



SIT BACK, RELAX

Let the everyday slip away as mindfulness guru Danny Penman takes the weight off your shoulders

WILD WONDER

Open your eyes and get set to experience our lively landscape

An aerial photograph of the Isles of Scilly, showing turquoise water, green islands, and sandy beaches. In the upper right corner, the nose and propeller of a white propeller plane are visible, flying over the islands.

A MILLION MILES FROM YOUR EVERYDAY

*Whether you're taking off on Skybus or setting
sail on the Scillonian III, your journey to
Scilly is sure to cast your mind far, far away.*

*www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk
01736 334220*

Isles of Scilly
Travel


WELCOME ABOARD

Whether you've just set foot aboard the Scillonian or are just boarding the Skybus, we'd like to show you some of our favourite ways to enjoy the Isles of Scilly. From the rolling sea to the endless sky stretching out ahead of you, sights, sounds and sensations all await, here in S Magazine.

Soaring above open fields or discovering the coastline from a new perspective, we're sure your journey to the Isles of Scilly will start your trip off on the right note.

If you're sailing out on the Scillonian III, take some time to stroll the deck, fill up at one of the two onboard cafés and explore our onboard retail area. As we cross the channel to the Scilly archipelago, be sure to watch out for wildlife. We never tire of spotting dolphins following the ferry's path and we're sure you'll feel the same. You'll also see some of our favourite Cornish scenery as we float by. From the sleepy fishing village of Mousehole to the granite carved steps of The Minack Theatre.

If you're taking off on the Skybus, get ready to experience the beauty of Cornwall from above. See golden stretching sands hugging the coast, cast your eyes over a patchwork of green fields and gaze out across the Atlantic Ocean – this really is in-flight entertainment at its best.

With so much to see along the way, we couldn't possibly pin point our favourite part of the Scillies crossing – it's a journey guaranteed to transport you a million miles from everyday life.

The reflection of the sun rippling on the water or your first glimpse of the islands from the skies – what will your most memorable moment be?

So step aboard, settle in and enjoy the view.

Thank you for starting your holiday with us.
Isles of Scilly Travel



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Thanks to all those who have contributed images for this publication.

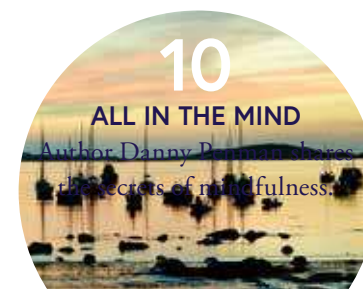
With grateful thanks to all who've helped contribute articles and photos. Opinions expressed are the authors and not necessarily those of the company. Whilst every effort is made to ensure total accuracy Isles of Scilly Steamship Group cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions within this magazine.

When you have finished with this magazine please pass it on or recycle it.



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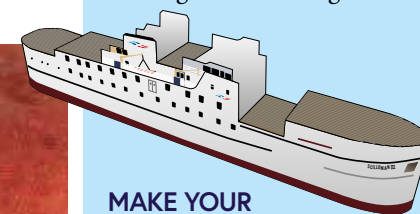
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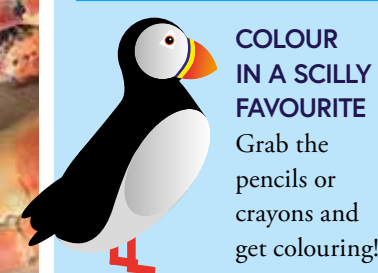


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From snorkelling to horse riding, discover must-dos from those in the know.

SKYWARD

Bound

For 30 years Skybus has been the start of endless Scilly adventures, holding a place in many visitors' hearts.

So just what is it about the journey that sets souls soaring?

Branching out from the sea to the sky, Isles of Scilly Steamship Company introduced the Skybus in 1984, as a high flying equivalent to the Scillonian passenger ferry. Whisking passengers from the mainland to the islands in just 15 minutes, this was a brand new way to experience all that Scilly has to offer from up above.

Starting as a single chartered aircraft flying from Land's End, the service soon flourished, with more planes, carrying more than just passengers. In 1985, three aircraft delivered an incredible 35,000 boxes of flowers from Scilly to Cornwall.

By the start of the Spring season in 1991, Skybus was flying from Exeter too. With a journey time of an hour this Skybus route, with its international connections opened up new opportunities for visitors from across the UK and beyond to get a taste of Scilly.

The spirit of adventure

Postcard perfect on the ground, even more spectacular from the air. Since its first flight the Skybus has been making jaws drop, from the moment its wheels leave the runway.

And it's not just islanders and holidaymakers that have admired the unrivalled views a flight to and from Scilly affords. Sir Richard Branson's unplanned visit in 1985 started with a failed attempt to break the Atlantic speed record, when his boat capsized off the islands. It ended though in a beautiful, if disappointing flight home. Luckily he wasn't away for long. He returned triumphantly in 1986, having broken the world record in his 72ft powerboat. →

“
*It's really nice being the first one out in the morning.
You get the sun coming up and there's hardly any wind.
The sea is flat and calm, just like glass. The journey is really
relaxed – you can't really call it a job when it's like that.*
”

Andrew Evans, Skybus Pilot



→ This record-breaking courage seems to be contagious. In 2014 fearless grandfather Tom Lackey made history when he became the first and oldest person to wing walk to the Isles of Scilly – all in honour of his 95th birthday. He soared over the Atlantic for 40 minutes, reaching speeds of 90mph.

