting season ahead of us.

Next day, we took a quick look at anchoring possibilities in the Borrowdale Islands – certainly somewhere to consider as a lunch stop providing there was no south westerly swell rolling in. We had hoped to enter the inviting Arisaig harbour but time was running short...we will save that for next season!

*Ardnamurchan to Cape Wrath. Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions and Anchorages. Martin Lawrence.

Mary Waller
Red Moon Cruises
www.redmooncruises.co.uk



📍 Red Moon at anchor, Loch Moidart © Red Moon Cruises



📍 Deer - North passage, Loch Moidart © Red Moon Cruises



📍 Relaxing on Red Moon before a busy season - Black Isles, Loch Ailort © Red Moon Cruises

Charter and Sailing Schools



Midnight Mirage in Tobermory © SeaSpray Yacht Charters

NOTHING COMPARES TO SEEING SCOTLAND FROM THE WATER, but it is not only for the most experienced of sailors. Join a yacht charter, a sailing school excursion or hire a skippered vessel to take you on a magical journey exploring Scotland's coastline. For the more adventurous, there are RYA courses where you can learn the ropes (and knots) giving you the confidence to go your own way.

Sailing in Scotland is a dream for aspiring and experienced sailors alike. You'll be spoilt for choice when selecting your cruising area; there are plenty of exciting places to visit with fabulous scenery and wildlife, stunning islands, remote anchorages and historic locations to choose from. All this in addition

to excellent locally sourced food in abundance and a plethora of whisky distilleries to anchor up at. Need help deciding on where to go? You can read more about many of the locations you might visit on your sailing adventure in this brochure.

For qualified skippers, bareboat charter is usually the preferred option as this allows you to cruise at your own pace with a group of friends, family or colleagues. It is a cost-effective way of sailing in some of the best waters in the world on the yacht best suited to your own personal needs. The majority of Scottish yacht charter companies are located in the Firth of Clyde and the west and north-west coast of mainland Scotland but there are others including Orkney, Edinburgh and the Moray Firth, so there are plenty of options to choose from.

A wide variety of sailing yachts can be hired for bareboat, skippered and corporate charters, these typically range from 30 to 45ft, usually with three or four cabins. They typically are capable of accommodating groups of between six and 10 crew members. These include new or nearly new vessels from most of the major European manufacturers as well as some more mature boats. A number of Sail Scotland member companies are also members of the Association of Scottish Yacht Charterers (ASYC) indicating that they offer a first-

class service to their customers. Booking through an ASYC member should give you peace of mind and, in the unlikely event of there being a problem with your holiday, they provide a free arbitration service.

A typical bareboat or skippered charter duration is 7 days, with the changeover day usually being a Friday or Saturday. Multiple week bookings are welcomed by most companies and allow the sailor to venture further west and north to more remote waters. High season tends to run from May until August. Most companies are also keen to promote long weekend charters which are mainly available during the less busy times of the season (March, April, September, October). It is worth noting that demand in the summer months is high and you usually need to book early to get the yacht of your choice.

The majority of yacht charter companies also offer skippered charters. A bareboat charter with skipper might appeal to a group of competent sailors who are new to Scottish waters or to newly qualified skippers or mixed-ability groups. On a

skippered charter, the charter group will usually organise their own provisioning of the yacht and ensure that the skipper is catered for and there is plenty of space for him/her to sleep. For those who prefer a dedicated skipper to organise everything and to have first-class food included in your holiday, please refer to the *Sailing Holidays* section of this magazine.

Scotland is one of the safest places to sail. A significant difference between Scottish charter companies and those further afield is that all charter boats operating in UK coastal waters have to be 'coded' by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This means that a vessel has to maintain a high standard of safety equipment on board, such as life jackets, life raft, flares and fire extinguishers, with the further condition that the equipment is regularly serviced. Coding also provides a means by which different vessels are categorised as to the distance they may be sailed from a recognised safe haven or harbour. Most charter boats in Scotland are coded to MCA Category 2, which means that they can sail up to 60nm from a safe haven.

Others may be coded to Category 1, allowing them to undertake passages of 120nm. A few are Category 0 which allows them to cross oceans. All of the cruising areas in this brochure are reachable in a yacht which is coded to Category 2. Crews wishing to venture further afield, perhaps to the Faroes or Norway, will need a boat which is coded to Category 1.

Sail Scotland's yacht charter member companies are always delighted to welcome newcomers to sailing or to the area and to discuss their specific requirements with them. It's all about making your sailing dreams come true! For more details of which services each individual yacht charter company offers please refer to the list at the back of this brochure.

RYA COURSES

Joining an RYA course in Scotland offers you the opportunity to learn new skills in an iconic sailing area. It also equips you with the qualifications required to hire a yacht as a skipper on a bareboat charter. As you expand your skills and knowledge, you're sure to find

the whole process both enjoyable and rewarding in equal measure.

A number of the charter companies listed within these pages are also recognised RYA training centres – look for the logo in their listing. This allows them to offer a full range of RYA courses in addition to both bareboat and skippered charters.

Some companies and training centres specialise in RYA courses only. There are a range of courses to suit all abilities from the entry level Competent Crew certificate, all the way through Day Skipper, and Coastal Skipper to the coveted Yachtmaster qualification. Courses often run from Saturday to Thursday or Sunday to Friday with participants gaining a recognised certificate at the end of the course. Some centres also offer the option of taking the course over a series of weekends. There really is something for everyone.

A typical RYA course would start about 4pm with a full safety briefing followed by a short shakedown cruise to a sheltered anchorage. The following days might start with a review of the weather forecast and the preparation of the passage plan over breakfast, followed with a full day's sailing or manoeuvring exercises, all under the watchful eye of the instructor. Having reached your destination for the evening, you might take the time to enjoy a meal ashore or perhaps continue sailing on through the night to build up your night passage hours.

RYA courses can usually be booked on an individual berth basis and most of the provisioning for the trip will be provided by the sailing school. The rest of the crew may already be

friends or family – but, even if everyone on board is a complete stranger at the start of the course, you will have made firm friends by the end of it. No two courses are the same. While all will cover the required elements of the RYA syllabus, they will almost certainly do so in a different way, taking into account the existing weather conditions and location of the course.

A sailing course in Scotland gives you the opportunity to learn new skills or improve on existing ones while making new friends, enjoying fantastic scenery and visiting wonderful places. Many people enjoy their introduction to sailing in Scotland so much that they come back year after year to indulge in their new-found passion. Whether you choose a school on the coast, an inland loch or an island, you can be sure of excellent instruction and a warm welcome. A list of all the companies offering RYA courses can be found at the back of the brochure.

Full details of all RYA training courses and RYA-recognised clubs are available at www.rya.org.uk/scotland

BRINGING YOUR OWN BOAT TO SCOTLAND

Scotland boasts excellent facilities for those who wish to set sail in their own dinghies, yachts or powerboats. Most marinas offer various berthing options and winter storage options. The majority also have a slipway and can assist with launching and many offer travel hoist services for larger vessels. There are also numerous slips around the coast and on inland lochs where boats may also be launched.



SAIL BADACHRO

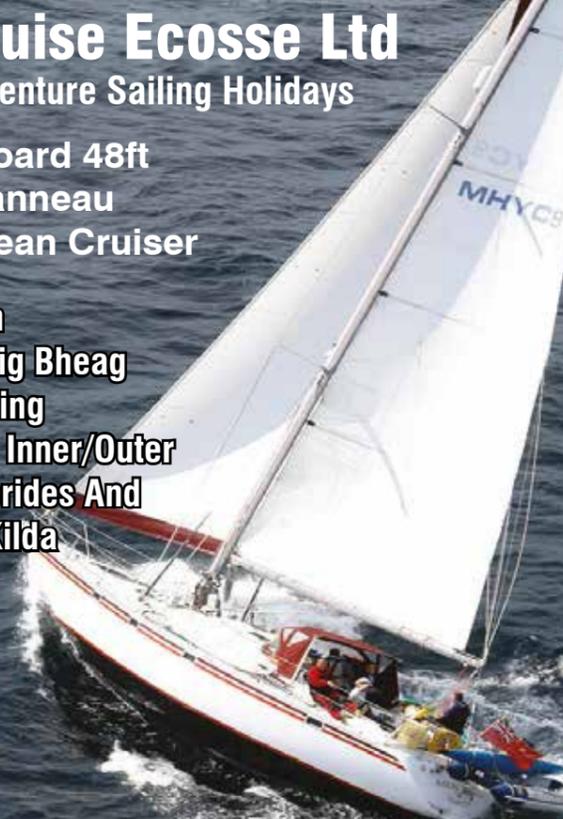
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Make us your first choice for quality yacht charter.

- Our selected cruising yachts are comfortable, well equipped and well maintained.
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- Only 35 minutes drive from Glasgow and Prestwick airports.

Argyll Yacht Charters



Quality bareboat and skippered charters from our base at Ardfarn Yacht Centre, 20 miles south of Oban on the west coast of Scotland, Argyll Yacht Charters offer a range of well equipped and fully maintained sailing yachts for bareboat or skippered charter. Our boats range from 36 to 44 feet in length, and vary in age from modern performance cruising boats to a more mature blue-water ketch.

Argyll Yacht Charters
Achnafuaran, Ardfarn, by Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8QN
Mobile 07979 905445 Email info@argyll-yachtcharters.co.uk
www.argyll-yachtcharters.co.uk

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Yacht Charter in Scotland

The attractions of a sailing cruise in Scotland are well known, both to those sailors who return year after year, and to those who are keen to make their first voyage in these wonderful waters. True, there is often some pain when the well documented occasional inclemency of the climate can turn a planned leisurely cruise into something a little more challenging, but your experienced Scottish sailor is at heart an optimist. She or he knows that the vagaries of the weather are the price you pay for the uncrowded waters, magnificent scenery, and a warm welcome ashore. The intricate coastline and innumerable islands keep open sea passage making to a minimum, and you will spend most of your time sailing in relatively sheltered water and not far from one of many anchorages. It is one of the greatest of the many pleasures of sailing in Scotland to drop the anchor and relax in beautiful surroundings after an exhilarating day. Sometimes though, you will want to spend some time ashore and there has been a huge upsurge in recent years of facilities for visiting yachtsmen, mostly community led and small scale, with the provision of pontoons, water, diesel, showers and wifi in many small harbours from the West Coast and Hebrides to the East Coast and up to the Orkneys and Shetland. These all help to enhance the cruising experience and support the local economy.

Not everyone has the necessary time or the finance to be able to own a yacht and, if you do, you might want to sail and explore different sailing grounds without the inconvenience of moving your boat from place to place. The solution of course is to charter a boat from one of the many companies offering bareboat (self sail) charter or take a berth on a skippered charter choosing from the wide variety of different craft available. For those wanting to learn to sail or improve their skills, there is no better training ground and RYA sailing schools offer courses from beginner to yachtmaster. So, a little bit more about what is on offer...

Bareboat Charter

With a bareboat charter you get the whole boat to skipper and sail yourself. The choice of boats range from 32ft to 50ft+ and, unlike a boat you might charter in the Med or Caribbean, Scottish boats will be very well equipped and have to meet the exacting standards of the Code of Practice as specified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This means comprehensive safety equipment for all crew, all of which is regularly inspected and certified. It also means navigation aids including GPS, chartplotter, DSC VHF, wind, depth, and speed instruments and not forgetting paper charts and pilot books of course. A detailed handover precedes your charter and manuals will be on board to keep you right and help you run the boat systems. The boat will be well maintained and handed over in a clean condition. If you want to be sure of getting a well found boat, kept to the MCA standard as a minimum, then visit www.asyc.co.uk where all members boats have to meet the ASYC Code, as well as the legal requirements of the MCA.

Skippered charter

A skippered charter boat is one with a professional crew. This can just be the skipper or, on bigger craft, there could be a mate or even a cook as well although it is more common for these duties to be combined. There are modern yachts, old gaffers, converted fishing boats, and purpose built mini cruise ships available. Nearly all offer places by the berth but whole boat charters are also available. There are many boats whose business is solely skippered charter but it is worth remembering that if you fancy a bit of hands on sailing without the stress of skippering, then you can charter a yacht and hire a skipper. Most charter companies will offer this service and some will be able to arrange your catering as well. This option is popular even with experienced skippers who just want to take the opportunity to relax a bit more with family and friends. Details of the many boats available can be found at www.sailscotland.co.uk and at www.asyc.co.uk.

Sail Training

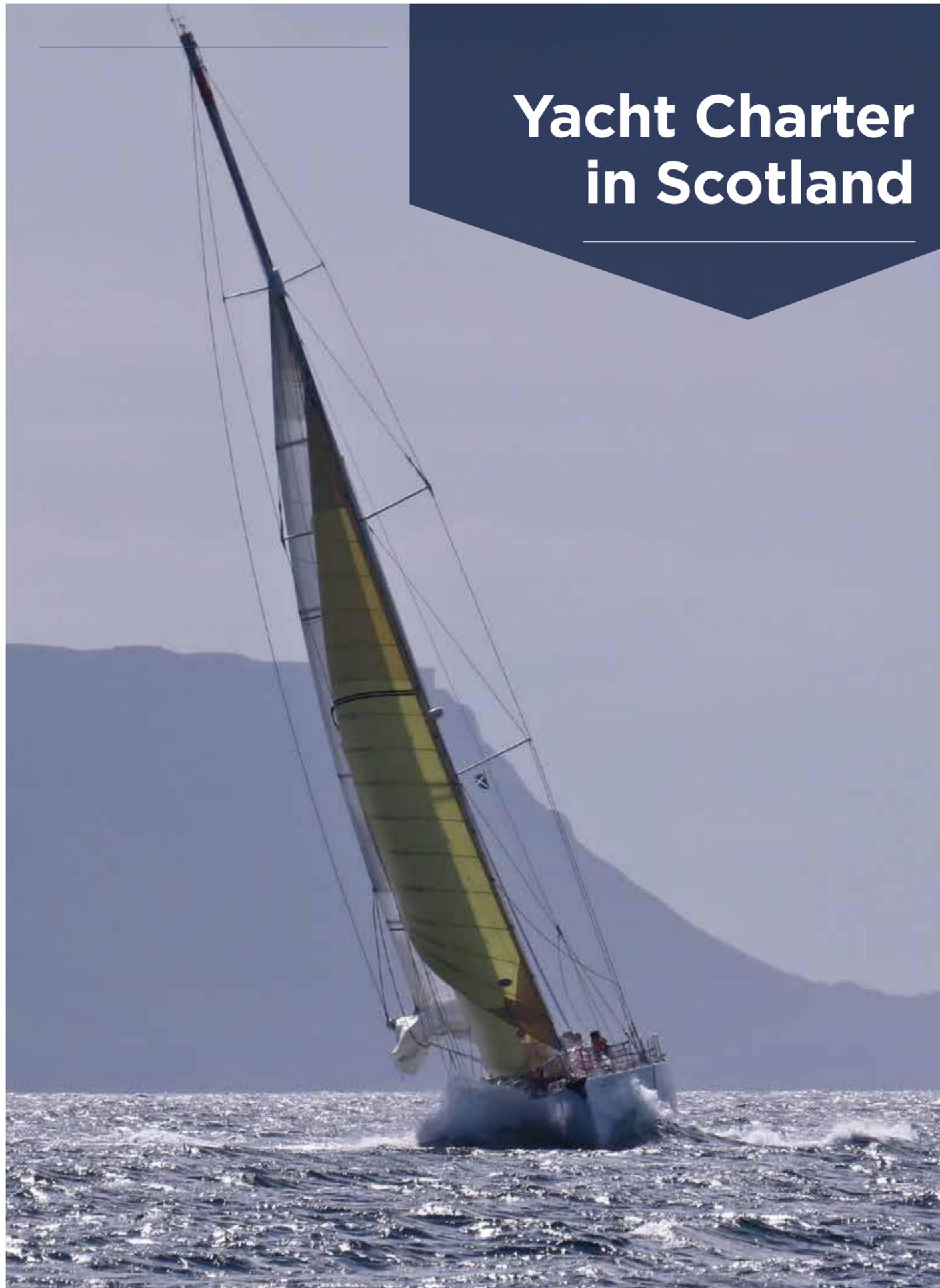
A sailing course, whether it is mile building, for experience, or to attain one of the RYA qualifications is a rewarding experience. You will learn with an experienced professional who will improve your skills and build your confidence, and there is no better place to do this than in Scotland. Full details of the RYA training scheme can be found at www.rya.org.uk, in addition to the regular courses where it is usual to take a berth, it is also possible to hire a boat and an instructor if you want a more one-to-one experience or want to learn with your family. Many of the bareboat charter companies are also RYA training centres and would be able to help.

