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ISLES OF SCILLY
Travel

WHY IS SCILLY SO SPECIAL?

by TV presenter Ray Mears

When people ask me about the Isles of Scilly, I urge them to go - certainly I wish I'd gone sooner, and I can't wait to come back in 2018. Scilly is one of those places where you can stand on a beach with the breeze on your face and just feel good. You feel alive, and you feel your place on the planet in a different way. It feels more like being on a remote island in the Pacific than a destination just off the Cornish coast.

The scenery is stunning, and the flora and fauna are incredible, but it's not just about the islands for me - it's the people that make Scilly so special. Everyone is very friendly and charming, and they have a unique bond, a way of supporting each other as perhaps only islanders can; they depend on each other, being part of such an unusual and independent island community.

As a visitor, what's lovely about being on the Isles of Scilly is that the islanders welcome you into their unique community for the time you're there, because everybody knows everybody and you become one of them when you visit. I've often said Cornwall is the land that time forgot but Scilly takes that a step further - and in a positive way; there are old-fashioned values on the islands that we've forgotten. People have time for each other, and it's a simpler way of life.

It can take time to adjust to, even for me - and I'm used to going to remote rural communities - but you feel so refreshed from experiencing it, it's wonderful and a true haven to unwind from stress. The moment the ferry docks, or the plane - and soon, the helicopter - lands, you know you've arrived somewhere very special.

Read our full interview with bushcraft expert and popular TV wildlife presenter Ray Mears on page 6 for more about why he thinks Scilly is so special - and why he has agreed to become a Patron of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group in 2018.



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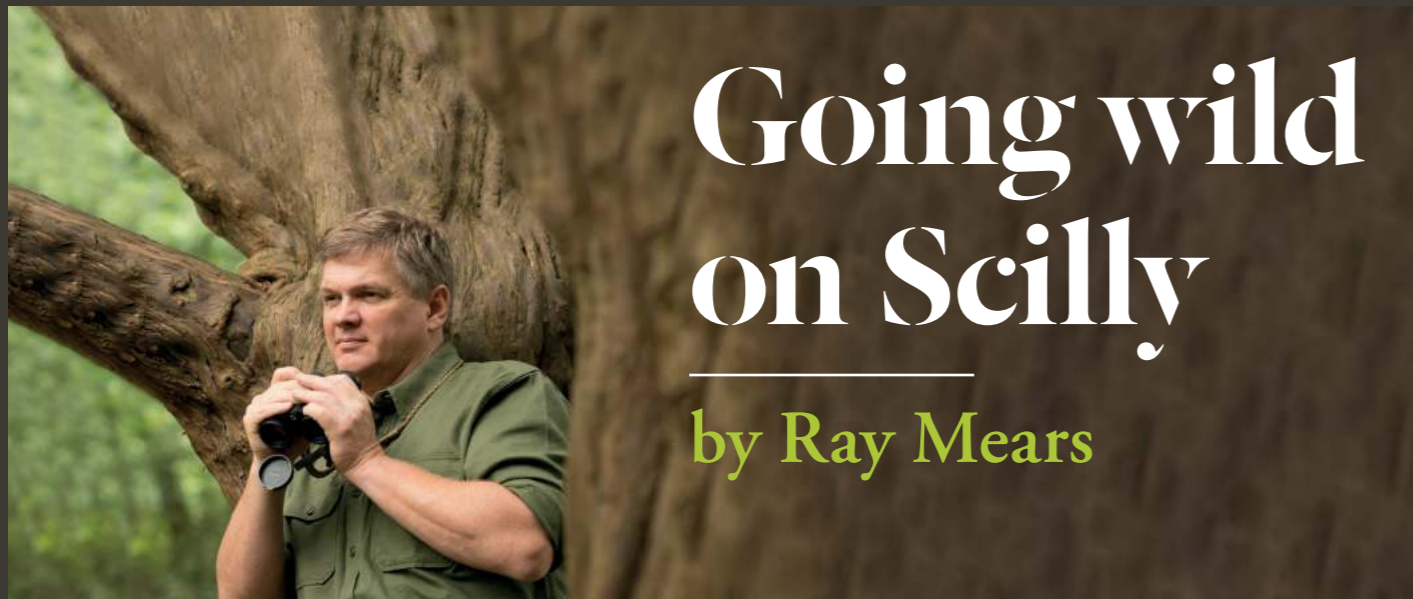
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Going wild on Scilly

by Ray Mears

Bushcraft expert Ray Mears is one of the nation's best-loved television presenters, as well as an internationally famous author and an instructor with his company Woodlore.

Some of Ray's most popular TV series include Ray Mears' Bushcraft, Ray Mears' World of Survival, Extreme Survival, Ray Mears Goes Walkabout, and Wild Britain with Ray Mears - including an episode set on the Isles of Scilly which was broadcast in 2013.

Ray, who lives in Sussex, is passionate about wilderness bushcraft because it "reacquaints man with nature and his roots and provides an escape from the shackles of modern life" - and this return to nature, coupled with an escape from modern-day technologies, is also a large part of the reason Ray fell in love with Scilly during his first visit to the islands six years ago.

It's also why Ray has agreed to become the Patron of Isles of Scilly Travel in 2018 - returning to the islands this spring to find out more about the Companies charitable work to support island-based nature initiatives like the RSPB's Seabird Recovery Project, and to help promote the destination as a unique place to visit and enjoy.

We caught up with Ray to find out what he loved about Scilly on that first visit - and what he's looking forward to seeing again when he returns this year.

What were your initial impressions of the Isles of Scilly on your first visit?

When we visited six years ago to film the episode of Wild Britain set on the Isles of Scilly, it was the first time I'd ever been there. We arrived on the Scillonian III ferry, and we had a lovely crossing - one of the nicest ferry crossings I've ever had.

It was a very interesting trip; when you've been somewhere, you have a feeling about it afterwards, and the feeling I have about the Isles of Scilly is just a warm, good feeling. It's an amazing place. It's not just about the islands but about the people, they're very special.

Everyone is very friendly on Scilly, but I also noticed that they get along with each other in a way that perhaps only islanders can. They look out for each other and it seemed to be a very caring place; people were very independent and yet they're not, all at the same moment. There was a wonderful sense of camaraderie, and it is so lovely as a visitor to be welcomed into that community while you're there.

I loved that it was a small community depending on each other, and relying on age-old traditions and pastimes too - I remember there was a really

good sail maker in Hugh Town, and it was wonderful to see the old traditions still so relied on.

What do you think makes Scilly so special?

For me, it's the old-fashioned values there that we've forgotten in our modern lives. People have time for each other and there's a simpler way of life, I got the impression of kids there on holiday really enjoying that. We only stayed a few days for the film shoot; we stayed on St Mary's and we went to St Martin's, which was really lovely - the beaches are amazing.

If it's a sunny day, the Isles of Scilly looks just like the Mediterranean. It's the sort of place you need to take a big straw hat and a linen shirt, then you stand on the beach with the breeze on your face and you just feel good.

Scilly is one of those places where life is so dominated by the tide that there is a bigger rhythm at work; you feel God's rhythm in a way that you don't elsewhere.

You really feel that tidal flow of humanity and that was part of the joy. It's like being a winkle on the beach, you scuttle around completely dominated by the mood of the tides. And if you want to get anywhere, it's by boat. I just loved that.

I'm quite lucky because my life is about nature, I don't feel the frenetic pace of life that many other people do, but for people who are caught

up in technology and busy lifestyles, the Isles of Scilly is a perfect panacea.

People go to the Isles of Scilly and make their own experiences, and that's what makes it special - you have your own Scilly experience.

Scilly is famous for its flora and fauna - what did you enjoy seeing the most?

We saw a lot of the countryside when we filmed the Wild Britain episode, and some very unusual species - the flora and fauna was amazing, you have all sorts growing there, everything from South African Hottentot figs growing up on the Garrison on St. Mary's to unusual insects like red-barbed ants.

When you look at those plants from South Africa and the old gun emplacements on the Garrison, you'd think you were in Jamaica or somewhere far more exotic. I remember the hedgehogs, we went up to the campsites and they were everywhere because there are so few predators.

It's certainly a haven for birders, and I'm a very keen bird watcher myself; we had a focus on mammals for that programme but I'm keen to go back to Scilly soon and just sit with a scope and a pair of binoculars. I'm keen to come back this year and explore more in the spring. I'm especially keen to see St Agnes, and I'll come back with my wife and make a beeline for puffins - that -would make my wife very happy, as she's never seen one. They're beautiful. We'll also be looking for the seals.

What else did you enjoy on Scilly?

For anyone wanting to get away for a weekend, in Britain there only a few places around the coast where you can get away in the sense that you do on Scilly.

What's lovely about Scilly is it has the best of both worlds: the food is good, the people are friendly, they leave you alone if you want some privacy - which is one of the most charming things about the whole place - and everything is easy to get to, you can walk everywhere, and walking is the most natural thing in the world.

It's lovely that there's so few cars; you don't feel threatened by cars on the islands, and where in Britain can you feel like that today?

I was also interested in the archeology. We met some archeologists when we were there looking for Bronze Age burial sites, and they said on St. Martin's they'd never found any Stone Age remains.

I was walking along the beach and thinking it's amazing to think there were people there in the Stone Age and had no idea what sort of boats took them there or how they lived; it would have been so remote.

I'm fascinated by the uninhabited islands like Samson and the excitement of discovering them, perhaps being the only person there - that's the sort of thing you can gain inspiration from, and I hope to explore more there on my next visit.



Would you recommend the Isles of Scilly as a place to visit?

I already have! I urge people to go, and I wish I'd gone sooner. But one of the things I've noticed about the Isles of Scilly is that a lot of people discover it and then don't tell anybody, because they want to go back year after year and have it stay exactly the same!



They go every single year to the same place, eat in the same places, do the same things - I've never seen anything like that anywhere else before, it's like a secret for insiders. It's amazing that so many people still don't know where the Isles of Scilly are, or haven't visited yet. It's actually very easy to get to - especially now with the helicopter coming back this spring.

It isn't like Cornwall at all though, and that's what's special; it's like going to another country. It really is magical, it's like something out of Narnia - you go to another world when you go to Scilly.

We're delighted you will be a Patron of the company this year, helping to promote the destination as well as spearheading some of our many charitable initiatives - often supporting wildlife projects such as the Seabird Recovery Project.

