



Southern Highlands & Islands

Includes ➔

Loch Lomond	246
Aberfoyle	252
Callandar	254
Balquhider	257
Isle of Bute	260
Kintyre	265
Isle of Arran	268
Isle of Islay	273
Isle of Jura	277
Oban	280
Isle of Mull	286
Isle of Iona	293
Isle of Tiree	294

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Callander Meadows (p257)
- ➔ Starfish (p266)
- ➔ Café Fish (p290)
- ➔ Seafood Temple (p284)
- ➔ Brodick Bar (p271)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Monachyle Mhor (p257)
- ➔ Lake of Menteith Hotel (p253)
- ➔ Calgary Farmhouse (p291)
- ➔ Iona Hostel (p294)
- ➔ Argyll Hotel (p294)

Why Go?

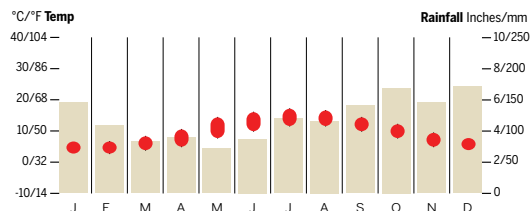
The impossibly complex coastline of Scotland's southwest harbours some of its most inspiring corners. Here, sea travel is as important as road and rail – dozens of ferries allow you to island-hop from the scenic splendour of Arran to majestic Mull or Tiree's lonely sands, via the whisky distilleries of Islay, the wild mountains of Jura, the scenic delights of diminutive Colonsay and Oban's sustainable-seafood scene.

On fresh water too, passenger ferries, vintage steamboats, canoes and kayaks ply the lochs of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a memorable concentration of scenic splendour that's very accessible from Glasgow or Edinburgh but possessed of a wild beauty.

Wildlife experiences are a highlight here; from the rasping spout of a minke whale to the 'krek-krek' of a corncrake. You can spot otters tumbling in the kelp, watch sea eagles snatch fish from a lonely loch and thrill to the sight of dolphins riding the bow-wave of your boat.

When to Go

Oban



May Fèis Ìle (Islay Festival) celebrates traditional Scottish music and whisky.

Jun Roadsides and gardens become a blaze of colour with deep-pink rhododendron blooms.

Aug The best month of the year for whale-watching off the west coast.



Southern Highlands & Islands Highlights

- 1 Exploring the lovely lochscapes and accessible walking and cycling routes of the **Trossachs** (p252)
- 2 Visiting the smoky heavyweights of the whisky world on their peaty home turf of **Islay** (p276)
- 3 Blowing away the cobwebs on scenic, activity-packed **Isle of Arran** (p268)
- 4 Visiting the white waters of the **Corryvreckan whirlpool** (p279) of the north end of lonely Jura
- 5 Journeying through wildlife-rich **Mull** (p286) to reach the holy emerald isle of **Iona** (p293)
- 6 Hiking the **West Highland Way** (p246) along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond
- 7 Tucking into a platter of fresh local langoustines at the seafood restaurants in **Oban** (p284)
- 8 Teeing off on the great-value old and new courses at **Machrihanish** (p267) down the Kintyre peninsula