More about the ASYC

The Association of Scottish Yacht Charters is a trade association representing bareboat and skippered charter companies operating in Scotland. By choosing a member, you can be confident, knowing that your chosen company is an accredited member of a professional association. If you have concerns over the security of your payment, the Association operates a Trust account where your deposit and balance can be held until completion of your charter. Member companies operate an informal self help scheme. If you have problems or suffer a breakdown far from the home port, then there is a good chance there will be someone nearby that can help. In the unlikely event of a complaint, the Association offers an arbitration service and tries to find a mutually satisfactory solution. At any point during the booking process, you can contact the Association for advice or information. For peace of mind it makes sense to choose an ASYC member.

www.asyc.co.uk

The Association of Scottish Yacht Charters
www.asyc.co.uk



🏠 Sailing hard

Firth of Clyde



🏠 After the Storm, Strachur © Patricia McCurrach

HERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE DIVERSITY OF SCOTLAND by exploring the waterways of its largest city, Glasgow, which, at one time, built many of the world's greatest ships, and onward to the picturesque, tranquil sea lochs and islands leading you towards the Highlands.

The Firth of Clyde is a wonderfully sheltered cruising area with 10 of the best large marinas in the UK which can accommodate several thousand boats, and there's a host of marine services close at hand. At the heart of this diverse region is the exciting, vibrant city of Glasgow, while a world away from the hustle and bustle you can enjoy a leisurely exploration of peaceful islands and delightful seaside resorts.

The main Clyde marinas for resident and charter vessels are the Troon, Ardrossan, Largs, Kip, Rhu, Holy Loch and James Watt Dock, while Fairlie Quay is particularly popular for winter storage and has been developed as a centre for maintenance. All are easily accessible by public transport and the increase in low-cost air travel has encouraged many yacht owners who live elsewhere to keep their vessels in Scottish marinas.

More recent marina developments are now well established at Portavadie Marina and Spa in Loch Fyne and Port Bannatyne on the Isle of Bute.

DESTINATIONS

The Clyde is more than just a convenient playground; it is also the perfect starting point for cruises to more distant places. Visiting boats arriving from the south or Ireland may choose to visit the new marina at Stranraer, where shore-side facilities have been upgraded as part of the EU-funded Sail West project, before venturing further north into the firth itself.

The first fully serviced marina on the Firth of Clyde can be found at Troon. From there, a popular route is north-west through the beautiful Kyles of Bute to the Crinan Canal and then to the Argyll coast and islands, Skye and the Outer Hebrides. Heading south-west past Arran and round the Mull of Kintyre, perhaps calling at Sanda or Campbeltown, is a passage best

undertaken in good weather. It leads to the southern isles of Gigha, Islay and Jura or alternatively across the North Channel to Rathlin Island, Ballycastle and Glenarm.

There's also a range of options for those who do not want to leave the firth. This rich cruising ground has moderate tidal streams and ranges, well-marked hazards and, apart from a few popular spots, relatively few other boats. The 'harbour full' sign has yet to reach Scottish waters!

One of the most popular destinations is Tarbert, on the western side of lower Loch Fyne. It was once lined with skiffs and fishing boats from one side of the harbour to the other, and the fishing heritage is an important part of the personality here. The fleet remains active today though it has, to some extent, given way to visiting and resident yachts of all types and sizes. The marina provides pontoon berthing for over 200,

small chandlery and good shore-side facilities. It is a picturesque village where the illuminated remains of Tarbert Castle overlook the harbour at night, while the nearby shops, bars and restaurants are acknowledged attractions too.

Flotilla visits are welcome to Tarbert, and it is a favourite with sailing clubs for musters and rallies. It also hosts the Clyde Cruising Club's Scottish Series each spring. This attracts upwards of a hundred competitive yachts from far and wide for a long weekend of racing in the waters of Loch Fyne where, although it has few hazards and gentle tides, the variable wind patterns offer the racing sailor great challenges.

In contrast to the tradition of Tarbert, just 3nm across Loch Fyne is the modern resort at Portavadie. The marina here has almost 250 berths and a full range of facilities, including a luxury spa with outdoor infinity pool overlooking the loch. As well as the leisure centre there

is a small chandlery and gift shop, and restaurant or café dining is available on site.

From there, venture north past Ardrishaig and the entrance to the famous Crinan Canal, before continuing to the more remote destinations on Loch Fyne. Otter Ferry and Strachur, both with visitor moorings and landing pontoons, are popular spots for sailors to step ashore for lunch, while various anchorages can be found in between at Loch Gair, Minard Bay and Lachlan Bay – home to another castle ruin and hidden gem restaurant. Deeper into upper Loch Fyne you can admire the pretty tourist town of Inveraray, and at the very head of the loch is the well-known Oyster Bar – which provides visitor moorings for those intrepid sailors who make it all the way!

Other destinations with pontoon berthing are Campbeltown, Ardrishaig and Rothesay, plus a new facility at

Girvan on the Ayrshire coast. These are ideally placed for the cruising yachtsman. Campbeltown is close to the Mull of Kintyre and a good port of call arriving from the south, while Ardrishaig is the eastern terminus of the Crinan Canal. Girvan lies midway between the harbours of Stranraer and Ayr, while Rothesay, capital of the beautiful Isle of Bute, is a traditional favourite.

At Lamlash on Arran or in the Kyles of Bute more traditional landing methods – anchoring and going ashore by dinghy – can be found. In many spots, hotels and communities have laid moorings for visitors, while smaller pontoon facilities have been installed to assist with landing a dinghy at some locations. These are sometimes free for patrons or a nominal charge may be made.

Arran is often called ‘Scotland in miniature’ as it has almost all the elements of the whole of Scotland including mountains, castles, beaches, golf courses, a brewery and a distillery.

You can call at Brodick, Lamlash or Lochranza and in each place you will find visitor moorings, with the additions of a landing slip at Lamlash and a fine new pontoon at Lochranza.

The Kyles of Bute is one of the prettiest open-water passages in Britain. Its fjord-like channels, or kyles, wind between heather-clad hills, past sleepy holiday villages and through groups of islands. What’s more, every half-mile or so there is an anchorage to stop for lunch or for the night. Ashore, the village pubs and restaurants are renowned for their good food and pleasant ambience. Here you will meet fellow sailors enjoying themselves and locals with a tale to tell of past seafaring exploits.

Loch Fyne may be the deepest and longest at around 40 miles, but it’s not the only sea loch worth mentioning. If you’re thinking of getting off the beaten track, the Clyde’s lochs will take you deep into Scotland’s mountains. The scenery is magnificent, the sailing

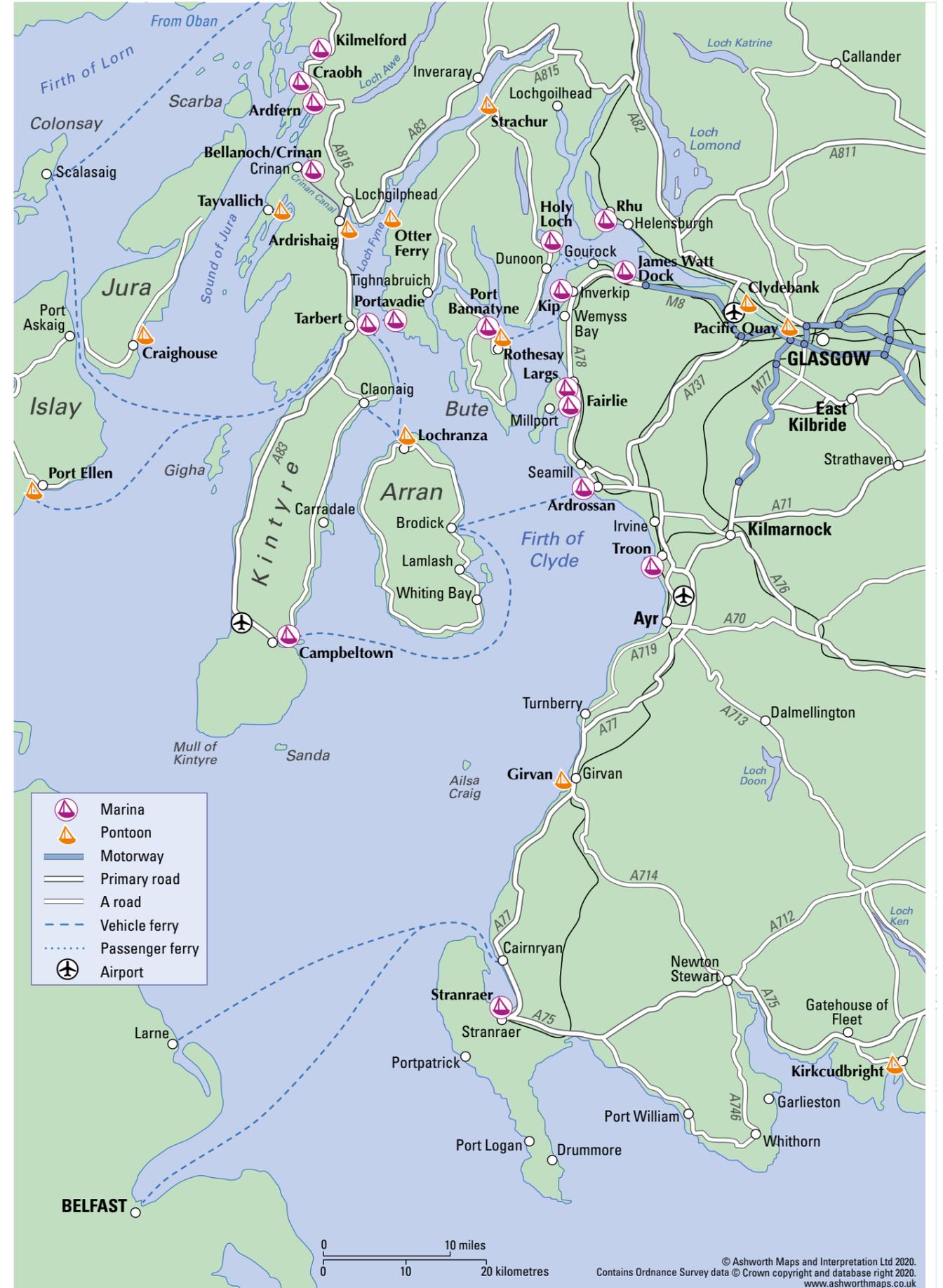
straightforward and, although there are around 5000 boats on the Clyde, you will easily find a spot of solitude.

Loch Long is exactly as it says on the chart, and strikes deep into the highest mountains in southern Argyll, known locally as the Arrochar Alps, and this offers a good opportunity to ‘bag a Munro’. Loch Goil is a branch off Loch Long to the west and has two attractive destinations: Carrick Castle, near the mouth of the loch, and Lochgoilhead, at its head.

The last sea loch before entering the River Clyde is the Gare Loch. This was one of the first areas to embrace leisure boating in Scotland and is home to one of the oldest yacht clubs in Britain, the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club, at Rhu. The marina at Rhu is also an ideal stopover to explore Scotland’s first national park and its breathtaking scenery.



⌂ Taeping Delivery, Southern Firth of Clyde © A. Hamilton





🏠 Sunrise at Tarbert © Paul Ewins



🏠 Sunset at Inverkip, Firth of Clyde © Allan Campbell

THE UPPER FIRTH AND GLASGOW

The Clyde, after years of decline, has come to life again and there are potential stopping places on the way up the river at Bowling and Clydebank before reaching Glasgow harbour. Here there are pontoons on either side of the river at the BBC building which are free to use but should be booked in advance.

You can get lots of information on all aspects of sailing in the Firth of Clyde from the Clydeport Leisure Marine Guide, freely available or to download from www.clydeport.co.uk. In particular, it deals with the passage up the river to Glasgow. This is a fascinating city to visit, packed with history, culture and entertainment events. Now you can see a great city and live in comfort on your own boat.

One of the benefits of being a tourist by boat in the Clyde area is the relative ease in visiting different places that are often separated by tens of miles of road, or only linked by air or ferry. In a sailing or power boat these journeys are simple and as a result are very satisfying. This is a world-class tourist area, with attractions ranging from archaeology and castles to distilleries and superb restaurants. It is almost as interesting being ashore as it is fun being afloat!

EVENTS

Not only is Scotland known for the quality of its cruising waters, it has

an enviable reputation for hosting excellent racing and cruising events throughout the year. These vary in size and competitiveness, but all share the common theme of superb sailing combined with sociable post-event relaxation.

The premier event of the year is the Scottish Series (www.scottishseries.com) which is recognised as one of the UK's top yachting regattas. It is the largest Scottish yachting event and entrants travel from all over the world to take part.

It is the only international-standard competition for IRC yachts in Scotland, but also features courses for less competitive yachts and one-design classes, at a time of the year perfect for honing performance for the summer season regattas. While the event has historically been seen as being suitable for 'serious racers', the organisers are again promising restricted sail classes for 2020 as well as passage races which have proved popular with families and less experienced crews. The regatta is based in the picturesque waters of Loch Fyne with the berthing and regatta centre located in the stunning natural harbour village of Tarbert on the Mull of Kintyre. The event, which takes place in May, is organised by the Clyde Cruising Club.

As part of Scotland's Year of Coasts & Waters 2020 the world's most beautiful yachts will be returning to their birth for the Fife Regatta (4th to 11th June). With a

similar format to previous Fife Regattas, participants will enjoy the spectacular scenery and hospitality but with a new itinerary that combines past favourites with new destinations.