Let yourself lounge

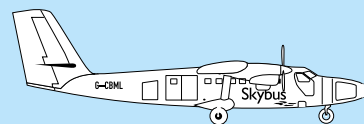
Flying from Land's End Airport today is a little different from the early days of Skybus travel. In 2013 Isles of Scilly Steamship Company built a new terminal, where you'll find a log fire, bespoke check-in area, panoramic coast views from wide-paned windows and a laid-back café lounge –making it easier than ever to lose yourself to the holiday spirit.

And that's just the start. Once in the air, sweeping coastlines, white-crested waves and blistering blue as far as the eye can see spoil the senses, whether you're setting off from Land's End, Newquay or Exeter.

In fact, the views are so popular that Skybus, now offers scenic flights around the South Penwith coast too.

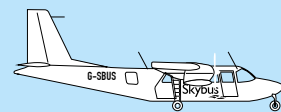
For more information about flying to Scilly or to book a scenic flight, visit www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk

WHICH SKYBUS ARE YOU FLYING ON TODAY?



De Havilland Canada DHC-6 Twin Otter

Seats 19 passengers
Cruises at 166mph



Britten-Norman Islander

Seats 8 passengers
Cruises at 143mph

SLOW DOWN, BREATHE AND BE AT EASE

Dipping your toes into shimmering waters, getting lost amongst nature, gazing up at star-strewn skies – your holiday is a chance to escape, to leave the daily worries behind and discover a relaxed, happier version of yourself.

Karma's fitness menu includes slow-movement modalities, such as yoga. They have recently launched a new Karma Rhythm Massage that is delivered deeply and slowly to combat the busy 'always-on' mind-set. You could also take part in Full Moon Yoga on the beach, where you move to the sound of your breath, the waves and carefully selected soothing music.

Karma treatments and retail products are curated from locally grown ingredients sourced from ethical and sustainable farmers; they are GMO-free and made without any parabens or petrochemicals.

With everyone leading such busy lives these days, it's hardly surprising that wellness tourism has seen a meteoric

rise in popularity here in the UK. More than ever, people will add on a yoga class, stay in a 'healthy hotel', or enjoy spa treatments during their time away.

In fact, according to a report by the Global Wellness Institute, the UK sits amongst the top 10 spa nations in the world today. There are now over 3,000 spas in England and overall, the wellness economy has been growing at roughly 8% per year since 2007. One spa set to capture the nation's desire to escape from the stresses of modern life is Karma St Martin's.

Situated on the beautiful island of St Martin's on the Isles of Scilly, Karma Spa offers its guests a sanctuary.

It's a place where visitors can unwind against a backdrop of white sand beaches and turquoise waters. At this remote retreat, it's all about slowing down and integrating with nature.

Judy Chapman, Spa and Wellness Curator for the Karma Royal Group, says, "Consumers are seeking more calm in their lives.

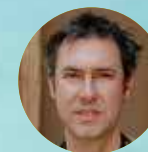
Time is the new luxury, which is why the Isles of Scilly can be so healing. We have slow, sustainable food, ethical farmers and growers – organic is everywhere!

There are few places left on earth as peaceful and unspoilt as Scilly." To add a little Karma to your stay on Scilly, visit www.karmaresorts.com.



ALL IN THE MIND

Sit back. Breathe. Let your mind wander. Could mindfulness hold the key to your most relaxing holiday ever?



“Everyone is so rushed nowadays and mindfulness liberates the time we do have.”

Danny Penman

From yoga gurus to number-crunching CEOs, mindfulness has the world talking. A foil to the stresses that bombard us all daily, advocates claim this ancient practice can improve both your mood and your overall wellbeing. Many say it can even quell anxiety. Indulging in just 10-20 minutes of meditation per day can make a world of difference.

So if your mind's still whirring with worries, we've got some handy tips courtesy of Danny Penman, co-author of the bestselling *Mindfulness: A Practical Guide to Finding Peace in a Frantic World*, to help you get holiday-ready – from the inside out.

Mindfulness is something anyone and everyone can benefit from. Whether you've had a hard day in the office or you've got a holiday waiting in the wings, taking a few minutes to sit down can work wonders for your wellbeing.

By becoming more aware of your mind and thoughts, you'll learn to recognise negative thought patterns as they crop up and watch them melt away.

Whether it's peering through the clouds or setting sail across the ocean, for many stepping aboard a plane or boat sees day-to-day troubles disappear.

But if you are still stuck carrying your daily baggage as your holiday gets going, it's worth putting some mindfulness techniques into action, starting as you mean to go on and making the most of your time away.

“I've been travelling, and one thing that struck me was that it took weeks to calm down and adjust to local life – we live our lives in bubbles and we take those bubbles with us.”

