

Handa Island, Sutherland, Scotland

One of Britain's most spectacular seabird colonies, Handa Island is an uninhabited nature reserve off the wild northwest Scottish coast — a Zodiac wet-landing adventure with puffins, Great Skuas, and vertiginous sandstone cliffs.

Zodiac wet landing (no pier)

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

GBP (no shops on island)

English / Scottish Gaelic

Wildlife & nature reserve

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac wet landing on the south-shore beach (Tràigh an Teampaill) — ankle- to calf-deep water

Best For: Seabird photography, puffins, Great Skuas, dramatic sea stacks

Walk to centre: 3.7-mile (6 km) circular loop; 2–2.5 hrs; no vehicles or roads

Don't Miss: The Great Stack of Handa — a sheer sandstone column crowded with guillemots and razorbills

Getting around: Taxi Varies · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Seabird Colony & Puffin Walk** — The island's 3.7-mile circular trail passes through the heart of one of Europe's largest seabird colonies — over 100,000 birds in season — with...
 - The Great Stack of Handa** — A colossal column of Torridonian sandstone separated from the main cliff by a narrow chasm, every ledge packed with nesting seabirds in summer.
- Abandoned Village & Historic Graveyard** — Near the landing beach lie the ruins of the old crofting village, lazy beds (traditional potato cultivation ridges), and a graveyard dating to the...
 - White Sand Beaches** — The shell-sand south-shore beach Tràigh an Teampaill is shockingly white and backed by turquoise water — with stunning views across the Sound of...

BEST WALKS

- Handa Island Circular Trail** 3.7 miles (6 km) · 2–2.5 hrs · Moderate · ~100 m elevation — From the landing beach, the path heads inland across heather moorland on a raised plastic-mesh boardwalk, then climbs to the spectacular north cliffs where the Great...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		50°	41°	17d
Jun		58°	50°	17d
Aug		60°	53°	21d
Sep		58°	51°	20d
Oct		53°	47°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:08AM–8:34PM · Jun 4:14AM–10:28PM · Aug 5:43AM–9:05PM · Sep 6:50AM–7:39PM · Oct 7:57AM–6:14PM

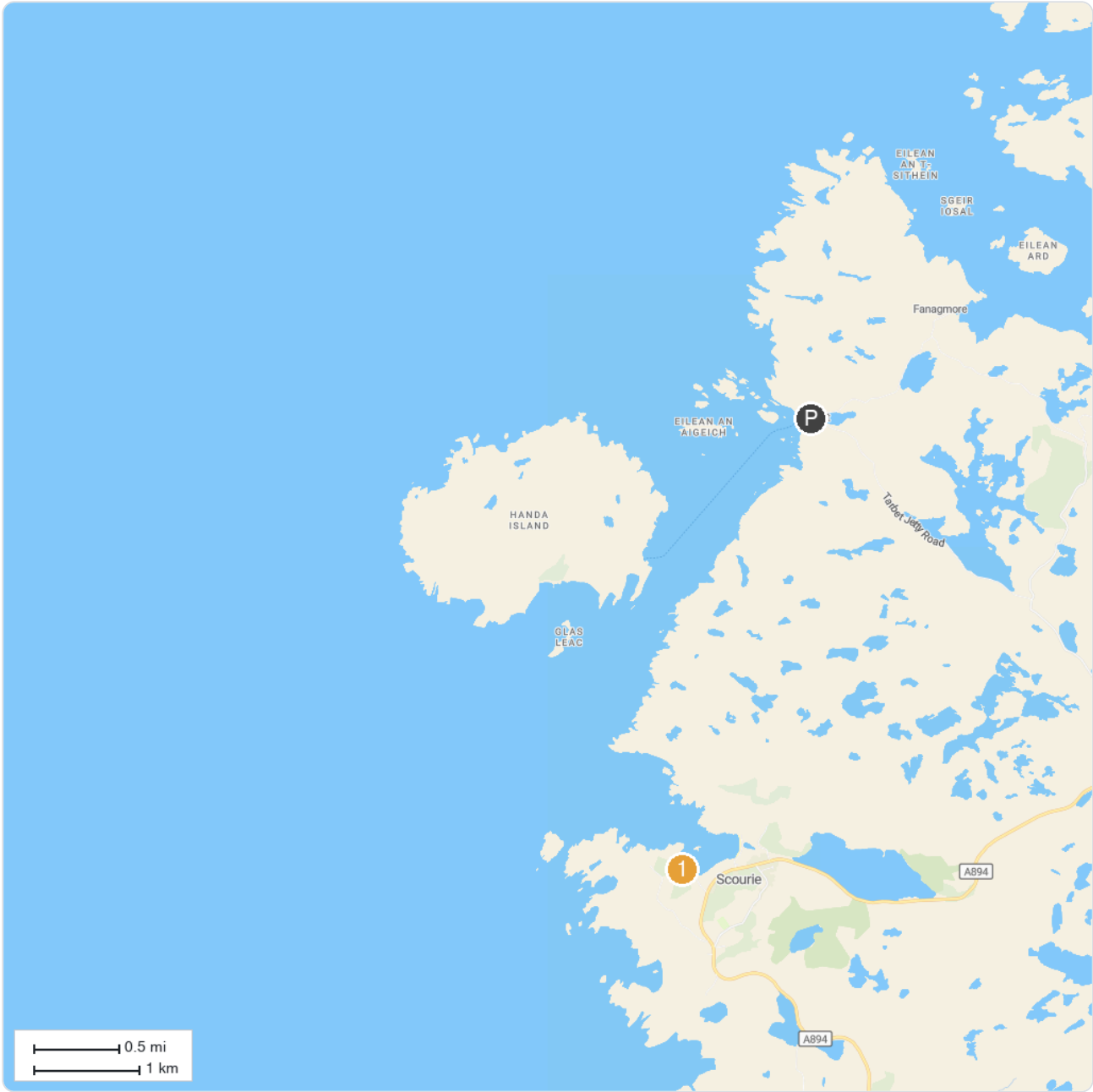
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Waterproof boots are essential. The Zodiac landing puts you ankle- to calf-deep in the Atlantic. The boardwalk can be muddy at the edges. Gaiters are a bonus.
- Beware the bonxies. Great Skuas will dive-bomb walkers near their nests. Hold a walking pole or hand raised above your head — they target the highest point. Don't run; just keep moving.
- Bring binoculars or a telephoto lens. Naked-eye sightings are good, but binoculars transform puffin-watching and stack photography.
- No facilities whatsoever. No café, no shop, no toilet, no drinking water. Use the ship before you go and carry water and snacks in your pack.
- Strict biosecurity — no rats allowed. Handa is famously rat-free. Staff may check backpacks before you land. This protects the ground-nesting birds.
- Check for ticks after your walk. The heather carries sheep ticks that can carry Lyme disease. Tuck trousers into socks and inspect yourself back on the ship.

Handa Island, Sutherland, Scotland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Scourie Beach

Relax on the beautiful white sands of Scourie Beach.

P Cruise port / terminal