

Isle of Bute, Scotland, United Kingdom

A Victorian seaside gem in the Firth of Clyde — where Glasgow's grandees once escaped 'doon the watter', and where palm trees improbably line the esplanade.

 Tender port  Typical call: 6–8 hrs  GBP (British Pounds)  English / Scots Gaelic

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Albert Pier, Rothesay

Walk to centre: 1 min — you step off the pier into town

Best For: Gothic architecture, seal-watching, Victorian history

Don't Miss: Mount Stuart House & the famous Victorian Toilets

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  £5–10 (town); £20–25 (cross-island) ·  **Hop-on hop-off**  City Sightseeing Bute (West Coast Motors)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Mount Stuart House & Gardens** — One of Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic mansions, built by the 3rd Marquess of Bute — once the world's richest man.
- **Rothesay Castle** — A rare circular 13th-century castle complete with a water-filled moat, right in the middle of Rothesay.
- **Scalpsie Bay Seal Colony** — A reddish-sand bay on the west coast that's home to up to 200 harbour seals year-round.
- **Ettrick Bay Beach** — A wide, golden-sand beach on Bute's west coast with views across to Arran.
- **Victorian Rothesay Walking Tour** — Explore the Victorian Toilets (an 1899 ceramic masterpiece on the pier), the Esplanade Gardens with their improbable palm trees, the Bute Museum, and...

BEST WALKS

- **Rothesay Town Highlights Loop** 1.5 miles · 45–60 min · Flat · Self-guided — From Albert Pier, visit the Victorian Toilets right on the harbour, then walk up to Rothesay Castle, across to Bute Museum, and back along the esplanade past the palm...
- **Ardencraig Gardens** 1.5 miles each way · 25–30 min uphill · Moderate — Head up from the pier through Rothesay to the walled Ardencraig Gardens — a beautiful free council garden famous for its fuchsia collection and glasshouses.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)			
	Mon	High	Low
	Apr	51°	41°
	Jun	61°	52°
	Aug	62°	54°
	Sep	59°	52°
	Oct	54°	48°
			Rain
			13d
			16d
			18d
			16d
			19d

 DAYLIGHT &  MONEY	
Apr 6:14AM–8:26PM · Jun 4:34AM–10:06PM · Aug 5:52AM–8:55PM · Sep 6:52AM–7:36PM · Oct 7:51AM–6:18PM	

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book a taxi immediately. Taxis are scarce on Bute. If you want to reach Mount Stuart or Scalpsie Bay independently, walk straight off the tender and call a local firm — or book before your cruise.
- Pack a waterproof layer. Western Scotland weather changes fast. Even on a sunny morning, a light rain jacket is essential for a comfortable day ashore.
- Try the Italian gelato. Bute has a long Italian heritage — the seafront gelaterie (Zavaroni's / Helmi's) are local legends. Queue for a cone on the esplanade.
- Visit the Victorian Toilets. Yes, really. The 1899 harbour toilets are a genuine sight — magnificent ceramic tilework and copper fittings. Small entry fee for the full experience.
- Buses are cheap and reliable. West Coast Motors buses run from near the pier to Mount Stuart, Ettrick Bay, and other spots. Buy tickets on board with cash or card.
- Check Mount Stuart hours. The house has seasonal opening times and is typically closed on some weekdays — verify before your visit to avoid the 5-mile trip for nothing.

Isle of Bute, Scotland, United Kingdom — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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| 1 Mount Stuart | A spectacular Victorian Gothic mansion with stunning gardens. | 2 Rothesay Castle | A unique circular medieval castle ruin in Rothesay town. |
| 3 Ascog Hall Garden and Fernery | Historic Victorian garden featuring a rare, beautiful fernery. | 4 St. Blane's Chapel | Ancient ruins of a 6th-century monastery and chapel. |
| 5 Kerrycroy Bay Beach | A beautiful, secluded sandy beach with scenic views. | P Cruise port / terminal | |