Danny Penman

Take notice of the tension in your shoulders and neck, observe it and diffuse it. Feel your body relax as you consciously breathe into those tension spots. Then exhale. You should immediately feel the benefit.

Shrugging off your tensions before you set foot on the Isles of Scilly will open your mind to life's simple pleasures.

This is the perfect place to unwind and find time for yourself. So whether you're waiting in the airport terminal, relaxing in the café of the Scillonian III or setting off for a nature walk around the islands, try putting Danny's meditation guide into practice.

DANNY'S MEDITATION GUIDE FOR SCILLY

1. Once you're on board and settled, sit up straight and bring your back a little way forward so your spine is self-supporting. Put your feet flat on the floor and allow your hands to rest in your lap. Gently close your eyes.
2. Focus your attention on your breath as it flows in and out of your body. Stay in touch with the different sensations of each in-breath and each out-breath.
3. After a while your mind may wander. When you notice this, gently bring your attention back to your breath, but don't give yourself a hard time. Realising your mind has wandered and bringing your attention back is central to the practice of mindfulness.
4. Your mind may eventually become still like a pond – it may only be fleeting, or it may not happen at all. Don't search for it, just let it happen and whatever you feel just allow it to be what it is.
5. If your mind wanders again, always gently bring it back to your breath. After a few minutes, allow your eyes to open. And take in the view.



“
Tresco simply removes all the hustle and bustle, all the distractions that fill up your head. It's a peaceful space, surrounded by the sea. I think it's the best place in the world.
 ”

Lucy Aldridge, Yoga Instructor, Tresco

TREAT YOUR TASTE BUDS AND FEED YOUR SOUL

Laid back and locally sourced, Tresco is a foodie's paradise. The private estate has been run by the same family for over 175 years. Here, you can leave your worries and your car keys behind – just don't forget your taste buds.

Tresco is an island of many landscapes – deserted beaches, lush pasture, wild heath, rocky cliffs, celebrated sub-tropical gardens, dense woodland, flower fields, coastal paths and even the ruins of castles – but you are never far away from the sea or fantastic food. There are three excellent restaurants: the New Inn, Flying Boat Club and Ruin Beach Café. The chefs are inspired by the island's natural produce, choosing wonderfully fresh ingredients, including island-reared beef and seafood, to create delicious and memorable dishes.

You could have a cooked lobster or crab delivered to your cottage door. Equally, there's something delightful

about wandering to the island harbour to buy freshly caught shellfish from the fisherman himself. Simply relax by the quayside in the warmth of the summer sun, with the light sparkling on the water and the boats idling in their moorings.

The Boro Farm Stall is found on Tresco's eastern shore and has a view that must be unequalled in UK retail. There are no shop assistants, just a blackboard with the prices and an honesty box. The seasonal bounty available here is glorious. You can expect to find new potatoes, asparagus, strawberries, eggs, beetroot, rocket, carrots, courgettes and all manner of salad crops.

Five minutes walk from the quay is Tresco Stores & Deli. Its magnificent delicatessen counter has earned it the nickname Fortnum's-on-Sea.

Here, it's possible to buy everything from fresh fruit and vegetables, to fillet steaks from Tresco's beef herd, to meals ready-prepared by the island's chefs.

If you're visiting in September, Tresco hosts a food festival with the neighbouring island, Bryher. Come along and have a taste of the local produce and good food that make island life so wonderful.

Visit www.tresco.co.uk



THE

Scilly has enjoyed a special connection with Scented Narcissi since 1879, when an enterprising islander sent a box of wild narcissi to Covent Garden market.

The buyers were so impressed, and the price they paid was so good, that the flower farming industry on Scilly emerged almost overnight. It was a family affair, with men and women (plus boys and girls) all contributing to the growing, picking, bunching and packing.

By 1950 there were 90 family-owned flower farms on Scilly. A lot has changed since then. On St. Mary's the number of farms has fallen to nine, but much remains true to the original idea of small, sheltered fields, family farms and beautiful scents.

It's the scents that make the flowers famous the world over, and the names of the varieties give hints of the flowers' character: Royal Connection, Scilly Valentine, Silver Chimes and of course, Soleil D'or. Winston Churchill is another popular variety, so named to celebrate the special permission the wartime leader gave island farmers to continue to grow their special crop when farmland was being given over to food.

In 1943, he declared "these people must be enabled to grow their flowers and send them to London - they cheer us up so much in these dark days."

Scillonians have always benefitted from an ability to adapt, and the flower industry has not been immune to change. The world has become smaller in recent years, and the family-run cottage farms of Scilly could no longer compete on price with major international importers.

AROMA *of* THE ISLANDS

Narcissi from Scilly have cheered up many a home for generations with their early spring colour and beautiful scents.



But despite this, the growers knew they had a special product and they knew that people would always appreciate the simple luxury of beautiful, outdoor-grown, scented, British flowers. The few remaining farms on St. Mary's and St. Agnes needed a way to reach the customer directly, and so the Blue Box Flower Company was born.

Today, beautifully designed blue boxes of narcissi are shipped to front doors, weddings and florists across the country, ensuring that the industry thrives for the next generation of island farmer.

