



LOVE EVERY MINUTE

FREE
YOURS TO KEEP

Events, tips and walking routes to help
you make the most of your time on Scilly

SHHH: IT'S A SECRET...

Staff and islanders share the
beaches, restaurants, pubs and
views that only locals know

Isles of Scilly
Travel



THE ONBOARD MAGAZINE FOR SKYBUS AND SCILLONIAN PASSENGERS – ISSUE 02



LIVE THE ISLAND LIFE



It's that first glimpse of white sands from above.
Exploring the coastline with a few tips from the locals. Breathing in lungfuls of sea air.
Wild swimming with seals. Heading to a beach at sunset and cooking freshly caught crab on coals. When we connect you to the Isles of Scilly, you'll connect with the rhythm of island life.

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Travel


WELCOME TO S MAGAZINE

Welcome to S Magazine; we hope you'll find it interesting, useful and fun. Don't worry if you don't have time to read it all today – it's yours to keep, free of charge. In fact, we've tried to make this magazine as helpful as possible during your time on Scilly. It's full of ideas for things to do, places to visit and food to try – as well as important information like an events listing for the islands, boat timetables, and a list of days you can walk between Bryher and Tresco.

There's also a children's activity section in the middle, in case you need to keep them occupied on one of the islands' (rare) rainy days.

As we were bringing the information together, one thing struck us very clearly: almost any time of year is a good time to visit the Isles of Scilly. Beyond the long, summer days by the sea, there are spring and autumn walks, bird migrations, and sporting and cultural events all year round. In fact, it's always a magical place (and remember: the sea is warmer in October than it is in June).

Whether you're on holiday, a day-tripper, visiting on business or an islander returning home, we hope you'll savour every minute on the islands.

Thank you, once again, for travelling with us. We hope you enjoy the crossing – and this magazine – and if there's any way our team can help you, please ask.

Isles of Scilly Travel



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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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The magic of Scilly

And don't forget our kid's pull out section in the centre



5 Perfect day trips to Scilly

On Scillonian

Depending on the tides, a day trip on Scillonian III gives you around four glorious hours on the Isles of Scilly. You'll be amazed how many ways you can spend the time...

For many passengers, the best part of a day trip on Scillonian III are the crossings themselves: a leisurely sail to and from St. Mary's, taking in West Cornwall's famous landmarks from an unusual perspective, before looking out for dolphins, sea birds and basking sharks.

But if you plan well, you can be fairly adventurous in your time on the islands.



1 Trip to Tresco

There is no need to stay on St. Mary's, there's ample time to take an onward boat to see the plants at Tresco Abbey Gardens. Depending on the tides, you'll either land at New Grimsby or Carn Near. Look for the chalk boards on the quay, or in Hugh Town, to see the trips on offer.



2 A scenic stroll

Head west up the hill from St. Mary's quay, and you'll quickly find yourself on a circular, coastal walk around the 16th century battlements of the Garrison. From up high on the headland amongst the gorse, you can see the whole Scilly archipelago spread out around you – one of the islands' most breathtaking and expansive views.



3 Beach afternoon

If the weather's fine, there's a lot to be said for spending your afternoon on the kind of white sand beach you simply wouldn't find at home – it's easy to forget you're on a day trip. There are plenty of popular beaches within a few minutes' walk of the quay – or take a short taxi ride to find somewhere completely deserted.



4 Island tour

St. Mary's is 11 miles around and there is so much outside of Hugh Town to explore. Hire bicycles for some light exercise or a golf buggy if you fancy resting your legs. Whichever method you choose there'll be lots of time to go all the way round the coast – or choose the 75-minute circular bus tour.



5 Get prehistoric

People have lived on Scilly for thousands of years. A visit to the Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements at Halangy Village and Bant's Carn can give you a sense of wonder – with time to stop by Juliet's Garden restaurant on the way back, for one of the best views on the island... with a crab sandwich to match.

On Skybus

With flights from Land's End Airport as short as 15 minutes, Skybus is the fastest way to Scilly. With a little imagination, that extra time opens up a whole world of possibilities for a memorable day trip...

Flying with Skybus might only take a few minutes, but we like to think you start to experience Scilly before you've even taken off from Land's End.

And with up to eight hours on Scilly, a day trip is just that: a full day with all the islands at your disposal.



1 Relax on Bryher

If you've read Michael Morpurgo's moving children's story 'Why the Whales Came', the chance to explore its setting – the island of Bryher – is too good to miss. Even if you don't know the book, the seclusion, glass-like water and gentle lapping tide make Scilly's smallest inhabited island a magical place to spend your day.



2 Buzza Tower

Take a leisurely walk East from Hugh Town, and climb Buzza Tower for the dramatic view over the Garrison to St. Agnes. If you keep going, you can continue around the headland to Peninnis Lighthouse, before stopping in Old Town for something delicious to eat – and maybe paying a visit to the peaceful churchyard where Harold Wilson is buried.



3 The Museum

The Isles of Scilly Museum is in Hugh Town. It's packed with curiosities and artefacts from the islands as well as finds from shipwrecks, a photographic record, an oral archive of island voices and stuffed birds. There's always a surprise waiting – one reason our team voted it their favourite place to spend a rainy day.



4 Go island hopping

Nothing could be easier than catching a boat from St. Mary's to one of the off-islands; even more than one, if you're quick. That gives you a chance to see some of Scilly's lesser-known sights – like the two Tudor forts and the Seventeenth Century Cromwell's Castle on Tresco.



5 Get active

Not everyone can say they've played Britain's most south-westerly golf course – but while you're on St. Mary's, you've plenty of time to do just that. Or if golf doesn't appeal, then you'll never find clearer waters to swim in – or a more scenic place to explore on horseback.

Gardeners' World

Because of the unique climate, Scilly is home to all manner of unusual plants – and a paradise for gardening enthusiasts. Mike Nelhams, Head Gardener at Tresco Abbey Garden, shares some of the islands' horticultural highlights...



Mike Nelhams

Head Gardener,
Tresco Abbey Garden

There are more than 20,000 plants at Tresco Abbey Garden.

Do you have a favourite?

I have a sneaking regard for the group that include the Protea, from South Africa. Protea Cynaroides, the “King Protea”, which has the largest flower of the group, is particularly fine. They reside on the top

terrace of the Garden, and grow easily in full sun and coastal breeze. They flower from around April to July. Scilly is also known for farmed flowers.

Which stands out for you?

The Gladiolus Byzantine, but it's not readily farmed now. You will probably only see them spasmodically, as rogue plants growing in fields across the islands.

Do you have a soft spot for any of Scilly's wild plants and flowers?

Agapanthus comes from South Africa, but has naturalised across the islands. They grow readily in the walls and sand dunes, and make a great show in July and August.

Where should we look for something spectacular and unusual?

The “Hottentot Fig”, or Carprobotus Edulis, carpets large areas of heathland and coastal edges.

When is the best time to see the widest variety of plants and flowers on Scilly?

