

ARGYLL & THE ISLES DAY TOURS



ISLE OF BUTE DAY TOUR

The Isle of Bute is without a doubt a hidden treasure only a stone's throw away from the City of Glasgow – it makes the ideal destination for a day excursion with the added benefit of excellent public transport links.



#sustainable #traintravel #ferry #beaches #gin #wildlife

Board the train west at Glasgow Central station and a pleasant 45 minutes later guests will reach the stunning Victorian Train Station at Wemyss Bay. There, only a hop and a skip along, will guests board the awaiting ferry to be taken in 35 minutes across to the Isle of Bute.

Rothesay, Bute's chief town, is a seaside resort brimming with character, Italian cafés and good old-fashioned shops. A hipster's paradise and the perfect place to spark genius gift ideas, hours can be spent meandering in and around the converted Victorian shops and along the promenade.

City Sightseeing have an open-top bus tour on the Isle of Bute which is a great way to explore this beautiful island. All your clients need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy the fantastic views with opportunities to disembark and pick up the next bus. Tours depart daily at 10am, 12pm, 2.15pm and 4pm.

The route follows the coastal road north then across to Ettrick Bay and then south where you'll find Mount Stuart, a spectacular mansion set amid acres of woodland and gardens with globally significant arboricultural and horticultural collections.

The spectacular Gothic house, the ancestral home of the Marquess of Bute, features magnificent Victorian Gothic architecture and design together with contemporary craftsmanship, surrounded by 300 acres of gloriously maintained grounds and gardens. It's a house of innovations. It was the first home in the world to have a heated indoor swimming pool, and the first in Scotland to be purpose built with electric light, central heating, a telephone system and a lift. Most of which are, quite remarkably, still in use today. The guided tours are packed with insights about the building's design and detailing plus the exceptional art and furniture collections. The Café serves delicious home-baking and hearty homemade snacks. These are prepared daily in the House kitchens using only the freshest local produce including smoked salmon from

Ritchie's of Rothesay, milk and cream from McAlister's dairy and fruit and vegetables from the estate's own Kitchen Garden.

Bute is fine place to channel your inner Sir David Attenborough, it is home to multiple wildlife species, each of which is as spectacular as the next. Witnessing the little intricacies of the awe-inspiring colony of seals on the beach at Scalpsie Bay (over 200 to be precise) is one of life's better moments. Along with the seals, a significant number of hares, deer and wild goats inhabit this hidden treasure of an island.

On your return to Rothesay, why not pop into the Isle of Bute Gin Distillery for a tour and tasting (closed Mondays). And if your clients enjoy the visit and miss a ferry, don't worry, ferries run every 45 minutes.

A great day out from Glasgow - a way to experience Island tranquillity for just one day.

From Left to right.
Isle of Bute Sight Seeing Bus
Ferry approaching Bute
Mount Stuart



LOCH LOMOND AND HELENSBURGH DAY TOUR



#cartour #shopping #lochside #lochlomond #cruise #offroaddriving #artsandcrafts

Your guests will leave Glasgow heading west on Glasgow's Great Western Road then north on the A82, soon reaching the bonnie bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.

The best way to see more of the Loch is to take a cruise with [Cruise Loch Lomond](#), leaving from Tarbet Pier. Cruise Loch Lomond is operated by the Cordner family who have been locals in Tarbet and Arrochar for over 70 years. Having lived in Glasgow and owning Black Third Farm in Cardross they then moved to the village of Arrochar in the early 1940's. There are a number of cruises available to choose from and we recommend to pre-book particularly during the busier summer month.

A few miles south of Tarbet is Luss, a pretty and small conservation village right on the shores of the loch. There you find the [Luss General Store](#) which is a boutique in the picturesque village. offering a stylish selection of products from handmade greetings cards to hand-

poured candles, expertly tooled leather goods and hornware. Locally produced shortbread, sustainable heather honey and handmade Scottish chocolate shares shelf-space with regionally distilled organic spirits and an extensive range of Scottish gins and whiskies. Lunch can be taken at the [Luss Fish & Chip Company](#) or at the nearby [Loch Lomond Arms Hotel](#).

Choices are to be made for the afternoon. If your clients are looking for a bit of a thrill, they could be taking to the hills surrounding the loch with [4x4 Adventures](#). Guests can choose from a half day guided 4 x 4 landrover tour, where they will learn all about the history of the area and get a real feel for what it's like to live and work in this part of Scotland. Alternatively, they can choose the Loch Lomond Off Road Driving Adventure, an exhilarating off road driving experience, and a fantastic guided tour of the Loch Lomond area.