Life on Scilly beats to the rhythm of Scented Narcissi. From preparing the fields in summer to picking the flowers throughout winter, these little farms leave a lasting impression. Thanks to the Blue Box Flower Company, you can enjoy a little burst of Scilly and help our traditional farms to prosper for years to come.

To discover more visit our exhibition, open daily from May to October at the Scented Narcissi shed located next to St. Mary's Airport (free admission).



01

TREAT YOURSELF

What's a coastal holiday without fudge? Tuck into these traditional clotted cream treats, with packaging inspired by our water-loving friends. Choose from puffin, dolphin or seal: **£3.10**



A SLICE OF SCILLY

Whether you're after a memento of your holiday or a special slice of Scilly to share with friends or family, we've got just the thing...

02

GIVE THE GIFT OF ESCAPE

Whether it's a big birthday or congratulations are in order, why not let your friends and family in on the Scilly secret? **CALL 01736 334220 TO BUY A TRAVEL GIFT VOUCHER.**



03

SCENTED NARCISSI

Order Scented Narcissi with the Blue Box Flower Company next season (September-April) using offer code ISSC15 to receive a new season welcome pack including 20 extra stems.*

VISIT SCENTEDNARCISSI.CO.UK OR CALL 01720 423767 FOR MORE DETAILS.

* Restrictions apply



SCENIC FLIGHTS

Climb aboard our Britten Norman Islander aircraft for a 20 minute scenic flight experience. Your Skybus pilot will fly you at 1000ft to allow for excellent views over iconic landmarks.

04

SCENIC FLIGHTS

05

IN THE BAG

Carry your holiday memories close with our handy jute bags. What's your colour? Choose between vibrant blue or red, and two playful phrases: **£3.95**



**AVAILABLE IN
LAND'S END AIRPORT
– THE SHOP IS
LOCATED IN THE CAFE
OR ON SCILLONIAN III
– THE RETAIL AREA
IS ON THE
MAIN DECK**

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

*Prepare to feel your heart beat faster,
with 10 of our most awe-inspiring Scilly views...*

Meadows alive with chamomile.
Mile-long white sand beaches.
Bright flashes of yellow narcissi
(normally between October and March).
With so many 'stop, sit and take it all in'
Scilly vistas, it's always going to be a tough
job picking a favourite.

So, to make it a little easier, we asked everyone
at Isles of Scilly Travel to imagine their one
'Scilly snapshot', capturing what they love
most about the islands. From walking across
the sand bar on St. Agnes to enjoying sea
views on the Scillonian, here's the team's
window on a world waiting to be discovered.

How many will you capture this trip?

01

The islands from above Skybus

Rolling green hills, patchwork fields and crystal clear waters. When you arrive by air you'll experience an aspect like no other. Take in the archipelago from above by flying to the islands from Land's End, Newquay or Exeter.

02

Peering up at the Daymark, St. Martin's

Built to help sailors navigate the island, the daymark is one of the most iconic structures on Scilly and an impressive addition to the skyline. Similar to a lighthouse (although only visible in the daytime) it was constructed in 1683 and stands at an impressive 21ft.

03

Strolling across the bar, St. Agnes

Joined together by a slither of white sand with turquoise waters flowing on either side, this stunning spot where the islands of St. Agnes and Gugh meet encapsulates what Scilly is all about – sublime beauty.

04

Keeping watch from Cromwell's Castle, Treco

Get your bearings from up high at Cromwell's Castle, built in 1651 after parliament recaptured the islands from Royalists. Look out onto the flowing Treco Channel, with Bryher on the right and St. Mary's and St. Agnes in the distance.

I'VE SPENT MANY HAPPY HOLIDAYS ON BRYHER WITH MY FAMILY. YOU CAN LOSE YOURSELF IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND FORGET THE WORRIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE. UNSPOILT AND CHARMING, YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE.

Fraser, Deputy Operations Manager

05

Admiring Hell Bay from Gweal Hill, Bryher

Escape the island buzz and explore Hell Bay, where glass-like seawaters and a gently lapping tide will be your only companions. An afternoon here and you'll soon see why Hell Bay feels more like heaven.

06

Boat watching in St. Mary's Harbour

Take in the beating heart of the islands, where the sun-speckled sea is dotted with brightly coloured rowing boats, fishing trawlers and water taxis. Whether you're stepping off the Scillonian III passenger ferry, or tucking into lunch on Hugh Street, St. Mary's harbour is always a must-see.

07

Relax in the Great Bay, St Martin's

Few places on earth come close to the beauty of the Great Bay on St. Martin's. Pristine white sands and azure blue waters create a picture-perfect setting, that'll make your friends and family green with envy.

08

Enjoying the sea view aboard the Scillonian III

Watching the horizon from the ferry deck is often your first and last sight of Scilly, and it's one we'll never tire of. When the light bounces off a calm sea and the islands appear in the distance— it's utter perfection.

09

Walking the Garrison Wall, St. Mary's

From 16th century sieges to Second World War servicemen posted to the island, the Garrison Wall has seen many shades of island history. Today you can walk the entire wall in around an hour, enjoying panoramic views that stretch from coast to coast.