Come in May and June, and you will not be disappointed.

Finally, if we wanted to capture the islands' unique landscape in one photograph, where should we go?

“Oliver's Battery”, near the southern tip of Tresco – or perhaps the 4th tee of the islands' golf course on St. Mary's. Both are very spectacular, with sweeping views.

TAKE ^{TO THE} WATER

IF YOU'RE NOT CONTENT LOOKING AT SCILLY'S CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS, THE ISLANDS HAVE PLENTY OF WAYS FOR YOU TO GET ACTIVE — ON, IN AND UNDER THE SEA.

AFLOAT AND UNDER SAIL

There's no better place to learn to sail. The Isles of Scilly Sailing Centre, on Porthmellon Beach, offers taster sessions and tuition in the islands' sheltered bays. If you're feeling more adventurous, there are windsurf boards, stand-up paddle boards — even kayaks with a glass peephole to let you watch the sea life below.

BENEATH THE WAVES

Scilly's clear, shallow waters are teeming with sea life, and the local reefs and historic shipwrecks are among the best diving and snorkelling sites in the UK — so there's always something to see. The islands' dive school, on St. Martin's, offers beginner's courses, boat charters, and the chance to snorkel with seals.

WILD SWIMMING

If you're feeling intrepid — and you're unafraid of the cold — look out for organised events like September's Scilly Swim Challenge, or talk to Adventure Scilly about their local guidance, open water coaching, and all-important safety boat. Swimming to a neighbouring island without proper support is dangerous.

PREFER DRY LAND?

If you're not keen to get your feet wet, don't worry; Scilly has plenty of ways to get active without braving the water.

YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Adventure Scilly offers guided trail running, or there are yoga retreats on St. Martin's if that sounds too much like hard work.

FULL SWING AHEAD

Meanwhile, a round at the Isles of Scilly Golf Club will give you the unusual claim to fame of having played England's most south-westerly course (try not to let panoramic island views distract you from your swing).

A collage of images related to Scilly Flowers. It includes a girl in a purple and pink striped shirt holding a bouquet of yellow and white flowers, a man in a blue shirt picking flowers in a field, and several close-up shots of different flower arrangements, including a bouquet of pink and white flowers, a bouquet of yellow and white flowers in a white pitcher, and a bouquet of yellow and white flowers in a red metal bucket. A circular logo for 'St Martins Post Paid Isles of Scilly' is visible in the bottom left corner of the collage.

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ANCHOR

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FLOWERS

Travel like a local

We've been travelling to Scilly for almost a hundred years, so we've learned a thing or two.

We asked some of our team members to share their insider tips on places the locals go. But remember: keep them to yourself...



The Isles of Scilly Museum on St. Mary's is interesting, with lots of maritime history.



Sue Lodey,
Isles of Scilly
Travel Centre

Which is your favourite beach?

Pelistry Bay. It's so quiet and unspoilt, you'd never know it's only a short taxi ride from the travel centre.

Where do you go for a quick bite?

Dibble & Grub, near Porthcressa beach: casual dining, and great food.



How to spend a rainy day?

The Isles of Scilly Museum on St. Mary's is interesting, with lots of maritime history.

Where's the best view?

I might be biased, but the view from our Skybus aircraft is breath-taking. You can see for miles!

Which pub has the best atmosphere?

The Mermaid, by St. Mary's Quay, has everything you'd want in a traditional Scillonian pub – a great atmosphere, good food... and lots of singing!

Polreath Café on St. Martin's offers a fabulous welcome, and home-cooked food.



Stuart Brint,
Operations Manager,
Land's End Airport

Which is your favourite beach?

Appletree Bay on Tresco. It's a wonderful place to have an evening barbeque and watch the sunset.



Where do you go for a quick bite?

Polreath Café on St. Martin's offers a fabulous welcome, and home-cooked food. It's great value for money, too.

...And for a romantic dinner date?

Hell Bay Hotel, on Bryher, has been voted the South West's best small hotel.

How would you amaze the children?

You can't fail to impress the kids with a trip to see puffins and seals.

Where's a good place to bag a bargain?

49 Degrees on St. Mary's.

Where's the best view?

The 360-degree panorama from King Charles Castle on Tresco is amazing.

Which pub has the best atmosphere?

I've had too many great nights at the Mermaid Inn... but don't tell everyone!

The crafty activities at Phoenix Studios on St. Mary's have something for all ages.



Paula Smith,
Accounts,
Isles of Scilly Travel

Which is your favourite beach?

Bar Point on St. Mary's has white sand, and lovely views over to the other islands.

Where do you go for a quick bite?

The terraced garden at Juliet's, just above Porthloo.

...And for a romantic dinner date?

Star Castle if I'm on St. Mary's; on Tresco, Ruin Beach Café is spectacular.

How would you amaze the children?

Swimming with seals on St. Martin's, or something simple like rockpooling at Porthloo.



If it's a rainy day?

The crafty activities at Phoenix Studios on St. Mary's have something for all ages.

Where's a good place to bag a bargain?

The sale at Seasalt is often well worth a look.

Which pub has the best atmosphere?

The Atlantic, overlooking St. Mary's harbour.

I love all the beaches on St. Martin's, because they're always sandy... and the sun always shines!



Chris Pearson,
Manager,
Land's End Airport

Which is your favourite beach?

I love all the beaches on St. Martin's, because they're always sandy... and the sun always shines!



Where do you go for a quick bite?

The Tolman Café, near Old Town on St. Mary's.

...And for a romantic dinner date?

Tregarthen's Hotel; the atmosphere is perfect.

How would you amaze the children?

The Holy Vale nature trail on St. Mary's is magical.

Where's the best view?

Looking out over Tresco and Bryher from Innisidgen, at the north-east tip of St. Mary's.

Which pub has the best atmosphere?

Definitely the Turk's Head on St. Agnes.

EXPLORING ON TWO FEET & TWO WHEELS

There's nothing better than discovering Scilly under your own steam. We asked three local experts to share their favourite walking and cycling routes.

Wildlife walk: Peninnis Lighthouse, St. Mary's

Will Wagstaff, Ornithologist and author, Island Wildlife Tours

As a naturalist, my main interest is the birds I see on the islands; every time I go out, there's the chance of something new. I once found a northern waterthrush, all the way from North America, at Porth Killier beach on St. Agnes, and two hoopoe in one field on the Garrison, just a few minutes from my home. Peninnis

Lighthouse can be a good walk at any time of year. In spring and autumn you'll see migrant birds, and there are splendid views back to Hugh Town on one side, Old Town on the other, and the other islands to the South West. It's a good, half-day stroll: there are a few rough areas, but the walking is on good paths most of the way.

The walk starts from the eastern end of Porthcressa beach in Hugh Town, and wanders up through the small allotments until it becomes a coastal path out to the lighthouse.