For those preferring a slower paced cultural day why not visit nearby Helensburgh, a

Victorian resort town at the gateway to scenic Argyll with lots of interesting quirks and qualities: mountains on the horizon, a shipwreck in the Firth, charming architecture, fascinating connections to the past, and the type of foodie scene you'd expect to find in the city. Guests can check out Hill House's fabulous architecture, Arts and Crafts textiles and furniture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

There are also some fine gardens to explore near Helensburgh, including Geilston and Glenarn, as well as some wonderful walking to be done along the shores of the Clyde Sea Lochs. The Submarine Museum tells the fascinating story of the UK's submarine fleet, and the town offers a myriad of independent gift shops. Helensburgh is easily accessed by train either as an early stop on the scenic West Highland Line or by catching the hourly commuter train which runs early to late.

A wonderful day out from Glasgow with memories to last a lifetime.



From Left to right.
Cruise Loch Lomond
4x4 Adventures Scotland
Destination Helensburgh



ARGYLL EXPLORER

#grouptravel #nature #history #foodie

Throughout this journey into the West Highlands your clients will be able to see breathtaking landscapes of rolling hills, forests, and lochs as well as charming villages and towns with their unique architecture and culture. This day tour can be done from Glasgow but also from the Stirling area with a duration of 9 to 11 hours depending on final itinerary.

As your clients head north from Glasgow on the A82, they'll pass through the stunning Trossachs National Park, where they can catch a glimpse of Loch Lomond, the largest freshwater lake in the UK. Continuing on the A82, guests will pass through the village of Crianlarich, nestled in the beautiful surroundings of Glen Strathfillan. The village is home to historic churches, quaint shops and beautiful hills.

Arriving at Loch Awe, famous for its stunning scenery and being the home to many historic landmarks such as Kilchurn Castle and St Conan's Kirk which we recommend for a visit. Some of the highlights of the kirk include the beautifully carved choir stalls, the ornate

pulpit, and the stunning stained glass windows which were designed by the renowned artist Douglas Strachan.

The kirk also features a unique blend of Christian and pagan symbolism, including a carving of a Green Man and a representation of the Celtic goddess Brigid. After the visit, the journey continues on to Oban, situated on a sheltered bay on the Firth of Lorne, surrounded by stunning hills and islands.

The town is often referred to as the "Gateway to the Isles," as it is the main ferry terminal for the Inner Hebrides. Oban has a rich history, dating back to the Bronze Age. The town was an important centre for fishing and shipbuilding in the 19th century. One of the main attractions in Oban is McCaig's Tower, a colosseum-like structure built in 1900 that offers stunning views of the town and the surrounding islands.

A taste of Scotland lunch can be booked for your clients at the View Restaurant, with the option to add to the experience by adding a gin or a whisky flight. Another option for smaller groups would be a guided walking tour with a whisky theme of Oban followed by a premium whisky tasting at the View and lunch. After



lunch head south west and on to Kilmartin Glen, a stunning valley located in the heart of Argyll, rich in history, with evidence of human settlement dating back over 5,000 years. The glen is home to over 800 ancient monuments, including standing stones, burial cairns, and rock carvings, making it one of the most important archaeological sites in Scotland. Kilmartin Museum is to re-open in June 2023 with the option for a self-guided or guided visit.

