

Day trip ideas

Scillonian day trip itinerary for young families

Route Operates Penzance to St. Mary's March through to the end of October

DEPART PENZANCE QUAY

Check in opens from 08:15, check-in closes at 08:45

Travel to Scilly on the Scillonian III and you'll enjoy a wonderful 2 hour, 45-minute cruise to St. Mary's. On your way, you'll be able to relax and enjoy a stunning seaside view of Cornwall's fishing villages, the famous open air Minack Theatre and the Land's End peninsula. Quite often, the ship is joined by pods of dolphins, a raft of seabirds and occasionally even basking sharks.

ARRIVAL SCILLY

12:15, St. Mary's harbour

You'll arrive into St Mary's harbour - the largest of the islands and the gateway to Scilly. If you opt to explore St Mary's, there's much to be accomplished in a few hours.

TRANSPORTATION

Hire a bike- St. Mary's

One of the best ways to make the most of your time on Scilly is by hiring a bike and getting your bearings under pedal power. Cycling adds to the island experience, you can get around and see the whole island. You simply hop off the Scillonian and pick up your bike to explore. Bikes are available to hire on St. Mary's with a range of varying sizes to suit every member of the family, little ones too!

St. Mary's bike hire – 24 Porthmellon Business park, St. Mary's, IOS, TR21 0JY. 07796638506. Open March-October.

St. Mary's-Book a bike – Kimmeridge, St. Mary's, IOS, TR21 0NS. 01720 422661. Bikes can be taken to other islands if staying off St. Mary's.

REFRESHMENTS

If you didn't bring lunch from home for the little ones and the bigger ones, we suggest you head to the Deli in Hugh Town and pick up a fabulous range of local produce to make the perfect picnic.

ACTIVITY

Head out of town following the road past the church and up and down a hill and you'll get to Old Town, the perfect pit stop to admire the view. Keep cycling and you'll pass the airport on your right then you're really heading north of town and you'll reach the top end of the island.

Follow the road along and you'll have a choice of some of the islands most spectacular beaches, head down to Bar Point or Pelistry beach and you'll never want to leave. Now's about time to crack open the picnic! If there's still plenty of cycle left in the family continue further around the coast and you can enjoy the ancient sites at Halangy Down Village – a Bronze Age site.

DEPART ST. MARY'S, FROM THE QUAY

Check-in for Scillonian opens at 15:15 and closes at 15:45. Scillonian sails at 16:30 to arrive back in Penzance at 19:00

Scillonian day trip for couples

Route Operates Penzance to Isles of Scilly March through to the end of October

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ARRIVAL SCILLY

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TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVITY

Looking across from St Mary's harbour and you'll see the golf club, it's a fair walk if you're feeling energetic but it's a wonderful introduction to St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Golf Course – Carn Morval, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly TR21 0NE. 01720 422692

If you'd rather save your energy for the golf, there are plenty of taxi's available to take you up there or pop into the Scilly Cart Company on Porthmellon industrial estate – 5 minutes walk from Hugh Town to hire a golf buggy and you can make light of all the islands sights.

Take a spin around St. Mary's exploring all of the sights, head just past the centre of the island to Holyvale vineyard, Holyvale, St. Mary's, IOS, TR21 0JA.

To book a tour or lunch please call 01720 420317 Open April- September. For a tours of the vines and a sample of the delightful wines.

Maps and guides are available to pick up from the Tourist Information Centre in Hugh Town, overlooking Porthcressa beach.

REFRESHMENTS

There's Juliet's Garden restaurant 5 minutes' walk from the golf course with a fine menu of lunch options and a large patio area overlook the harbour. 01720 422228 or book yourself a lobster lunch at the Vineyard, there are a whole host of eateries to be explored on St. Mary's.

Bar Point Beach, North end of St Mary's Still feeling energetic? Take a tour of the north end of St. Mary's where you'll discover some of the most beautiful beaches in the UK like the hidden gem of the island – Bar Point. The beach veers round in a V shape with one vista looking across to the island of St. Martins and the other the great expanse that is the Atlantic Ocean, on a clear day you'll just be able to make out the mainland. The sand is fine here and the dunes are sheltered, and the sea a sparkling blue.

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Daytrip ideas

Fly+sail day trip for active couples

Transportation	Skybus and Scillonian, Fly+Sail ticket
Route	Land's End to Isles of Scilly, Isles of Scilly to Penzance
Operates	March through to the end of October

FROM PENZANCE TRAIN STATION

IOST transfer bus pick up 07:00 for 08:00 Skybus flight from Land's End airport.

Flying with Skybus is the fastest way to the Isles – in fact, you'll start to experience Scilly the moment you reach Land's End airport. There's the warm welcome; the moment your captain greets you as you board the plane and of course, a view that leaves you speechless, and stays with you long after you've touched down. (Somehow, the coastline never looks the same.) With journeys from just 15 minutes, Skybus lets you make the most of your time on Scilly.

ARRIVAL SCILLY

08:15, St. Mary's airport

You'll arrive into St Mary's airport-the largest of the islands and the gateway to Scilly. If you opt to explore St Mary's, there's much to be accomplished in a few hours or you can island hop to one of the other islands. Jump in a Skybus taxi waiting for you on arrival and they'll take you down to the quay to catch a tripper boat to your chosen destination.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACTIVITY

For a truly authentic and wonderful experience, we'd recommend taking the boat across to the island of St. Martin's and joining in with a snorkelling with seals trip.

To get across to St. Martin's have a look on the chalk boards outside the harbour master's office on the quay, you can buy boat tickets from the St. Mary's boatman's association hut on the quay or on-board the dedicated inter-island boat. Scilly's clear, shallow waters are abundant with sea life, the Atlantic grey seal are resident to the islands and are famously friendly.

The islands dive school on St. Martins run seal snorkelling trips daily, offering the experience to swim with seals in their natural habitat. No experience is required and all ages can take part.

Scilly Seal snorkelling – St. Martin's 01720 422848 booking is essential, wetsuits are provided.

REFRESHMENTS

After your snorkelling experience, you're bound to have worked up an appetite, you'll have around two hours on St. Martin's before the boat picks you up to go back to St. Mary's. We recommend visiting the Seven Stones Inn on St. Martins, a friendly family run pub serving home cooked lunch and supper with one of the best views in the world. 01720 423777

SHOPPING AND EXPLORING

Head back to St. Mary's on the 2pm boat and you'll have around an hour and a half before check-in closes for the Scillonian. Just a few minutes' walk from the quay is the hub of St. Mary's Hugh Town there are a whole host of gift shops, clothing shops and deli's to sample some of Scilly's island delights.

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