10

Exploring Treco Abbey Gardens

Terraces of sub-tropical fauna and flowerbeds spilling with colourful species from far-flung places. Treco Abbey Garden is a feast for the eyes but no visit is complete without taking in the dancing 'Treco Children Statue', set against a bright blue summer sky.



Tweet @IOSTravel

A secluded beach, an uninhabited island... capture Scilly in a single photo and share it with us by tweeting @IOSTravel using #scillyviews.

WILDLIFE WONDERLAND

THE FINS OF A **DOLPHIN** POD BREAKING THROUGH THE WAVES, THE CALL OF A **KITTIWAKE** AND THE FURRY WHISKERS OF AN **ATLANTIC SEAL**. WHETHER YOU'RE WATCHING FROM THE DECK OR TAKING IT ALL IN FROM MILES ABOVE, NATURE IS WAITING TO AMAZE YOU...

TOP TIP

Setting sail on a Friday? Seek out the volunteer RSPB guides, who are always eager to tell you more about the Scillies marine wildlife and the seabird recovery project.

FLYING TO SCILLY?

Skybus pilot, Simon Williams, once spotted the tail of a whale peeking out of the water as he turned in to land – so it's worth keeping your eyes peeled from the plane window.

I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE...



Wherever you look the Isles of Scilly are bursting with wildlife. Keeping the islands habitats protected is a big responsibility, so independent charity the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has a huge job on its hands.

Looking after more than 60% of the islands, tending the coast walks and pathways and keeping all of the Scillies' special habitats in order – they rarely have a quiet moment. We caught up with Lucy Newton from the Wildlife Trust, to find out a little more about the Isles of Scilly's animal residents.

DOLPHINS



KITTIWAKE



PUFFIN



SCILLY SHREW



D IS FOR DOLPHINS

Bask on the bow, set your sights on the water and you may catch a glimpse of our common and bottle-nosed dolphins. "All dolphins feed on fish," Lucy says, "which they circle and confuse by creating bubbles with their blowholes. On Scilly, dolphins are classed as 'resident' because they can be seen all year round."

K IS FOR KITTIWAKES

"Birds rarely seen in Britain do turn up on Scilly. Manx shearwaters, storm petrels and kittiwakes use the islands to rest and feed before heading off," she continues. "The main migration season is in autumn, when birds travelling from Russia to the United States can be spotted."

P IS FOR PUFFINS

Only a foot high (the size of an old-fashioned milk bottle), puffins return to Scilly from late March for their breeding season. They breed on a number of uninhabited islands, nesting in underground burrows. By August, the puffins have left Scilly for the Atlantic Ocean. "They live an average of 18 years," Lucy says, "so they will visit us time and time again."

S IS FOR THE SCILLY SHREW

It's not known when the white-toothed shrew made the Isles of Scilly its home. But since it scurried onto the land, the shrew has evolved in a way that's completely unique to the islands, as Lucy explains: "The Scilly shrew is a white-toothed variety, as opposed to the red-lipped shrews found on mainland Britain." A Scilly shrew once stowed away on the Scillonian III passenger ferry, but it was found on arrival in Penzance and flown back by Skybus.

WHERE TO GET A GLIMPSE

Experience the wonders of Scilly wildlife by walking the Higher and Lower Moors nature trails on St. Mary's. Wandering down to Peninnis Head at the southerly tip of the island is a perfect way to see the glistening coats of Atlantic grey seals.

YOUR WILDLIFE CHECKLIST

How many can you spot during your holiday?

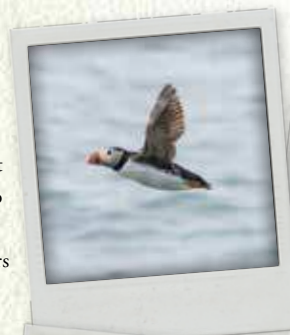
☐ KITTIWAKE

The Kittiwake, sometimes referred to as the true seagull due to the fact that it only ever comes in to land to breed. They nest in colonies on cliff tops and rock ledges from February – August.



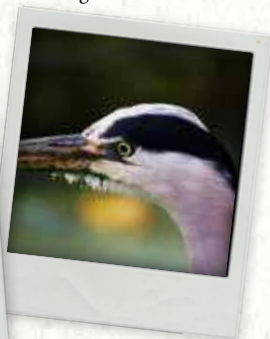
☐ PUFFIN

Puffins return to Scilly every year from late March until late July in order to breed. They breed on a number of uninhabited islands such as Annet and Mincarlo.



☐ HERON

The Heron is one of the most familiar birds and is often seen standing still in the shallow waters of lakes, rivers and ponds, patiently hunting fish flitting about below the surface.



☐ MANX SHEARWATER

Manx shearwaters spend most of the year at sea, returning to land only to breed. They nest in burrows and under boulders and come ashore only under the hours of darkness, in order to evade predators.



☐ THE ATLANTIC GREY SEAL

The Atlantic Grey Seal is the largest resident mammal found on Scilly. They visit Scilly late September and October and can be found on the Eastern Isles, Western Rocks and Norrad Rocks.



☐ BASKING SHARK

The best place to look is along the coast between Lamorna and Land's End from aboard the Scillonian III.



