



Make 2014 the year you discover the Isles of Scilly

ucked away, twenty-eight miles from the coast of Cornwall, the breathtakingly beautiful Isles of Scilly are waiting to be discovered. With long white sandy beaches, crystal clear turquoise water, picturesque little harbours and gorgeous stone-built houses, they are one of the UK's best kept secrets.

Hop aboard the Skybus, or set sail on the Scillonian III and soon you'll arrive on a collection of islands that could change your view of British holidays forever. Read on to discover more about what these unique and special islands have to offer, from sub-tropical gardens, red squirrels and the Scilly Shrew, to whale spotting from the deck of the Scillonian passenger ship. We can't wait for you to experience some of the magic of the Isles of Scilly for yourself.



The romance of Travel

he Isles of Scilly are an extremely special collection of islands, and Isles of Scilly Travel want to make sure that travelling there is part of the holiday experience. So forget dashing through vast airport terminals, sit back and enjoy the views!

By air

Flying by Skybus is the quickest way to get to the islands, and is perfect for romantic escapes or weekend breaks. Start your journey at Land's End airport, and you can relax enjoying panoramic views across the airfield and towards Longships Lighthouse. From here the Skybus is just a few metres away, in fact you'll be able to spot it from the waiting area.

The sixteen-seat aircraft is a fantastic experience, and a chance for passengers to see a pilot in action - a great opportunity for kids! Your in-flight entertainment will include spectacular views over the rugged Cornish coastline, making the short fifteen-minute flight an experience you'll want to remember every second of.

For those coming from further afield, flights also depart from Newquay and Exeter airports. The journey down the length of the county is fabulous, as you fly over the golden sands of Cornwall's famous beaches.









You can also travel to the islands by sea. The Scillonian III passenger ship departs from Penzance harbour up to 7 days a week. Be sure to turn to page 9 of this booklet, to find out about the wildlife spotting you can do from the deck!

Whether you're being whisked off on the Skybus, or enjoying the incredible views from the Scillonian III, the journey is part of your holiday experience when you visit the Isles of Scilly.



Flying Visit

Bird watching on the Isles of Scilly

f you choose to fly to the Isles of Scilly, you're not alone! As the first piece of land before the mainland, the Isles of Scilly are a welcome rest stop for rare birds on the move. In fact, 400 species of birds have been recorded on Scilly, making them a bird-watcher's paradise.

In the autumn months you'll be able to spot waders, warblers, and thousands of swallows and swifts. In the spring, the Isles of Scilly are home to perhaps their most distinctive visitor of all, the glorious Atlantic puffin.

Puffins pop in for Spring

Atlantic puffins spend most of the year avoiding predators out at sea, but come April, they head ashore to build their nests on the Isles of Scilly's uninhabited islands. They've adapted to cope with their changing surroundings in style. In the air a puffin's wings can beat at an incredible 400 times







per minute, in the water they use these short wings in a flying motion to swim towards their prey.

Visit the Isles of Scilly between April and July for special boat tours to Annet, Round Island and the Norrad Rocks, where you're likely to catch the puffins' characteristic orange beaks darting into the water to catch the sand eels that lie beneath.

Island Hopping

Each island is different, and so attracts different types of wildlife. Here's a quick guide to which birds you'll find where.

Tresco:

Water foul, ducks, geese and swans

St Agne's:

Unusual birds such as the Caspian Stonechat

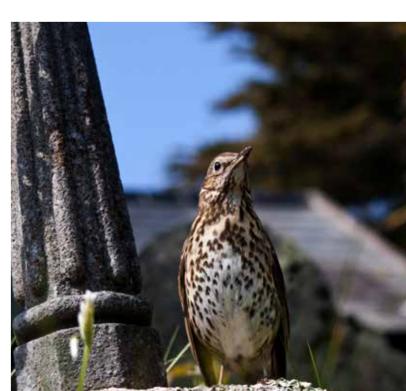
St Martin's:

Wader birds, like sanderling and turnstone St Mary's:

Nature trails for spotting a variety of birds, including larks

Uninhabited Islands:

Breeding birds, like Atlantic puffins and Storm-petrels



CREATING memories
YOU WON'T
FORGET







The path less travelled

nown for their breathtakingly beautiful landscapes and with more miles of coastal path than there are roads, the Isles of Scilly are an idyllic escape for walkers looking to head off the beaten track.

Wonderful walks

Whether you travel by Skybus or on the Scillonian III, your feet first touch ground in the gorgeous town of St Mary's. There are plenty of places to stop and have a coffee or something to eat, before heading out to walk along the fantastic eleven-mile coastal path. You could book a guided nature trail or explore at your own pace.

From St Mary's harbour you can visit the other islands by boat, and there's so much to see and do. On St Martin's you'll find long white sandy beaches. On Bryher, the smallest island, there are incredible views over Hell Bay, and you can walk around the whole of St Agnes in less than two hours.

The islanders have more boats than cars, so things move at a slower pace on the Isles of Scilly. Those who prefer to travel on foot will fit in here perfectly!







Safe haven

Introducing red squirrels to the Isles of Scilly

surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the Isles of Scilly have a unique and remote location. Recently, this has been put to good use, as the islands were chosen as the new home for the red squirrel, as a safe haven away from the threats to the species on the mainland.