Are you a supporter of schemes like this?

Absolutely - the RSPB do a very good job. They take a holistic view of a bird's welfare, and sometimes take an action that is remote to the bird itself, like creating the right habitat, and letting the birds do the rest themselves.

I think they're really good at that, and the Seabird Recovery Project is an amazing example which it's fantastic to support. I'm really looking forward to visiting Scilly and finding out more about the work that's gone on to create better habitats to protect rare species of seabirds.



DAY TRIPPERS DIARY

Every year visitors return to the Isles of Scilly, bringing old and new friends, and making memories to cherish for a lifetime.

One visitor in particular makes a rail and sail trip, 10 times every summer to get his 'Scilly fix'. We met up with Paul Chrisp to hear about his day trip recommendations.

"I first visited the islands in 1964, accompanied by my late mother. We travelled on Scillonian I, to my regret I didn't return until 2013 and since then I have been a regular visitor every year.

You may wonder how I make these frequent trips from the town of Bicester? I leave home at 9pm to catch the train to Marylebone, then jump on the no. 205 bus to Paddington and proceed to platform 1 to catch the Night Riviera sleeper.

We arrive in Penzance at 07:53 and I make my way to collect my tickets to board Scillonian III and I am always met with a warm greeting from the staff.

I never tire of the view of the Cornish coastline as we pass the iconic St. Michael's Mount, Lamorna Cove, the Minack Theatre and Porthcurno before crossing out from Land's End into the Atlantic; I always admire the beautiful sights of Scilly coming into view on arrival."

"I then have to make the tough decision; do I stay on St. Mary's or do I hop across to one of the other 4 inhabited islands?"

"Every island has its very own charm and natural beauty. St. Martin's has a view from the top of Cruthers Hill of Great Par beach and the Eastern Isles, which is an awe-inspiring sight. Treco, the 2nd largest island is best known for it's world famous Abbey Gardens.

And the neighbouring island of Bryher is quite exquisite with small sandy beaches and is renowned for its home-made Veronica Farm fudge.

St. Agnes, the most south westerly inhabited island is easy to reach by boat from St. Mary's. I always look forward to the walk from Porth Conger quay, past the Turks Head Inn and then onto the sandy beach; which at low tide reveals the adjoining island of Gugh.

St. Mary's is the largest island and has all the facilities you need and lots of fine beaches too. My favourite walk is from Town beach to Porthmellon, before ascending the short hill to Juliet's Garden restaurant.

OTHER CAR FREE WAYS TO CONNECT TO SCILLY

- Night Riviera + Scillonian
- Flybe + Skybus Newquay or Exeter
- GWR + Shuttle bus + Island Helicopters

Two other attractions not to be missed are Pelistry Bay and Holyvale Vineyard to the north of the island. Accessed by the local community bus service, Pelistry, is a stunning white sandy beach. A short walk away is Holyvale Vineyard and shop - perfect for sampling the local wine in a quiet and peaceful location.

So ends this brief sketch of my wonderful visits to the wonderful Isles of Scilly. Unsurprisingly, because there is so much to view and enjoy, I find myself instantly looking forward to my next return trip from Oxfordshire."

Travel options  Island Helicopters  Skybus  Fly+sail  Scillonian

Day trip itineraries

You'll be surprised by just how much you can do on an Isles of Scilly day trip, here's a couple of ideas to make the most of the islands.



BOAT TRIPS

To see the wildlife, try a glass bottom boat. It is smaller than the tripper boats and a more personal way to see the wildlife. Late spring and summer are the best time to see the puffins, sea birds and seals. Occasionally dolphins and basking sharks are spotted!

TIME BOOK 2.5hrs
Seaquest
07484 718182

TRAVEL   



TRESCO ABBEY GARDENS

Visit the UK's most tropical garden - there's 17 acres housing 20,000 species of plants and flowers from around the world. Take a boat from St. Mary's harbour and you can be there in 20 minutes.

TIME BOOK 1hr
No need to book in advance

TRAVEL    



WALKING ON BRYHER

Retrace the steps of the iconic book 'Why the Whales came', set on Bryher. Walk up Samson Hill to see the site of the Birdman's Cottage and explore Rushy Bay; walking through memories of this famous novel. Finish the walk at Fraggie Rock bar.

TIME BOOK 2hrs
No need to book in advance

TRAVEL   



SNORKELLING WITH SEALS

Off the Eastern Isles, swimming with seals in their natural environment has got to be on most people's bucket list. Make the trip over to St. Martin's and be transported by rib boat to the uninhabited Isles by the Scilly Seal Snorkelling co.

TIME BOOK 3hrs
Booking essential
01720 422848

TRAVEL   



LUNCH AT THE TURKS HEAD

Hop over to St. Agnes and enjoy a spot of lunch in the most south westerly pub in the UK with views of the harbour below. No time limit other than meeting the return boat to St. Mary's.

TIME BOOK No time limit
No need to book in advance

TRAVEL   



CASTLES AND FORTS

Cromwells Castle, King Charles Castle and the old Block House. Explore Treco's castles and forts, steeped in history and with a great vista to match. Maps are available on-board Scillonian.

TIME BOOK 2hrs
No need to book in advance

TRAVEL    



HIRE BIKES

Explore the entire island of St. Mary's by pedal power. The island is 11 miles around with plenty to discover.

TIME BOOK 4hrs approx.
St. Mary's Bike Hire
07796 638506

TRAVEL   



HOLYVALE VINEYARD

On the quieter northern end of St. Mary's, nestled in Holyvale is a tranquil vineyard. Sample the homegrown wines from the island, a lobster lunch and enjoy a tour of the vines.

TIME BOOK 1.5hrs
Booking essential
01720 420317

TRAVEL   

Tracing the islands' flower farm heritage

Flower farming on the Isles of Scilly dates back to the 1860s. At its peak, at the turn of the 20th century, over 40 tonnes of flowers were being shipped from the islands to markets in London several times a week.

By 1950, there were 90 family-owned flower farms on the islands. There are ten remaining across the five inhabited islands today, but much remains true to the original idea of small, sheltered fields, family farms and beautiful scents.

Thanks to its position at the end of the North Atlantic Drift, the Isles of Scilly has a unique climate. During the Winter, the highest average temperature is warmer than anywhere else in the UK; so, frosts and snow are very rare, allowing the islands' iconic scented Narcissi to flourish. We've caught up with flower farmer Zoe Julian of Scilly Flowers, to follow the famous Scillonian Narcissi flowers on their epic journey.

The Narcissi's Journey

Planting

We plant the bulbs in July and August – in ridged rows, similar to potatoes. These are dug in small fields with high hedges to protect the flowers from the Atlantic winds.

Between October and April, the Narcissi flower, but the first year crop is often not picked as the flowers won't be of a high enough quality.

The following May, we cover the fields with polythene and blow smoke underneath to initiate the bulbs.

By August, (12 months after being planted) the first leaves begin to break through the soil.



Harvest

Between mid-October to Easter the Narcissi are picked, with the busiest time for us being Christmas when people want to send a bit of Scilly as a Christmas gift.

Scilly Flowers send scented flowers all year round, but the Scented Narcissi are the flowers people particularly associate with Scilly.

Shipping

Making their way to St. Mary's Quay for the journey to the mainland; flowers from the outer-islands are transferred from the Lyonesse Lady, the islands' inter-island freight ship, or Swift Lady, the post boat. The flowers shipped from Scilly, travel to the mainland by sea and also by air.

Scilly Flowers send their flowers direct to customers doors, whilst the flowers destined for wholesale leave St. Mary's Quay for London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and other large cities.

Each year, the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company transport by air and sea thousands of boxes of flowers to the mainland. The company works closely with all the growers to ensure the flowers have an efficient and safe passage to their next destination.



“MOST OF OUR FLOWERS ARRIVE THE DAY AFTER THEY LEAVE SCILLY. AS THE FLOWERS ARE COMING STRAIGHT FROM WHERE THEY'RE GROWN, DIRECT TO THE DOORSTEP, THEY'RE VERY FRESH.”

Zoe Julian, Scilly Flowers

When you're exploring the islands, look out for the flower farms on St. Mary's, St. Agnes and St. Martin's

St. Mary's
Trenoweth Flowers
Lunnon Farm
Seaways Farm
Borough Farm
Tremelethen Farm
Sunnyside Farm
Pelistry Farm

St. Agnes
Lighthouse Farm

St. Martin's
Scilly Flowers
James Morton

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JACKY KING

What does a typical day on the front line of customer service look like? To find out, we sat down with Jacky King who handles passenger services on Penzance Harbour.

Q At what time do you have to get up to get to work on time?
I'm really lucky as it's only a 10-minute walk – or 20 minutes, if I'm window shopping – from home to the quay. On normal sailing days I'm up by 5:30am, but during school trip season I'm on the quay by around 6am, so then I'm up and drinking my first coffee of the day by 4am. Luckily, I've spent my life working shifts, so I'm used to it (and I get to see some spectacular sunrises).

Q How many people work in your team?
We're a small team, there's five of us in total, we're like a little family with all the same dynamics that this can bring.

Q What usually happens in your day?
The only constant is checking in and boarding all our lovely passengers – everything else is a variable that we can't predict. I handle everything from first aid, dogs, parrots, goats, and lost luggage to flat tyres, wedding nerves, lost tickets, bereavement, arguing couples, crying children, seasickness and even hangovers.

Q What's the best thing about your job?
The satisfaction I get from seeing someone's face turn from a frown or grimace to a smile because of something I've done for them.

Q When did you start in the job and what attracted you to it?
I started in April 2016. I am 100% a people person, and I loved the thought of the diversity of people that I would be dealing with.

Q What's your favourite memory of the job so far?
I have many, but I think being remembered by passengers because of the support they'd been given by the team on a previous holiday is very gratifying and makes me smile a lot. Being given a very chocolaty kiss of thanks by 95-year-old passenger who took 25 minutes to walk the quay to the boat, refused the use of a wheelchair and held my arm all the way, regaling me with the most amazing stories of her lone travels around the world.

Q What time do you finish work and how do you like to spend your evenings?
It all depends on the sailing schedule. Usually on a busy summer evening, I'm home between 8:30 and 9pm, but in the final weeks of the season I can be home by 5:30pm. My evenings are usually spent walking my lovely dogs, taking photos on my travels, catching up with friends and family or, I hate to say, falling asleep on the sofa.