☐ OCEAN SUNFISH

Ocean sunfish are frequently spotted from the ship as it sails from Penzance.



☐ DOLPHINS

There are three types of dolphin found on Scilly – Common, Bottle-nosed and Risso's. They are classed as a Scilly 'resident' because they can be seen all year round.



☐ SCILLY SHREW

The Scilly shrew is a special creature that's distinct from its mainland cousin. It has light grey-brown fur, large ears and bristly hairs interspersed with long, white ones, covering its tail.

☐ RED SQUIRREL

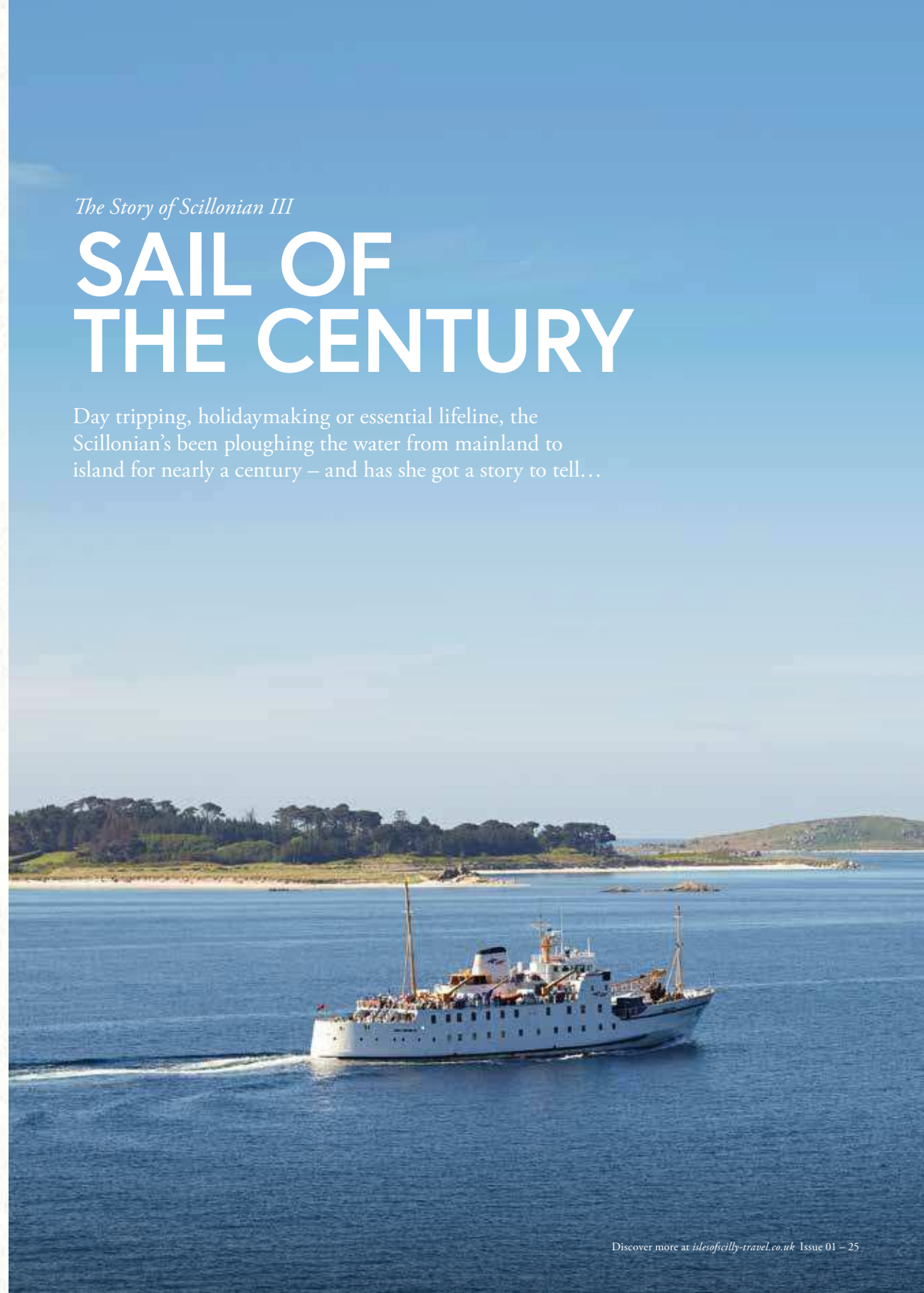
Red squirrels have recently been introduced on Tresco; they nibble on pine cones leaving what looks like an apple core behind.



The Story of Scillonian III

SAIL OF THE CENTURY

Day tripping, holidaymaking or essential lifeline, the Scillonian's been ploughing the water from mainland to island for nearly a century – and has she got a story to tell...





1926 *Scillonian*



1956 *Scillonian II*



Step back in time to 1920. While Europe recovers from war, a group of islands remain severed from the world, by salt water. Bright rumours buzz in the air about the building of a new ship. A vessel to bring the outside world a little closer. With the smash of a Champagne bottle, and the cheering of crowds, the Scillonian sets out on its maiden voyage – and continues to sail island lovers across to this very day.

