

Isle of Mingulay, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

At the wind-scoured southern tip of the Outer Hebrides, Mingulay is everything a cruise port usually isn't: no pier, no café, no souvenir shop — just towering Atlantic cliffs, a beach of powdery white shell-sand, and the haunting ruins of a village abandoned in 1912.

-  Zodiac wet landing (no pier)
-  Typical call: 4-6 hrs
-  Currency: GBP (no facilities)
-  English / Scottish Gaelic
-  Major seabird colony (May–Jul)

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Zodiac/tender wet landing in Mingulay Bay — weather-dependent

Walk to village: 2–5 min from beach; cliffs 30–45 min uphill hike

Best For: Seabird watching, dramatic scenery, wild history

Don't Miss: Biulacraig cliffs (700 ft drop) and the abandoned blackhouses

 Getting around:  **Rideshare**  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Seabird Cliffs of Biulacraig** — Hike 30–45 minutes uphill from the beach to reach the western cliffs of Biulacraig — 700 ft vertical drops into the Atlantic, alive with puffins...
- Abandoned Village of Mingulay** — The island's last residents left in 1912 after centuries of hardship and isolation.
- Mingulay Bay Beach Walk** — The bay's white shell-sand beach is one of the finest in the British Isles — powdery, bright white, and edged by turquoise water.
- Full Island Circuit (Expedition-led)** — Some expedition ships offer guided hikes across the island's ridge to connect the bay, the village ruins, and the western cliff tops.

BEST WALKS

- Beach to Abandoned Village** 0.3 km · Easy · 5–10 min — From the Zodiac landing point on Mingulay Bay beach, head a short way inland across the machair to reach the stone ruins of The Village.
- Village to Biulacraig Cliff Top** 2 km · Moderate–Strenuous · 30–45 min one way — From the ruined village, head west and uphill following the island's central ridge.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Waterproof boots are mandatory. The wet landing puts you in ankle-deep water. Knee-high rubber boots (wellies/Mucks) are ideal. Many expedition ships loan them — confirm before packing.
- Dress for everything. Outer Hebrides weather can cycle through sun, horizontal rain, and gale-force wind within an hour. Bring a windproof waterproof shell, warm mid-layer, hat, and gloves even in summer.
- Landing is never guaranteed. The Zodiac approach can be cancelled at any time by the captain if conditions deteriorate. Accept this gracefully — the island's remoteness is the point.
- Zero connectivity. No mobile signal, no Wi-Fi, no ATM, no shops of any kind. Download offline maps and charge devices before going ashore.
- Time your visit for seabirds. Puffins and cliff-nesting species are present May through late July. Outside this window the cliffs are quieter but still spectacular.
- Bring snacks and water from the ship. There is no food or water on the island — hikes to the cliffs take 1.5–2.5 hours round-trip and you will work up an appetite.

Isle of Mingulay, Outer 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

Mingulay Village Ruins

The abandoned stone crofting village overlooking Mingulay Bay, evacuated by its last residents in 1912.
- P

Cruise port / terminal

- 2

Mingulay Sea Cliffs

Dramatic 230-metre cliffs on the island's west coast hosting one of Britain's largest seabird colonies, including puffins and razorbills.