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HEAD SOUTH-WEST FOR 5 ISLANDS OF CULINARY DELIGHTS

The islands may be small in size but the food and drink scene on the Isles of Scilly is thriving. It's fast becoming known as a foodie hotspot so much so, that during the month of September there's a month-long festival dedicated to the 'Taste of Scilly'. All of the islands food and drink suppliers get involved in this mouth-watering festival. We've broken down some of our top picks island by island, meal by meal...

A FOODIE'S GUIDE TO SCILLY

ST. MARY'S

Breakfast:
The Kavorna, Hugh Street. A breakfast that hits the spot, the Kavorna is great for a sit down full English or take-away lattes and brilliant bacon sarnies, we thoroughly recommend you start the day here.

Lunch:
Kaffeehaus, an oasis in the middle of the island. This café is famous for it's apple strudel and offers some delightful home-cooked meals.

Dibble and Grub. Set in an old fire station overlooking Porthcressa beach, the food is rich and varied, the menu culminates in a combination of tapas and light bites.

The Beach on Scilly. Perfect for stopping off for a light lunch after a morning of walks, the balcony is on the beach with fantastic views across to the harbour.



Dinner:
Star Castle dining room. For top quality food often sourced freshly that day and a quirky dining experience set in a 16th century dining room, Star Castle is the place to go.

Tanglewood Kitchen. A real dining experience, tucked away at the back of the St. Mary's Post Office is an exquisite kitchen, with a table seating up to 8 people. Your meal is cooked in front of you using the freshest local ingredients.

Eugene's Fish and Chips. You'll find this fish and chip van just behind the Town Hall in Hugh Town, it's a great place for a quick take-away meal to enjoy on Porthcressa beach. The fish is as fresh as it gets and the chips divine.

BEST FOR:

- > **Vegetarian and vegan options:** Coastal View Kitchen
- > **Views:** Juliet's Garden and the Clubhouse
- > **Cream tea:** Carn Veon Tea Room



ST. AGNES

Lunch:
Coastguards Café. Simple but tasty with a selection of home-made soups and sandwiches, the café is set in a picturesque garden looking across to Bishop Rock Lighthouse. At night the café turns into the Hightide Seafood restaurant...

Dinner:
The Hightide Seafood restaurant. A small but perfectly sized venue, with a small and simple menu, head chef Mark is referred to as an artist with food. Booking is essential.

The Turks Head. The islands only pub, just a short hop and skip away from the quay. The menu is simple and all locally sourced, the service is friendly and attentive, and the views are said to be some of the best in the UK.



BEST FOR:

- > **Ice cream:** Troytown Farm
- > **Views:** The Turks Head pub



ST. MARTIN'S

Lunch:
Little Arthur Café. This is the place to be for home-made scones, vegetarian dishes and a atmospheric dining experience. To get to the cafe, you've got to go through the Cricket Pitch by the beach, but the trek is worth it. Inside the cafe, there are grape vines growing to the ceiling, don't expect finery just good wholesome food.

The Seven Stones Inn. Savour amazing views, real ale and good lunchtime food.

Dinner:
Adam's Fish and Chips. 100% authentic, fish caught to order on the day, potatoes grown on the island and wine from the neighbouring vineyard.

Cloudesley Shovell restaurant, Karma. Book a table here for an evening of fine dining using the islands heritage of foraging and locally grown produce.

BEST FOR:

- > **Value and the finest view on Scilly:** The Seven Stones Inn
- > **Fresh pasties:** The Island Bakery
- > **Cream Teas:** Polreath tea room

BRYHER

Lunch:
Fraggle Rock Bar. Simple and uncomplicated, the atmosphere is relaxed and the menu ample. Stop by for a traditional Cornish beer and views across the Tresco channel.

Vine Café. This quaint little café is a 5-minute walk from the quay, the atmosphere is welcoming and relaxed, often described as like stepping back in time. The food is simple and all home-baked, it's a great venue for home cooking in a costal setting.



Dinner:
The Crab Shack. Part of the Hell Bay Hotel but a short walk away, the Crab Shack is a foodie's heaven. The menu is kept simple with crab and lobster with fries to accompany. Aprons are handed out on arrival as it's an eat with your hands kind of meal, the tables are long with pews, so you'll always be sharing with another group but it's all part of the unique experience.

Hell Bay Hotel. For fantastic flavours, the menu is varied and has a variety of changing specials. The surroundings are relaxed and inviting, with great works of art adorning the walls.

BEST FOR:

- > **Fresh produce:** Island Fish or Hillside Farm



TRESCO

Lunch:
The Ruin Beach Cafe. Set in a ruin but much more cosmopolitan, with views over the beach. The setting is idyllic, and the food is spectacular, try the wood-fired pizzas for a real treat – there's nothing served fried, as the ethos is healthy eating.



Dinner:

The New Inn. The islands only pub, the ambience is welcoming and the food homely with a twist.

BEST FOR:

- > **Picnics:** Tresco Stores
- > **Brunch:** The Flying Boat Club



Gin & Ale, Scilly style

Craft alcohol is having something of 'a moment'. Suddenly, artisan distillers and brewers are everywhere – creating imaginative new varieties and flavours – and Scilly isn't being left behind.

We caught up with Aiden Hicks from Westward Farm and Jen Trevithick from Ales of Scilly to hear how artisan alcohol found a home on St. Agnes and St. Mary's.



Westward Farm Gin St. Agnes

Q Can you tell us a bit about yourselves and your business?

A I'm Aiden and my wife is Grace. We have two children. Our family has worked Westward Farm for generations; originally as a potato farm, then a flower farm since the 1800s. But as these industries declined we diversified. We're a true family-run farm, with three generations getting stuck in.

Q How did you get into the gin industry?

A We've distilled plants for essential oils for years and my mum had often said that our rose geranium would be amazing in a gin. Last year I started looking into making a Scilly gin.

At the start of May we were finally able to start selling! We adapted essential oil techniques that my Dad had developed over the years to get the amazing flavours out of some of the beautiful things we have growing here on Scilly.

Q What's a normal day like on the farm?

A Busy! Before first light there are chicken houses to open and cows to feed. Then we get stuck into the day's jobs, whether it's working the fields and planting crops or pressing apples for our juice and cyder. There's rarely a day that we don't do something gin-related. We get our still running

first thing and there's always some blending, bottling, botanical gathering or orders to do.

Grace works at the primary school on St. Agnes four days a week but as soon as she's home, she takes the kids out to pick gorse flowers for the gin, feed the cows and close up the chickens for the night.



Q Do you have any other produce that you sell from the farm?

A We also produce apple juice and cyder, Red Ruby beef, honey, seasonal vegetables and our range of '28 miles' essential oils toiletries. We also now have a new self-catering let and I'm currently building a second, so people can come and stay here.

Q What is your top tip for people just starting to discover gin?

A There's such a massive choice of gins on the market. Some are floral, some fruity, some earthy and some spicy. So try lots and find the flavours you like.

Ales of Scilly St. Mary's

Q Can you tell us a bit about yourselves and your business?

A Mark Praeger started the brewery in 2001 after retiring from teaching. Sixteen years later, he decided that retirement was once again calling and handed the reins over to me – Jen Trevithick.

I'm Scilly's first female brewer, and I've learnt everything from Mark and my friends on the mainland who are also brewers or beer connoisseurs!

Since taking over the brewery, I've developed a number of new brews and have big plans for the future.

Over the next few years, I'm planning on expanding the range and reach of the products produced at Porthmellon and having a bit of fun with the brand!

Q How did you get into the ale industry?

A I've always been interested in brewing but never thought of it as a career until I heard that Mark was looking for someone to take over the brewery.

I spent a few months as an apprentice, then took over in March 2017.

Mark is still involved with the brewery and pops down for a coffee and a chat when he can,

but the brewing is all down to me and my assistant Ned Buchanan.

Q What's a normal day like?

A It usually starts the night before, when we set the mash. This has to be left for a couple hours to extract the sugars from the grain. During the day we brew the ales, adding hops to the sweet liquid from the mash.

While waiting for the brew to boil, we clean the equipment from the previous process – brewing is mainly a cleaning job that produces beer at the end of it! We might also be seen out in the van delivering orders to the various restaurants, pubs and cafés around St. Mary's and to the quay for the off islands and mainland.

Q Where is your ale distributed and sold?

A Most of the pubs and restaurants on Scilly have Ales of Scilly either in casks or bottles.

Q What's your top tip for people visiting Scilly?

A Explore the off islands – there are so many unexpected things to see, taste and experience. People sometimes think that everything happens on St. Mary's, but there's always something to get involved in on the other islands too!

What's on Scilly

2018

Aside from the picturesque beaches, sweeping green hills and stunning skies, there's lots to do on the Isles of Scilly. With foodie feasts, World Championship Qualifiers, folk festivals and walking festivals; there's plenty for everyone to enjoy.

May

World Pilot Gig Championships

4th–7th May

Now entering its 29th year, this event just keeps on growing, with teams from as far afield as Barbados! Races begin on Friday with the penultimate race on Sunday.

Scilly Swim challenge – Spring

12th May

Swim and walk the islands over one day, swimmers will attempt to swim between 6 islands covering a distance of 15km and walk a distance of 10km as they tackle the one-day event.

Art Scilly

Week commencing 12th May

Meet local artists who are inspired by the landscape around them, have a go at many different artistic techniques or simply relish in the stunning works of art across varying galleries.

Scilly Folk Festival

24th–29th May

Some of the best folk musicians in the south west will be returning the islands for a fun packed weekend of music and dancing.



June

Otillo Swimrun World Qualifiers

9th–10th June

After 2 successful championships in previous years, Otillo continues to return to the shores of Scilly. Ranked as one of the toughest endurance races in the world, the course covers 45km over land and sea, with 100+ teams from around the world competing.

Scilly Laughs

9th–12th June

Now in its fourth year, Scilly Laughs is growing in popularity, with packed out audiences enjoying some of the finest comedians in the country.



Photograph by Adj Brown



ÖTILLÖ SWIMRUN

9–10 June

The ÖTILLÖ Swimrun, an endurance sport born from a bet, has races all over Europe – including, since 2016, the UK: running and swimming 23 miles around the Isles of Scilly.