Historic walk: Chapel Down, St. Martin's

Katharine Sawyer, archaeologist, Scilly Walks

One of my favourite walks is from Higher Town Quay on St. Martin's past Par Beach, up to Chapel Down and then back across the fields to Higher Town. Having left the Quay, turn right to follow the bay. Along the path you'll pass Adam's Fish and Chips and the St. Martin's Vineyard. At the end of the beach, the path turns to the left and goes uphill;

Perpitch, the bay on your right about half way up, is a great place for seeing seals.



Turn right at the top, and carry on to the red and white striped Daymark, which was built in the 1680s as a navigation marker for shipping. Nearby you can see the ruined Napoleonic War signal station and, to the north of the Daymark, you may be able to pick out the wall footings

Cycle route: discovering St. Mary's by bike

Mark Prebble, St. Mary's Bike Hire

My favourite cycle route is a long, slow exploration of St. Mary's hidden beauties. Although it's where everyone arrives, the island has so many delights that are often overlooked.

A half-day cycle ride will take you all around the island with plenty of time to enjoy the spectacular views, visit

the beach and stop for cake. What more could you ask for? (Of course, a whole day means you can lounge on the beach for longer, and have a second slice of cake...)

Starting at Porthmellon, take the lane past Rosehill Studio and tackle the steepest hill, up past the Golf Club. Take a break at Bant's Carn, then carry on down, past the duck pond and you'll find a hidden gem: Watermill Cove.

A spot of cake in the high lanes and a ride to the famous Loaded Camel rock formation will work up a thirst you can

Walk together



If you'd like to explore Scilly with others look out for Visit Isles of Scilly's ever-popular 'Walk Scilly' events. There are 27 walks across all the islands – including ghost, stargazing, sunrise and wildlife walks. The next Walk Scilly weekend is 13th-17th October 2016.

Look out for wildlife along the way: gannets and migrant birds, as well as terns and auks in the summer and the occasional egret and heron later in the year. If it's a flat calm day, look at the sea halfway across to St. Agnes and Gugh; you may be lucky enough to see a harbour porpoise.

The walk then continues around to Old Town, where you can pick up the Lower Moors nature trails... or if you've walked far enough, simply head to the cafés and pub. The choice is yours.

of an early medieval chapel. If it's a clear day, you can see the mainland from here. Retrace your steps and turn right at the junction to follow the path parallel with the north coast, which has lovely views of St. Martin's beaches.

Just past a small agricultural outbuilding, turn left through a gap in the field wall and follow the path round the outside of the field. Cross two further fields and pick up the concrete path that will lead you into Higher Town where you will find the North Farm Gallery and a shoemaker, as well as places to eat at the Bakery and Polreath Café.

quench in Old Town. Last but not least take in the panorama from Buzza Tower, before parking your bike in Hugh Town for a spot of shopping, to round off a glorious St. Mary's day.



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SCILLY PARKING

WALKING ON WATER

Every so often, a very low tide reveals a stretch of sand between Tresco and Bryher, and – for a few hours, at least – it's possible to walk between the two, very different neighbours.

It might be called a spring tide, but it can happen at any time of year: just after a new moon, or a full moon, the gravity of the sun and moon align, and tides reach their highest and lowest points.

On Scilly, a particularly low spring tide can expose the sea bed in the 250m channel between Tresco and Bryher, giving you the opportunity to walk between islands that otherwise enjoy such different identities.

Handily, spring tides always happen around lunchtime – presenting an excellent excuse to stroll across to another island for a spot of lunch.

Be safe...

Retired Tresco Harbourmaster, Henry Birch, shares some golden rules if you're going to walk between Tresco and Bryher:

- Choose appropriate footwear.
- Check the tide times carefully – never start to cross more than half an hour after low tide.
- Never try the crossing in fog – the safest route is a crescent.
- Ask a local, such as your accommodation provider, for advice about the route, and where to cross.
- Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be back.

If in doubt, check with Tresco's Island Office (01720 422849) or Tresco Boat Service (01720 423373) before starting.

Tides for walking

Actual tide heights are affected by the wind, weather and atmospheric pressure, but this year the following low tides offer your best chance of making the crossing on foot:

May	September
Fri 6th, 11:22am	Sat 17th, 12:06pm
Sat 7th, 12:09pm	Sun 18th, 12:48pm
Sun 8th, 12:55pm	Mon 19th, 13:32pm
Mon 9th, 13:41pm	October
June	Sun 16th, 11:43am
Sun 5th, 11:50am	Mon 17th, 12:27pm
Mon 6th, 12:38pm	Tue 18th, 13:12pm



Suhaili and Scillonian II



Scillonian III in challenging weather

A PICTURE OF THE PAST



Queen of the Isles

We are a family of five generations of photographers, who started recording life on Scilly the 1860s. The first, John Gibson, was a seaman who bought his first camera abroad to use at home on the islands, and successive generations of the family have continued what he started – building up a unique photographic history of day-to-day life.

On the Isles of Scilly, our transport links have always been a major part of island life – so these feature prominently in the archive. In particular, Alexander Gibson's series of six tongue-in-cheek postcards documenting a sea passage from Penzance proved popular in the years before the Great War.

We have photographed all the ships that served the islands over the years, as well as the smaller launches used for inter-island trips. Sometimes these photographs have shown normal, day-to-day work; at other times, we captured them in challenging weather. The technology and design of the craft may have changed, but the power of the sea still commands the same respect as it did 150 years ago.

Our family has also provided a photographic record of all the different Boards of Directors at the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group. Looking back, these pictures show how local families have always had an active role in running the company – a tradition that still continues today.

When the Isles of Scilly's flower industry was at its height, our sea links played a vital role in getting the islands' flowers to market. And although today's industry is not as large as it once was, the Steamship Company still has important work to do, transporting flowers to the mainland.

In 1969 my father, Frank Gibson, photographed Sir Robin Knox-Johnston on his yacht Suhaili as he passed Scilly on the way to a huge welcome in Falmouth, the end of his singlehanded, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe. It happened that Scillonian II was en route at the time, providing a lovely, local background to the historic moment.

