

Isle of Islay, Scotland, United Kingdom

The Queen of the Hebrides enchants with ten legendary whisky distilleries, windswept Atlantic beaches, and a coastline alive with seabirds and seals. Most cruise passengers arrive by tender at Port Ellen — and the famous Three Distilleries Path starts right from the pier.

 Tender port (most ships)  Typical call: 7-9 hrs  British Pound (GBP)  English  Whisky island

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Port Ellen pier (or Port Askaig for some itineraries)

Walk to center: 2 min from tender pier to Port Ellen village

Best For: Whisky lovers, wildlife, dramatic coastal scenery

Don't Miss: The Three Distilleries Path to Laphroaig, Lagavulin & Ardbeg

 Getting around:  Taxi  £27–£33 ·  Hop-on hop-off  Islay Coaches (Tour Islay Ticket)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Three Distilleries Pathway Walk** — The signature Islay experience: a flat, paved path from Port Ellen along the south coast passing Laphroaig, Lagavulin, and Ardbeg.
- **Kildalton High Cross** — One of the finest surviving 8th-century Celtic ringed crosses in Europe, standing in a peaceful ruined churchyard about 7 miles east of Port Ellen.
- **Whisky Distillery Tour** — Go deeper with a guided tour at one of Islay's legendary distilleries — Laphroaig, Lagavulin, Ardbeg (south coast), Bowmore (centre), or...
- **American Monument & The Oa** — A dramatic clifftop memorial to the American servicemen and British crew lost when the troopships Tuscania and Otranto sank off Islay in 1918.
- **Wildlife & Birdwatching Tour** — Islay hosts over 100 bird species, including barnacle geese in winter, hen harriers, golden eagles, and choughs.

BEST WALKS

- **Three Distilleries Path** 3.5 miles one way | Easy, flat | 2-3 hrs walking — Islay's signature walk follows the south coast from Port Ellen through moorland and sea-views to three world-famous distilleries.
- **Kilnaughton Bay & Singing Sands** 3-4 miles round trip | Easy | 1.5-2 hrs — From Port Ellen, walk around Kilnaughton Bay to the distinctive square Carraig Fhada lighthouse (built 1832), then follow the signposted track over the hill to the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌦️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				🌅 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:19AM–8:30PM · Jun 4:40AM–10:09PM · Aug 5:57AM–8:59PM · Sep 6:57AM–7:41PM · Oct 7:56AM–6:23PM	
Apr	50°	42°	13d		
Jun	59°	51°	16d		
Aug	61°	54°	19d		
Sep	59°	53°	17d		
Oct	55°	49°	20d		