The Firth of Clyde also plays host to numerous other race events throughout the season, some of which are scheduled to encourage boats taking part in the Scottish Series to prolong their stay over three or four weekends. The Scottish Series is preceded by the Kip Regatta and is followed by the Mudhook Yacht Club Scottish Championships. Towards the end of the season the major events are the Largs Regatta Festival in August and the North Clyde Regatta in September.

The larger yacht clubs host their own series throughout the year, with local classes such as the Piper also being catered for, and the season ends with the Autumn Points Race Series hosted by Kip and Largs marinas during September and October. Full details are available from Clyde Cruising Club or the Clyde Yacht Clubs Association (www.cyca-online.org.uk), which also have their own handicapping system for non-IRC boats.

Every October Kip Marina hosts Scotland's Boat Show, the second largest in the UK and now the UK's largest brokerage (pre-owned) boat show – with an unrivalled selection of new and used boats on view, attracting approximately 16,000 visitors from far and wide.



🏠 Marc Turner @ PFM Pictures

Kip Regatta

9th & 10th May 2020

The first 'Major' of the Scottish racing calendar, Kip Regatta takes to the Clyde from Kip Marina in May each year, offering the perfect start to sailing in Scotland while fine tuning your boat and crew for the forthcoming season.

Attracting over 60 boats in 2019 and from as far afield as England, Wales and Ireland, the 2-day event enjoyed wonderful racing weather for the fleet, with Debbie Aitken's RC35 'Animal' celebrating in the sunshine after taking the coveted Overall Winner's trophy.

With race management from Royal Western Yacht Club under commodore Ross Lang and his team, headed by Principle Race Officer Johnny Watson, excellent racing took place throughout the weekend with closely fought contests across the classes including IRC1 & 4, RC35, CYCA 3 & 5, Sigma 33 and International Etchells.

Famous for its Scottish hospitality, the 'après sailing' events are always extremely popular at Kip Regatta and the Saturday night Shore Party in The Chartroom saw the biggest attendance yet as crews and spectators enjoyed an incredible atmosphere thanks to the live music from Jimallywhy into the small hours plus the popular Street Food being served on the patio.

Each year Kip Regatta attracts a growing number of first-time entries and 2020 - as the Scottish Government's Year of Coast & Waters - is the perfect year to 'do the West Coast' and enjoy the world-class sailing waters of the Clyde for yourself.

Kip Regatta 2020 takes place on the 9th & 10th May – for entry forms or more information email hgairns@kipmarina.co.uk, visit www.kipmarina.co.uk or call 01475 520919.

www.kipmarina.co.uk

The Fife Yachts

From the Clyde to the America's Cup
and back again



Fife Yachts © Marc Turner PFM Pictures

The Firth of Clyde has long been associated with high quality boat building and tenacious sailors. The Fife classic yachts are a shining example of the amazing skill and determination of the local people here in Ayrshire. In 2020, we will see the Fife Regatta return to Largs as part of the celebration of The Year of Coasts and Waters. This gives anyone lucky enough to be in the area from the 4th-11th June the chance to see these world-class iconic yachts in action.

Being from Fairlie myself, I've always been fascinated by the history of these beautiful wooden yachts. As a child, I used to peek into the derelict sheds which still stood on the beach and imagine the draughtsmen, carpenters and other skilled workers beavering away, crafting these amazing vessels right there on the beach my small village.

When William Fife I started his boatbuilding enterprise, there was only a sawpit and a blacksmith's smithy on the shore and the boats were constructed in the open on the beach. From these humble beginnings, grew a great yacht building business using cutting edge design and the techniques of master craftsmen. William Fife II joined the business when he was 18 and built yacht Stella in 1849 followed by many other notable yachts. By 1902 when William Fife II died, the yard took

up a large part of the foreshore and was fully under cover. There was acetylene lighting, woodworking machinery, lead founding, brass founding and iron founding. William Fife III began designing yachts in 1890 and went on to become one of the most renowned yacht designers of the period. He designed Pen Duick in 1898, famously owned by Eric Tabarly in more recent times and the America's Cup boats Shamrock in 1899 and Shamrock III in 1903 for Sir Thomas Lipton, the tea magnate. No small feat for a yard with such humble beginnings! The last true Fife yacht built in Fairlie was Solway Maid in 1938 and William Fife III died in 1944 at the age of 87 with the yard closing not long after.

These Clyde-built beauties have travelled far and wide; many are now berthed in sunnier climes and have been lovingly restored and cared for

by wealthy owners with a passion for classic yachts. The yachts are truly beautiful, and nothing beats the site of their classic lines charging along under full sail with their golden dragon motif cutting through the waves at the bow. I would urge both new and experienced sailors to get out onto the water and grab the chance to see these amazing, awe-inspiring yachts whilst their presence graces our Scottish waters. Where better to see them than in their original homeland against the amazing backdrops of the Kyles of Bute, the Mountains of Arran and Argyll and the rolling hills of the Ayrshire Coast!

If you fancy spotting a Fife Yacht and want to know more about them, my top tips would be:

1. Get out on the water during the Fife Regatta and appreciate these boats up close.

2. Look out for the golden dragon carved motif on the bow of these beautiful yachts whenever you visit a marina or anchorage no matter where you are in the world.
3. Read "Fast & Bonnie" by May Fife McCallum – a great book packed with history and details about all of the Fife yachts and the family who created them.
4. Google them and see just how many fabulous classic yachts one small yard on the Firth of Clyde managed to produce.
5. Keep your eyes peeled if you are on holiday in the Med, the Caribbean or the US (these lovely ladies do get around!)

Hazel Pearson
Flamingo Yacht Charter
www.flamingoyachts.com

Troon Yacht Haven



Situated on the Southern Clyde Estuary, Troon Yacht Haven provides an ideal port for entering the Clyde or for passage making to Ireland and the South. Full facility marina and boatyard with superb communications by road, air, car & sea. The helpful and experienced staff are on hand 24 hours to maximise the enjoyment of boating, and pride themselves on their high standard of customer services.



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Tarbert Harbour

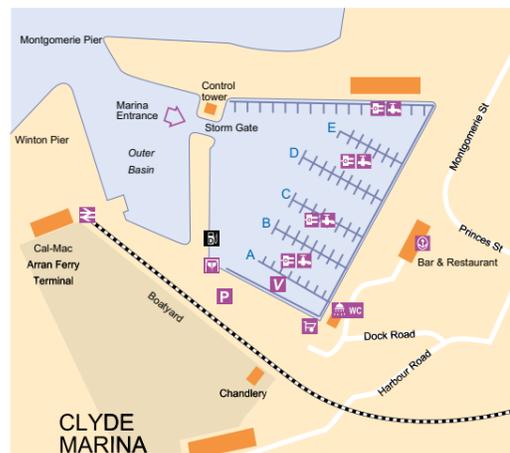


Naturally sheltered harbour on the shores of Loch Fyne, with the marina situated at the heart of the heritage fishing village. Famous for its fresh seafood, friendly locals and busy festival calendar, Tarbert is an ideal sailing destination. A selection of bars, restaurants, and shops are nearby, and marina facilities include: excellent pontoons with free Wi-Fi and electricity; chandlery; 24-hour-access toilet and shower block with laundry; and unique shore-side recreation area.



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Kip Marina



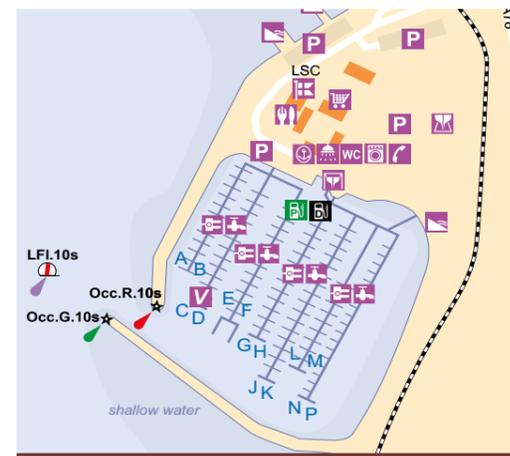
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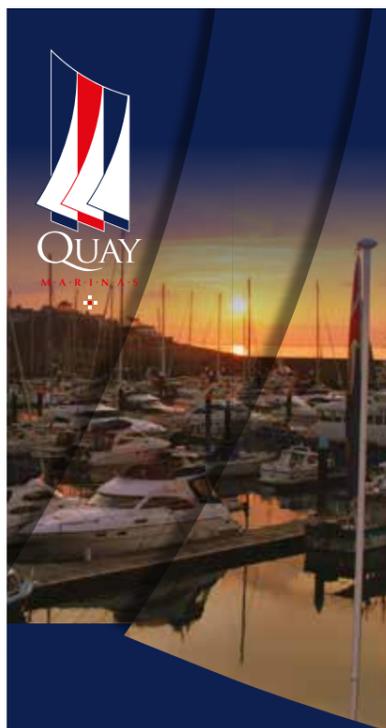


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In Line, Lochgilphead © Raymond JP Watson

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Stormy Skies over Arrochar Alps - From Rhu Narrows, looking over Gare Loch © Alan Frewe

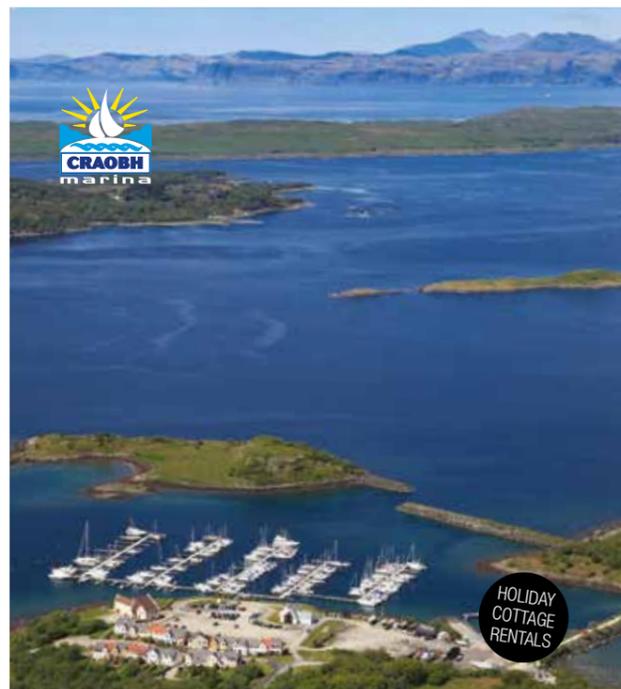


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Cumrae, Sailing Yacht in Firth of Clyde © Ayrshire & Arran Tourism



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Argyll and The Islands



Oban © SAIL Scotland

FEW VOYAGES ARE MORE SCENIC THAN THOSE SAILING THROUGH THE sea lochs of Argyll and hopping between the many islands dotting its coastline. Each isle has its own unique charm and attractions, not least the many famous distilleries and unforgettable picture-postcard views.

Argyll has been described as Scotland's richest prehistoric landscape and the cradle of the Scottish nation, and this unrivalled heritage is a constant backdrop for visiting sailors. They will find a magnificent choice of sheltered anchorages throughout Argyll and the Islands together with many moorings, harbours and marinas. There have been significant improvements with the installation of several pontoon systems and associated facilities in some remote lochs and harbours.

Those sailing from the south or east will usually arrive from either the Mull of Kintyre or the Crinan Canal, which has a reputation as 'Britain's prettiest short-cut'. Many Scottish sailors will often start their season in the Firth of Clyde, then take this picturesque short-cut to the west coast, usually breaking their journey at one of the pontoons along the canal to take advantage of the pubs and hotels at Ardrihaig, Lochgilphead, Cairnbaan and Crinan. The journey can be completed in as little as five hours or as much as a leisurely three-day

cruise, taking in the scenery and nearby attractions.

Those arriving from the Irish Sea via the North Channel and Mull of Kintyre, or those visiting from Northern Ireland, will usually sail through the Sound of Jura and make their first landfall at Islay, Jura or Gigha. All three have mooring facilities for the visiting sailor, while Islay also boasts pontoon facilities at Port Ellen. Jura has a landing pontoon at Craighouse (suitable for dinghies) and has 16 moorings in the bay. Both

Islay and Jura are well known for their distilleries; the former has eight and latter has one, most of which have their own moorings or small pontoons for visiting boats. Gigha has a reputation for fine sandy beaches and has also upgraded facilities for visiting sailors in recent years with a large number of serviced moorings and a short-stay pontoon with fine seafood available a short walk from the head of the pontoon.

For those seeking a quiet anchorage for the night, Lowlandman's Bay on the east of Jura offers shelter from most wind directions, while Loch Tarbert on the west side is a favourite with many local sailors. Seclusion is usually guaranteed, together with stunning sunsets and the opportunity to see the deer come down to the water's edge in the evening, as well as otters hunting along the rocky shoreline.

Sailors remaining within the Sound of Jura have the option of venturing up

West Loch Tarbert or lochs Sween and/or Caolisport on the eastern (mainland) side of the sound. West Loch Tarbert extends deep into the Kintyre peninsula, with the head of the loch being less than a mile from the harbour of Tarbert on the peninsula's eastern side. There are a number of anchorages within the loch and an old pier at the eastern limit.

At the head of Loch Sween the village of Tayvallich offers a small shop, a café and a lively inn which hosts traditional music sessions. The village bay gives superb shelter from all wind directions and has three visitors' moorings along with a few pontoons. If conditions are stable then an alternative anchorage can be found at the Fairy Isles, a short distance from the village.

Further north, both Loch Crinan and the Sound of Jura lead into the wonderful sailing areas of lochs Craignish, Shuna and Melfort. Excellent marina facilities can be found toward the head of Loch

Craignish at Ardfern Yacht Centre and at Craobh Marina on Loch Shuna with further yard facilities and moorings at Crinan.

For those who prefer anchorages, there are numerous options in the area. These include up the east side of Loch Craignish, where shelter is again available from every wind angle, or the west side where you will also find the loch known locally as 'The Lagoon' which, thanks to the Craignish Lagoon Mooring Association, features a clean-bottom anchoring area defined between red and green buoys.

The Dorus Mor lies at the south end of the Craignish peninsula and forms the first of the important tidal gates in this area. A general comment is that, while the tides may be strong at times, they are predictable, and providing the visiting sailor can read a tide table and tidal stream atlas they should present no real difficulties.



Close encounter with a Minke, Sound of Mull © Rhonda Newsham

FIRTH OF LORNE AND OBAN

Travelling north via one of the tidal gates of the Sound of Luing, Cuan Sound or the Gulf of Corryvreckan brings the sailor to the Firth of Lorne. After passing the islands of Easdale and Luing, many boats will stop at the popular anchorage of Puilladobhrain (pool of the otter) from where a pleasant evening walk over the hill takes you to the 'bridge over the Atlantic' and the local inn. A short distance further north, it is possible with the use of local sailing directions to follow the buoyed and tide-dependent channel into Loch Feochan which has mooring and yard facilities in its north-west corner at Ardoran Marine.