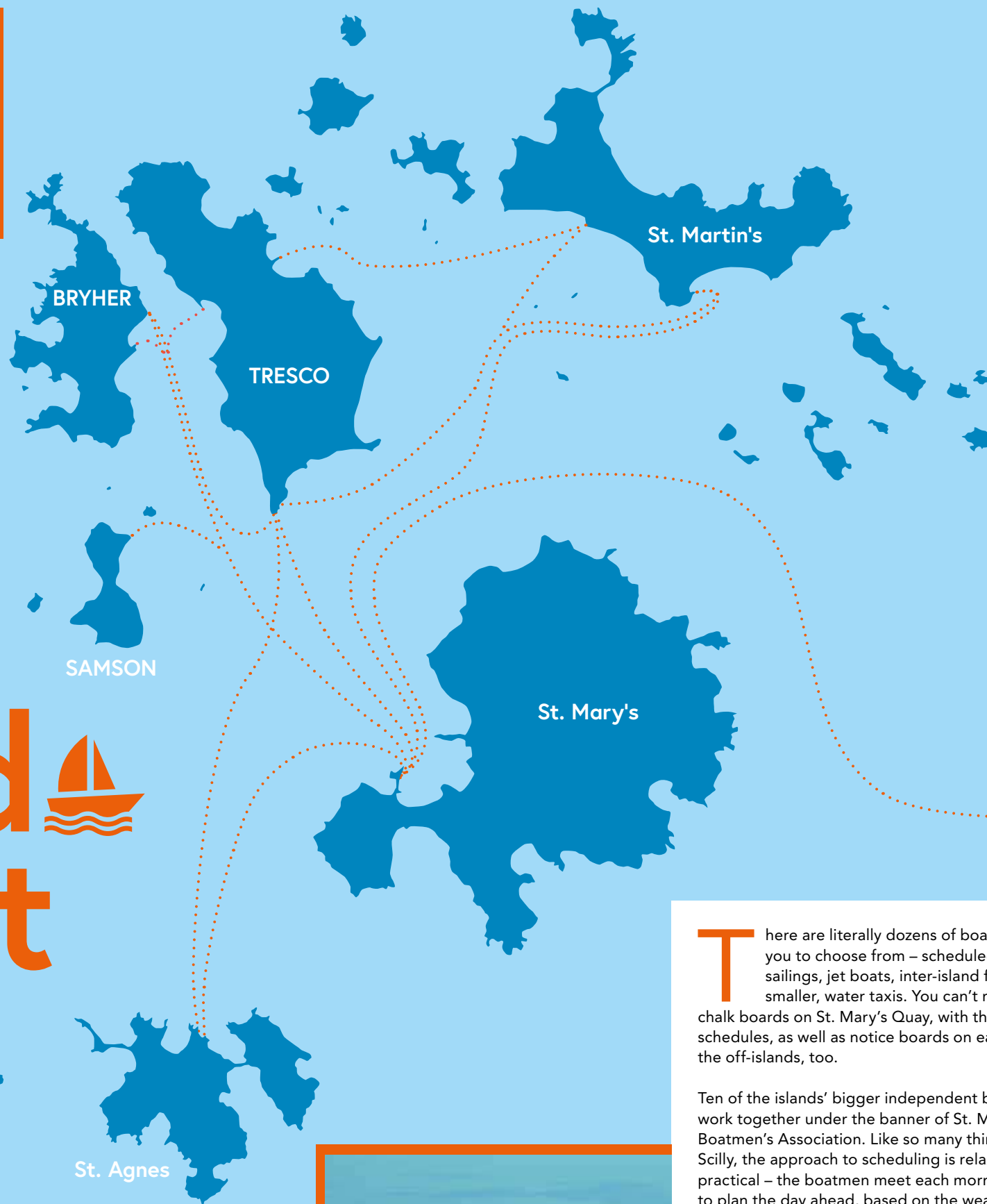
For more than 100 years, Gibson photography documented life on Scilly – including the growth of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, and the arrival of the first Scillonian. Sandra Kyne, the daughter of Frank Gibson, shares her memories – and some of her favourite pictures.

While my family no longer runs a photography business, we do still have our archive of photographs, and we use our own images to create postcards, calendars and souvenirs. If you'd like to see them, please visit us in our shop, Gibson Kyne, in Garrison Lane on St. Mary's.



Getting around by boat

If you're planning to really experience Scilly, it won't be long before you want to visit the off-islands... and that means travelling with our main public transport: the local boatmen.



There are literally dozens of boat trips for you to choose from – scheduled passenger sailings, jet boats, inter-island ferries and smaller, water taxis. You can't miss the chalk boards on St. Mary's Quay, with the day's schedules, as well as notice boards on each of the off-islands, too.

Ten of the islands' bigger independent boats work together under the banner of St. Mary's Boatmen's Association. Like so many things on Scilly, the approach to scheduling is relaxed and practical – the boatmen meet each morning to plan the day ahead, based on the weather, tides and demand, then update Facebook and tell the local hotels. From May until September, though, their schedule generally looks a good deal like this...

Inter-island trips

The journey from St. Mary's to Carn Near on Tresco takes around 10 minutes. Travelling to St. Agnes is about 15 minutes, and other destinations, including other landing points on Tresco, are around 20 minutes.

Circular trips

As well as public transport, the boatmen provide pleasure trips to see some of the islands' other highlights – like spotting puffins and seals on the uninhabited Eastern Isles. The choice of trips varies, and is greatest during high season, so keep an eye on the boards (or Facebook) before making your plans.

Direct trips

St. Mary's Boatmen's Association provide the services shown below daily throughout the main season. However these may have to be varied because of tide, weather and numbers.

Tresco

Departures from St. Mary's	Returns from Tresco
10:00	14:15
10:15	15:45
11:15	16:45
12:15	
14:00	

St. Agnes

Departures from St. Mary's	Returns from St. Agnes
10:15	14:15
11:45	16:00
14:00	16:45

St. Martin's

Departures from St. Mary's	Returns from St. Martin's
10:15	14:30
14:00	15:45
	16:45

Bryher (& Samson)

Departures from St. Mary's	Returns from Bryher
10:15	14:30
14:00	16:45

Island hopping (two island trip)

Whilst the most relaxing way to enjoy the Islands is to spend a day on each one, several multi island combinations are possible. These include Tresco and Bryher, Samson and Bryher, and Tresco and Samson. Availability of these trips will vary so please come and ask on St. Mary's Quay when on the Islands.

Please note

The times shown above are to illustrate the service provided and should not be taken as a timetable, as return times in particular, will vary. You will always be told the return times on the outward journey.



A little 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...

1. 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.

www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/scenic-flights

2. 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. **Available onboard Scillonian or at Land's End Airport.**

3. Fay Page jewellery

Inspired by hours of shell searching and beachcombing on Scilly's beautiful beaches. Made from solid silver these won't turn to sand in your pockets and will last forever as a lovely memento of Scilly holidays.

www.faypage.co.uk

4. 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. **Available onboard Scillonian or at Land's End Airport.**

5. Scilly Flowers

Scilly's postal flower service sending gift boxes of scented flowers all year round to any UK postal address. **www.scillyflowers.co.uk**

6. 49 Degrees

The IOS Store - a true Scillonian brand.
www.49degrees.co.uk

7. 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?
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PLANES, BOATS & TRAINS

NATIVE SCILLONIAN KEN SIMPSON GREW UP DREAMING OF A JOB IN TRANSPORT. NOW HE HAS BEEN PART OF THE ST. MARTY'S AIRPORT TEAM LONGER THAN ANYONE. HE TELLS US WHAT'S CHANGED.

I was born on St. Mary's at the end of the war – I still remember rationing and taking the ration book with me to the butchers. I went to Cornwall Technical College on the mainland, before entering industry and pursuing management training in Bath. Eventually the pull of the islands won and I came back in 1969.

