

# Isle of Canna, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

One of Scotland's most remote inhabited islands, Canna is a car-free sanctuary of basalt cliffs, ancient Celtic crosses, and vast seabird colonies — visited only by small expedition ships and yachts.

Tender (no pier for cruise ships)

Typical call: 4–6 hrs

Currency: British Pounds (GBP)

Language: English (Gaelic heritage)

Bird sanctuary — puffins May–Jul

## MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:

Arrive:

All aboard:

Excursion:

Notes:

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender — ships anchor in Canna Harbour; passengers taken ashore by ship's tenders to Canna Pier

**Best For:** Wildlife watching, birdlife, walking, Celtic history, total digital detox

**Walk to centre:** 5 min flat walk from pier to Community Shop & Café Canna

**Don't Miss:** Puffin colonies on Sanday cliffs (Apr–Jul), Coroghon Castle stack, Compass Hill views

Getting around: Rideshare not available

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Puffin & Seabird Walk to Sanday Cliffs** — Cross the bridge to the neighbouring island of Sanday and follow the coastal path to the southern cliffs, home to one of Scotland's most accessible...
- Coroghon Castle & Celtic Cross Trail** — Follow the path west from the pier to the dramatic Coroghon Castle — a 17th-century stone tower perched atop a sheer volcanic stack, historically...
- Compass Hill Summit Hike** — Compass Hill, northeast of the pier, is a volcanic formation so rich in iron ore that passing ships' compasses are famously thrown off course.
- Traigh Bhàn White Beach Walk (Sanday)** — A longer walk across Canna and over the bridge to the far shore of Sanday rewards with one of the Hebrides' most pristine beaches — white shell sand...
- NTS Ranger Guided Island Walk** — The National Trust for Scotland employs a seasonal ranger on Canna who offers guided walks covering the island's Gaelic history, wildlife...

## BEST WALKS

- Harbour Loop — Pier to Café & Celtic Cross** 1–1.5 hrs | Easy | Flat paths — A gentle intro walk from the pier along the southern shore past the Community Shop and Café Canna, through the woodlands around Canna House Gardens to the...
- Coroghon Castle & Sanday Bridge** 2–2.5 hrs | Easy-moderate | Some grassy/uneven paths — Head west from the pier to the dramatic cliff-top ruin of Coroghon Castle, then loop back via the road bridge to Sanday for views of the Rocket Church (St Edward's) and...
- Compass Hill Summit** 1.5–2 hrs | Moderate-strenuous | Steep grassy ascent — Strike northeast from the pier for a steep climb to the summit of Compass Hill.

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

**CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 48°  | 44° | 13d  |
| Jun |     | 55°  | 52° | 15d  |
| Aug |     | 58°  | 55° | 19d  |
| Sep |     | 57°  | 54° | 19d  |
| Oct |     | 54°  | 51° | 22d  |

**DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 6:17AM–8:35PM · Jun 4:31AM–10:22PM · Aug 5:53AM–9:06PM · Sep 6:57AM–7:43PM · Oct 8:00AM–6:22PM

Currency: British Pounds (GBP)

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear sturdy footwear. Even flat walks can be muddy. Waterproof hiking boots are strongly recommended — grass paths are slippery when wet.
- Bring cash. The Community Shop uses an honesty-box system; Café Canna accepts cards but satellite internet can drop. Cash is always accepted.
- Pack midge repellent (Jun–Sep). Scottish midges can be fierce on calm, overcast days. Carry DEET-based repellent or 'Smidge' spray — available on your ship or mainland ports.
- Expect zero mobile signal. Download offline maps before going ashore. This is a full digital detox — embrace it.
- Dress for Hebridean weather. Rain, wind, and sun can rotate within an hour. Bring a quality windproof/waterproof jacket and a warm layer regardless of the forecast.
- Check last tender times. Canna's distances are modest, but trails can take longer than expected. Confirm your ship's last tender departure before heading to Compass Hill or Sanday's far beaches.

# Isle of Canna, Inner Hebrides, Scotland — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

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



**P** Cruise port / terminal