September

Low Spring tide event

10th September

Taste of Scilly

1st–30th September

Join in the island experience, Scilly is all about fresh local produce, foodie experiences and strong local heritage. There'll be masterclasses, lobster feasts, markets, demos and much more.

Scilly swim challenge – 2 days

September 15th–16th

This time the event is spread over 2 days for those wanting to take part at a more relaxed pace.



Photograph by Sue Sherris

July & August

Low Spring tide events

15th July & 13th August

During July and August there are certain days when lunar forces combine creating Spring tides so low that it's possible to walk between the channel of Bryher and Treco. Mid-channel there's a sandbar where Treco Island sets up a pop-up event, including a pop up BBQ & bar, games and live music.



October

Walk Scilly weekend

11th–15th October

Explore the islands at the end of summer and beginning of Autumn, the light changes and the migratory birds arrive, the smaller version of the Easter event covers the 5 inhabited islands and a chance to step foot on uninhabited to.

EXPLORING PENZANCE

Next time you're planning a trip to the Isles of Scilly, don't forget to schedule in some time to explore the coastal town of Penzance before you board the ferry, or catch the airport shuttle bus to Land's End.

It's understandable that people want to get to the islands as soon as possible – but a pity that so few take the time to enjoy the town on the way.

The town is situated in Mount's Bay – overlooking St. Michael's Mount – and it's not unusual to spot dolphins off the coast. It's also well known for its mild climate, great food and beautiful scenery. What's more, while walking its winding streets, you'll discover unique boutique shops, intimate cafés, and galleries filled with Cornish art.

Depending on the tide, you can walk across the causeway to St. Michael's Mount, or catch a boat. Once there, climb the medieval pathways of the island and you'll discover beautiful gardens, and its very own village.

Travel a few miles west and you'll find the Minack Theatre – a cliff-top performer's paradise above Porthcurno Bay. It plays host to music, drama and comedy shows throughout the summer, and includes a visitor centre, gardens and a café which are open year-round.

Or if you're simply looking to relax, there's Penzance's art deco-style Jubilee Pool – perfect for salt-water bathing. It's open from June until October, every day.

After you've worked up an appetite, be sure to visit The Cornish Hen Deli for lunch, where you'll find a host of Cornish cuisine. And for the evening, The Shore restaurant won't disappoint. Chef and owner, Bruce Rennie's, imaginative use of local ingredients makes for incredible food in a cosy atmosphere.

Stay overnight with one of the many local accommodation providers. Whatever your budget and style, Penzance offers something for everyone from luxury hotels to home from home B&Bs. With so much to see and do, Penzance is well worth taking the time to visit.



Clockwise from top Left: Marvel at the architectural gems of Chapel Street. View to the Scillonian and St. Michael's Mount, The amazing Egyptian House in Chapel Steet, Jubilee Pool – an art deco masterpiece. Explore the quirky shops for one of a kind find.

Discover West Cornwall

The perfect place to explore before or after an Isles of Scilly adventure



West Cornwall combines stunning natural landscapes with prime cultural experiences such as St Michael's Mount, the Minack Theatre, Tremenheere Sculpture Garden and Tate St Ives.

Marazion, an ancient market town, is just 3 miles from Penzance, and is a hub of galleries, cafes and the gateway to the iconic St Michael's Mount. Uncover the history of this tidal island which is home to 30 island residents, a castle, and a sub-tropical garden. Tread the ancient causeway or catch a boat when the tide is in, meander through the garden, and climb to the summit and gaze out to the expanse of Mount's Bay from the castle terraces.

For further information and tide times:

stmichaelsmount.co.uk | 01736 710265

GODOLPHIN ARMS

The Godolphin Arms is located on the beachfront with direct access to the sandy beach, and just steps to the cobbled causeway leading to St Michael's Mount. The Godolphin Arms offers ten stylish en-suite bedrooms which are light and airy, giving you the right amount of space to relax and enjoy your stay. If you have time only for a short stop, the restaurant offers expansive views from the bi-fold doors on the top level, as well as the outdoor sea view terrace.

godolphinarms.co.uk | 01736 888510



MOUNT HAVEN HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

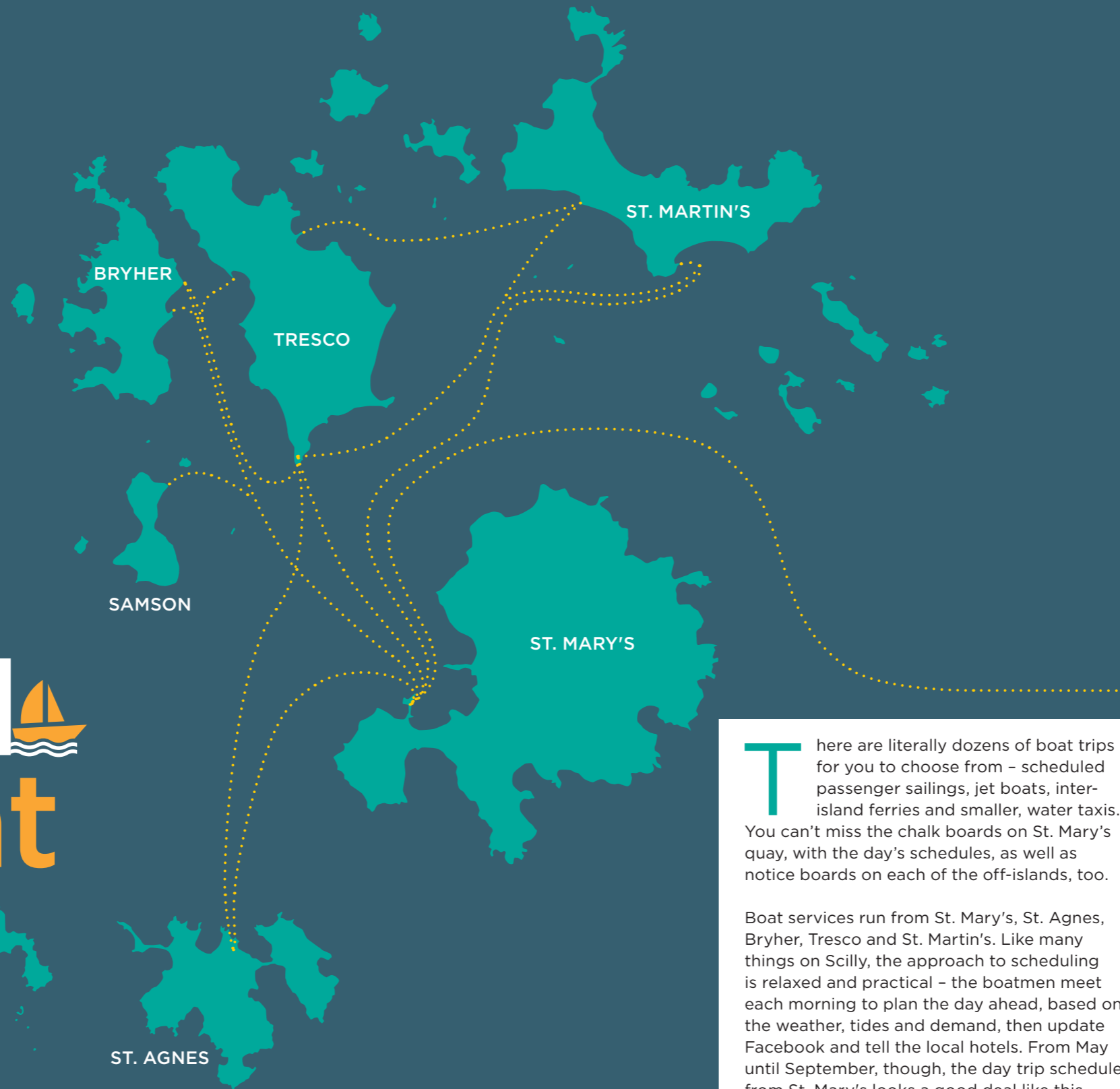
Located on the outskirts of Marazion, the Mount Haven has 19 beautiful bedrooms, a treatment room, a peaceful garden, an excellent restaurant and a contemporary Terrace Bar with mesmerising views out to sea, with St Michael's Mount as the focal point. A stay here offers the chance to step away from your busy life and truly relax, unwind and rejuvenate. The restaurant at the Mount Haven is open to non-residents and welcomes people for lunch and dinner 7 days a week – booking is recommended.

mounthaven.co.uk | 01736 719937



Getting around by boat

The best way to experience Scilly is by boat. Hop onto one of the inter-island boats and make the connection to the 'off-islands', our handy guide gives an overview of the inter-island boat system.



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.

Boat services run from St. Mary's, St. Agnes, Bryher, Tresco and St. Martin's. Like 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, the day trip schedule from St. Mary's 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.

Day trips from St. Mary's

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

St. Mary's Departures	Tresco Returns
10:00	14:15
10:15	14:30
11:15	15:45
12:15	16:45
14:00	

St. Agnes

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

St. Martin's

St. Mary's Departures	St. Martin's Returns
10:15	14:30
11:45	15:45
14:00	16:45

Bryher (& Samson)

St. Mary's Departures	Bryher Returns
10:15	14:30
11:15	16:45
12:15	
14:00	

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.

Contact details

St. Agnes Boating operate boat services from St. Agnes, contact 01720 422704 or visit www.stagnesboating.co.uk

St Mary's Boatmenn's Association operate boats from St. Mary's, contact 01720 423999 or visit www.scillyboating.co.uk

Tresco Boat Services operate boats from St. Martin's, Bryher and Tresco, contact 01720 423373 or visit www.tresco.co.uk

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 day in the life of AN ISLES OF SCILLY BOATMAN

For the local boatmen, no two days are the same. But what is life like aboard the islands' boats, and what keeps them motivated after a long day on the water? We caught up with three to find out.

EXPLORE SCILLY WITH THE LOCAL EXPERTS

Every day, Scillonian III's arrival at St. Mary's sees the quayside bustling with local boatmen, ready to carry visitors to the 'off islands' – Treeco, St. Martin's, St. Agnes and Bryher. To find out more about the daily boat services, see our guide on page 22.



