

Isle of Iona, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

A car-free island the size of a small village, Iona holds the graves of medieval kings, the roots of Celtic Christianity, and beaches that glow turquoise on a clear Hebridean day.

- Tender only (no cruise pier)
- Typical call: 5–7 hrs
- Currency: British Pound (GBP)
- Language: English (Scottish Gaelic signs)

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Baile Mòr slipway — no cruise pier on island

Best For: History, pilgrimage, scenic walks, unspoiled beaches

Walk to Abbey: ~12–15 min from the landing slipway (0.5 mi, flat road)

Don't Miss: Iona Abbey & Museum, Reilig Odhráin (kings' graveyard), North End beaches

Getting around: Taxi ✓ Varies (by arrangement) · Rideshare ✗ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Iona Abbey & Museum** — The spiritual heart of Scotland, founded by St.
- Reilig Odhráin & St. Oran's Chapel** — Adjacent to the Abbey, this is the graveyard of 48 medieval Scottish kings — including Macbeth and Duncan — as well as Norse and Irish royalty.
- North End Beach Walk** — Walk north along the island's single track road to Tràigh Bhàn nam Monach — a sweep of brilliant white shell sand with Caribbean-coloured water...
- St. Columba's Bay (South End)** — A pebble beach at the island's southern tip where St.
- Iona Heritage Centre** — A compact community museum in the old Thomas Telford-designed manse, covering crofting, fishing, the local marble quarry, and the island's social...

BEST WALKS

- Slipway to Iona Abbey** 0.5 mi | ~15 min | Easy | Paved — Follow the single paved road north from the Baile Mòr slipway, passing the Nunnery ruins and MacLean's Cross en route to the Abbey.
- Abbey to North Beach** 1.5 mi one way | ~35 min | Easy–Moderate | Mostly track — Continue north past the Abbey along the island's western track to reach the white-sand beach at the north end.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

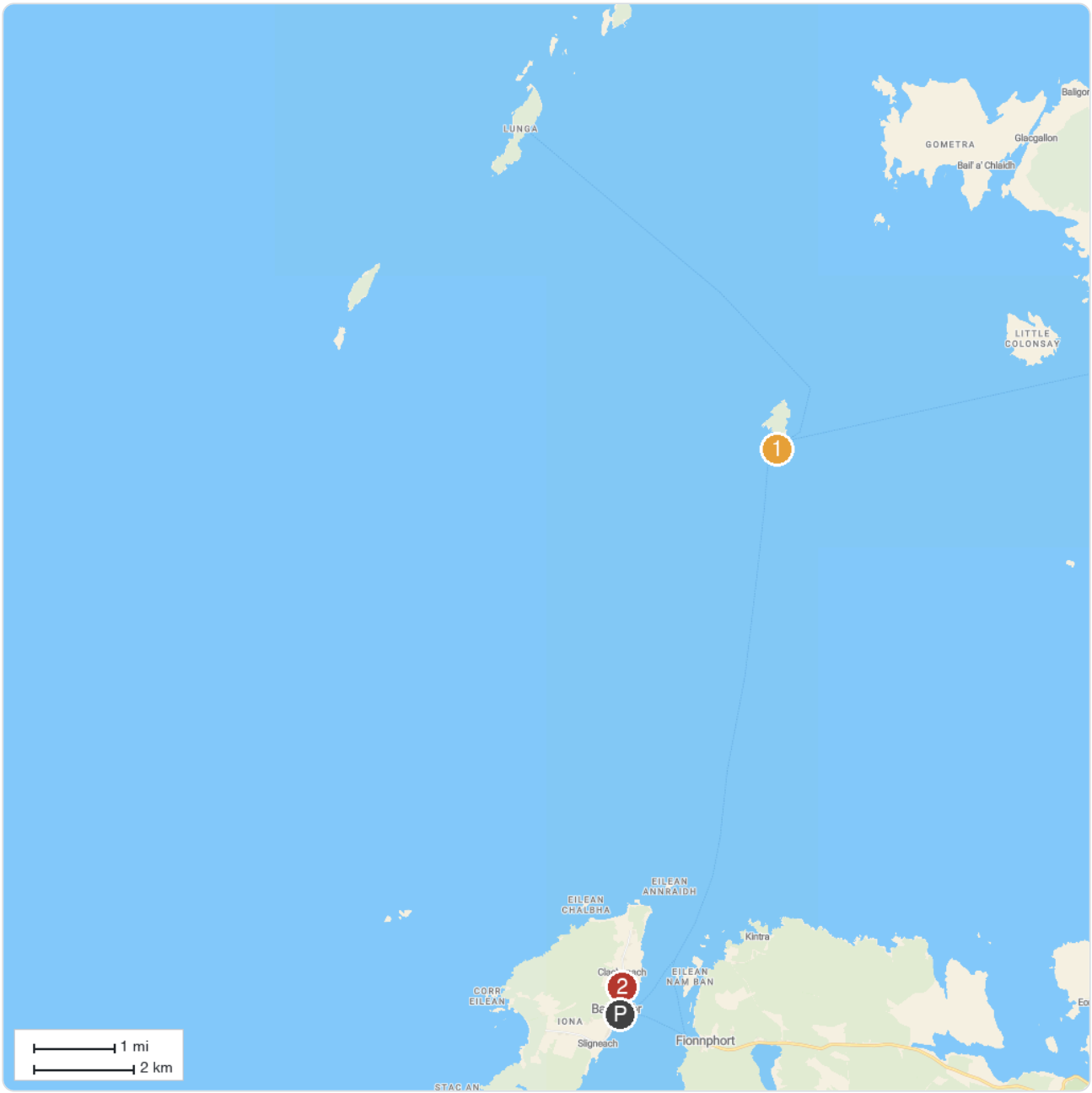
CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:19AM–8:33PM · Jun 4:36AM–10:16PM · Aug 5:56AM–9:02PM · Sep 6:57AM–7:42PM · Oct 7:58AM–6:23PM Currency: British Pound (GBP)	
Apr	50°	43°	14d		
Jun	58°	52°	16d		
Aug	60°	55°	21d		
Sep	58°	53°	19d		
Oct	54°	50°	21d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer up, always. Hebridean weather flips between sunshine and driving rain within an hour. Pack a waterproof jacket and sturdy footwear even in summer.
- Tenders can be cancelled. Atlantic swells occasionally make the Sound of Iona impassable for tenders — it happens. Check weather forecasts and have a ship-board Plan B.
- Book lunch in advance. Iona's restaurants (Martyr's Bay, Argyll Hotel, St. Columba Hotel) are small and fill up fast in summer. Call or book online before your cruise calls.
- Bring some cash. Most places take cards but mobile signal can be patchy, causing payment terminals to fail. A few pounds covers the Nunnery, Heritage Centre, and a tea.
- Respect the quiet. Iona is an active place of pilgrimage and home to under 150 residents. Keep noise low, close farm gates behind you, and take all litter back to the ship.
- Souvenirs worth buying: Iona silver Celtic jewellery and hand-knitted Hebridean woolens near the pier; Celtic books and music at the Abbey gift shop.

Isle of Iona, Inner Hebrides, Scotland — Port Map

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



- 1

Staffa National Nature Reserve - Fingal's Cave (National Trust for Scotland)

Staffa National Nature Reserve - Fingal's Cave: a magnificent sea cave of hexagonal basalt columns.
- 2

Iona Abbey and Nunnery

Iona Abbey: ancient monastery, birthplace of Scottish Christianity.
- P

Cruise port / terminal