Before the arrival of a passenger ferry, sailing to the Isles of Scilly was fraught with danger. Under the power of the wind alone, the journey could take six hours or more, and with wild winds, crashing waves and treacherous coastlines to face, many ships were lost to the ocean floor.

During the First World War, when resources were squeezed, the people of Scilly had to make do with crossing on an uncomfortable herring drifter if they wanted to journey to the mainland. Things got even trickier when the waving of victory flags signalled the end of First World War; the herring drifter returned to service and residents were told they needed to find their own way across.

Joining together, the islanders formed Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, with the first members investing around £20,000 in the company. They purchased the Argus, an ex Royal Navy Ship, renaming her Peninnis (named after an outlook point on Tresco) and set her sailing. She carried passengers to and from the island for six years, before costly repairs meant it was time for her to retire.

Following Peninnis, the company ordered the first of its purpose-built Scillonian passenger ferries in 1925. A grand, steam-powered vessel that could carry 165 tons of cargo and 390 passengers, the ferry cut the journey from Penzance to the Isles of Scilly down to just over three hours.

With only a handful of radios and telephones on the island in the 1920s, islanders needed a different way to contact the ship. So with a bugle in hand, they would head out to Peninnis Point, fill their lungs and sound out to the ship to make themselves known.

The 2nd February 1926 saw the Scillonian make her first official voyage. With posters in train stations up and down the country speaking of a new ferry crossing, it wasn't long before tourists stepped aboard to discover the islands themselves. Today, most passengers sit back and enjoy the views, but in the 1920s, they would stand mesmerised on the main deck, watching huge pistons power the ship forward in the engine room.

In 1952, the old ship had started to creak, getting slower as the company struggled to find skilled coal stokers. A replacement ship, Scillonian II, was ordered, sailing faithfully for 25 years. In 1977 the company ordered Scillonian III, the same ferry carrying passengers across today. Scillonian III is powered by diesel, carries up to 485 passengers and has two onboard cafés to choose from.

The Scillonian's heritage shows just how much can be achieved when a community comes together.

If you'd like to learn more about the history of the Isles of Scilly and the people who made the steamship possible, why not pay a visit to the Isles of Scilly Museum on St. Mary's (open Monday to Saturday), and see Scillonian history come to life? Or pick up a copy of *Bridge over Lyonesse* by Daphne Chudleigh, who was with the Steamship company for 35 years.



1977 *Scillonian III*



Soon you'll be arriving at one of the most beautiful parts of the UK, every inch of it designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. And with very good reason!

In order to familiarise yourselves with Scilly, particularly if it's your first time here, we've put together some information to help you on arrival and getting around throughout your stay. We'd also encourage you to pop into the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on Porthcressa Beach in Hugh Town, St. Mary's, to pick up some maps, guides and advice.

GETTING AROUND SCILLY
One of the simplest pleasures when staying on Scilly is to go exploring.

Between them, the five inhabited islands have more than 60 miles of trails and tracks and approximately nine miles of paved road, as well as the beautiful waters that surround them.

Many find the best way to explore Scilly is on foot, but on St. Mary's in particular you can hire bikes, golf buggies and go horse-riding, as well as enjoy bus and taxi tours.

The other 'off islands' (St. Agnes, St. Martin's, Bryher and Tresco) are small enough not to have tarmac roads. You can hire bikes and buggies on Tresco.

For further details, just ask at the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), and you'll be pointed in the right direction.

There are many guided walks and excursions on most days throughout the season, hosted by local history and nature experts from the islands.



It's also easy to go your own way: the TIC will be able to assist you with maps and self-guided routes.

Dogs are very welcome on Scilly so feel free to include your four-legged friend!

Some beaches on St. Mary's – at Porthmellon, Porthcressa and Old Town – are closed to dogs between 1st May and 30th September, but Town Beach and Little Porth to the west of Porthcressa as well as all the other beaches around the island are open to dogs year round.

The off-island communities have no laws restricting dogs on public land, except for Tresco where you need to keep your dog(s) on a lead at all times.

Please exercise caution with dogs – particularly on the coastal walk close to the airport, on the quays and around any livestock.



01 ISLAND HOPPING
Probably the No. 1 activity for visitors to Scilly is to go island hopping! All the islands have their individual boating services, and there are services between the islands every day of the week.

The islands are so small that it's easy to head off and see a different one each day – enjoy a lovely walk and wildlife wander with pub and café refreshments along the way. Everyone has their favourite – and if you manage them all, you too can choose yours!

02 TRESCO ABBEY GARDEN
The world famous sub-tropical Tresco Abbey Garden is a must-see and must-visit whilst on Scilly.

Described as a perennial Kew without the glass, it shrugs off salt spray and Atlantic gales to host a myriad of exotic plants.

Even at the winter solstice, there are more than 300 plants in flower. All in all, the tropical garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from 80 countries, ranging from Brazil to New Zealand and Burma to South Africa.



03 WILDLIFE
The Scillies' outstanding wildlife and natural beauty is another reason why so many

visitors love coming to the islands year in, year out. The islands and coastal waters are very peaceful and home to a rich diversity of wildlife.