JOE PENDER
St. Mary's Boatmen Association



JOHN PEACOCK
St. Agnes boating



DAVE HOOPER
Treeco Boat Services

THE SECOND GENERATION HELMSMAN

"I Started boating in 1987 working as crew for my dad. Four years later he retired, and I took over the helm.

A typical day starts with the Boatmen's Association meeting in the morning to decide which trips we're going to do that day, depending on the tide, weather and demand.

One member of the association will write up the days trips on the chalk boards on the quay and in Hugh Town, while I visit the local guest houses to tell the visitors which trips we're offering. Then it's back down the quay to get the boat ready for departure for around 10.15.

Each day is different. I could be ferrying passengers to Treeco for the day or taking out a wildlife trip to see the Puffins and seals. Two nights a week from May to September, I even take people Shark fishing.

I've seen lots of wildlife along the way: Leather-backed Turtles, Whales, Dolphins and Sunfish. I've also carried some famous passengers. In 2016 we had Ben Fogle on the boat filming for Countrywise."

STEERING THE FAMILY BUSINESS

"Boating is in my blood; as a child, I always messed around in punts. My family bought St. Agnes Boating, and after I finished university in 1994, I took the opportunity to come home and work in partnership with my father.

We work from about 7.30am, ferrying passengers around the islands. Often we finish at around 10pm. We meet the Scillonian every day she sails; it's great to see old friends as they arrive on the islands to start their holidays.

I once saw a pod of Orcas south of the Islands during one of our Wildlife Safaris, that was pretty special. Over the years, we've had visiting film crews including Matt Baker from Countryfile, Springwatch and Martin Clunes once came for a pint at the Turk's Head."

FAVOURITE PLACES ON SCILLY

Joe The Bishop and Western Rocks out around the back of St. Agnes.

John The top of the hill on Tean. It's so peaceful, and it's lovely to watch the world go by on water between Treeco and St. Martin's.

Dave It's very hard to pick one place; there are so many to choose from. My top three are: Samson, Appletree Bay at high tide with the sun setting over Samson, and Samson Hill on Bryher – you can't beat the view.

A SCILLONIAN SUCCESS STORY

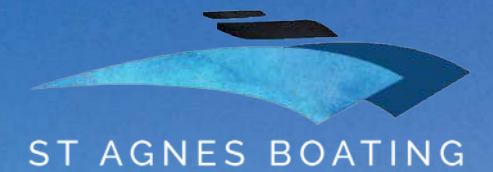
"I actually wanted to be a Personal Trainer when I left school! But having visited Scilly frequently as child for summer holidays I came here full time a year after leaving school. I got a job at Bryher Campsite, where I had to meet the ferry, Firethorn, to deliver visitors' luggage to the campsite.

The campsite owners also owned Bryher Boat Services, and I was soon commandeered to get my 'crew ticket' and started collecting fares on the ferry. I loved working outdoors – who wouldn't want to be on a boat all day in beautiful Scilly?

At Treeco Boat Services we run 2 large passenger ferries (Firethorn and Voyager), which can carry 100 passengers each, and three smaller jet boats (Cyclone, Hurricane and Lightning). These boats serve three of the off-islands (Treeco, Bryher and St. Martin's) all year round.

A typical day on a jet boat is very full-on. These boats are the taxi service for us, and spend the day transporting guests to and from their destination island, taking kids to and from school, and even going on fast one-hour wildlife trips around the uninhabited islands. We've seen some familiar faces, like Judi Dench, Jude Law, Sadie Frost, Alison Steadman, and James Corden. Bill Oddie is a regular visitor."

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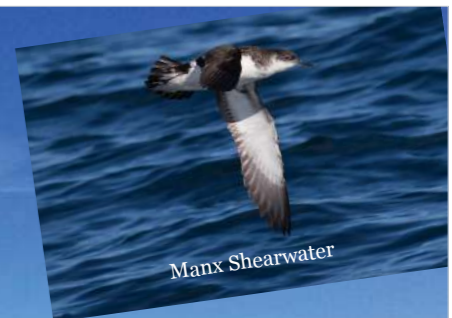
TEL 01720 422704 @STAGNESBOATING
WWW.STAGNESBOATING.CO.UK



St Mary's Boatmen's Association

We run trips 7 days a week to all the main Islands, including daily wildlife excursions for Puffins and Seals etc.

Most trips depart 10.15 & 14.00



Manx Shearwater



Atlantic Grey Seal



Guillemot



North Atlantic Puffin



Razorbill



North Atlantic Puffin

Contact Details

Email: enquiries@scillyboating.co.uk
Phone: 01720 423999
Website: <http://scillyboating.co.uk>

Inspired by Scilly

From photographers and painters to printmakers and glassblowers, the artistic community on the Isles of Scilly is rich and diverse.

Scilly has its own unique charm throughout the year, whether it's the heady yellow gorse flowering in spring, magical sunsets and sunrises in summer or whirling white sea horses of winter.

Wherever you look, you'll find inspiration, studios and galleries. It could be the polished gallery on Tresco, a gig shed on Bryher housing a painter's studio or deep Scillonian history stained into the glass windows of a church.

This small collection of islands are surrounded by big skies and dramatic seas, the landscape here is diverse and beautiful and whilst its defined by nature it's the local residents that illustrate daily life through the medium of art.

There are so many different artists on the islands, we couldn't list them all, but we wanted to find out from a few, just what inspires them.

JOHN BORDEAUX POTTER

"I have been a practicing potter and artist in my barn studio at Old Town since May 1978. During these wonderful years I have been privileged to meet so many fantastic visitors, this year we have had some fourth generation. Scilly is a wonderful place to work. Having so many talented colleagues on the Islands is truly inspirational."

VICKIE HEANEY PRINTMAKER

"I've enjoyed family holidays in Scilly all my life and made the move to live here full-time in 2004. My passion is the natural world and I combine scientific study of seabirds with creating artworks inspired by them. Working in my studio by Porthmellon Beach I specialise in making linocut prints. I like that lino printing is quite an 'old-school' technique with an honest hand-made aesthetic. My designs employ clean stylish lines and vibrant colours to explore the bold patterns and images abundant in the islands wildlife and maritime heritage."



My Studio is part of the Phoenix Craft Workshops on St. Mary's just behind Porthmellon Beach. I am there most weekdays and Saturday mornings, designing and printing the artwork for sale.

There are 7 other artists based here and we all do something different. We are able to bounce ideas off each other and help out in each other's studios.

Based in my studio by the sea I am inspired by the patterns and beauty of the maritime world around me, be it gigs or lighthouses, fish or seabirds. I'm a Doctor of Birds – that's not to say I can fix them, I just spent a long time studying them.

Using this zoological background and living in Scilly, I combine working for the RSPB counting the seabirds with creating prints of them.."

TOM HOLLAND PAINTER

"The Isles of Scilly never fail to inspire me to paint. The constant change in the mood of the isles provides an ever-evolving palette of colours for me to work with. I can look at the same view over and over again, yet I will always find new inspiration. There is no other place I'd rather be. This is what I want to convey to the viewer, a wonderful feeling of peace, warmth and sun."

EMMA EBERLAIN JEWELLERY MAKER

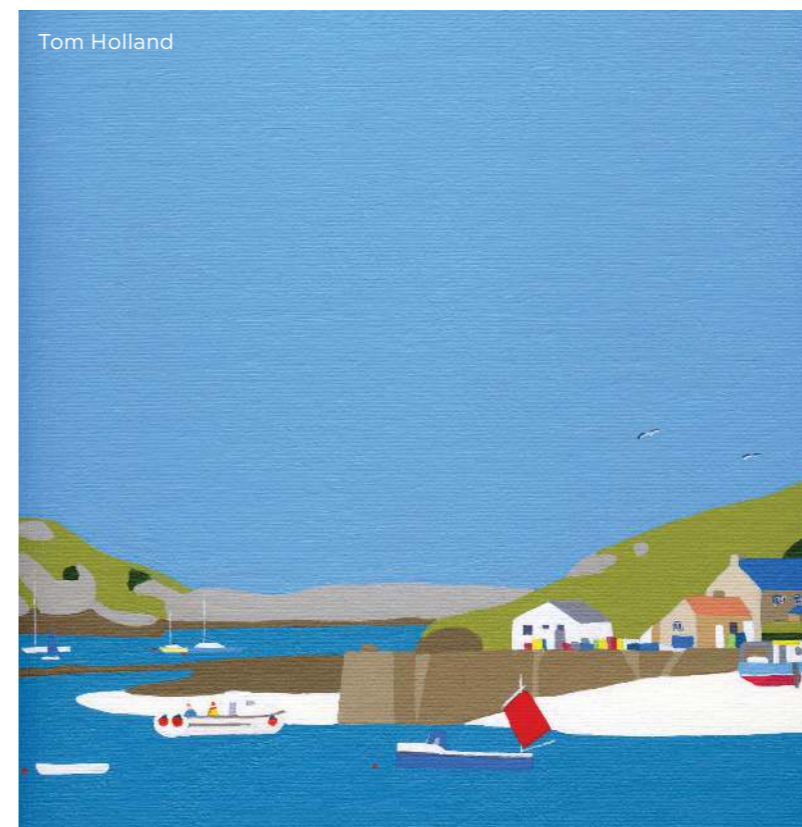
"I make recycled beach plastic jewellery and paint on driftwood, so do art using found objects. I have opened up a little gallery called 'Pot buoys' on St. Agnes, where I sell not only my work but work from around Scilly and Cornwall. All is handmade and unique. I love searching on the beach and finding cool bits, wondering where they came from."

Wherever you are on Scilly, if you aren't gazing at a blue horizon, you can usually hear the sound of the tides lapping against the shore. Travelling over on the Scillonian is a great way to start feeding your imagination – draw your inspiration from the blue expanse around you and the ripples in the wake of the ship.

Oriel Hicks, Phoenix Stained Glass



Tom Holland



Vickie Heaney



Emma Eberlain

Art Scilly

On the week of the 12th May the islands celebrate all things arty. Meet local artists and have a go at a variety of workshops.



