

# Food & Drink in Argyll



## TASTE OF PLACE ARGYLL

Are you ready to experience and relish a taste of Argyll and the Isles? The region is rich with amazing local product from freshly caught seafood to sustainable farm produce and everything in between. The region is also famed for its single malt whiskies, with 14 distilleries dotting what is known as the whisky coast. There is nothing quite like sampling the product in the regions historic distilleries with most offering a large dram at the end of their tour. Come to Argyll and the Isles – the foodie’s paradise!



[#cartour](#) [#relaxed](#) [#whisky](#) [#seafood](#) [#foodanddrink](#)

### DAY 1

Make your way over west, from Edinburgh and Glasgow and further afield picking up the A82 as it skirts the Clyde and then heads towards the west coast where the landscape will change into a mesmerising combination of craggy mountains, lush forests and dark lochs.

On the western shores of Loch Lomond with stunning views across the loch, you find Lennox of Lomond a family farm dating back to 1750 and which has seen eleven generations of the Lennox family running it. The family love to welcome visitors and the farm has grown in recent years to become an established agritourism hub for the region’s farming community and a popular destination for everyone wanting to enjoy a taste of rural Scottish life. Experiences from guided walks to

sheep dog and sheep shearing demonstrations can be booked for clients in advance.

This journey takes you further along Loch Lomond and turns off west on the A83 over the Rest and Be Thankful towards Loch Fyne where you find [Fyne Ales](#), a family owned farm brewery established in 2001. Visitors are welcome to see the brewery and sample some of the outstanding beers they produce.

Nearby you find [Loch Fyne Oyster Bar](#) which invites guests to stop for lunch or a browse in the shop. Founded in the 1970s, the restaurant specialises in serving up seafood produced on the loch and in the in-house smokery. The [Loch Fyne Oyster Bar & Restaurant](#) is situated in Argyll at the point where the mountains meet the sea waters of Loch Fyne.

The journey continues onto the A815 which takes you onto the Cowal Peninsula. The Cowal Peninsula is as beautiful as it is diverse, from the towering Munros of the north to the mellow scenery and sea lochs of the south.

Time allowing, you could pay a visit to Benmore Botanic Garden, which has a magnificent mountain setting and boasts a world-famous collection of flowering trees and shrubs with over 300 species of rhododendron over an area of 49 hectares.

Or alternatively you can take a one hour walk in Pucks Glen One of the most magical forest walks in Scotland, with a delightful trail along a rocky gorge.

From Left to right,  
Ardbeg Distillery islay  
Loch Fyne Oyster Bar  
Fyne Ales Brewery  
Loch Fyne Oyster Restaurant



For overnight, head west to Portavadie, sitting on the shores of Loch Fyne, Argyll, it is the perfect place to unwind amid glorious scenery. As well as world-class marina facilities, [Portavadie](#) offer of holiday accommodation, restaurants and bars, beauty and wellbeing treatments, as well as shopping.

The spa and leisure experience offers an exceptional way to enjoy the views over Loch with a seasonal outdoor infinity pool and all year hot tubs. In the evening you can enjoy some local venison or fresh seafood in the restaurant.

## DAY 2

The ferry across the water to Tarbert could not be any closer, it leaves just over the hill from the hotel. If you're staying at Portavadie, you could take the ferry as a foot passenger, making it a day out.

Arriving into Tarbert after a short 25 minute crossing, take a walk through this picturesque conservation village, built around a well-sheltered harbour. On a hillside, overlooking the centre of the village, stand the ruins of the medieval Tarbert Castle. The castle's royal connections date back to the 11th century AD. Today, the castle is a National Scheduled Monument, and its ruins are owned and cared for by the community. Access paths have been constructed, and the whole historic monument is open to visitors, as part of Tarbert Castle Heritage Park which offers additionally gentle walks.

After exploring some of the local shops and galleries take a pick of one of the local restaurants and cafes such as [Lulabelle's](#) or the [Anchorage Bistro](#) for a taste of local produce.

After lunch you could make your way to Kennacraig for the ferry crossing to the Island of Islay for 2 nights [overnight] on this island famed for its whisky and bird spotting. Overnight could be at [Glenevedale House](#) for their outstanding freshly-caught seafood platter, a breakfast of Scottish porridge - with a drop of whisky and the ultimate in Scottish hospitality!

## DAY 3

There are numerous options for you to design your stay on Islay, to make the best of your experience.

Why not book a tour with former gamekeeper, DJ of Islay Outdoors. This might be a guided walk, fishing or seashore foraging. Alternatively, you could join an Islay Seafood Special boat trip with Islay Sea Adventures.