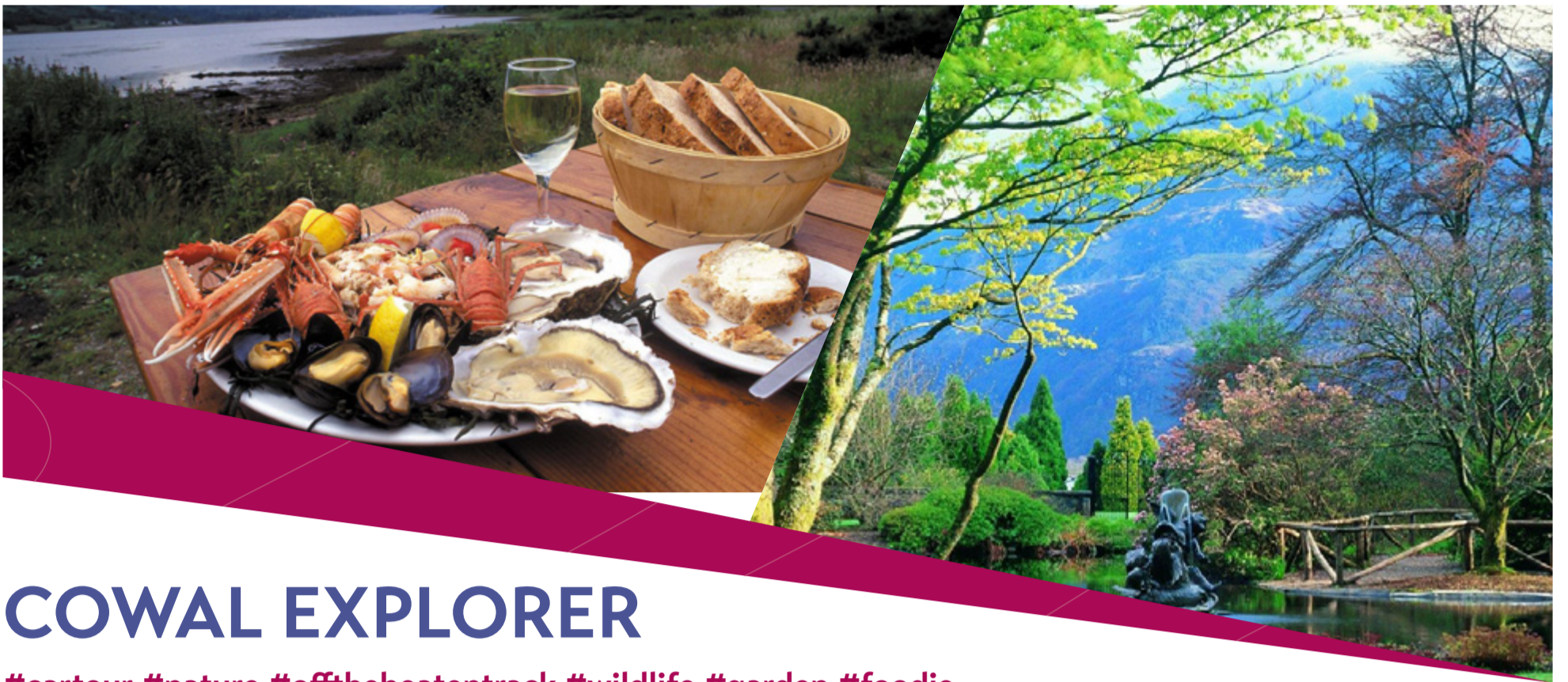
Alternatively, your clients might opt for a stroll through the town of Inveraray instead. Situated in a stunning location, with Loch Fyne providing a beautiful backdrop to the town. The town has a rich history, dating back to the 18th century when it was established as the seat of the Clan Campbell. The town's architecture is a testament to this history.

And another alternative for small groups will be a visit and tasting at Fyne Ales, a craft brewery located on the banks of Loch Fyne. The brewery was founded in 2001 by Jonny and Tuggy Delap, and has since become one of the most well-respected breweries in Scotland. In addition to brewing beer, Fyne Ales is also committed to sustainability, using locally sourced ingredients and renewable energy sources to power the brewery. They also work with local farmers to provide spent grains and hops for animal feed and composting.

There might be time for a visit to the conservation village of Luss and if this has been a longer day for your clients why not consider an early dinner at the Loch Lomond Arms before returning to Glasgow and the hotel.



From Left to right. Oban town, the View Restaurant, St. Conan's Kirk



COWAL EXPLORER

#cartour #nature #offthebeatentrack #wildlife #garden #foodie

You clients will leave Glasgow this morning and head west along the southern bank of the Clyde on the M8 towards Gourock. At Maclnroy's Point they will be boarding the Western Ferry which takes them on a short journey to Dunoon (pre-booking not required). From Dunoon it is a short but very scenic journey on the A815 to Benmore Botanical Garden.

Benmore is a magnificent 120-acre mountainside Garden surrounded by the dramatic scenery of Argyllshire. Steeped in history, Benmore is home to a world-famous collection of plants, renowned for its fine collections of rhododendrons and conifers grown to immense stature in a mountain landscape.

It is home to a world-famous collection of plants from regions ranging from the Himalaya, China and Japan to North and South America. Visitors are welcomed through the 150-year-old Redwood Avenue, one of the finest entrances to any botanic garden. The towering giant redwoods are awe-inspiring as are many other trees at Benmore including the Douglas fir, Scots pines and Monkey puzzles. Nearby Pucks Glen is a magical trail that follows a Victorian walkway up through a gorge and passes several waterfalls.

After the visit continue on the A815 which will take guests along the shores of Loch Eck and then beautiful Loch Fyne until reaching Loch Fyne Oyster Bar and Deli at the head of the loch. This long established restaurant and deli counter, a favourite for people who live

in Glasgow, serve the finest quality oysters, mussels, shellfish and Scottish smoked salmon, ethically sourced from the pure waters of Loch Fyne. An excellent spot for lunch, however pre-booking is essential.

Nearby is the home to another foodie favourite, the Fyne Ales, a family run farm brewery. During a visit guests can sample the range of beers in the cosy brewery taproom and take in the scenery of the glen, before embarking on a tour of the brewery and a chance to meet the team.

Return back to the hotel in Glasgow with a small selection of take away Fyne Ales to continue the experience into the evening.



From Left to right.
Loch Fyne Oyster Bar
Benmore Gardens (VS)
Fyne Ales Brewery

For all you need to know
wildaboutargyll.co.uk | traveltrade@wildaboutargyll.co.uk

STAY SOCIAL WITH US

@WildAboutArgyll
#WildAboutArgyll #ScotlandsAdventureCoast