Saving the species

The red squirrel has been in decline in the UK ever since the introduction of the grey squirrel in Victorian times. Grey squirrels are twice as big and eat more food. On top of this, they carry the squirrel pox, which the reds aren't immune to. There aren't any grey squirrels on the Isles of Scilly, so it's hoped that safe on the islands, the number of reds will grow.









Home sweet home

Last year, twenty bushy-tailed red squirrels were flown over to Tresco Island, where they now weave about in the trees that surround Abbey Garden. The occasional discarded pinecone suggests they are already making themselves at home.

This is wonderful news for nature lovers, who now have the opportunity to combine a trip to see the red squirrel with a visit to the sub-tropical garden. A seventeen-acre feast for the eyes, Abbey Garden is bursting with flowers and rare, exotic plants, which only grow because of the milder climate on the Isles of Scilly.



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The Scilly Shrew
Another of the island's
unusual inhabitants is the
lesser white-toothed shrew,
or as it's known here, the
Scilly Shrew. They're famous
for 'caravanning', when the
mothers move their children
around in procession,
each holding the tail of
the one in front. You
won't find them on the
mainland, but they thrive
here on the Scilly Isles.



Voyage of Discovery

Wildlife spotting on the Scillonian III

hen a pod of dolphins begin swimming alongside the Scillonian III passenger ship, the excitement on board is incredible. Passengers rush to the deck and the side windows to get a better look, and cries of "They're here!" can be heard throughout the ship. Far from a rare occurrence, these majestic creatures regularly join the passenger ship on its journey to and from the Isles of Scilly.

The islands are a hotspot for marine wildlife. Dolphins and seals are frequently spotted, and during the summer months there have even been sightings of sunfish and whales. If you're a nature lover, there's no better way to catch a glimpse of these animals than from the deck of the Scillonian III.

Dolphins, Sunfish and Whales

For the past five years, Paul Semmens, Marine Guide with Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, has been a familiar face aboard the Scillonian III. During his last season on the ship, Paul spotted over two thousand animals on his journeys between the islands and the mainland.

Dolphins are a delight, and Paul can spot hundreds on a single trip, he's also had some incredible sightings of basking sharks, sunfish and even a minke whale – which only surface once or twice, so you'd have to be on the lookout to catch one. If you're travelling to the islands this summer look out for Paul, he'll be the one surrounded by eager tourists teaching them all about the wingspan of seabirds!

[The Scillonian III sets sail from Penzance up to 7 days a week]







The islands, known for their postcard-perfect harbours, gorgeous stone-built cottages and Caribbean-white sand

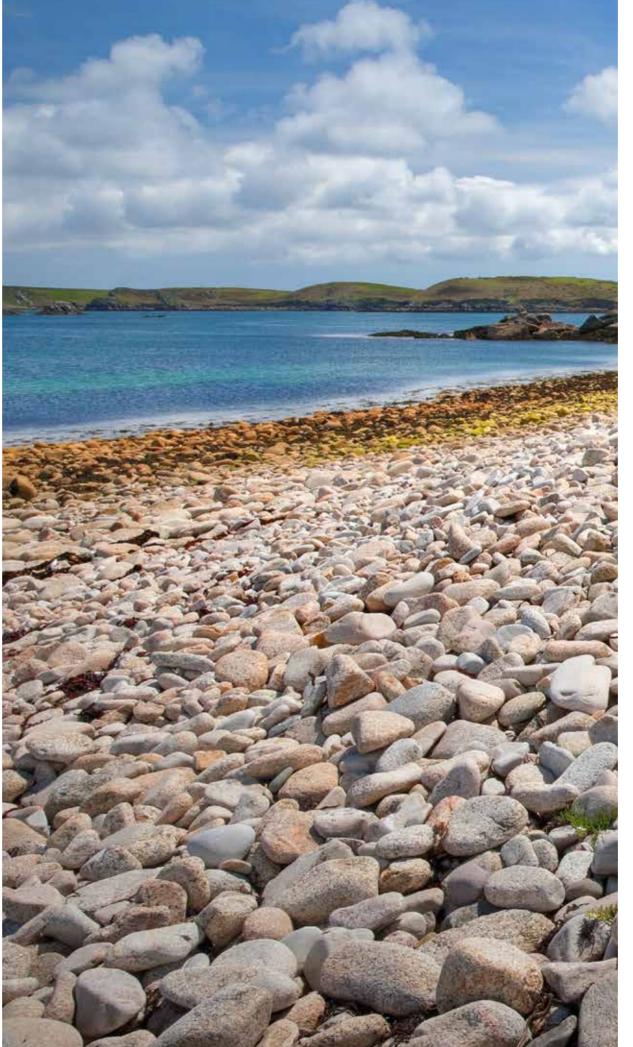


Get Exploring

f course, the journey is just the beginning of your holiday adventure. Once you arrive on the Isles of Scilly there are miles of coastal paths and spectacular beaches to enjoy.

You could join St Martin's Dive School and go snorkelling with seals, book a wildlife tour through the coastal paths of St Mary's, keep your eyes peeled for the famous Scilly Shrew, or take a boat tour to the uninhabited islands to look out for rare birds. With so much to explore, the Isles of Scilly will find a place in your heart, and many families return year after year, as the wonderful memories are passed down through generations.







The Isles of Scilly are just a hop, skip and a jump away

- Skybus flights depart from Land's End, Newquay and Exeter airports.
- The Scillonian III travels from Penzance to the Isles of Scilly up to 7 days a week.
- To book your journey visit **islesofscilly-travel.co.uk**
- Follow @IOSTravel for regular travel updates