No trip to Islay however is complete without a visit to at least one of the nine working distilleries on the island. Lagavulin offer their signature tour, their [Warehouse Experience](#) - join your guide for a fantastic cask tasting session. This is an experience like no other and not to be missed, your host will keep you entertained with witty stories and Islay charm whilst you enjoy exclusive samples of Lagavulin. Better still why not follow the Three Distilleries Walk from Port Ellen visiting Laphroaig, Lagavullin and Ardbeg Distilleries.

However if Gin is the tipples of choice head to Islay Square where you find the visitor centre of [Isle of Islay Gin](#) which uses local heather and gorse in their list of botanicals.

If you're staying overnight at The Harbour Inn in the village of Bowmore, you can dine on locally sourced Islay beef and oysters.



From Top to bottom.  
Lulabelle's of Tarbert  
Breakfast at Glenevedale House  
Lagavulin Distillery



## DAY 4

It is time to leave Islay and the ferry will take you back to Kennacraig where you will continue on the A83 then the A816 towards Oban.

We recommend to turn off the main road after Lochgilphead and head to Crinan along the Crinan Canal. At the west end of the Canal, connecting Loch Fyne to the Atlantic Ocean, is the tiny picturesque fishing village of Crinan with its population of just under 80 inhabitants. The story of "Britain's most beautiful shortcut" began in 1771 when James Watt surveyed the district to find a course for the canal, originally planned by John Rennie. Only 9 miles in length, the Crinan Canal was built to improve access to the Western Isles, offering a safe transit route from Ardrishaig on Loch Fyne to Crinan, avoiding the long, arduous journey around the Mull of Kintyre.

For over 200 years the [Crinan Hotel](#) has been the centre of this little community. Today the Crinan Hotel is an international meeting point for Hebridean sailors, fishermen, yachtsman, holiday makers and above all lovers of seafood and the best of Scottish produce. If you would like to experience lunch here, we strongly recommend that a booking is made in advance.

From here continue your journey north, passing through Kilmartin Glen. This beautiful glen in the midst of the heart of Argyll is one of Scotland's richest and most important prehistoric landscapes. Within six miles of Kilmartin village there are over 350 ancient monuments, including cairns, standing stones and stones circles. The Iron Age Dunadd Fort an enthralling place to visit and learn about where the ancient Kings of Scotland were crowned.

Reaching Oban, Scotland's Seafood Capital with time to explore the town. Oban has an outstanding number of restaurants with the best food credentials, such as [Etive Restaurant](#) in the town or [Tigh an Truish](#) which can be found a short drive from Oban across the Bridge over the Atlantic.

## DAY 5

Hand over the steering wheel to someone else today and enjoy an experience that will take you onto one of the exceptional small Islands of Argyll.

Lismore is a small island near Oban on the West coast of Scotland, 10 miles long and about a mile wide. With over 130 bird species and an abundance of rare wildflowers Lismore truly lives up to its Gaelic name 'Lios Mòr'

meaning 'the Great Garden'.

Home to around 160 'Liosachs', the island's low population allows wildlife to thrive, and is known for its peregrine falcons, seals, otters and seabirds including razorbills. The island's three lochs, as well as its islets and skerries, are designated as a Special Area of Conservation.

Join Robert for a [private hire Land Rover tour](#), highlighting the island's spectacular wildlife and coastal scenery, rich heritage, delicious local foods and close-knit community. An experience that is truly off the beaten track and lets guests engage with locals, understand their way of life and get true insights into our stunning landscapes.

Return to the hotel in the afternoon for a relaxed evening with good food and wine, enjoying one of our stunning west coast sunsets.

## DAY 6

It is departure day – you could continue your journey across Scotland or indeed prepare for your trip home.



### HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5 star

- [Cameron House Hotel](#), Loch Lomond
- [Portavadie](#), Loch Fyne
- [Glenegeadale House](#), Islay
- [Kilmartin Castle](#), Lochgilphead
- [Isle of Eriska Hotel](#), Isle of Eriska (Restaurant Michellin Starred)
- [No 26 by the Sea](#), Oban
- [No 17 the Promenade](#), Oban

#### 4 star

- [Knockderry House](#), Cove on Loch Long
- [Lomond Arms Hotel](#), Loch Lomond
- [Loch Melfort Hotel](#), near Oban
- [Barcaldine Castle](#), near Oban
- [Machrihanish Dunes](#) (The Ugadale Hotel & The Royal Hotel), Kintyre
- [The Harbour Inn](#), Islay

### PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

We recommend booking the Islay ferry well advance to ensure availability. The Portavadie to Tarbert ferry isn't bookable. We recommend familiarising yourself with the arrival ports and turning up in plenty time for your planned crossing.

From Left to right.  
Oban Distillery  
Seafood at The Pierhouse

For all you need to know  
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