John Bordeaux



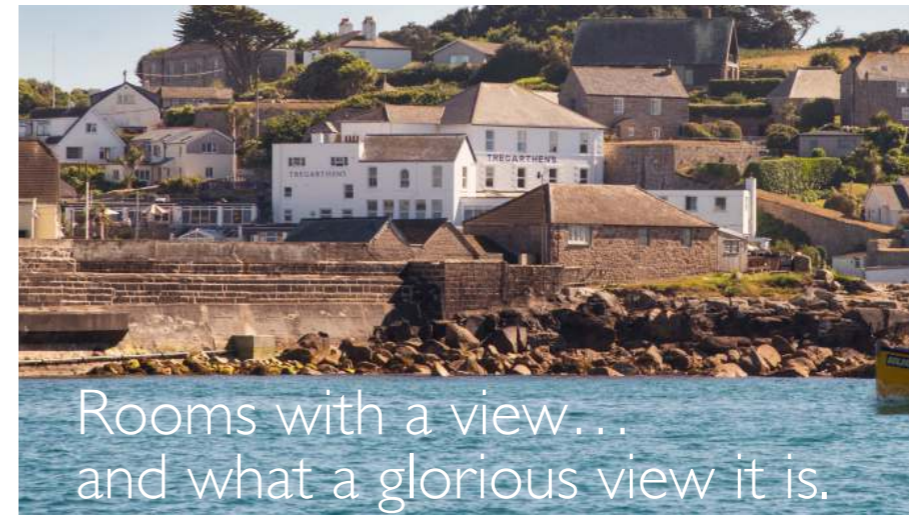
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“Somewhere else altogether...” - The Independent



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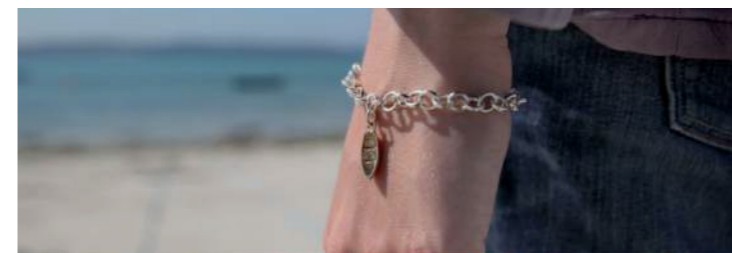
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TRAVELLING TO THE ISLES OF SCILLY ON SCILLONIAN III

By Katy Stern
Blogger from Otis and Us

Travelling along the winding roads in Penzance, we headed off to catch our early morning crossing on the Scillonian III. It was breezy and the dark clouds in the sky threatened rain, but energy was high with thoughts of incredible sunsets, wildlife, turquoise waters and white sandy beaches (and seahorses!). We left Otis the Campervan at the designated pre-booked parking and headed off to check in. We would be travelling to the Isles of Scilly for our five day stay at Karma resort in St. Martin's. I already had a feeling that this trip was going to be special and memorable.

The Isles of Scilly are an archipelago off the Coast of Cornwall. There are a vast number of uninhabited islands, and five inhabited islands; St. Mary's, Treco, St. Agnes, Bryher and St. Martin's. You can get to the islands by the four departure points; Exeter, Newquay and Lands' End for all Skybus departures, and Penzance if you take the Scillonian III passenger ferry. We chose to take the ferry from Penzance to St. Mary's, taking advantage of the great baggage allowance, with the hope of enjoying those sea views. I was really looking forward to the journey as I think this is the where the adventure begins, and the holiday starts the moment you set off on your journey. We had waited a long time to glimpse those turquoise waters of the Isles of Scilly and we were going to enjoy every part of the experience.

We have wanted to visit the Isles of Scilly for some time, having heard so much about its rugged beauty, sparkling white sandy beaches and laid-back way of living. The Scillonian III supports just that – an opportunity to relax, unwind and enjoy the slower pace of life... (well relax and unwind as best you can with three little ones in tow!).

The journey takes around 2 hrs and 45 minutes. Once we had checked in our luggage and embarked, we set up camp in the cafe area where we could grab



copious amounts of coffee and tea (or wine if it hadn't been quite so early) and soft drinks and nibbles for the kiddies. There was plenty of space to spread out, and the girls alternated between the table area and the window seats for an hour or two, before heading out on to the deck to spot those dolphins, sharks, and erm...seahorses.

I think the youngest addition to our family found the excitement a bit too much; either that or the slow and gentle motion of the ferry soothed him to sleep for the majority of the journey – giving us even more of an opportunity to put our feet up and enjoy the views. For those who have young travellers, there is ample space for pushchairs, carriers, a platform lift and baby change available.

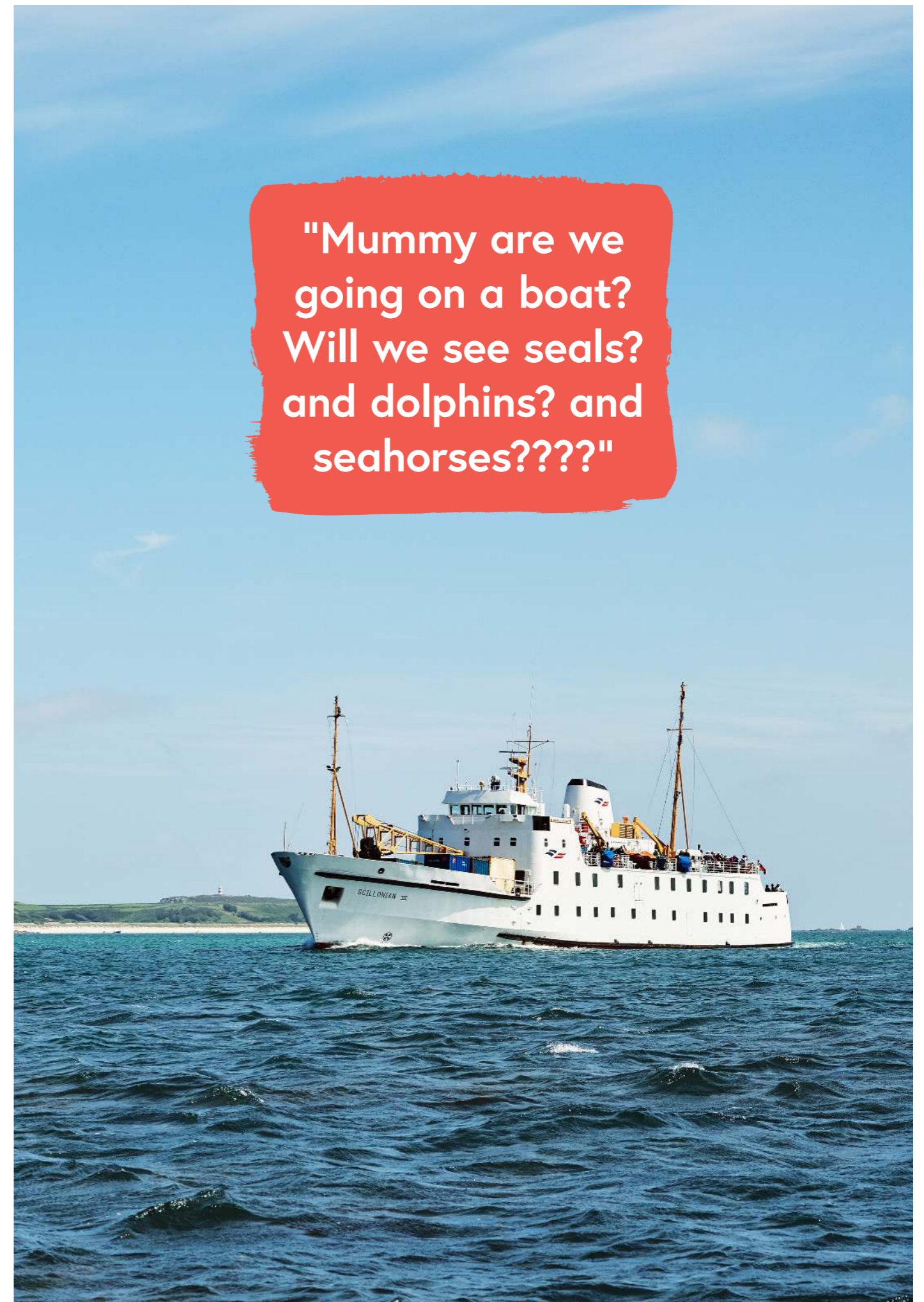
On arrival at St. Mary's, we hopped off the Scillonian III and headed around the corner to catch the Voyager, a small boat that would take us onwards to St. Martin's.

Travelling to the Isles of Scilly was seamless and organised, and our luggage followed us right through to St. Martin's. It was great that we didn't have to think about it at St. Mary's, and we had an arm free to enjoy more coffee and the delicious Cornish pasties whilst we waited.

The short journey from St. Mary's to St. Martin's was beautiful and picturesque, and the kids were mesmerised by the coastal views and wildlife. We chatted to so many people on the journey who had fallen in love with the Isles of Scilly, and families who returned each year for some quality family time and to enjoy all that the Islands had to offer.

I could see already that the islands were something really special. As I sat on the boat and looked out to the rugged coastline that was coming into view, I knew that this would be the start of our love affair with this beautiful place.

"Mummy are we going on a boat? Will we see seals? and dolphins? and seahorses????"





Flying high

The life of a Skybus pilot

We've caught up with Skybus pilot Mark Slade, as he is celebrating his tenth anniversary this year with Skybus. From towing engagement banners to flying over the Alps, Mark tells us all about his journey.

It was always a boyhood dream of mine to fly but my early life would take me into the Heating and Air Conditioning industry, but I always harboured dreams of flying for a living and I would take every opportunity to fly. In 2005 I decided to take the big plunge and realise my dream to become a Commercial Pilot.

Before I committed myself, I decided to make sure I had a chance of passing so before I sold my business I did several days of flying aptitude tests. Thankfully these went well, and I enrolled on a course at a commercial flying school in Bournemouth. Eighteen months later with 14 very demanding written exams passed and 120 hours of gruelling flight training under my belt I qualified as a Commercial Pilot.

I got my break and first proper commercial pilot job with Skybus in 2008. I started on the single engine four seater Cessna 172 scenic aircraft at Land's End. I would carry out scenic flights all over the Penwith peninsula

and I absolutely loved it! I was doing what I loved, flying, and as an added bonus I was sharing it with members of the public who were equally enthusiastic. As well as flying banners advertising local companies along the Cornish beaches, I flew 3 happy birthdays and 5 wedding proposal banners. (Four yeses and one no in case you were wondering)



In 2009 I was taken on as a First Officer on the 19 seat Twin Otter aircraft based at Newquay, flying passengers to the Isles of Scilly and taking passengers as far afield as Southampton and St Brieuc in northern France which was no mean feat in a 140-knot aircraft.