Oban, the principal town and port of the area, has most major facilities and is the focal point for many sailing events during the season. As part of an evolving harbour management strategy, the Oban Bay Management Group has introduced a new code of practice which visiting vessels should be aware of (available online and highlighted on [page 7777](#)). There is a landing pontoon and 16 visitor moorings located at the north end of Carding Mill Bay. The relatively new Oban Transit Marina installed at the North Pier provides step-ashore berthing facilities in the heart of Oban. A total of 39 berths up to 12m in length are provided with the breakwater

pontoon capable of berthing 50m+ vessels. Additional berthing and marina services are provided by Oban Marina on the nearby island of Kerrera. Here, the restaurant offers evening meals, and during the summer months the marina operates an hourly ferry service to and from the mainland, landing at Oban's North Pier. Bookings are necessary, and arrangements can also be made for out-of-hours and private water-taxi services. A short distance north of Oban there is another serviced marina at Dunstaffnage, also with an on-site bar and restaurant.

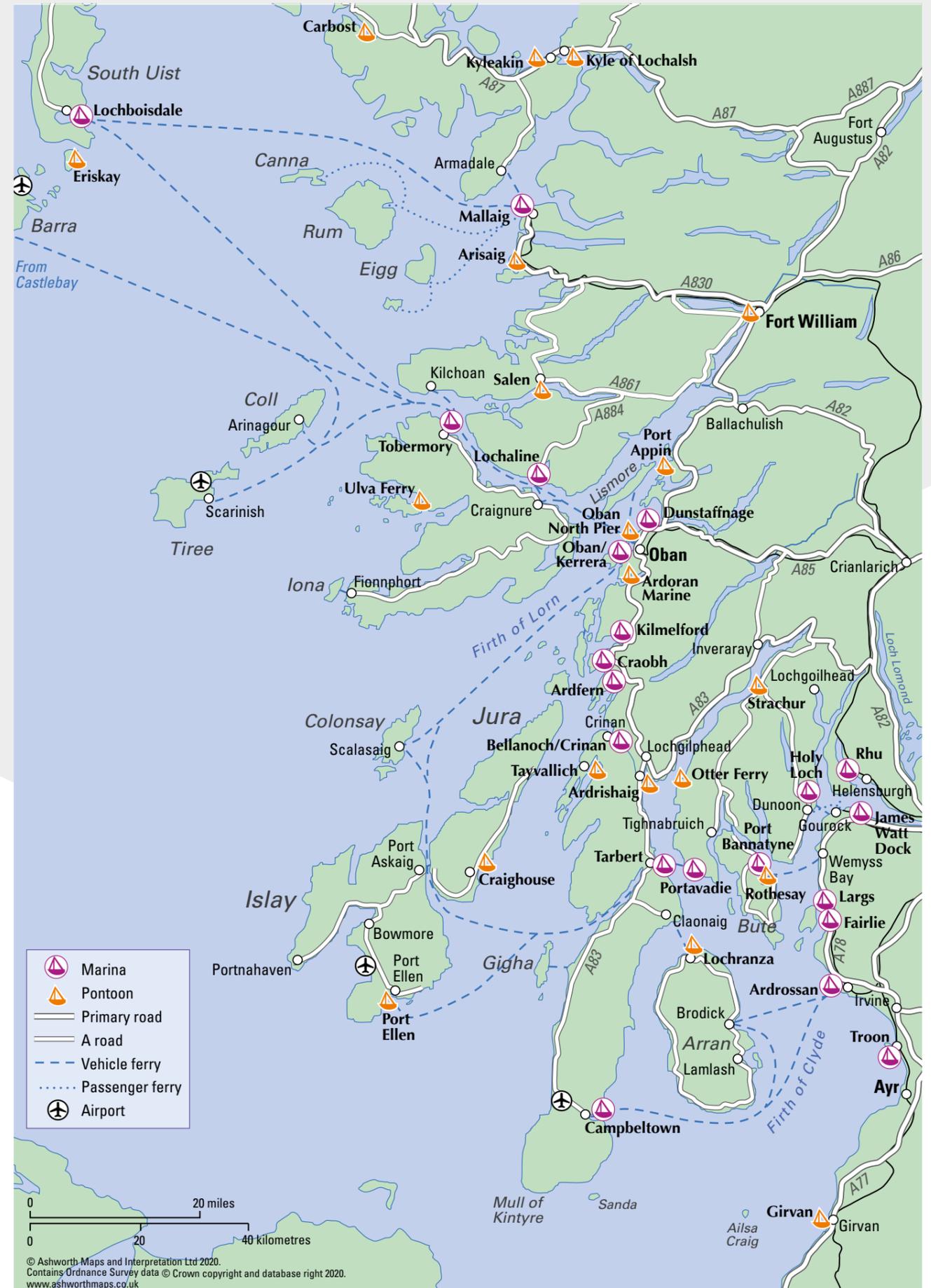
Boats making for the Caledonian Canal will continue north up Loch Linnhe to Corpach, passing the popular anchorage of Port Appin or taking one of the various complimentary moorings owned by the various lochside hostelries including the Pierhouse Hotel, Appin, and the Holly Tree, Kentallen. There are further stopping opportunities at Loch Leven (for boats able to pass under the Ballachulish Bridge) and at Corran during settled weather. In 2016 a new landing pontoon was installed at Fort William, on Loch Linnhe, not only to facilitate cruise ship visits but allowing visiting yachts to stop off on their way to and from the canal. Bear in mind that, at present, the pontoon is very busy during cruise ship calls, but interesting plans are afoot

to develop facilities further here in the future.

SOUND OF MULL

Sailors venturing west will head up the Sound of Mull, passing Duart Castle as they enter. This is the final tidal gate in the area and west of here the tides are typically less than one knot. Lochaline lies a short distance up the sound on the north shore and, while very sheltered, required anchoring overnight in deep water in the past. However, pontoons and step-ashore facilities are now provided, including showers, toilets, a laundrette and wi-fi access on the west side of the loch, with the village within easy walking distance. Entrance in and out of the loch usually requires a favourable tide, which is the case with many west coast lochs.

Tobermory is the main town on Mull and a popular tourist destination. A useful refuelling point for vessels and crew, it also has many famous watering holes as well as a distillery. Tobermory has benefited from improvements to its pontoons and a modern shower block and toilets for visiting sailors in the harbour association building. The mooring facilities have also been upgraded and, apart from in the busiest of weeks, it is now usually possible to avoid having to anchor in the bay.



THE INNER HEBRIDES

There are a number of route choices for those venturing west from Tobermory out of the Sound of Mull. If time permits then the northern option will take you around Ardnamurchan and into the waters around Skye, while heading west across the Sea of the Hebrides will lead to the islands of Barra, Harris and Uist.

For those on a limited timescale, it is probable that these destinations will have to wait for another trip, and instead the choice will either be to head west for the islands of Coll and Tiree or turn southwards along the western side of Mull. Both routes involve open-water sailing and are often rewarded with a wealth of wildlife. Sea eagles are a regular sight around Mull, while whales, basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises can also be seen.

The Isle of Coll has one very sheltered bay at Arinagour, the main village on the island, where there are a limited number of moorings and plenty of suitable anchorages. The neighbouring island of Tiree, famous for its high sunshine hours, sandy beaches and windsurfing, is better suited to a daytime anchorage as most of the bays are more exposed. As well as hosting the Wave Classic windsurfing event, Tiree boasts an award-winning traditional music festival held each summer beside the stunning Crossapol Bay beach.

The west side of Mull has a number of sheltered anchorages, mostly around the island of Ulva. The newly installed visitor pontoons located at the Ulva Ferry can accommodate eight boats up to 16m in length, and restaurants and other amenities can be reached via the community bus. Sailing along this western coastline allows a visit to the Treshnish Isles and Staffa – home of Fingal’s Cave. It is possible to anchor and view the cave from either the island or a tender during settled weather. Further south lies the island of Iona and its world-famous abbey.

The main village on the Ross of Mull is Bunessan, where it is possible to anchor in a number of bays. Visitors are advised to anchor clear of the fairway to the main pier which is used by fishing boats all year round. The peninsula also contains many fine anchorages, including Tinker’s Hole and Carsaig, from where the

visiting sailor can choose to return home by either heading east through the Torran Rocks or south to Colonsay and then through the Sound of Islay and the Sound of Jura.

EVENTS

Sailing clubs and associations on the west coast host a range of exciting and varied racing events, the go-to resource for information about these being the Clyde Yacht Clubs Association’s online calendar (www.cyca-online.org.uk). While many of these are for club sailors, there are also some events suitable for visitors.

One of these is the Owen Sails / Ardfern Yacht Centre Round Mull Race. It consists of three passages, Oban-Tobermory, Tobermory-Bunessan and Bunessan-Oban, and has both white sail and spinnaker classes. Full details are available from www.obansailingclub.org

The largest of the west coast regatta events is the West Highland Yachting Week, which takes place between Craobh Haven, Oban, and Tobermory. Unlike most regattas it moves from centre to centre during the event, offering competitors an ever-changing

scene on 80 miles of coastline. An attractive combination of round-the-buoys and passage racing is supported by the regatta’s excellent social programme. More information is available from www.whyw.co.uk

While the majority of racing events are traditional regattas, there are others worth mentioning. The first of these is the three-day Scottish Islands Peaks Race (www.scottishislandspeaksrace.com). This starts in Oban, where runners from each boat complete a short run around the town. The next step is a sail to Mull where they have to scale and descend Ben More. The crews then sail to Craighouse for runners to go up the three Paps before heading back to their boats for an overnight sail around the Mull of Kintyre to Arran, and a final scramble up Goat Fell before dashing across the finish line at Troon.

A similar event is the Three Peaks Yacht Race between Barmouth in North Wales and Fort William, passing through the Argyll cruising waters en route. Competitors have to sail over 389 miles, cycle 18 miles, run 72 miles and climb over 14,000 feet. More details can be found at www.threepeaksyachtrace.co.uk



West Loch Tarbert, Jura © Lynn Wilkie

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If using the north entrance please be aware that about 20000 large commercial vessels are using this entrance annually and have right of way over all small vessel in the large vessel channel.

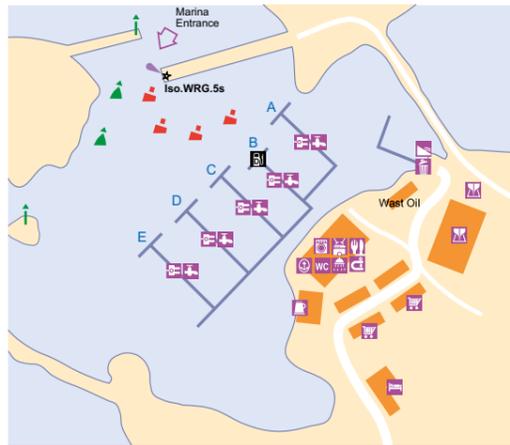
There is plenty of sea room between the edges of the large vessel channel and the shore for small vessels.

Please plan you route before entering Oban and keep a good lookout at all times.

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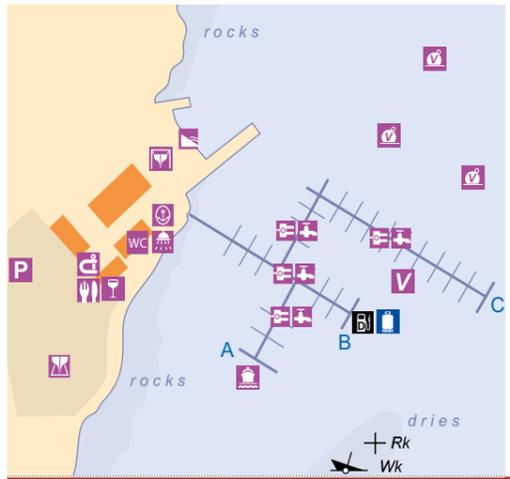


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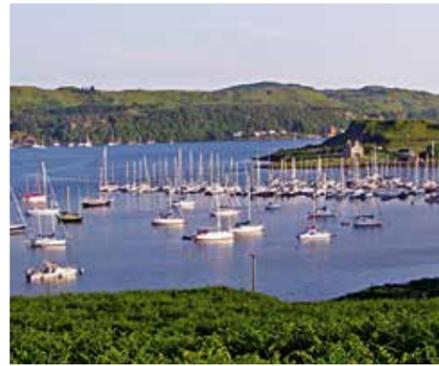


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📍 Paps of Jura © Moonshadow Yacht Charter Ltd



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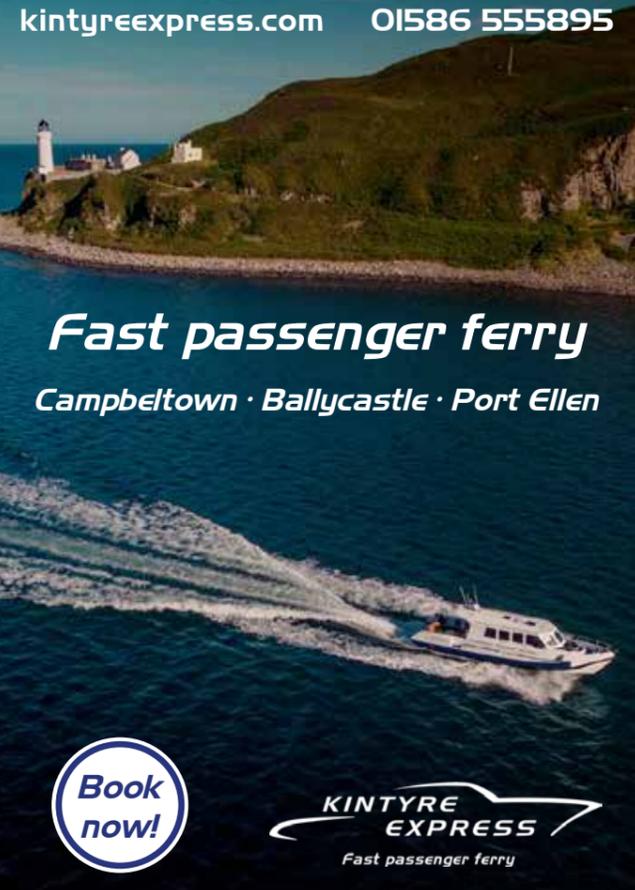
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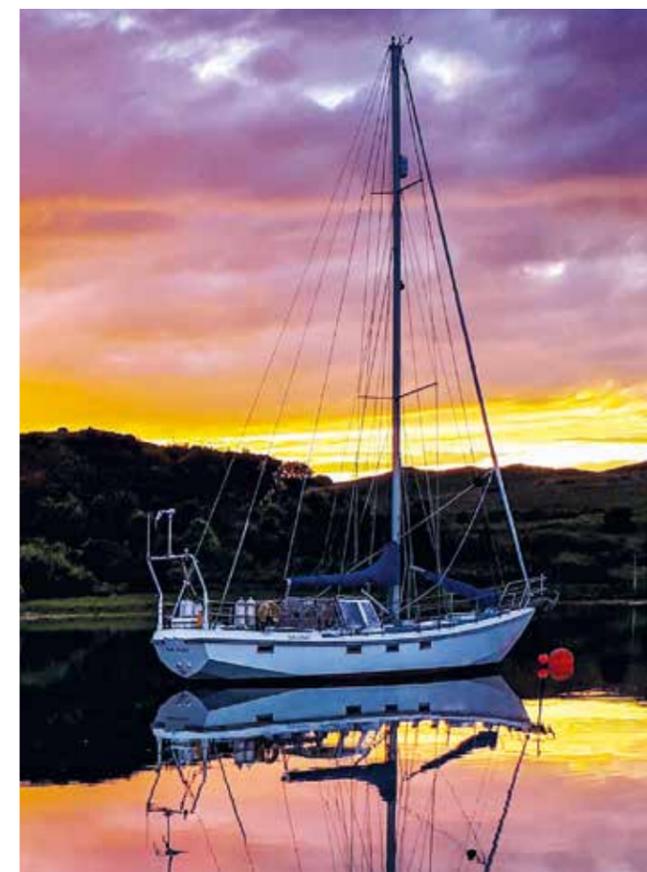
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End of a Long Day – Ardfern, Argyll © Mairi Fleck