Like a lot of children, I always dreamt of something exciting – planes, boats and trains all featured. I remember standing on Penzance station platforms looking in awe at big black and green steam engines: engineers on the foot plate, coal dust everywhere, firebox glowing an angry red. What a sight!

I did work with boats for a while, but family life meant I needed a more stable existence and I returned to management, until Skybus beckoned... and I got to work with planes at last.

HOW HAS THE JOB CHANGED SINCE THEN?

In the early days, paper ruled and computerisation hadn't quite reached this far. The only computer was an in-house reservation system that catered very well for our individual needs. Now, nearly everything is on a computer and our awareness of the activities in the Group is much greater.

The revamped airport is smarter, spacious, more visually appealing and has more space for travellers awaiting departure.

AND THE CUSTOMERS?

Visitors are still a cross-section of the population, from the person in the street to stars and celebrities – you should read through the airport's VIP visitors book!

DOES ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR STAND OUT?

My memories of the job over the years include meeting Martin Clunes on a day trip with three large dogs, dealing with an unhappy Phillip Searle from The Antiques Roadshow, and asking Professor Brian Cox if he would mind doing an impromptu photo shoot – happily he said he'd be delighted. One of my strangest memories is sending an unaccompanied parrot to Newquay to see the exotic species vet – the conversation level was not all you might desire!

HOW DO YOU ENJOY SCILLY?

It's difficult to pin down a favourite place as each island is very individual, with different personalities, almost like people.

As a youngster at school: we had the annual Samson picnic when the whole of Carn Thomas School de-camped by pleasure boat. The day was filled with games, races and subsequent prizes, swimming, and a touch of the sun. When senior pupil status arrived we were allowed to explore the whole island. The majority of the islands remain unspoilt. Step around a headland or hill and you can still lose contact with the current century.

Karma
ST. MARTIN'S
ISLES OF SCILLY

THE PERFECT DAY OUT *st martin's*

The gentle summer breeze in my hair and the warm sun on my face, I slowly approach the island of St. Martin's on a day tripper boat from St. Mary's. The first thing I notice is the picture-perfect white, sandy cove of Lower Town Quay and the crystal clear waves gently lapping at the shore. The locals are right, this is probably the crème de la crème of beaches in the UK let alone the Isles of Scilly.

Situated right on the stunning beach of Lower Town is Karma St. Martin's hotel, my destination for the ultimate pampering experience. I am booked in for the hot stone massage with the resident therapist Rolina. Healers, Reiki Masters and world leading spa curators in India have given Rolina the expertise that have been the talk of the islands since the hotel opened last year.

In my enthusiasm to gain balance in 'mind, body and soul', I skip up the quay towards the doors of reception. From there I am met by the friendly reception team and Rolina who then leads me into the cocoon of Karma Spa. The magic begins... Sixty minutes and a puddle of drool later,

my muscles fell like butter and I emerge into the sunlight with glistening skin and a gentle smile on my face, which reflects my peace within.

The subtropical gardens of St. Martin's are now alive with hotel guests and day-trippers feasting on locally caught seafood platters and delicious cream teas with oodles of cream & jam on freshly baked scones.

I can't resist so I take a seat and feast on a gourmet crab sandwich washed down with a couple of glasses of crisp white wine. An hour just flies by as I take in the stunning panoramic sea views and smiling young mums making sand castles and paddling with their toddlers in the near distance. As I relax into my blissful state I regret the sight of my boat transfer approaching to take me back to what seems like another world entirely.

Contact

Karma St. Martin's, Isles of Scilly,
Lower Town, St. Martin's TR25 0QW
Email: st.martins@karmaresorts.com
Telephone: 01720 422368



The greatest show on Scilly?

It's above your head

After dark, don't forget to look up. Scilly's remote location and dark, clear skies can make for spectacular star gazing. Local photography enthusiast Dave Sherris tells us more...

The Isles of Scilly have very little light pollution, so the night sky can be spectacular. I've always loved photography, and in particular playing with light and shadows when the sun goes down, so I set myself the challenge of capturing our own unique view of the stars.

Photographing the night sky in winter can be very challenging, but I'm always amazed at how much light modern DSLR cameras can pick up. I'm really looking forward to shooting the Milky Way in July.

I use long exposures, and sometimes use a flashlight to light up the foreground; it's called "painting with light". What you finally capture isn't what the eye can see, so it's always a surprise to look at the finished image on the back of the camera.

When to look up

Scilly will give you the best seat in the house for some of nature's most spectacular shows...

3rd June

Saturn at opposition

Your best chance to see the giant, ringed planet, as it makes its closest approach to Earth.

3rd-6th July

The Milky Way

Our galaxy's bright centre is best seen in low moonlight and clear weather, like this summertime new moon.

12th-13th August

Perseid meteor shower

Spot a shooting star, or ten, during one of the year's brightest and most prolific meteor showers.

27th August

Venus and Jupiter together

The two planets will appear close together in the evening sky, as they reach conjunction.

16th October & 14th November

Supermoon

A wonderful view of the full moon at the closest point in its orbit.

LOCAL FOOD FROM SCILLY

#TRAVELLOCAL

From deserted beaches to headlands with sweeping views, Scilly has no shortage of wonderful picnic places – and how much better if all your food is local? We packed our hamper with a feast from the islands' independent producers...

1. Bread and pasties

Island Baker, St. Martin's

Hand-made by Barney McLachlan in a former lobster potting shed. Barney uses the best, organic flour and introduces a new guest bread every week. His freshly-made pasties are well-known on the islands; the spiced vegetable option is especially popular.

2. Island Fish Ltd, Bryher

From a shop on Bryher, weekly stalls on New Grimsby and St. Mary's Quays, or at the local produce market - the crab, lobster and wet fish are as fresh as can be. Enjoy potted crab, sandwiches, fish pies and more!

3. Scilly-raised duck legs, Salakee Farm, St. Mary's

Salakee ducks have had a happy life, with plenty of space to waddle in small groups (you might see the farm as Skybus comes in to land).

4. St. Martin's Rosé wine, St. Martin's Vineyard, St. Martin's

A dry rosé, with subtle berry flavours – perfect for a sunny day – made by the Thomas family since 1996, on a former bulb farm.

Or, if you prefer, try the light Rondo red, or a selection of white wine varieties: a Dry Eastard, a crisp St. Martin's Special, or a fruity Siegerrebe. If you'd like help choosing, look out for tasting events.

5. Jam and apple juice, Carn Friars Farm, St. Mary's

You'll find Ang's selection of fruits and jams – as well as apple juice from her 300-strong orchard – on an honesty stall towards the Eastern end of St. Mary's. What could be better than buying direct from the farm itself?

6. Fudge, Veronica Farm, Bryher

All the milk, cream and butter used by this small family business comes from cows at Troytown Farm on St. Agnes.

You'll find this famous, crumbly fudge on a stall by the farm gate, and at Vine Cafe, Hell Bay and the Island Shop on Bryher, as well as in other outlets across the islands.