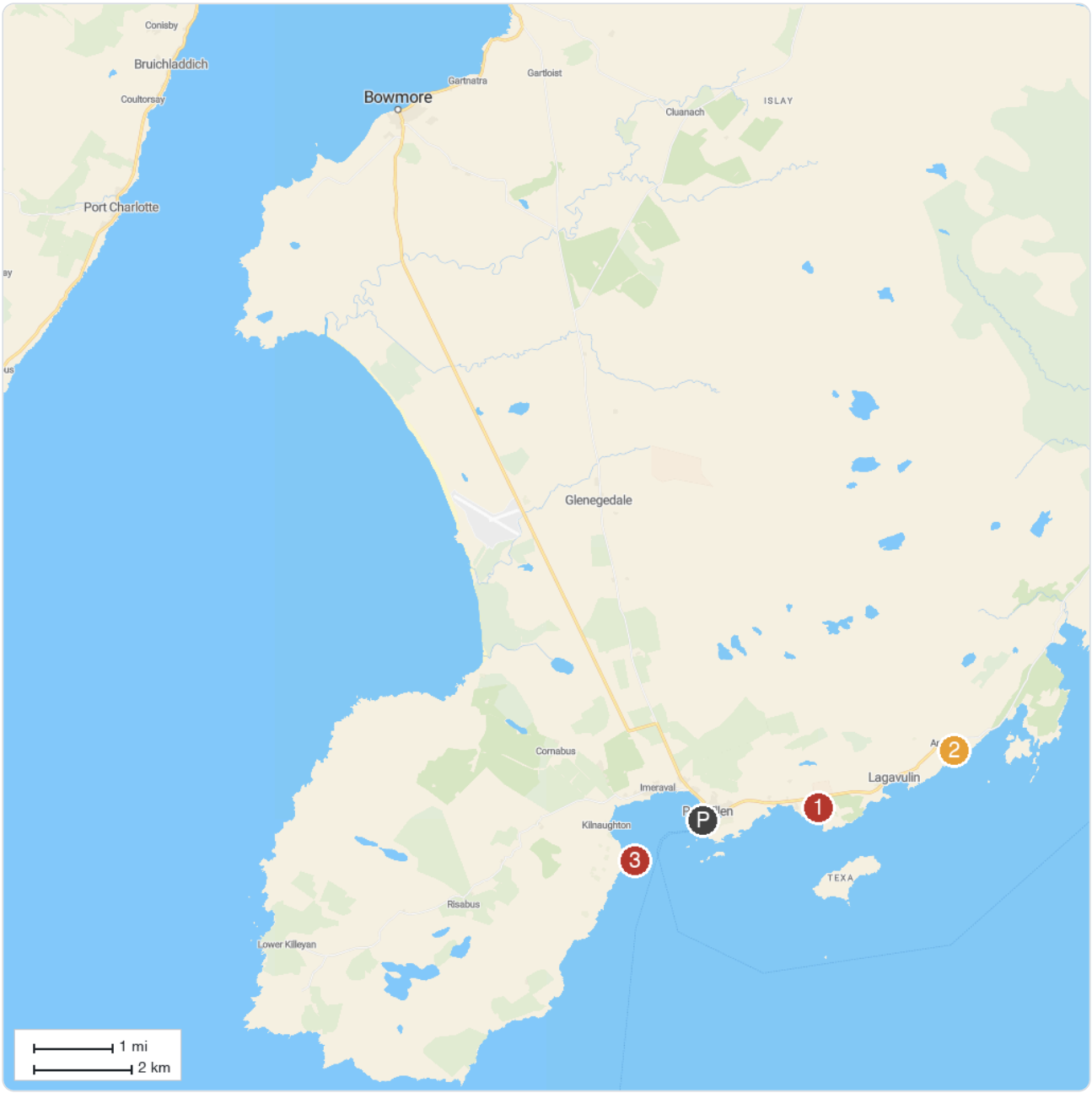
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Pre-book transport or get stuck in Port Ellen. Islay has almost no taxis available on the day and buses are infrequent. If you want to see Bowmore, beaches, or the west coast, arrange a private tour or hire car before your cruise.
- Book distillery tours ahead of time. Tour slots at Laphroaig, Lagavulin, Ardbeg, and Bowmore fill up fast — sometimes months out. Walk-in drams at the bar are usually fine, but don't count on a guided tour without a reservation.
- Pack proper waterproofs. Islay is fully exposed to the Atlantic — even in summer expect wind, rain, and cool temperatures. Layers and a quality waterproof jacket are essential, not optional.
- June–September: bring midge repellent. On calm, damp days Scottish midges can be intense. 'Smidge' brand repellent or Avon Skin So Soft are locals' go-to solutions — pick some up in Port Ellen if needed.
- Card payments work almost everywhere. British Pounds (GBP) are the currency. Most shops, distilleries, and cafés take contactless, but carry a little cash for roadside honesty boxes and small village stalls.
- Islay's beaches are stunning but dangerous. Machir Bay and Saligo Bay have powerful Atlantic surf and strong rip currents — no swimming. Enjoy the scenery but stay out of the water.

Isle of Islay, 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.



- 1

Laphroaig Distillery

Famous distillery producing peated single malt Scotch whisky.
- 2

Ardbeg Distillery

Iconic distillery crafting intensely peated Islay single malt whisky.
- 3

Carraig Fhada Lighthouse

Historic lighthouse guiding ships into Port Ellen bay.
- P

Cruise port / terminal