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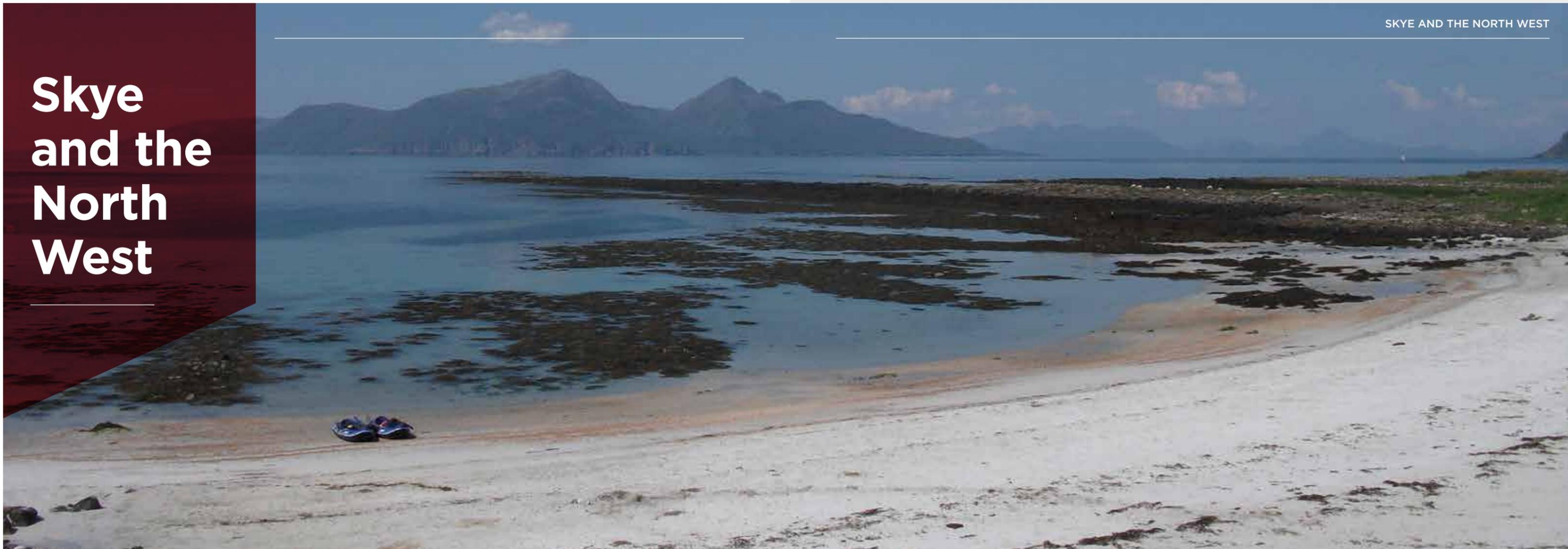
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Skye and the North West



Peaceful Bay, Island of Muck © Lynn Wilkie

HERE ON THE EDGE OF THE ATLANTIC, it is little wonder this wild and awe-inspiring destination is a haven for wildlife and adventurers. From the ancient standing stones of Callanish on Lewis to the majesty of the Cuillins on Skye, prepare to be captivated.

There's poetry in the place names and magic in the landscapes: all the way from the Small Isles of Muck, Eigg, Canna and Rum to the awe-inspiring skyline of the Cuillins on Skye and on to the Outer Hebrides with their pristine beaches of white sand and turquoise water.

These are some of the treasures that lie in wait beyond Ardnamurchan Point, the westernmost extremity of the British mainland. If sailing from the south it is well worth stopping off at the fine anchorage of Loch Moidart or picking up a mooring at Arisaig.

THE SMALL ISLES

The Small Isles form a compact cruising ground of their own. Rum is the largest island of the group and is run as a national nature reserve by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). It is formed from an old volcanic plug and has its own Cuillin (rocky ridge) which is often confused with that on Skye when viewed from a distance. There are moorings for visiting yachts and a village shop. A guided tour of Kinloch Castle is always popular as the castle is almost exactly as it was left in the 1950s by its wealthy but eccentric former owners, the Bullough family.

Eigg is the second largest island of the group and was purchased by a community trust in 1997. As with Rum, the island is rich in wildlife and geology, while for a spot of sun and surf, Laig Beach and the Singing Sands are recommended.

Canna is the most westerly of the Small Isles and is owned by the National Trust for Scotland. The island has links to the Neolithic, Columban and Viking eras along with significant sites of archaeological interest. It has been a bird sanctuary since 1938 and more than 150 species of birds have been monitored in the past 40 years. There

are 10 moorings in Canna harbour plus room to anchor. Canna has a lovely café offering seafood delicacies, and there's a selection of basic provisions and gifts available in the delightful shop.

The smallest of the Small Isles, but most fertile, is Muck. This island has been owned by the same family for more than a century and visiting yachts are welcomed like old friends. Muck's website gives directions to the two anchorages on the island, Gallanach and Port Mor.

SOUND OF SLEAT AND THE EAST SHORE OF SKYE

Sailing north of the Small Isles takes you north-eastwards up the Sound of Sleat, visiting the fishing port of Mallaig to the east or Armadale to the west. Mallaig has a marina for up to 45 yachts and provides the facilities yachts require. Mallaig offers an opportunity to re-provision the boat and is also a useful point for crew changes, with good train connections on what was recently voted one of the best railway journeys in the world. Across the water, moorings

are also available at Armadale on the Isle of Skye.

A short way around the coast from Mallaig is Loch Nevis, which forms part of the itinerary for many visitors. Situated within it, the Old Forge at Inverie offers moorings as well as food and drink, and there are excellent walks ashore. Others will head for Isle Ornsay on the west side of the sound where the Duisdale House Hotel has five moorings and offers excellent cuisine, and you can also anchor at Isle Ornsay. There are moorings and excellent food to be found in the tiny Doune Bay on the west coast of Knoydart, but booking ahead is essential.

The northern head of the Sound of Sleat is formed by the tidal gate of Kyle Rhea where the mountains meet the sea. To the north lies Loch Alsh, where pontoon and moorings facilities are available at Kyle of Lochalsh on the mainland shore and limited pontoon space at Kyleakin on Skye. The former offers rail connections to Inverness and a good range of shops. Sailing up Loch Duich, you will find the romantic Eilean Donan

Castle, standing impressively on a small island. The western end is crossed by the Skye Bridge, under which all but the very largest of yachts can safely navigate (clearance 29m).

Immediately to the north of Loch Alsh is Loch Carron. The picture-postcard village of Plockton, where there are pontoon facilities available for daytime embarkation as well as a large number of visitor moorings, is situated in the south-east of the loch and is well worth a visit. Plockton has a tempting collection of excellent restaurants and a train link to Inverness or Kyle of Lochalsh.

Heading north-west, the busy port of Portree on the north-east of Skye features daytime pontoon facilities and 16 visitor moorings. If time and weather permit, a lunchtime stop at Churchton Bay, Raasay is recommended on the way to, or from, Portree for a walk ashore and perhaps a visit to the new distillery there or the recently refurbished Raasay House. Portree has a good selection of shore-side facilities, but some people favour the more

The Shiant Islands lie about 5 miles south-east of Lewis and are an ideal lunchtime stop on the way from Skye to the outer islands. They are among the great bird stations of the northern hemisphere, with some 250,000 seabirds, including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags and great skuas, arriving there in the summer to breed.

The delightful island of Harris is the most mountainous of the Outer Hebrides and its name is derived from the Old Norse for 'high land'. The east coast is rugged, while the exposed west has numerous sandy beaches bordered by machair lands best seen in the spring. Visitors to Harris will usually either visit Tarbert or the island of Scalpay, which is connected to Harris by a bridge. Fully serviced pontoon facilities are now available in both locations making visiting either very straightforward. The tidal anchorage at Rodel is also a stunning place to anchor, with the beautifully restored 15th-century St Clement's Church to visit ashore.

Harris and the Uists are separated by the Sound of Harris, one of only two remaining breaks in the main body of the Outer Hebrides through which boats can reach the west side of the islands. Although the sound is almost 5 miles wide in places, it is also shallow and littered with many islands and rocks. Extremely careful pilotage is required to navigate the waters, together with the detailed Admiralty chart, but those prepared to make the effort can visit some beautiful islands such as Pabbay and Berneray or stop at Leverburgh on Harris where there are pontoon facilities.

North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist all lie between the Sound of Harris and the Sound of Barra, and are connected by a series of causeways. The islands have a distinctive feel, with North Uist being best known for its superb beaches, rich birdlife and the ferry port at Lochmaddy; Benbecula for being the second most built-up area of the Outer Hebrides; and South Uist for its western coastline of unbroken white shell beach almost 20 miles long. Lochmaddy harbour offers a fully serviced 26-berth pontoon facility close to the village and ferry terminal with all the facilities of the village within walking distance.

The eastern coast of South Uist is broken by two large inlets, the most significant of which is Lochboisdale. If the weather deteriorates, visiting yachts can now find a safe haven in the new Lochboisdale harbour – a fine 52-berth marina with state-of-the-art facilities. Connected to South Uist by a causeway is the Isle of Eriskay, on which the SS Politician was wrecked, leading to the 1947 novel Whisky Galore. Eriskay has wonderful beaches and there are two moorings available at Acarsaid Mhor.

Barra is the southernmost of the Outer Hebrides' major islands and is perhaps the most representative of the whole group. It is renowned for its ceilidh dances and social gatherings, and visitors who wish to sample the island life and landscape can take a round-the-island bus trip from the main town of Castlebay. Barra can make an interesting place for crew changes with its unique airport – the only one in the world with daily scheduled flights landing on a beach. Castlebay offers pontoon facilities as well as a range of shops and restaurants ashore.

To the south of Barra lies Vatersay, where beaches on either side of the island provide a lovely backdrop to sheltered anchorages. It is the last of the 'connected islands', although the chain continues further to the south with Sandray, Pabbay, Mingulay and Berneray. These previously populated isles are now havens for birdlife and have their own stories to tell in their ruins.

ST KILDA

Lying around 40 miles to the west of the Outer Hebrides, the Dual World Heritage Site of St Kilda is undoubtedly worth visiting if the opportunity arises. The island group can be approached from several directions but most people head out through the Sound of Harris or the Sound of Barra. Settled weather is required to venture to St Kilda, but those who make the trip are never disappointed by what it has to offer – including the highest cliffs in Britain, truly spectacular birdlife and an interesting museum on the main island of Hirta. It is managed jointly by the National Trust for Scotland, SNH and the Ministry of Defence, all of which have a presence on Hirta during the summer months.

The St Kilda Challenge is run biannually – with yachts and a cruise-in-company starting at Lochmaddy, sailing through the Sound of Harris to Pabbay and then out to St Kilda. Find out more at <https://www.calmac.co.uk/stkilda/challenge>



A peaceful anchorage - Acairseid Mhor, Rona © Phil Stapleton



Anchored amongst the birds, The Shiant Isles © Mairi Fleck



Loch Scavaig anchorage Skye © SailScotland



Mingulay © SailScotland

Lochboisdale Harbour

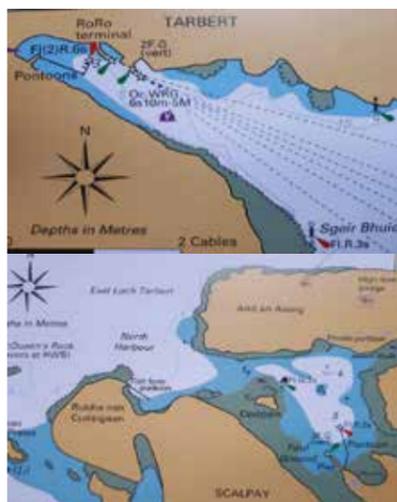


Lochboisdale Harbour is the ideal port of entry for visitors to the Hebrides and a stunning location to enjoy the recreational and sailing amenities locally. If you are sailing west from Oban, Tobermory or Canna, the new Marina at Lochboisdale makes a perfect first stop and a great base from which you can head out to St. Kilda and the Monach Isles. Marina Berths are available for Daily, Monthly and seasonal users at competitive rates, with ready access to modern Showers, Toilets and Laundry facilities. Fuel will be available at Quayside in 2019. Take a day out for Golf at the world famous Askernish Golf club, or a day out Fishing or Game Sport on the local estate. Car Hire is readily available giving access to local attractions. Take a leisurely walk along the stunning beaches on the west coast or go hillwalking to take in some fantastic scenery with its vibrant wildlife population.



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Isle of Harris Marina



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Lochmaddy Marina

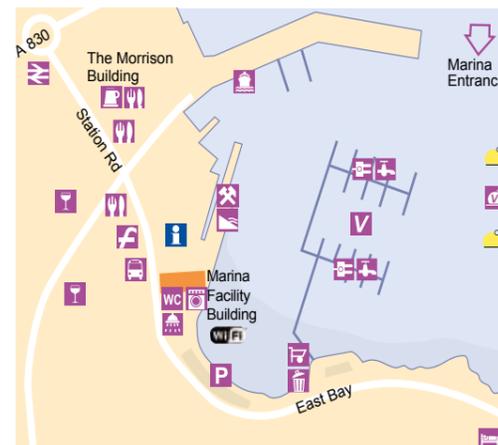


Lochmaddy Marina – built in 2015, is ideally placed for those wishing to explore the spectacular waters of the Outer Hebrides. The fully-serviced 26 berth marina has on site facilities, including electric hook up, water, fuel, showers and launderette. Nearby are hotels, shops and a museum. The St Kilda Challenge (Lochmaddy to St Kilda Yacht Race) is next scheduled for June 2020.



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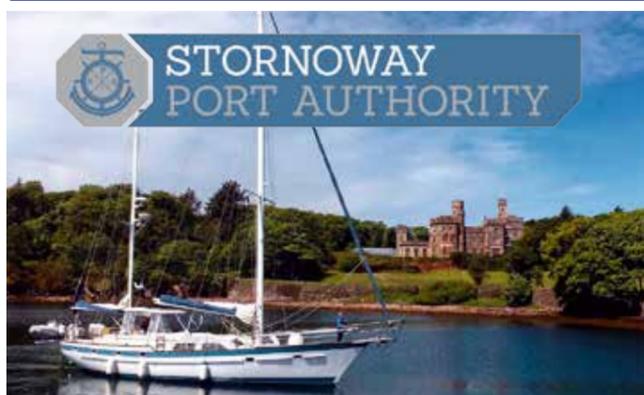
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Company of Dolphins, Rona © Sue Middleton

Orkney and Shetland



Approaching Stromness, Orkney © Orkney Marinas Ltd

THE LANDS AND THE SEAS OF THE VIKINGS AWAIT YOU IN ORKNEY AND SHETLAND. And while these past marauders are now long gone, you can still feel their presence – and those of the oldest civilisations that once inhabited Scotland – throughout the wild but beautiful archipelagos of the Northern Isles.