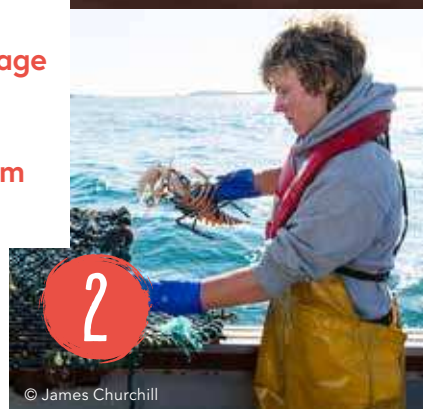
7. Chocolate spoons, The Very Scilly Chocolate company, St. Mary's

For an extra treat – you're on holiday, after all – try these fun chocolate spoons. They're hand-made on St. Mary's by local chocolatier Abigail Hutchins.

8. Scillonian Tattie Cake, Bryher Stores, Bryher

This traditional, potato-based cake was the staple food in Scilly's historic flower fields.

The original recipe, which gives a deliciously moist texture, is a closely-guarded secret – so the cake is exclusive to Bryher's island shop.



OR GET IT ALL IN ONE...

If collecting your picnic ingredients from across the islands sounds like hard work, you'll find a selection of the best Scillonian food and drink all in one place, at the Tanglewood Kitchen, behind St. Mary's Post Office. Between March and October, they'll even make sandwiches, quiches and pork pies for your hamper.



A TRUE TASTE OF ISLAND LIFE

Re-ignite your wanderlust soaring over the coast in a Skybus aircraft. Hop between islands and discover new landscapes each day.

Follow winding paths that lead to secluded white-sand beaches. Breathe in the fresh sea air and enjoy the unique scents of subtropical flowers. Nourish your soul feasting on locally caught shellfish. Nothing beats getting stuck into island life and the Isles of Scilly are the perfect destination to do just that.

In fact, you need look no further than The Crab Shack on Bryher (the smallest of five inhabited islands) for an example of Scilly's vibrant coastal lifestyle. The pop-up style restaurant opens during the summer season, serving delicious crab, lobster and mussels from the islands' shores. Head Chef Richard Kearsley says, "Our menu was inspired by the shellfish right on our doorstep

– we're all about sourcing locally."

The Crab Shack's simple menu has gone down a storm with both locals and visitors, who start their evening travelling over from the larger islands on boats.

Sail over to Bryher at sunset and you'll be seated at a long table in a room decorated with lobster pots and fishing nets. Kearsley points out that the communal dining experience is intentional, "The atmosphere really builds over the evening. Soon everyone's having a wild time cracking crab and lobster." This friendly and vibrant atmosphere is indicative of the welcome you receive wherever you go on Scilly.

Whether it's tucking into fish and chips in a family-run restaurant, buying mackerel with a little help from a friendly fisherman, or sipping local ales as the sun goes down; everyone who travels here instantly feels part of island life.

"The Crab Shack is what I'd expect if I came somewhere like Scilly; it enhances the island experience. Especially travelling over by boat – it's a little adventure on a long summer's night."

Richard Kearsley,
Head Chef at The Crab Shack



© Tresco Island

BARBEQUED SCILLY MACKEREL WITH RADISH, GRILLED BABY GEM LETTUCE AND JAPANESE MAYONNAISE

by Andrew O'Connor, Head Chef at Juliet's Garden Restaurant, St. Mary's

You can't get any fresher than a local fisherman going out at dawn, and the fish being in my kitchen by midday. With mackerel this fresh, there's no need to overcomplicate things: this dish keeps it simple, and lets the fish do the talking. It's perfect for a long summer's evening among friends, with a glass of bubbles.

- Ingredients (serves six):**
- Six mackerel fillets, with pin bones removed
 - Four little gem lettuces
 - Two bunches of baby garden radishes
 - Rapeseed oil
 - And for the Japanese mayonnaise:*
 - Three free-range egg yolks
 - 300ml rapeseed oil
 - Six tablespoons of rice wine vinegar
 - Sea salt and pepper



TO MAKE THE JAPANESE MAYONNAISE

Place the egg yolks and rice wine vinegar in a tall jug. Blitz for a minute with a stick blender, then very slowly add the rapeseed oil, blitzing constantly as the egg slowly emulsifies with the oil to form the mayonnaise.

It may not require all the oil once the mayonnaise starts to thicken; if it becomes too thick, thin it slightly with a little more rice wine vinegar. Once you're happy with the consistency, season with salt and pepper and chill until it's needed.

TO PREPARE THE MACKEREL

Season the mackerel with sea salt and pepper then place the fillets – flesh-side-down – on a lightly-oiled tray. Rub some rapeseed oil into the mackerel's skin. At home, if you have a chef's blow torch, use this to crisp the skin, patiently moving the flame up and down until it's gently charred and an even colour all over.

If you're trying this recipe on holiday, of course, you're unlikely to have a blow torch to hand (especially if you're flying

to Scilly with Skybus), so instead you could crisp the skin under a grill – or put the fish skin-side-down on a real barbecue, of course!

When the skin is evenly charred, leave the fish on the tray until you need it. I like the flesh to be slightly pink, but if you prefer yours cooked through, just pop it into an oven for a few minutes.

TO PREPARE THE LETTUCE

Cut each lettuce into quarters, season with sea salt and pepper and rub with rapeseed oil. Then char the outside of the lettuce – again, with a blow torch if you have one, otherwise with a barbecue or grill – and set aside until you're ready to serve.

TO PREPARE TO SERVE

Give the radishes a good wash – either leaving them whole or slicing them, depending on size – and place a few on each plate (radish is lovely raw and gives the dish a nice texture). Place a fillet of fish on each plate, with a few pieces of the lettuce and a dollop of your mayonnaise.

The dish can be served hot or cold, but is best amongst friends.



© Tresco Island

BITE-SIZED RECIPES:

Euan Rodger, Tanglewood Kitchen, St. Mary's
Maryland crabcakes are a very popular fish on our menu, using one of the best ingredients available here on Scilly. All our crab comes from the boat VickiAnna: hand-picked and fresh daily (weather permitting!)

Our crabcakes are all about the crab. It's such a wonderful, natural flavour so we don't mess about too much: a small amount of crushed saltine crackers, English mustard, mayonnaise, egg yolk, seasoning and freshly chopped flat leaf parsley.

They're best cooked with a little rapeseed oil and a knob of butter, on a high heat in a non-stick frying pan, until browned both sides and hot. We prefer to serve them with a fresh mixed salad, some thin-cut salty fries... and a cold glass of wine! It's fresh, light and simple... and you'll always want more.



Glenn Gatland, Executive chef, Tresco Island
Our Bryher lobster and Borough Farm asparagus pizza with a garlic butter base is a great way to showcase our great, local produce. The lobster and crab we get from Bryher's Island Fish are as fresh as can be – and the asparagus crop at Borough Farm here on Tresco is simply fantastic.

