



Southern Highlands & Islands

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Monachyle Mhor (p252)
- ➔ Lake of Menteith Hotel (p249)
- ➔ Calgary Farmhouse (p286)
- ➔ Iona Hostel (p288)
- ➔ Colonsay Hotel (p270)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Ninth Wave (p287)
- ➔ Café Fish (p285)
- ➔ Callander Meadows (p251)
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- ➔ The Pierhouse (p292)

Why Go?

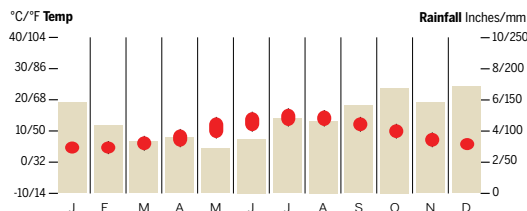
The impossibly complex coastline of Scotland's southwest harbours some of its most inspiring corners. Here, sea travel is key – dozens of ferries, happily now subsidised with cheaper fares, allow you to island-hop from the scenic splendour of Arran to majestic Mull or Tiree's lonely sands, via the whisky 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 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, a memorable concentration of scenic splendour that's very accessible 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 cornerake. 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 The Trossachs** (p248)
Exploring the region's spectacular lochscapes and accessible walking and cycling routes.
- 2 Islay** (p262) Visiting the heavyweights of the whisky world on their peaty home turf.
- 3 Arran** (p270) Blowing away the cobwebs on this scenic, activity-packed island.
- 4 Corryreckan Whirlpool** (p268) Visiting the white waters of this maelstrom at the north end of Lonely Jura.
- 5 Iona** (p288) Journeying through wildlife-rich Mull to reach this holy emerald isle.
- 6 West Highland Way** (p241) Hiking along the eastern shore of Loch Lomond.
- 7 Seafood Restaurants**
Tucking into a platter of fresh local langoustines at Ee-Usk (p279) or one of Oban's other eateries.
- 8 Machrihanish** (p261)
Teeing off on the great-value old and new golf courses down the Kintyre peninsula.