The people of Orkney and Shetland have an enduring affinity with their Norse forebears, and sailors making landfall in the Northern Isles will soon become aware of the strong Scandinavian influence.

Whether you choose to stay a while in Orkney to investigate some of the 70 islands or are stopping off on the way to Shetland, the Faroes or beyond, you will find a friendly welcome, good facilities, a wealth of ancient historic sites, abundant wildlife and a thriving cultural scene including numerous festivals.

There are well-established marinas in Kirkwall, Stromness and Westray, each with a different character. They provide secure berthing with good shelter and are accessible in all tides. A rover ticket allows berthing in all three marinas, at the many piers and visitor moorings throughout the islands so that the cruising possibilities are almost endless. Ask a local for advice on the best routes, where to catch the breathtaking sunsets, and the best places to see the wildlife.

Take in the spectacle of Orkney's vast population of breeding seabirds among stunning coastal scenery off Noup Head

on Westray, St John's Head on Hoy, or Mull Head or Marwick Head on the Mainland. Visit some of the RSPB's 13 reserves in the islands, home to hen harriers, corncrakes and curlews. As you cruise from one island to another you'll see common and grey seals, or 'selkies', at home in their breeding sites.

The clean seas and fertile land yield a rich variety of local produce, including crab, lobster, salmon and scallops, and premium beef and lamb. Orkney's proud reputation as a top-quality food and drink destination is well deserved. The world-famous Highland Park and

Scapa distilleries are the most northerly on the Scotch whisky map and are essential stops for whisky lovers. Small local businesses produce Orkney wine, gin, beer, ice cream, fudge, cheese and oatcakes, all readily available at local shops and in cafés and restaurants.

There is worldwide interest in the amazing new archaeological discoveries being made in Orkney every year; the sheer number and quality of prehistoric sites throughout the islands is staggering. The Ness of Brodgar is one of the more recent finds and visitors are able to watch closely as archaeologists continue to uncover more about our ancient ancestors at this vast Neolithic site. Close by, Skara Brae, the best-preserved Neolithic settlement in Western Europe, the Standing Stones of Stenness, the spellbinding Ring of Brodgar and Maeshowe chambered tomb make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Equally fascinating is Orkney's wartime history. As you sail around, you

can still see watchtowers and gun emplacements clearly visible on the coastline and the Churchill Barriers, constructed to protect the Home Fleet in Scapa Flow during World War Two. Beside them is the captivating Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners of war.

Today, Orkney's culture can be enjoyed all year round, all over the Isles. Music is everywhere – in bars and halls, and at great intimate venues such as the Graand Owld Byre on Westray, The Reel and the Sailing Club in Kirkwall and the Gable End Theatre on Hoy. Annual events including the world-renowned St Magnus Festival, the Orkney Folk Festival based in Stromness and the rock and blues festivals continue to grow, with visitors and locals getting together to soak up the music and the atmosphere. There is a full calendar of events and exhibitions in the museums, art galleries and libraries. These include the Orkney Storytelling Festival where you can hear Orcadian tales and myths old and new.

There is a strong tradition of sailing in Orkney, and visitors to the marinas are made honorary members of the Sailing Club in Kirkwall for the duration of their visit. For those who wish to change crews, charter a yacht or to join a yacht already under way, transport links to Orkney are good. There are regular ferry services from Scrabster, Gills Bay, Shetland and Aberdeen and frequent flights to major Scottish airports. There is lots of excellent information on planning your trip, including local cruising and sailing guides and an 'ask a local' service, at www.orkneymarinas.co.uk

Further north, Shetland is a truly special sailing destination. The archipelago has more than 100 small islands and 900 miles of coastline, with a striking combination of dramatic cliffs and sheltered harbours. There are four marinas, at Lerwick, Bressay, Scalloway and Skeld, with a further 17 small marina or pontoon facilities scattered around the islands.

Shetland's capital, Lerwick, makes a sensible first port of call for visiting boats. The town has the harbour at its heart and you'll find everything you might need including a shipyard for emergency repairs plus plenty of shops and pubs.

The live traditional music scene is thriving with musical evenings in many of the pubs, hotels and restaurants. The Shetland Folk Festival at the beginning of May is the UK's most northerly folk festival. It celebrates Shetland's rich musical heritage with local acts performing alongside visiting artists from all over the world. The Shetland Fiddle Frenzy in August showcases Shetland's unique fiddle tradition with workshops and concerts to be enjoyed.

Other event highlights across the islands include the Shetland Nature Festival in July, featuring some of the rarest flowers in Britain; agricultural shows throughout the summer; the Skeld sheepdog trials in August; and the simultaneously running and internationally renowned Wordplay and Screenplay festivals in September, which showcase both local and international writing and film-making.

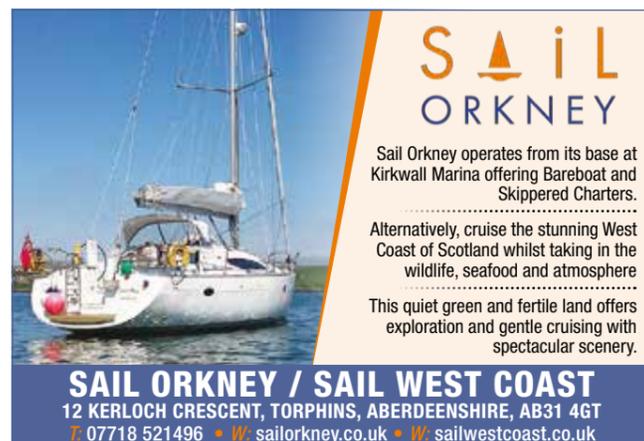
From the water, you'll see the thriving population of seabirds and other wildlife. More than a tenth of British seabirds can be found here, and the islands have four RSPB reserves, including

the amazing Sumburgh Head. Here you can see puffins, kittiwakes, fulmars and guillemots on the cliffs and catch a glimpse of dolphins, minke whales and orca in the water. You'll find sea mammals in Shetland's waters all year round. Otters, common and grey seals and harbour porpoises are all common sights.

Nowhere on the land is more than three miles from the coast and five millennia of history can be experienced at more than 6000 archaeological sites. There is a strong Norse influence in Shetland culture, including in the dialect in which many Old Norse words are still used, and in the place names. Visit Jarlshof, a prehistoric and Norse settlement overlooking the West Voe of Sumburgh, or Old Scatness, an Iron Age broch and village representing 2000 years of continuous occupation.

Yachting has an important place in the Shetland calendar, with 17 regattas held every year as well as the Round Foula Race, the Lerwick to Skerries Race and the Shetland Race.

In terms of sailing conditions, Shetland's tidal ranges are small, typically less than 1.5 metres, although streams can be locally strong and good pilotage is essential. Full details about Shetland's marinas and facilities can be found at www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/sailing.



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Lerwick Harbour

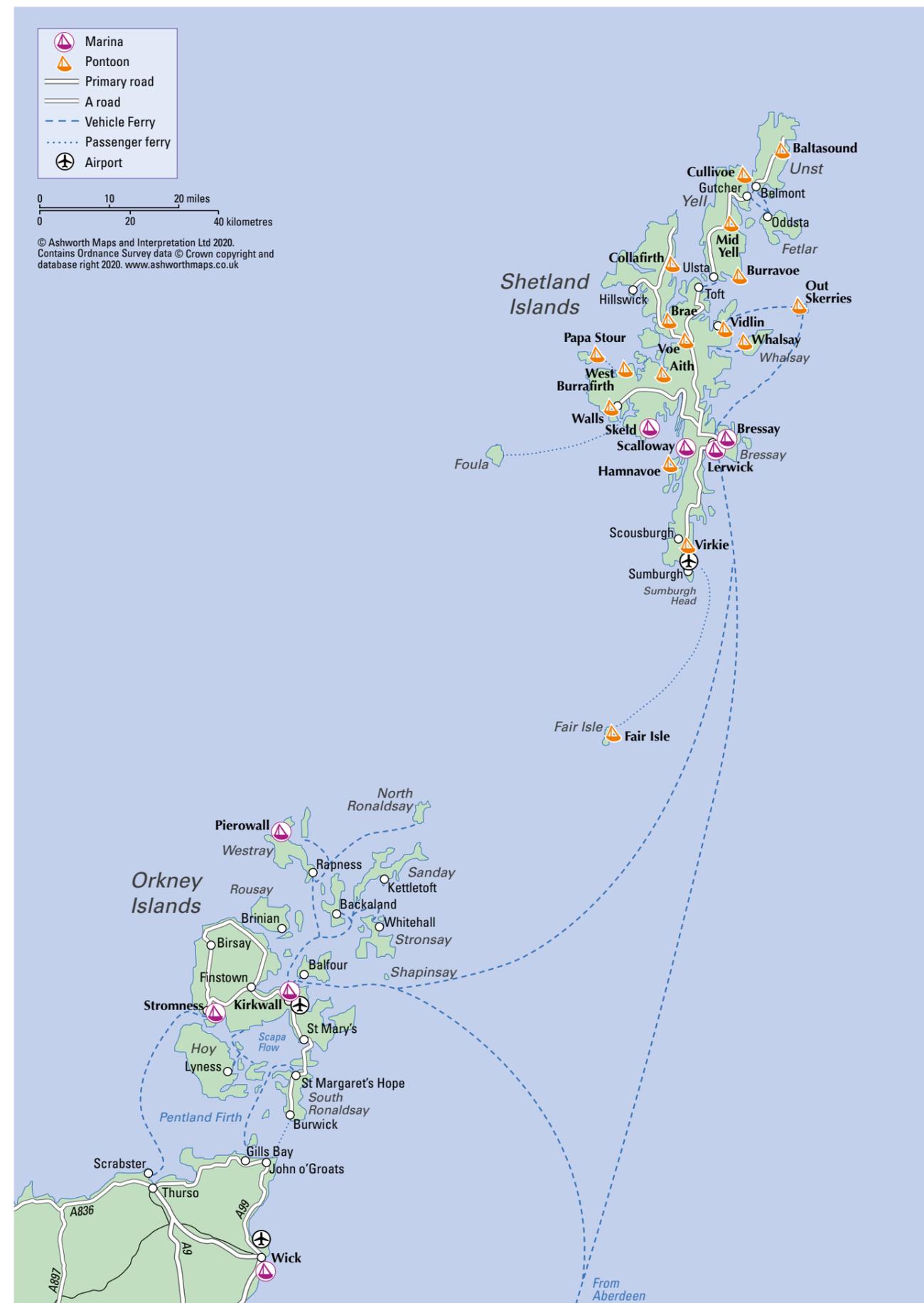
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East Coast



🏠 Forth Bridge 29ers - Firth of Forth © Andrew Robertson

FROM CHARMING FISHING VILLAGES TO DRAMATIC SEASCAPES, the east coast is becoming a must-sail destination. You won't have these waters all to yourself, however, as the east coast is a wildlife haven, particularly the Moray Firth, home to a colony of bottlenose dolphins which will keep you company on your travels.

Historic harbours and sheltered bays along Scotland's east coast are packed with character and are attracting increasing numbers of yachtsmen. Some of these places were among the busiest ports in Europe in the days of the herring drifters, and an almost tangible sense of local pride lingers on in the sea air.

This coast has seen a growth of marina facilities over the past few years and

eastern Scotland is now as well served as any part of the country.

This welcome trend has been seen all the way from the border at Berwick-upon-Tweed to Wick in the far north. Often these facilities are within former fishing harbours and, while some may be smaller than others, they all offer a warm welcome. Furthermore, many 'unconverted' fishing harbours are also

pleased to welcome visiting yachts, meaning the choice of destination is no longer automatic and a variety of passages may be planned.

The popularity of Scotland as a cruising ground for continental boat owners, particularly those wishing to follow the path of Bjorn Larsson and sail The Celtic Ring, has meant that many visiting boats will now call in to some of the east

coast destinations en route to either the Caledonian Canal or the Pentland Firth. As some of the facilities are smaller than others, it is advisable to check berth availability in advance.

Starting in the south, the first east coast pontoon facility can be found in the vibrant harbour of Eyemouth. Once a busy fishing harbour, it now offers secure berthing for visiting yachts in the heart of the town with restaurants, café bars and shops just a few minutes stroll away. Port Edgar is still the main marina facility on this stretch of coast. From there, it is possible to cruise the Firth of Forth to destinations such as the new marina at Anstruther on the Fife coast, or further east around Bass Rock.

Port Edgar hosts a busy sailing school which offers the RYA's full range of sailing courses. It also has a new skippered yacht charter business, Edinburgh Boat Charters, which offers a range of packages for customers. The

marina is well suited to visitors from the continent who may wish to leave their boat for a few weeks while they fly back home from the nearby airport.

There are further pontoon facilities available along the Forth at Granton that are ideally suited for an excursion into Edinburgh city centre. The use of the harbour is shared by both the Royal Forth Yacht Club and Forth Corinthian Yacht Club, which have access to both an all-tides pontoon and swinging moorings.

Further north, beyond Anstruther and the Fife peninsula, pontoon facilities are available at Tayport, near the mouth of the River Tay, and a short distance across the estuary there is a marina facility at Arbroath. North of this is the longest stretch of 'pontoon-free' coastline, the next facility being at Peterhead Bay Marina some 60 miles away. However, there are still places to stop as Aberdeenshire Council now

encourages yachts to visit many of its harbours. Some of these are ideally located for exploring Royal Deeside, while others offer a range of shops and restaurants.

Turning west into the Moray Firth, the choice of destinations increases significantly. Both Banff and Lossiemouth boast new marina facilities, complementing those at Whitehills and the pontoons in the picturesque harbour of Findochty (pronounced Finechty). This stretch of coastline is a popular dolphin-watching area and some crews will be accompanied by dolphins riding the bow wave for at least a short distance. Vessels destined for the Caledonian Canal will head up the firth into Inverness, passing under the Kessock Bridge to reach the Highland capital. Travellers taking this route should note that the bridge has a clearance of 29m, sufficient for most but not necessarily all yachts, and that the canal is usually closed for 2 hours either side of low

water during normal operating hours. Inverness Marina is a relatively new, fully serviced 150-berth marina located outside the canal entrance on the south side of the firth with access available in all tides. This, together with a 75-berth marina at Seaport just inside the canal, makes an ideal base for exploring Inverness or a point for arranging crew changeovers, taking advantage of excellent road, rail and air links.