Borough Farm supply us with fruit and vegetables throughout the year – not only asparagus, but the fieriest chillies and most vibrant peppers. And we have the luxury of an authentic, wood-fired oven at the Ruin Beach Café, which gives our pizzas great texture and flavour.

Off duty, though, I love to catch my own dinner. Mackerel and pollack are great, and they're best cooked simply on a barbecue on the beach, with a simple salad using produce from the Borough Farm stall – something a lot like Andrew's recipe here, in fact.

5 minutes with... Chief Engineer Andy Berntzen

If you're aboard Scillonian III, keep an eye open for Andy and his team of engineers, working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our flagship in prime condition for your crossing.

What's involved in keeping Scillonian III shipshape?

There are around 50 routine maintenance jobs, which we carry out each week. We work around the sailing timetable to keep everything running on time, which makes for long days – from early morning until 8pm.

The shaft tunnel, steering compartment, emergency generator room, fan room, forward machinery compartment, and outside deck machinery all need regular checks and cleaning, and we polish the brass and copper every week to make sure she's looking her best.

What is a typical day like?

A normal sailing day starts at 7am, when the motorman starts the ship's generator engine. He checks oil and water levels, and works with the 2nd Engineer to prepare the engines and machinery for sea.

On Scillonian III, the engine room must be manned all times when at sea. I'm in the engine room with the 2nd Engineer while we're preparing for departure and arrival, then we take it in shifts while we're at sea. We work hard while we're at St. Mary's to make sure we're ready to leave on time in the afternoon.

After tying-up back in Penzance, the ship's power supply is kept on until unloading is complete. I take turns with the 2nd Engineer to be on call, in case there's a problem in the night.

Even something as simple as a power cut means I'm called to reset the ship's power.

Who works with you?

Steve George, the 2nd Engineer, has worked aboard Scillonian III ever since he left school as a YTS apprentice – that's about 30 years ago, now. He's sailed alongside a number of experienced Chief Engineers, and has learned the best from all of them. He has great attention to detail.

Our Motorman, Steve Rendell, has been with us about four years. He's an excellent all-round engineer who takes real pride in his work.

Tell us a secret?

Even when the weather's bad, we keep the engine room spotlessly clean. It's not easy when we're making repairs indoors, but all the engineers make it a point of pride.



A BIRDER'S PARADISE

If you've ever wanted to try birdwatching, Scilly is the perfect place – with some 220 species visiting each year, from all over the world.

We asked local Ornithologist **Will Wagstaff** for tips...

The Isles of Scilly are a birdwatcher's haven. More than 430 species have been seen here over the years; we generally see between 220 and 250 in a year, of which around 50 stay and breed.

In the spring and autumn you can see 60 species in a week, if the weather's right.

Many birders come here every year, for the chance to see rare vagrants from America, Russia and all points in between – but for others it's something as simple as the chance to see an Atlantic puffin in the wild that's the real highlight of their trip.

Where to look

On Scilly, birds turn up everywhere. The best places for birding are generally

the pools on all the islands, the nature trails on St. Mary's and any sheltered corners – and if you want to see seabirds, a boat trip to the outer rocks in the spring and early summer is a must.

But the real secret is to take the time to look everywhere. It's all too easy to walk past a field or beach, and not realise there was something to see there the whole time.

Fun for all the family

It's not just the rare birds that bring enjoyment for our visitors. The local birds are rather tame so often come to you, if you sit and wait – whether it be a house sparrow or a thrush in an open-air café, or a wader by the water's edge.

Although there's always the chance to see a bird that has flown thousands of miles, youngsters are often just as enthralled by seeing a song thrush crack open a snail right in front of them – or spotting their first puffin, sitting on the bright blue ocean near the island of Annet.

With birds from all over the world, I still get excited every time I go out. I never know what I'm going to see, and that makes living here such a pleasure.

Want to try it?

See Will's wildlife walk route on page 14.



WILL Ornithologist
WAGSTAFF

What to see when

There's always plenty of wildlife on Scilly, at any time of year, but Will says Spring and Autumn are key seasons, as migrating birds visit the islands on their long, seasonal journeys.

To book a wildlife tour contact Will on 01720 422212 or visit his Facebook page for his latest sightings

Spring

"Seeing my first swallow of the year is always noteworthy – then hearing my first cuckoo – but it's a more exotic species that makes my spring. The hoopoe is a pink, black and white bird from southern Europe. It's an annual visitor but, despite its bright colour, it can be very hard to find. If I see one of these charismatic birds, my spring is complete."

Autumn

"The wryneck is another European visitor I want to see each year. It's a member of the woodpecker family, but can often be found feeding on open ground. They're rarely easy to find, so if I see one it makes my day – and many regulars on my walks like to go on a 'wryneck hunt' in mid September."



What's on Scilly

2016

When you get to Scilly, you're bound to find there are plenty of local events to entertain you – at any time of year, the calendar's full of things to see and do.

We've selected a few highlights...

May

The Isles of Scilly Festival

Throughout May

A month-long celebration of arts, literature, music and culture on the islands, with a full programme of workshops, talks, concerts, exhibitions and walks.

World Pilot Gig Championships

29th April–2nd May

Every year since 1990, the famous gig rowing championships have attracted teams and spectators from all over the world. At Isles of Scilly Travel, we help by offering a discount to all competitors.

New Inn Ale & Music Festival

20th–24th May

Relax in Tresco's best (in fact, only) pub, listen to the musicians and enjoy up to 30 different ales.

Scilly Folk Festival

26th–30th May

Join musicians from across the South West and beyond, at lunchtimes and evening sessions on St. Mary's, Tresco, St. Martin's and St. Agnes.

See www.scillyfolkfestival.org.uk for more information.

June

Scilly Laughs Comedy Festival

11th–14th June

Enjoy a four-night festival of fun, with shows at St. Mary's Old Town Inn, Tresco's Flying Boat Club, Adam's Fish & Chips on St. Martin's and St. Agnes Island Hall.

ÖTILLÖ Swimrun Isles of Scilly

18th June

The Swimrun world series – ranked among the toughest endurance races in the world – comes to the UK for the first time. Teams of two will tackle a challenging 45km course (longer than a marathon) that combines 35 km of trail running with open water swim sections totalling 10km.

The Tresco Triathlon

26th June

A sprint-distance triathlon (a short swim, followed by a 12-mile cycle and 3-mile run). The event has been organised by islanders since 2010, with proceeds going to Cancer Research UK – and you're assured of great support whatever your athletic ability. Conveniently, the course finishes at...

The New Inn Cider Festival, Tresco

24th–28th June

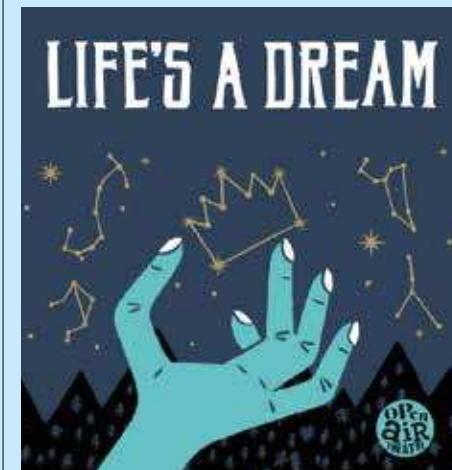
A lively celebration of local ciders and scrumpy, with live music over the weekend.