After several years, I was promoted to captain on the 8 seat Islander Aircraft based at Land's End. This brought fresh challenges as I was flying single pilot (the Twin Otter is two crew) but my time as a scenic pilot based at

Land's End helped considerably. A year later I was promoted again to Captain on the Twin Otter and moved back to Newquay.

Pilots experience some beautiful sights whilst flying, from looking out on a crystal-clear night at 25,000 feet to seeing the whole of the south of the UK lit up. I've witnessed the absolutely breath-taking scenery over the Scottish Highlands and a very memorable view of the Alps flying into Geneva on one crisp January afternoon but the descent into Scilly always takes some beating.

On a clear day you really could be anywhere in the Caribbean with the blue azure seas surrounding the white sandy beaches and sunsets that leave you spellbound.

When I decided to start my career as a pilot I wasn't aware of Skybus but if someone was to write a description for the type of commercial flying I would most enjoy Skybus and the aircraft they operate would top my list!

With its hands on flying it can be challenging but ultimately it is the most rewarding flying. Couple this with the great friends I have made, spectacular scenery I get to see and the challenges that I face on a daily basis, my ten years at Skybus have been the most enjoyable and rewarding I could have hoped for.



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General Haulage Contractor, Isles of Scilly

Shhhhh... Insider's tips

Nobody knows Scilly better than a local...
so we asked our team to share a few secrets

Which island do you love the most?

Fraser Bryher — I have fond memories of wonderful family camping holidays, (our kids loved their holidays there).

Debs St. Martin's — unspoilt tranquillity.

Chris St. Agnes is my favourite, it's the most rugged of the islands. It's the island where I feel most at home.

Alice Bryher. It's simple, laid back, and wild all at the same time.

Where would you go to find some peace and quiet?

Cath My favourite place to get away from it all is Bar Point; the beach is stunning and the view across to St. Martin's is breath-taking.

Amy I would go for a walk through the Pines down towards Bar Point and around Bant's Carn.

Emily A stroll along Pelistry onto Toll's island at low tide.

Alice I love Shipman Head on Bryher; it's wild and raw as you stare out to sea, the Atlantic rollers crash in here with nothing to your west but two thousand miles of ocean, you're sure to find peace.

What are the islands' hidden gem?

Jess Not sure I should share, as it won't remain hidden for long. I love Watermill Cove when the tide is in, and that's pretty out of the way. Also, a trip out to the Bishop Rock is simply amazing if the weather is calm enough.

Alice The magical light, the islands are small but the skies are huge; there's nowhere else quite like it.

What would you do if you're feeling active?

Debs Hire a kayak and explore the islands by sea — you get a completely different perspective and see things you wouldn't from the shore.

Emily Hire a bicycle and explore the islands 'off road'.

What gift would be the best reminder of Scilly?

Cath Scilly flowers, every time. The beautiful scents remind me of home.

Fraser Fay Page on St. Martin's sells some lovely shell charms and broaches.

Jess A return ticket for the following year?

Emily A periwinkle shell collected from your favourite beach.

Alice A piece of artwork from one of the local artists, there are lots to choose from but my favourite is Richard Pearce on Bryher.

Which is your favourite month on the islands? (and why?)

Debbie May — springtime for me is the nicest, with everything turning green and the wildlife in abundance.

Jess September — it can still be beautifully warm, the weather tends to be settled, and it's generally a lot quieter than the preceding couple of months.

Emily June — warmer weather, long light evenings, the flora is looking beautiful and the islands are still relatively quiet.

Alice October — the islands change colour to a warm deep red autumnal glow, and it's quieter, but there's still plenty going on.

What's the most romantic place on the islands?

Cath Watching the sunset over Samson from Star Castle.

Jess The top of the Garrison Hill, facing out west when the sun is setting. It really doesn't get any better than that.

Alice Watching the sunrise over Penninis lighthouse.

You want to eat out, but the usual restaurants are booked up. What do you do?

Cath I'd recommend the Scilly Fish van at Porthcressa for their freshly-cooked fish and chips. On a warm summer evening it's fun to eat them on Porthcressa beach with friends.

Emily Buy yourself some fresh fish and cool beer, and head to the beach for your own barbecue — dinner with a sunset view.

Chris I'd head to the Thai take-away van on Porthcressa, because I've always fancied trying it.



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Steamship Group
Chairman

Alice Lamming
Marketing Assistant

Emily Bliss
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Why walk in Scilly?

Walking is simply good for the soul. On the Isles of Scilly people take their time and one of the best ways to see the islands is by foot. The main form of public transport is by boat and on the off-islands – Tresco, Bryher, St. Martins and St. Agnes there are hardly any cars at all.

SEASON: SPRING

In Spring, everything comes back to life as Scilly re-awakens for the busy season to come.

Island: St. Agnes

Best for: Spring time flora, wildlife and historical vistas

Route: Journey along rugged cliff paths carpeted with gorse and wildflowers as the tide laps against the shoreline below. When landing on the island of St. Agnes, most people tend to either head straight to the pub or across to the sandbar to explore the adjoining island of Gugh (depending on the tide).

But there's a wonderful route that covers the coastline of the entire island all in under 2 hours. Step off the boat and past the pub, follow the single-track road past the sand bar to Gugh and take a left by Pot Buoys Gallery. You'll hit the coast path, follow this and you can't get lost, look out for rock formations, Bishop Rock lighthouse and Troytown farm- the perfect pit stop for the islands famous ice cream!



SEASON: SUMMER

Island: Tresco

Best for: Tropical plants and white sandy beaches

Route: Depending on the tide, you'll either be dropped at Carn Near quay or New Grimsby Quay. When being dropped at Carn Near, you're about a ten-minute walk from the famous Tresco Abbey Gardens, if time allows it's a must see.

Tresco is the cosmopolitan island, this route will take around 2 hours and offers ample views, history and rest stops too. Head up the quay at Carn Near past Appletree Banks, the heather and gorse are rich and fragrant here. Pass the gardens on

In summer, the islands are bursting with colour and are alive with activity. You can simply wander through country lanes listening to birdsong, or gently amble along the harbour admiring the colourful boats coming and going.

your left, following the typically Scillonian single track paved roads before heading off the track to your right, now you'll meet Pentle Bay, possibly one of the finest beaches in the UK!

The sand is sparkling white and water clear, it's worth walking the length and breadth of this beach. Now track off the beach to your left and you'll meet the coast path again, the view along here is divine - you'll look out to the island of St. Martin's.

Follow this path until you reach the Old Blockhouse, the Blockhouse is a great rest stop with a vista across to the neighbouring islands, it's also steeped in history. From

here you can see part of the Tresco complex, but we recommend continuing your walk to St. Nicholas Church then onto the New Inn for re-fuelling before catching the boat back at Old Grimsby.



Autumn brings wonderful warm hues and an array of visiting birds to see, as the islands are near to the golf stream, they're warmer than the mainland which makes them a haven for migrating birds.

SEASON: AUTUMN

Island: St. Martin's

Best for: Wildlife watching

Route: Take the boat to the island of St. Martin's, you'll land at either Lower Town or Higher Town quay. As always life on Scilly is governed by the sea.

As it's bird watching season, we recommend venturing for the extensive flats exposed at low tide at Lower Town. From here you'll see wading birds such as Sanderling, ringed Plover and Turnstone. If you land at Lower Town literally jump onto the beach and walk around 2 minutes around the corner to meet the St. Martin's flats.

Continue your walk up over the dunes and across the middle of the island, you'll soon meet the other coast (around 20 minutes walk). This will bring you out to look down

to Great and Little Bay; if the wind is from the east, this open, wilder side of the island is a good place to spot flocks of meadow pipits.

By now you're bound to be getting a bit peckish, just a short 15 minute walk over the hill from here brings you to Higher Town.

We recommend stopping at the St. Martin's Bakery for their famous pasties and fresh breads.

There are lots of tracks from here that will take you down to Par Beach and the quay to catch the inter-island boats, either follow the road signed to the quay or for the more adventurous head off track and you'll soon end up on the dunes of Par Beach.

If your boat drops you at the opposite quay, just do the walk the other way round!



It's difficult to get lost on the Isles of Scilly, but you're never far from a friendly local to point you in the right direction. There's maps and guides available to buy on-board Scillonian and at Land's End Airport as well the Tourist Information Centre.



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. Walk Scilly events take place in April and October each year.

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 Westward Farm gin

From Scilly's only distillery, hand made on St. Agnes in tiny batches. Enjoy a glass of our unique gins in many of Scilly's restaurants and pubs, and why not take a bit of that Scilly spirit home with you and make your holiday last longer.

www.westwardfarm.co.uk

2 Scilly Flowers

Scilly's postal flower service sending gift boxes of scented flowers all year round to any UK postal address. Churchtown Farm, St. Martin's. Scillyflower.co.uk

3 Fay Page

Inspired by hours of shell searching and beachcombing on Scilly's beaches. Made from solid silver these treasures won't turn to sand in your pockets and will last a lifetime. Visit their St. Martin's workshop or website for a lovely Scilly memento.

www.faypage.co.uk

4 SC Salt

SC Salt is simply made from the sea and the sun on the Isles of Scilly. Hand made Sea Salt from the crystal clear waters of St. Martins Par. Available locally, onboard the Scillonian or at Land's End airport and online.

www.sc-salt.co.uk
info@sc-salt.co.uk

5 Scilly Billy

Scilly Billy offers a range of T-shirts, hoodies and bags with designs featuring the fun, charm and characters of the Isles of Scilly. Find them all at our pop-up shop on St. Martin's this summer and at our online shop. scillybilly.com



6 Gift vouchers

Climb aboard our Skybus Britten Norman Islander aircraft for a spectacular, aerial perspective of West Cornwall's most famous landmarks. It could be a special anniversary or birthday treat, or simply the high point of a holiday. www.islesofscilly-travel/scenicflights

Travel vouchers – Give the gift of escape. Whether it's a big birthday or congratulations are in order, why not let your friends in on the Scilly secret? **Call 01736 334220 to buy and Isles of Scilly Travel gift voucher.**

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ISLES OF SCILLY



A WORLD APART...
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Star Castle Hotel, St Mary's

Star Castle, St. Mary's finest Hotel, spectacularly overlooks the Harbour. The second, third, fourth and fifth generations of the Francis family welcome you to a selection of excellent accommodation, two Award-Winning Restaurants & the atmospheric Dungeon Bar. We feature the finest seafood from our own hotel fishing boat, complimented by the best local produce and personal selection of fine wines.