Boats that are heading on to Orkney or beyond need not venture up the firth but may instead head directly from Lossiemouth to Helmsdale, where there are pontoon facilities. Alternatively, the passage may be extended as far as Wick where there is a sizeable marina and plenty of shelter to be had inside the old harbour. This is the final stopping point before rounding Duncansby Head, where the choice is then whether to head west along Scotland's northern coastline, northwards to Orkney and Shetland or north-east to Scandinavia. The four main marina operators between Inverness and Shetland have grouped together to create the Viking Trail to encourage greater use of the new facilities and open up cruising routes to the Northern Isles.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

While the east coast may be seen as a cruising route to some sailors, for others it represents their home waters and as a result hosts many activities during the summer months. For example, the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival (<https://stbfportsoy.org>) takes place at Portsoy in late June. The festival puts a special emphasis on boat building, restoration and sailing. Also highlighted are traditional crafts including knitting, weaving and embroidery.

In August/September there is East Coast Sailing Week, an annual event covering Scotland's east coast and the north-east of England. Held in rotation in the Tay estuary, the Forth estuary and waters off the north-east English coast, the event started in 1987 and has become the area's premier regatta. It attracts boats from the Moray Firth, Tayport and England as well as some from the Firth of Clyde. There are also a number of club and visitor regattas during the season on the east coast, the main focal point being Port Edgar on the Firth of Forth. Further details of these events can be found at www.fyca.org.uk



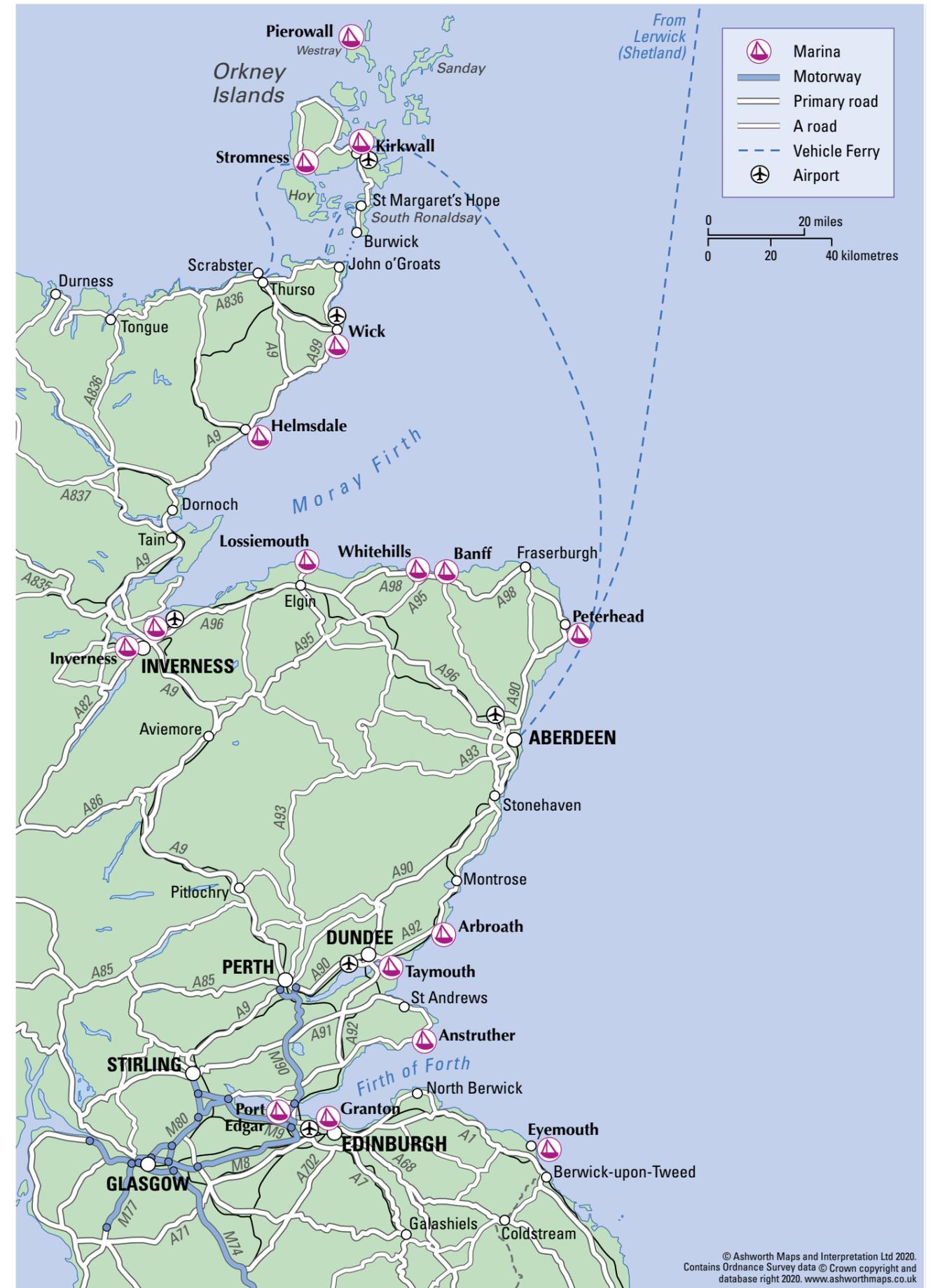
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Inverness Marina



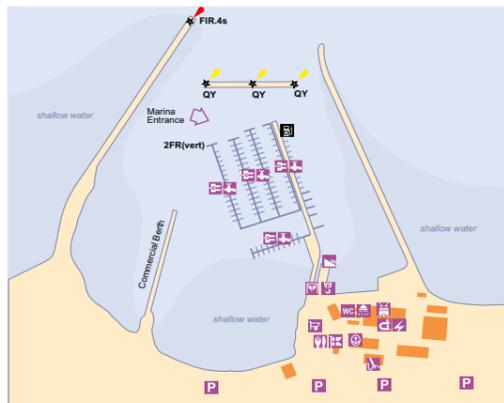
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🏠 Dolphins playing in The Moray Firth

Moray Firth Dolphins

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Wick Harbour

Caithness & Sutherland

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seabird colonies, all combine to create a spectacular natural environment. Add to this a rich history and culture, sporting thrills that include some of the best cold water surfing in the world, and ancient fishing communities dotted along the coast. From its ancient castles and paleontological finds, to the herring

boom harbours, rare wildlife and the exciting maritime history of the Pentland Firth, the area has an exciting and unique story to discover.

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Findochty Harbour, Moray Coast © Andrea Borsden



Bow Fiddle Rock, Portnockie © James Greenshields

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Caledonian Canal

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Scottish Canals wants to work with boaters and marine organisations to celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and

Waters in 2020 with a flotilla through the Lowland Canals. If you're interested in being a part of it, please register your interest at scottishcanals.co.uk.

Following significant investment in key infrastructure, the Forth & Clyde Canal was re-opened to sea-to-sea transits in spring 2019, marked by the Lowland Canal Carnival



UNION CANAL

Caledonian Canal Centre

Set on the southernmost tip of Loch Ness in the pretty village of Fort Augustus, the new Caledonian Canal Centre offers all-year-round facilities for visitors and locals alike. Stop in for information on local attractions, to learn more about the heritage of the Caledonian, pick up a locally-sourced souvenir in the gift shop or refuel with homemade, Scottish produce in the cafe. If you're on the move, head for the centre's grab and go kiosk for a coffee or an artisanal ice cream from the local Black Isle Dairy.



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Forth & Clyde and Union Canals



📍 The Kelpies, Forth & Clyde Canal

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Following significant investment in key infrastructure, the Forth & Clyde Canal was fully re-opened to sea-to-sea transits in spring 2019, marked by the Lowland Canal Carnival. To celebrate Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020, Scottish Canals is planning a flotilla through the Lowland Canals. If you're interested in being a part of it, please register your interest at scottishcanals.co.uk.

FACT FILE

The Forth & Clyde Canal is approximately 57km (35 miles) in length with 40 locks. A minimum of 21 hours (two full days) underway should be allowed, and sufficient time should be added for passage from Port Edgar and negotiation of the River Carron to the Sea Locks. The Union Canal is 51km long (31 miles), and a minimum of 12 hours underway should be allowed.

Scottish Canals staff will be on hand to assist at all locks and bridges on the Forth & Clyde Canal, but craft must have sufficient crew to assist staff with lockings.

CHANNEL DIMENSIONS

Forth & Clyde

Length	19.20m (63ft)
Beam	6.00m (19ft 8in)
*please note that beam is 5.00m (16ft 4in) at the Helix extension. Vessels wider than 5m can use existing Carron Sea Lock to enter the canal.	
Depth of Water	1.7m (5ft 6in)
Max. Headroom	3.00m (9ft 10in)

Forth & Clyde Glasgow Branch

Length	19.20m (63 ft)
Beam	5.02 (16 ft 6 in)
Channel Depth	1.4m (4ft 6 in)
Max Headroom	3.00m (9ft 8 in)

Union Canal

Length	21.3m (70ft)
Beam	3.5m (11ft 6in)
Depth of Water	0.90m (2ft 11in)
Max. Headroom	2.7m (8ft 1in)

*Channel dimensions can vary at different sections of the canal. Please visit scottishcanals.co.uk to download a copy of the Skipper's Guide for exact details.

CANAL LICENCES

A range of visitor licences are available which are valid for all Scottish Canals. Full details of great value transit and short term stay packages may be obtained from scottishcanals.co.uk or our Canal Offices.

DE-MASTING

Yachts will require to de-mast for passage. This service is provided by Scottish Canals at Bowling and the canal link at The Helix. This is included in your licence fee, however boat crew must carry out all mast work. Independent contractors also operate on the River Carron and at Port Edgar, where a charge will be made at the boat owner's own cost. Large or complex masts may need to be stepped at one of the Clyde marinas, at the boat owner's own cost.

CHARTS

Admiralty chart 2007, 737 and/or Imray C27, C63.

PILOTS

Forth Yacht Clubs' Association Pilot Handbook, CCC Firth of Clyde Sailing Directions, Imray Yachtsman's Pilot – Clyde to Colonsay.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Union and Forth & Clyde Canals operate on a seasonal basis and operating hours are subject to change. Please check scottishcanals.co.uk or using the 'contact us' details get in touch to find out the latest operating hours and to book your transit.

TIDAL OPERATION

Special note must be taken of the tidal restrictions at sea locks. Within normal operating hours, Carron Sea Locks are operational 4hrs before to 1h30 and 2h30 after high water. Bowling Basin is operational +/- 2hrs either side of high water.

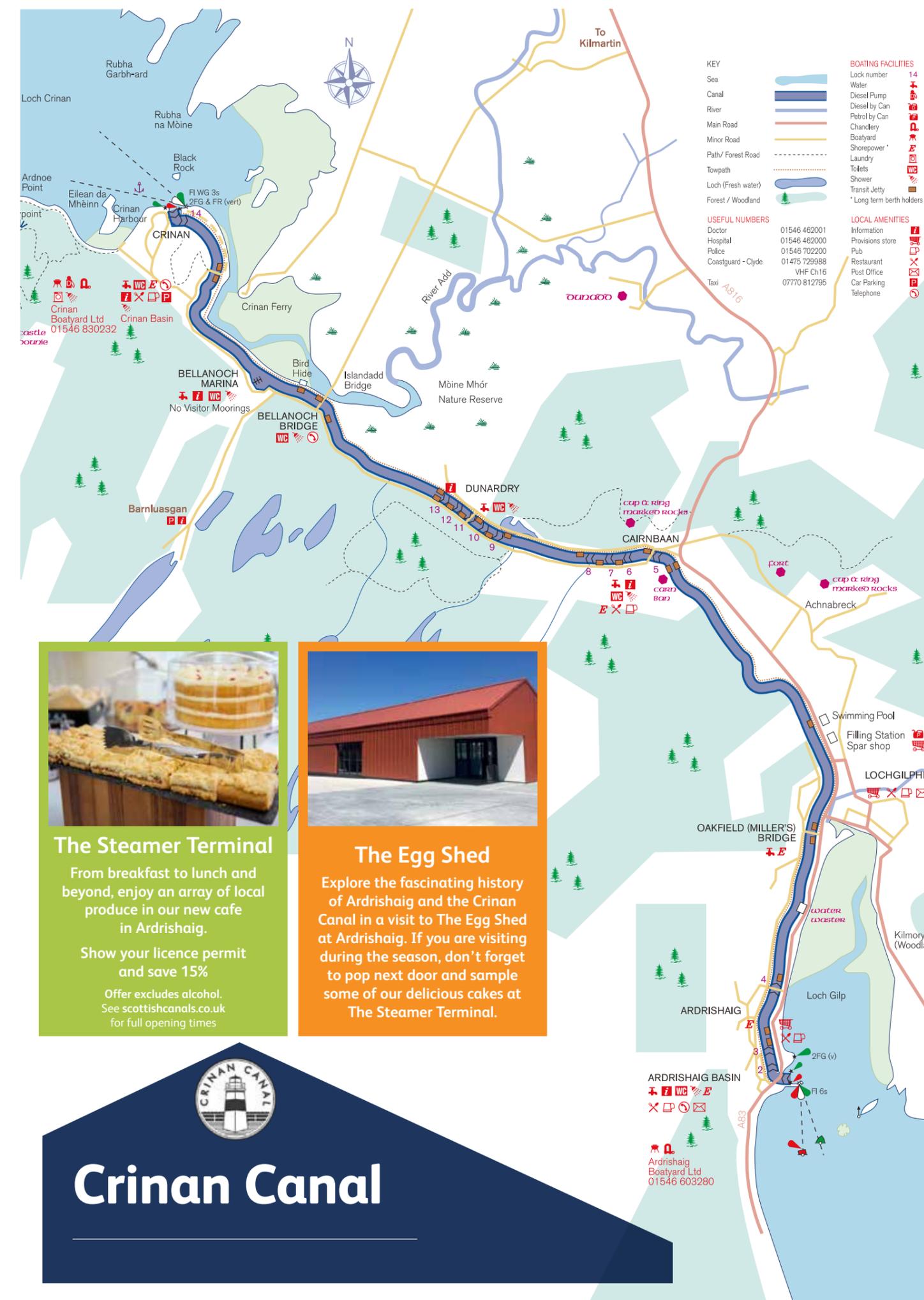
Please contact the Sea Lock keepers for local advice:

Bowling: 01389 877969

Carron: 01324 483 034

CONTACT US

Crinan Canal Office
Pier Square, Ardrishaig
Argyle PA30 8DZ
T: 01546 603201
E: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk



The Steamer Terminal

From breakfast to lunch and beyond, enjoy an array of local produce in our new cafe in Ardrishaig.

Show your licence permit and save 15%

Offer excludes alcohol. See scottishcanals.co.uk for full opening times

The Egg Shed

Explore the fascinating history of Ardrishaig and the Crinan Canal in a visit to The Egg Shed at Ardrishaig. If you are visiting during the season, don't forget to pop next door and sample some of our delicious cakes at The Steamer Terminal.

Crinan Canal



Crinan Lock © Peter Sandground



By boat and bike © Peter Sandground

It's the Crinan Canal for me!

The Crinan Canal meanders through truly magnificent scenery which is rich in history, with many world-class heritage sites, a designated wildlife reserve and miles of forest walks and cycle ways. It runs between Ardrishaig, at the north west extremity of the Firth of Clyde, to Crinan on the "outside" west coast, and allows the user to avoid the lengthy passage around the Mull of Kintyre.