July

Sevenstones Beer & Cider Festival, St. Martin's

15th–17th July

Not to be outdone, the Sevenstones Inn on St. Martin's has its own festival of food and drink, with special lunches and dinners, tipples from all over the world, and live music from The Barnacles.



Miracle Theatre: "Life's a Dream"

27th–31st July

Five open-air performances on three islands, from Cornwall's award-winning Miracle Theatre Company. For tickets, visit the Tourist Information Centre, Porthcressa Beach, St. Mary's.

August



St. Agnes Fete

7th August

A day of fun for all the family, at St. Agnes' cricket field and Island Hall. There's all the fun and games you'd hope for in a traditional, island village fete.

The Islands' Regatta

26th–29th August

Celebrating Scilly's maritime heritage over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Watch a parade of sail, Redwing championship racing and a Red Arrows aerobatic display, see a Royal Navy frigate and board the schooner "Spirit of Falmouth" – or simply enjoy the entertainment.

September

Taste of Scilly

Throughout September

A vibrant, month-long celebration of the islands' best local produce, including the Tresco and Bryher Food Festival. Look out for masterclasses, demonstrations and talks... or simply enjoy Scilly's abundance of food and drink delights.



Scilly Swim Challenge

10th, 13th & 14th September

Starting at sunrise, some 150 swimmers will attempt to swim around six islands in either one or two days: that's a total of 15km in the water, and another 10km on foot. Some of them won't even be wearing wetsuits.

SPRING, SUMMER AND AUTUMN *Gig Racing*

Pilot gig rowing used to be a profession; now, it's Scilly's most popular sport – and you can see the islanders' teams race every Wednesday and Friday evening, throughout the long summer season. There are plenty of great vantage points to see the racing – and relax with a drink or a bite to eat, as the rowers do the hard work out on St. Mary's Sound – or take the spectators' boat from St. Mary's Quay.



St. Martin's Film Festival

6th–9th October

The islands' second film festival, at the Seven Stones Inn. This year's highlights include "The Wicker Man", Jermaine Clement's vampire comedy "What We Do in the Shadows", a "Blues Brothers" and "Roadrunner" double-bill, and the recent Cornish film, "Tin".

Walk Scilly Weekend

13th–17th October

A walker's paradise, this festival of group and guided walks really does have something for everyone: wildlife, stargazing, sunrise and top-to-toe island walks, to name but a few. There's no better, or more sociable way to discover each island's hidden treasures.

For more information on all local events, please see www.visitislesofscilly.com/news-events/events

10, rainy day ideas

You wouldn't think it, but it does occasionally rain on Scilly. Here are ten ways to make the most of your time on the islands when the weather's wet.

1

Visit the local artists

Wherever you look on Scilly you'll find galleries full of art, capturing the islands' unique light. A tour of artists' studios on St. Mary's alone is a great way to spend a rainy day. Or there's the famous Tresco Gallery, and on Bryher the renowned artist Richard Pearce has built a unique studio from a gig shed, inches from the sea.

3

Go for a swim

The Normandy indoor swimming pool on St. Mary's is open to the public all the year round – but then, if you're going to get wet anyway, perhaps there's no good reason not to go for a swim outdoors...

For more ideas for rainy day activities take a look at visitislesofscilly.com

2

Try your hand at crafts

While you're feeling inspired, the Phoenix Craft Studio has workshops every afternoon, with arts and crafts activities for all ages. With a chance to paint stained glass, print with lino or make your own jewellery, there's something for everyone.



6

Get lost in a book

If you're short of something to read, the community library on St. Mary's has an excellent selection – as well as free internet access, if you prefer something more modern.

9

Fancy a tipple?

We happened to notice the vineyard on St. Martin's offers a covered wine tasting experience at its visitor centre, and Holyvale on St. Mary's has an indoor tasting room – and some of the world's best wines. Well, it would be rude not to, wouldn't it?



4

Children's soft play

For parents of smaller children, soft play is a tried-and-trusted retreat on a rainy day – and there's one on Scilly, too. In Old Town, St. Mary's, Kings of the Castle has age-appropriate play equipment for babies and toddlers up to eight-year-olds... and a café for mum and dad.



7

Retail therapy

A rainy day is surely all the excuse you need to explore Scilly's shops. Each inhabited island has its own, unique stores – with some products you simply won't find on the mainland.



5

Brush up on local history

Voted Scilly's top rainy-day activity by our own staff, the Isles of Scilly Museum is packed with artefacts from wrecks, archaeological sites, and daily life on the islands through the ages – each with its own fascinating story to tell.

8

Get sporty indoors

Each off island has a community centre with indoor sports, like table tennis and badminton. For more information, ask the hosts at your accommodation, or call into the Tourist Information Centre on St. Mary's.

10

Brave the rain!

It might have been Alfred Wainwright who said "there's no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothing". It's your holiday, and if you want to get wrapped up or hire a golf buggy and head out into the rain, we say go for it – you'll enjoy your post-walk hot chocolate all the more.

“It's about the simple things in life”

If you're aboard Scillonian III, look around for Sarah Firmin: she's been coming to the Isles of Scilly ever since she was born.

Sarah fell in love with the Isles of Scilly on family holidays as a child. Now she's all grown up and brings her own family to St. Mary's each summer, on the Scillonian III.

We asked what it is about the island lifestyle that keeps her coming back, and why she chooses to sail.

“It's about the simple things in life, and enjoying family time together. We'll hire bikes or pack a picnic and head for hidden beaches, or take the kids to watch the gig racing on a Friday. We love island hopping: each of the islands offers something different.

#travellocal

“WE LOVE ISLAND HOPPING – EACH OF THE ISLANDS OFFERS SOMETHING DIFFERENT.”

“EVERY YEAR YOU SEE FAMILIAR FACES.”

“WE SIT OUT ON THE DECK AND LOOK OUT FOR THE ISLANDS WITH THE KIDS... LAST YEAR, WE SAW DOLPHINS.”

The beaches are beautiful, unspoilt and so deserted – the children are free to play knowing you'll always be able to spot them. As you walk around the islands, you can pick up home-grown food, or flower bulbs, from the stalls in front of people's houses. It's just got such a lovely community feel to it.

The islands are so small and every year you see familiar faces. There are lots of fetes, with bouncy castles and food stalls, which give you an opportunity to mix with the locals.

For us, the journey is part of the island experience and adds to the excitement; we look forward to it each year. We always take Scillonian III – on a sunny day we can sit out on the deck and look out for the islands with the kids. Last year, we saw dolphins swimming past. It really gets you in the island spirit.”





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-
Eat
-
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