Grey seals thrive here, as do song thrushes; puffins visit late spring, early summer. You'll find elm trees, red squirrels, Manx shearwaters, stone chats, storm petrels, gannets, cormorants, occasional dolphins – and much more!

04 HISTORY
From maritime shipwrecks to Bronze Age burial chambers dating back 3,000 years, to heavily fortified castles from the English Civil War, the history of the islands is compelling.

The tiny island mass is home to 239 scheduled monuments, giving Scilly

a greater density of historical sites than anywhere else in the British Isles. Local historians and archaeology experts are happy to offer guided excursions across all the islands, uninhabited ones too, or visit the treasure trove that is the Isles of Scilly Museum on St. Mary's.

05 SNORKELLING
Go snorkelling with seals or diving for wrecks. Atlantic grey seals love our coastal waters and it's possible to enjoy a very close, personal experience if you're prepared to get in the water with them! Wreck diving is also popular – Scilly has a higher density of shipwrecks than anywhere else in the world. You can also sea swim, kayak, sail and windsurf on Scilly.



NEW FOR 2015 FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

Bringing superfast fibre optic broadband to the Isles of Scilly has been a hugely ambitious project involving diverting an unused 939 kilometre under sea cable between Cornwall and Spain. The service was officially switched on in November 2014 and now many businesses are offering WiFi hotspots. So it's easy to keep connected to the world if you need to – but remember you're on holiday!

06

HORSE RIDING AND GOLF

Why not head off for a horse ride? All ages and abilities are welcome, and there's so much to take in when trekking the lovely coastal paths, farm tracks and white sandy beaches. Or enjoy a game of golf at England's most south-westerly club – with spectacular views over St. Mary's Harbour and out west to Bishop's Rock. And if you'd like to see St. Mary's by bus, there are twice-daily 75-minute tours from Hugh Town.

07

FISHING

Fishing: you can't beat it

here on Scilly, whether you fancy a shark fishing trip that takes you to the edge of Scillonian waters, or a more sheltered onshore experience across all the islands, luring wrasse, mackerel or pollock. Many boatmen offer fishing trips and there are two chandleries – on St. Mary's and Bryher.

08

ART

Indulge your artistic side on the Scillies'. Every island has galleries and artists – enraptured by Scilly's wonderful intensity of light. They work in a variety of media, from oil painting, watercolours, leatherwork and jewellery

to exquisite stained glass, pottery and screen-printing. Drink in the beauty and take home some Scillonian memories to cherish. You can even try your hand at making your own, with daily afternoon craft workshops on St. Mary's.

09

FOOD AND DRINK

Enjoy some fine Scillonian hospitality. Just about anywhere you go on the inhabited islands, you'll find yourself not too far from a café, a pub, a restaurant, or a simple path-side stall selling local produce and crafts.

Feast your eyes and tingle your taste buds on an

abundance of island grown food and drink – from island-reared beef and duck, the freshest farm produce and locally-caught shellfish to Scillonian wines, ales, ice-cream and lots more besides.

10

RELAX

Do nothing! That's right; one of the best things to do on Scilly is absolutely nothing. This is a place where you truly can get away from it all. Even at the height of summer you'll find a fine white sandy beach, a tiny inlet or cove, or an inland hideaway that you can call your own. So kick off your shoes, relax and totally wind down.

MAKE THE MOST OF A DAY ON THE ISLANDS

If you're heading to the islands for just one day, we want you to make the most of it! So here are some ideas of what you can do. If you're coming and going by the Scillonian III, you'll have four hours to explore. If you fly/sail or fly both ways, then you'll have a few more hours on the islands.

Probably one of the biggest attractions on Scilly is the exquisite Tresco Abbey Garden.

There are regular boats to Tresco from St. Mary's, including one that meets (and returns for) the Scillonian. When you're onboard, you can buy a combined ticket for just £12.95 that enables you

to take a St. Mary's Boatmen's Association boat from St. Mary's Quay across to Tresco, as well as entry to the Abbey Garden.

Should you opt to soak up St. Mary's for the day, there's much to be accomplished in your few hours. From a stroll through Hugh Town, you'll reach Porthcressa Beach. From there you can head up to Buzza Tower with its Camera Obscura and Museum of Curiosities, or walk around the headland to Peninnis Lighthouse and on to Old Town, where there are a number of eateries and a stunningly peaceful church yard where Lord Harold Wilson is buried.

From the Quay, you can head for The Garrison for a beautiful walk around the heavily fortified headland, steeped in history, surrounding Star Castle.

The Garrison offers terrific views of the entire archipelago to give you a sense of what Scilly has to offer, as well as the opportunity for a bite to eat at the historic hotel itself.

You could also enjoy a 75 minute bus tour around St. Mary's – a perfect way to see St. Mary's in a short amount of time. Tours set off from Holgate's Green behind Town Beach (Hugh Town) at 10.15am and 1.30pm

and take in special viewpoints as well as sites of interest.

To explore further afield, you can hire a bike or an electric golf buggy. If you do there'll be plenty of time to check out the Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements at Halangy Village and Bant's Carn. Discover the peace fullness of Scilly's stunning beaches and enjoy some fantastic Scillonian fayre.

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