Though only 14.5km in length there is just so much to see and do from walking, cycling, fishing or just taking time out to explore Knapdale. So step back in time, relax, slow down and stretch those sea legs ashore.

FACT FILE

The Crinan Canal is 14.5km (9 miles) in length with 15 locks and seven bridges. The sea locks and Lock 14 are mechanised and operated for you by Scottish Canals staff. All bridges are also operated by Scottish Canals staff.

Inland locks are manually operated and involve pushing lock gates and winding sluices. Indeed, many of our customers report back that working the locks is an enjoyable part of the Crinan passage. Please contact one of the sea locks or the canal office if you feel that you will require assistance. We may be able to put you in touch with an independent local operator to provide this service.

Crinan Sea Lock – 01546 830 285
Ardrishaig office – 01546 602 458

Further details can be found in the Skipper's Guide or by visiting scottishcanals.co.uk.

CHANNEL DIMENSION

Length	26.82m (88ft)
Beam	6.09m (20ft)
Air Draft	28.95m (95ft)
Draft	2.5m* (8ft 2in)

* Due to possible water level changes,

Please add 10cm (4in) to your normal draft as craft sit lower in the fresh water of the canal than they do in salt water.

*Due to possible water changes, customers with a draft of over 2.2m are advised to contact the local Canal Office or Sea Locks at least 48 hours in advance to confirm passage will be possible.

CANAL LICENCE

Full time berthing options are available all year round. Full details can be obtained from the Crinan Canal Office or scottishcanals.co.uk

FACILITIES

Transit berths are available throughout the canal. Toilets, showers and laundry facilities, shore power and water, Wi-Fi and local services are all available at various locations along the canal – please check the Skipper's Guide for specific information. Due to environmental legislation, we are unable to provide water hoses. Please remember to bring your own.

PILOTS

The Clyde Cruising Club produces excellent sailing directions for the Firth of Clyde, whilst the Imray "Crinan to Colonsay" and 'Isle of Mull and approaches' pilots both cover the canal.

CHARTS

Admiralty charts "Lower Loch Fyne" no 2381, "Lochs and Harbours in the Sound of Jura" no 2476 and "Crinan to the Firth of Lorn" no 2326 all include the Crinan Canal, as do Imray charts C63, C64 and C65.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Crinan Canal operates on a seasonal basis: seven days per week in peak season; Monday to Saturday during spring and autumn; and Monday to Friday during winter. Please check with the local Canal Office or scottishcanals.co.uk for exact operating dates and times.

CONTACT US

Crinan Canal Office
 Pier Square, Ardrishaig
 Argyle PA30 8DZ
 T: 01546 603201
 E: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk

Sailing Holidays

KEY

	No. of Guest Cabins		No. of Heads		Instruction Available		ASYC Member*		Crew/Hostess Onboard		Bedding		Cleaning
	No. of Guest Berths		Racing Charter		RYA Training School		Fully Catered		Outboard Motors		Waterproofs		

* ASYC stands for The Association of Scottish Yacht Charterers – www.asyc.co.uk

COMPANY	BOAT TYPE & SIZE	USEFUL INFORMATION											SAILING AREAS							CONTACT			ACTIVITIES	
																					Nearest Airport	Telephone		Website
Bessie Ellen	Bessie Ellen - Ketch 119ft	12	2																		Glasgow	07800 825382	www.bessie-ellen.com	Whisky
Cloud Nine Yacht Charters	Elan 43 Impression	3	8	2																	Glasgow	07771358465	www.cloudninecharters.co.uk	St Kilda, Wildlife Bareboat
Cruise Ecosse Ltd	Jeanneau Trinidad 48ft	4	8	3																	Glasgow	07827908356	www.cruise-ecosse.co.uk	Islands, Walking, Distilleries
Narwhal Expeditions	Yacht Narwhal 50' Expedition (sailing)	3	6	2																	Glasgow	+44 7968810883	www.narwhalexpeditions.com	Beach cleaning, wildlife survey, paddling, photography, whisky, St Kilda, hiking
New Horizon Sailing	Oyster 435	3	4	2																	Glasgow	07770 303613	www.newhorizonsailing.com	Wildlife, Walking, Whisky
Ocean Sailing Scotland	Clipper 60 Ocean Racing Yacht	2	12	2																	Glasgow	0844 335 1416	www.oceansailingscotland.co.uk	Adventure, Cruising, Bespoke
Offshore Yacht Charter	"One off" 50	4	8	2																	Glasgow	0031 (0)6 1695 22 63	www.offshore-yacht-charter.com	Sightseeing, Training, Northern Isles
Red Moon Cruises	Admiralty MFV 45ft	3	4	2																	Inverness	07706691371	www.redmooncruises.co.uk	Skye, Wester Ross, Lochasle West Coasts
Selkie Explorers Sailing	52ft high latitude Exp. Yacht	3	7	1																	Glasgow or Inverness	07827888321	www.selkie-explorers.co.uk	All year, Photography, St Kilda, Wellness
Sportscotland National Centre Cumbrae - Sailing Holidays		3	5	1																	Glasgow	01475 530 757	www.nationalcentrecumbrae.org.uk	Watersports, Diving
St Hilda Sea Adventures	54' Ketch (St Hilda) & 82' Motor Seahorse	7	11	4																	Glasgow Airport	07745550988	www.sthildaseaadventures.co.uk	Fishing, Wildlife Whisky
Tall Ship Flying Dutchman	Two masted schooner	12	24	12																	Glasgow	+31653231627	www.scotland-sailing.com	Wildlife, Cruises
Tecla Sailing	Ketch 117'	8	12	6																	Inverness	00316 422 13951	www.tecla-sailing.com/nl/scotland	Walking, St Kilda, Iceland, Faroes
Trinity Sailing Foundation		12	12	2																	Glasgow	01803883355	www.trinitysailing.org	Cruising Holidays
Wylde Swan	206ft Schooner	1	28																		Inverness	+31515231712	www.wyldeswan.com	Island Trips, Scrabster, Orkney, Ullapool
VentureSail Holidays	Bessie Ellen - Ketch 119ft	12	2																		Glasgow	01872 487288	www.venturesailholidays.com	Whisky, Wildlife, kayaking, St Kilda
	Zuza - Bermudan Cutter 72ft	4	8	3																				
	Cherokee - Gaff cutter 54ft	4	8	2																				
	Lady of Avenel - Brigantine 102ft	6	12	2																				
Classic Sailing	Maybe 78ft Ketch	2	6	1																	Glasgow	1872580022	www.classic-sailing.co.uk	
	Tecla 124ft Ketch	6	12	6																				
	Eda Frandsen	4	8	2																		1872580022		

Charter and Sailing Schools

KEY

No. of Boats	Skippered Charters	RYA Training School	Waterproofs
Size Range (feet)	Racing Charters	ASYC Member*	Cleaning
Max Berths	Boatshare Membership	Outboard Motors	Spinnakers
Bareboat Charters	Instruction Available	Bedding	Provisioning

* ASYC stands for The Association of Scottish Yacht Charterers – www.asyc.co.uk

COMPANY	BOAT TYPE & SIZE			USEFUL INFORMATION													SAILING AREAS					CONTACT					
	No. of Boats	Size Range (feet)	Max Berths	Bareboat Charters	Skippered Charters	Racing Charters	Boatshare Membership	Instruction Available	RYA Training School	ASYC Member*	Outboard Motors	Bedding	Waterproofs	Cleaning	Spinnakers	Provisioning	Firth of Clyde	Argyll & The Islands	Skye & Outer Hebrides	Orkney & Shetland	East Coast	Ireland	Faroe/ Iceland/ Norway	Inland	Nearest Airport	Telephone	Website
Alba Sailing	12	31 - 46	10	•	•												•	•			•				Glasgow	+44 (0)1631 565630	www.alba-sailing.co.uk
Argyll Yacht Charters	9	32-46	10	•	•	•											•	•			•				Glasgow	07979905445	www.argyll-yachtcharters.co.uk
Association of Scottish Yacht Charterers	75	28-67	10	•	•	•											•	•							Oban	01852 200258	www.asyc.co.uk
Clan Charters	5	31-41	8	•	•												•	•							Glasgow	01475 539003	www.clanleisure.co.uk
Cloud Nine Yacht Charters	1	44	10	•	•												•	•			•				Glasgow	07771358465	www.cloudninecharters.co.uk
Edinburgh Boat Charters Ltd	2	40	8		•		•														•				Edinburgh	0131 554 9401	www.edinburghboatcharters.com
Flamingo Yacht Charters	10	30-45	10	•	•	•											•	•			•				Glasgow, Prestwick or Edinburgh	01475 686088	www.flamingoyachts.com
Kadore Yacht Charter	1	33	6	•	•												•	•			•				Glasgow	07795487377	www.kadore.co.uk
Ness and Moray Yacht Charters	3	33	7	•	•																		•		Inverness	0044 7555 295983	www.nessandmorayyachtcharters.co.uk
Sail Badachro	1	40	8		•																				Inverness	01445741295	www.sailbadachro.com
Sail Orkney / Sail West Coast	2	43-47	10	•	•												•	•			•				Kirkwall	07718 521496	www.sailorkney.co.uk
Sailaway Scotland Yacht Charter Ltd	7	37-46	10	•	•	•											•	•			•				Glasgow	0845 528 1011	www.sailawayScotland.co.uk
SeaSpray Yacht Charters	9	31 to 50	12	•	•	•											•	•			•				Glasgow & Prestwick	07939 517540	www.seasprayscotland.com
sportscotland National Centre Cumbrae	2	37 - 38	5		•												•	•							Glasgow & Prestwick	01475 530757	www.nationalcentrecumbrae.org.uk

Marinas and Boatyards

KEY

-  Toilets/Showers
-  Boat Hoist
-  Fuel Berth
-  Petrol Available
-  Chandlery
-  Wifi Available
-  Shore Power
-  Slipway
-  Gas Supplies
-  Repair Facilities
-  Restaurant/Pub Onsite
-  Tidally Constrained

Region	Company	No. of pontoon berths	No. of visitor berths	No. of moorings	Max. length (m)	Max. draught (m)	Boat Capacity (T)	VHF Channel	Nearest Airport	Telephone	Website
The Firth Of Clyde	Bellanoch Marina - Crinan Canal	40		6	14.6	2.2		16/74	Glasgow int.	 	01546 603210 www.scottishcanals.co.uk/our-canals/crinan-canal
	Campbeltown Marina	53	30		33	3		13	Campbeltown	       	07798524821 www.campbeltownmarina.co.uk
	Clyde Marina Ltd	285	20		30+	5	50	80	Glasgow Prestwick	       	01294 607077 www.clydemarina.com
	Fairlie Quay Marina	1	1	24	12	5-8	80	80	Glasgow	       	01475 568267 www.fairliequay.co.uk
	Girvan Harbour	36	10		17			12	Glasgow Prestwick	       	01465 713648 / 07768993239 www.girvanharbourpontoons.com
	Holy Loch Marina	250	20+		240	5.5	23	80	Glasgow	       	01369 701800 www.holylochmarina.co.uk
	James Watt Dock Marina	160	15		100	5.2	11t	80	Glasgow	       	01475 729 838 www.jwdmarina.co.uk
	Kip Marina	620	40		36	3.5	50	80	Glasgow	       	01475 521485 www.kipmarina.co.uk
	Largs Yacht Haven Ltd	730	as available		40	3	70	80	Glasgow or Prestwick	       	01475 675333 www.yachthavens.com
	Rhu Marina	235	65	35	30	5	35	37/80	Glasgow	       	01436 820238 www.quaymarinas.com
Tarbert Harbour	>200	>70	8	30	5	12	14	Campbeltown	       	01880820344 www.tarbertharbour.co.uk	
Troon Yacht Haven Ltd	400	50		50	3	55	80/37	Glasgow Prestwick	       	01292 315553 www.yachthavens.com	
Argyll and the Islands	Ardfern Yacht Centre Ltd	95	20+	100	25	3.5	40	80	Glasgow / Oban	       	01852 500247 www.ardfernyacht.co.uk
	Ardoran Marine Ltd	6	6	40	12	2	12	80	Oban	       	01631 566123 www.ardoran.co.uk
	Craobh Marina	240	20		40	6.5	30	80	Glasgow or Oban	       	01852 500222 www.craobhmarina.co.uk
	Lochaline Harbour	32	32	10	16			80	Oban	       	01967 421783 www.lochalineharbour.co.uk
	Oban Marina Yachting Services Ltd	100	70	30	30	12	35	80	Glasgow/Oban	       	01631 565333 www.obanmarina.com
	Portavadie Marina	220	60		25	4	12	80	Glasgow	       	01700 811075 www.portavadie.com
	Tobermory Harbour	50	50	38	30	10		68	Glasgow or Oban	       	01688 302876 www.tobermoryharbour.co.uk
Ulva Ferry Pontoon		8		20	4		12	Glasgow	       	01680 812 900 or 07557378953 www.ulvaferrypontoon.co.uk	
Skye and the North West	Castlebay Marina	32	28		28			37 (M1)	Barra	       	01871810266 www.cbab.org.uk
	Isle of Harris Marina	48	20	3	25	2.5	100	16/12	Stornoway	       	01859 50 2216 www.isleofharrismarina.co.uk
	Lochboisdale Harbour	52	40	5	82	3.5	n/a	80	Benbecula	       	01878 700830 www.lochboisdaleharbour.com
	Lochmaddy Marina	26	18	2					Benbecula	       	01876 510 758 www.comann-na-mara.org.uk
	Mallaig Harbour Authority	50	All	8	14	4	25-30	9	Inverness & Glasgow	       	01687 462154 www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com
	Stornoway Marina	80	17		20	2		12	Stornoway Airport	       	01851 702688 www.stornowayportauthority.com
Orkney and Shetland	Kirkwall Marina	184	61	20	20			14	kirkwall	       	01856 871313 www.orkneymarinas.co.uk/our-marinas/kirkwall-marina
	Lerwick Port Authority	60	60		50	6		12/16	Sumburgh	       	01595 692991 www.lerwick-harbour.co.uk/sailing
	Stromness Marina	72	24		20	2		14	Kirkwall	       	01856 871313 www.orkneymarinas.co.uk/our-marinas/stromness-marina
	Westray Marina	17	7		20	3		14	Kirkwall	       	01856 871313 www.orkneymarinas.co.uk/our-marinas/westray-marina
East Coast	Anstruther Harbour	100	8	50	11	3		11 & 16	Edinburgh	       	03451 555555, 461541 www.fifedirect.org.uk
	Arbroath Harbour	59	6		20	25	25	11	Dundee	       	01241 872166 www.angusahead.com
	Caley Marina	70				2.4	17		Inverness	       	01463 236 539 www.caleymarina.com
	Eyemouth Harbour	34	10+	20	3	12		12	Edinburgh	       	018907 52494 www.eyemouth-harbour.co.uk
	Inverness Marina	150	20		25	3	75	12	Inverness		

-  Motorway
-  Major Road Network
-  Rail Network
-  International airport
-  Regional airport



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The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410

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