

Isle of Colonsay, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

One of Scotland's last truly unhurried islands — 135 residents, no traffic lights, and some of Europe's finest Atlantic beaches. Colonsay rewards slow explorers with dramatic coastal walks, a centuries-old priory, local gin, and a silence you'll remember.

Tender (no cruise pier)

Typical call: 5–8 hrs

Currency: British Pound (GBP)

Language: English (Gaelic spoken by some)

Best explored by bike

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Scalasaig Pier — no deep-water berth for cruise ships

Best For: Wild beaches, coastal walks, birdwatching, distillery visits

Walk to village: 5 min flat from pier to Scalasaig general store and café

Don't Miss: Kiloran Bay — one of Scotland's finest white-sand beaches, 3.5 miles from pier

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Kiloran Bay & Coastal Walk** — Cycle or shuttle 3.5 miles to Kiloran Bay, widely regarded as one of Scotland's finest beaches — a wide crescent of golden sand backed by dunes and...
 - Oronsay Priory (Tidal Island)** — At low tide, walk the sandy Strand causeway to Oronsay — a separate island with the ruins of a 14th-century Augustinian priory, a magnificent carved...
 - Colonsay Brewery & Wild Island Gin** — Colonsay Beverages produces Wild Island Botanic Gin and runs the Colonsay Brewery —
- the smallest island in the world with its own brewery.

 - Colonsay House Gardens** — About 1.5 miles (a 30-minute walk) north of the pier, these historic woodland gardens hold one of Scotland's finest hybrid rhododendron collections...
 - Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk** — Colonsay is home to 150+ bird species including the rare corncrake, red-billed croug, and golden eagle.

BEST WALKS

- Scalasaig Village Stroll** 30 min | Easy | All flat — From the pier, walk past the Colonsay Pantry café, up to the general store and post office, then continue to the Colonsay Hotel pub and Dun Eibhinn fort ruin — an...
- Colonsay House & Gardens Walk** 1.5–2 hrs | Easy | ~3 miles round trip — Head north from Scalasaig along the main road through open farmland to Colonsay House and its celebrated woodland gardens.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		49°	44°	13d
Jun		56°	52°	15d
Aug		59°	56°	19d
Sep		58°	55°	18d
Oct		55°	51°	21d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:18AM–8:31PM · Jun 4:37AM–10:13PM · Aug 5:56AM–9:00PM · Sep 6:56AM–7:41PM · Oct 7:56AM–6:23PM

Currency: British Pound (GBP)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Tender conditions matter: Colonsay is exposed Atlantic — tender operations can be cancelled in poor weather or swell. This is an expedition-style port; come prepared for the unexpected.
- Hire a bike first: Colonsay Bikes & Boards is your best bet for seeing the island and can deliver to the pier. Kiloran Bay is 3.5 miles away — walkable but much better by bike. Book ahead via your ship or arrange on arrival.
- Oronsay tides are non-negotiable: The causeway to Oronsay Priory is only crossable for ~3 hours around low tide. Check tide times with locals (the post office is helpful) before committing.
- Midges in summer: June–September brings Scottish midges on calm, humid days. Pack insect repellent — Smidge or Avon Skin So Soft are the locals' recommendations.
- Card payments work, mostly: The hotel, café, and shop accept cards. Carry a little cash for honesty boxes (Colonsay House gardens) and any craft stalls.
- Pick up local honey: Colonsay is a protected sanctuary for the native European Black Bee. Colonsay Honey from the general store is a unique, island-only souvenir worth grabbing.

Isle of Colonsay, Inner 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 Kiloran Bay
Colonsay's stunning sandy beach, perfect for walks and views.

P Cruise port / terminal