

Isle of Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

A pocket-sized Hebridean gem where scheduled flights land on a tidal beach, a medieval castle floats in the bay, and the scallops are hand-dived this morning. Barra is small, remote, and utterly unforgettable.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 6–8 hrs

GBP (British Pounds)

English & Scottish Gaelic

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Castlebay pontoon — ships anchor in the bay

Best For: Scenic Hebridean landscapes, Gaelic culture, fresh seafood

Walk to centre: 0 min — tender drops at Castlebay village

Don't Miss: Kisimul Castle & watching a plane land on Traigh Mhòr beach

Getting around: Taxi £10–£25

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Kisimul Castle Boat Trip** — A short boat ride from the Castlebay jetty lands you on the rocky islet where the Clan MacNeil's medieval fortress rises straight from the sea.
- Traigh Mhòr Beach Airport** — The only scheduled airport in the world where planes land on a beach.
- Vatersay Island & Twin Beaches** — Cross the short causeway to Vatersay and walk the double crescent of white-sand beaches — Bagh Bhatarsaigh — with turquoise Atlantic water on both...
- Dualchas Heritage Centre** — Castlebay's small but excellent museum covers the social history, fishing heritage, and Gaelic culture of Barra and Vatersay, with rotating local art...
- Heaval Hill Hike & Our Lady of the Sea** — A steep grassy climb from Castlebay to Barra's highest point (383 m) passes a striking white marble statue of the Madonna and Child, with 360-degree...

BEST WALKS

- Castlebay Harbour Loop** 1–1.5 km · Easy · 20–30 min — From the tender pontoon, walk along the waterfront past the CalMac terminal, up to St Brendan's Church for views over Kisimul Castle, back down through the village past...
- Castlebay to Vatersay Causeway** ~8 km return · Moderate · Allow 2+ hrs — Walk or cycle the main road south from Castlebay across the Vatersay causeway to the twin Atlantic beaches.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	48°	45°	12d
Jun	55°	52°	14d
Aug	58°	56°	18d
Sep	57°	55°	17d
Oct	54°	51°	22d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:21AM–8:39PM · Jun 4:35AM–10:25PM · Aug 5:58AM–9:09PM · Sep 7:01AM–7:47PM · Oct 8:03AM–6:26PM

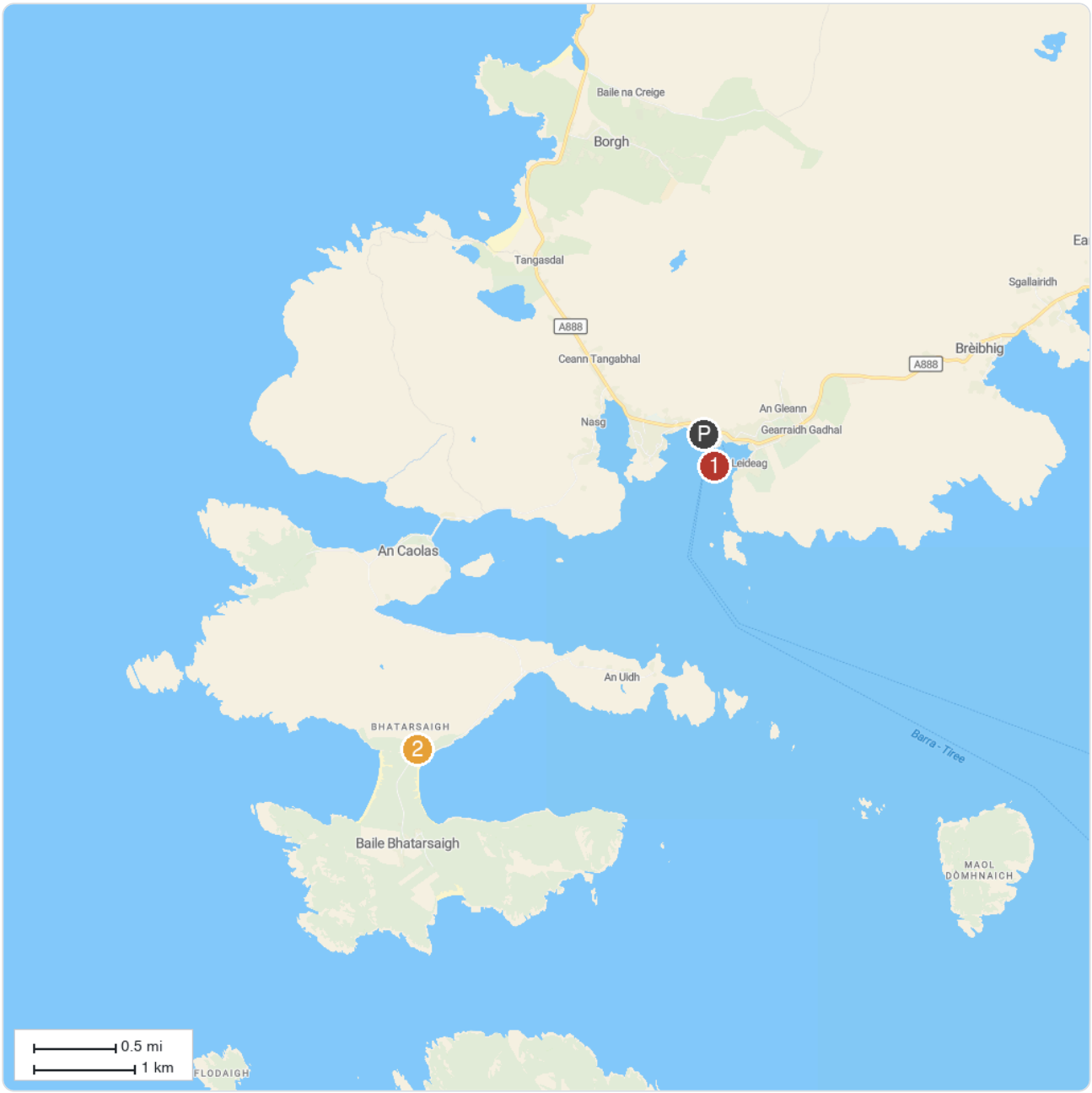
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book transport before you cruise. Barra has only a handful of taxis. Email or call ahead, or book an excursion — transport fills up the moment a ship anchors.
- Eat the scallops. Barra hand-dived scallops and langoustines are world-class. Café Kisimul's scallop pakora is the island's cult dish — arrive early or queue.
- Check the tide table for Traigh Mhòr. Flight times change daily with the tides. Look up Loganair's schedule for your date before arriving — missing a landing is the biggest Barra regret.
- Layer up. Hebridean weather can deliver sun, rain, and horizontal wind in a single hour. A waterproof and warm layer are non-negotiable even in summer.
- Pack midge repellent Jul–Aug. On still, damp days midges can be fierce. Avon Skin So Soft is the local solution — widely available in Scottish ports before you get here.
- Cash is useful. Castlebay has a bank with an ATM, but some smaller cafes and community venues (Vatersay hall) prefer cash. Stock up in the village before heading out.

Isle of Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- 1

Kisimul Castle

Medieval island castle, ancestral home of Clan MacNeil.
- 2

The Hebridean Way Start Point

Official start of the Hebridean Way walking and cycling route.
- P

Cruise port / terminal