Open for dinner daily from mid- February until the end of October.



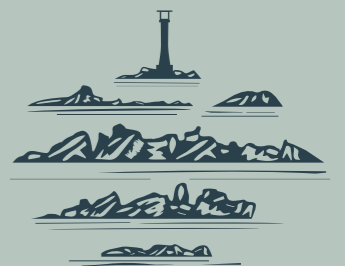
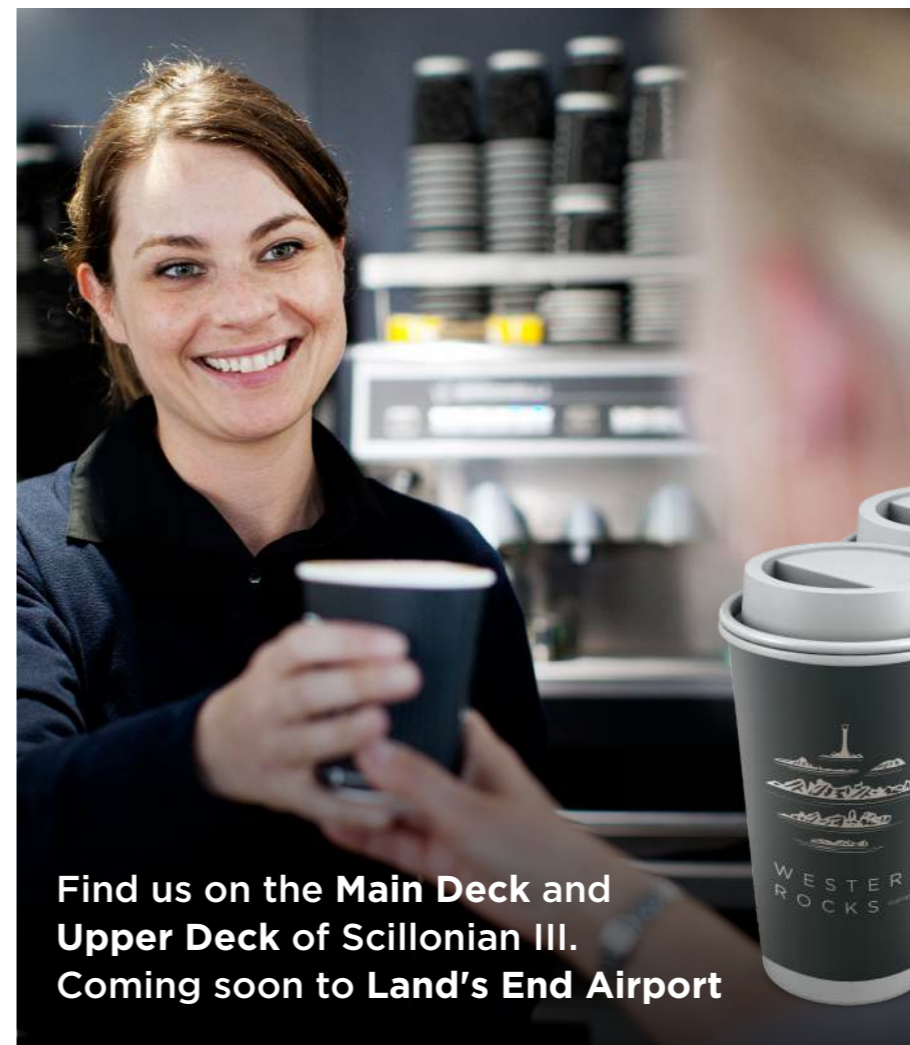
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RELAX IN COMFORT

Offering a wide range of hot and cold drinks, delicious sandwiches and snacks. WiFi now available.



Find us on the Main Deck and Upper Deck of Scillonian III.
Coming soon to Land's End Airport



Introducing Island Helicopters

The new helicopter service from
Land's End Airport to the Isles of Scilly

A brand new helicopter service to the Isles of Scilly will offer a third way of reaching this magical destination.

This spring will see helicopters return to the Isles of Scilly, with a new, highly weather-resilient operation launching to complement the existing Skybus fixed-wing flights and Scillonian III passenger ferry services.

Isles of Scilly Travel, part of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Group, has partnered with Gloucester-based Specialist Aviation Services (SAS) to launch Island Helicopters from Land's End Airport, in direct response to huge demand from the thousands eager to see helicopters return to the Scilly route.

Helicopters are not just an enormously exciting way of travelling, offering a truly memorable trip to this special archipelago on board a speedy and comfortable modern machine, but are also a mode of transport best able to cope with the varying weather conditions Cornwall sometimes experiences.

Passengers of Island Helicopters will be able to enjoy the same, breathtaking aerial views of Scilly and the Cornish coastline that are enjoyed every day from those travelling aboard Skybus planes – but this time from the comfort of a brand new, 10-seater AW169 helicopter.

And owing to the resilience of these modern helicopters which are designed to fly in more inclement weathers, passengers should have more reliability of service to make their journeys easier, in addition to the extra choice available as to how they reach the Isles of Scilly.

The return of the Helicopter is a really exciting time and has had a huge amount of interest, with thousands of people registering their interest in the service before tickets even went on sale in April.

Many people have really missed the helicopter since a previous operation stopped in 2012 and are eager to have the option of travelling by helicopter again now.

“We partnered with SAS to make Island Helicopters happen in direct response to the demand we knew existed, so we can offer visitors and islanders more choice about how they travel to the Isles of Scilly, as well as ensuring our services are more resilient and reliable, whatever the weather.”

Helicopter passengers will also benefit from the modern facilities available at Land's End Airport, which already handles more than 60,000 passengers a year, with over 10,000 aircraft movements.

The airport is just seven miles from Penzance, and was completely upgraded in recent years, with the creation of a £1 million new terminal building, extra car parking and better runways installed to be more weather-resilient.

Fares for the Island Helicopter service start from £215 for a return ticket and there will be up to eight flights a day, six days a week.

Passengers can park at Land's End Airport or take advantage of an all-new park and ride service chauffeuring them from Penzance train station.

Find out more about how to travel to Scilly by Island Helicopters at www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/islesofscillyhelicopter



KARMA ST. MARTIN'S POPS THE BIG QUESTION: AISLE OR ISLE?



Found your match made in heaven?! Congrats! Now all that remains for you and your best beloved to do is to take a walk down the wedding aisle – but where?!

Somewhere soulful, affordable. A place as uncommon and pure as your love – and almost as hard to find.

But if you're dreaming of an idyllic wedding with a private beach, why stop there? Why not get an entire island to celebrate your special day?

Take your wedding from the altar to the alternate

There's a lot to be said for island weddings with that dreamy, castaway Robinson Crusoe feeling. But not if you want to treat yourselves and your wedding guests to the luxurious accommodations befitting such a momentous occasion. That's because choosing remote-feeling, out-of-the-ordinary destination wedding locations often means having to compromise on comfort, style and pampering.

Unless, of course, you happen to get married on the island of St. Martin's, designated an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1975.

Flower-and-heather lined St. Martin's not only boasts the sole luxury resort among the off islands, but the only licensed wedding venue among them as well – Karma St. Martin's.

Karma St. Martin's is a stone's throw from the beach yet a world apart from everyday life, nestled in the bosom of a wildlife sanctuary abounding with exotic flora and fauna. From a distance, the resort appears as a hamlet of traditional stone cottages. Inside, it is a luxurious contemporary hotel comprised of 30 guest rooms -- including a honeymoon suite -- complete with restaurant, breathtaking ocean views, classic English interior design, and a top-notch spa.

The level of service that makes every moment of your wedding day bespoke, there couldn't be a more impossibly romantic destination in which to say "I do."

Choose among three enchanting wedding settings:

The Tean Room – Karma St. Martin's most popular wedding venue, located on the first floor and ideally suited for a larger wedding group. In a traditional set-up of seating either side of the aisle, paired with breathtaking floor-to-ceiling views of white-sand beaches and glistening azure waters beyond.

The Cloudesley Shovell Restaurant – Exchange marriage vows surrounded by family and friends in an intimate, nautical-themed restaurant with gorgeous ground-level ocean and subtropical garden views.

The Honeymoon Suite – This is the perfect space for small and intimate ceremonies with sweeping vistas over the bay, the lighthouse, and ocean beyond.

Whether you're planning a lavish wedding or an intimate celebration, Karma has you and your guests covered down to the very last detail. Simply choose the package and price that is right for you, or let Karma St. Martin's wedding specialists help create a bespoke wedding package to suit your needs for the most special day of your life.

If you're intending to take a walk down the wedding aisle, take it on the wedding isle of St. Martin's, and turn your marriage vows into wedding vows for memories that will last a lifetime.

Book now at www.karmastmartins.com or speak to our friendly reservations team on **+44 3333 232 353** or st.martins@karmaresorts.com

www.karmastmartins.com

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THE LOWDOWN ON LUGGAGE

WITH THE NEW ISLAND HELICOPTERS SERVICE OUR
PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN ASKING ABOUT LUGGAGE



SCILLONIAN

Hold luggage

Allowance per person	2 pieces
Max weight	25Kg per person*
Max Size	85cm x 60cm x 40cm

If you're using a joint allowance, no single piece should weigh more than 20Kg. Day trip tickets do not include a hold luggage allowance but are welcomed to take 1 piece of hand luggage weighing no more than 5Kg.

Hand luggage

Allowance per person	1 small bag
Max weight	5Kg
Max Size	40cm x 55cm x 20cm

Please ensure your luggage is clearly labelled with your name, booking reference, mobile number, where you're staying and your mainland address.

Excess luggage

Cost	£26 per 50Kg return (including camping & diving equipment)
Bicycles (inc. trailers)	£26 return
Children's bikes & Scooters (under 5)	£10
Kayaks / Canoes	£72 return

Please book your excess luggage in advance. Camping and diving equipment can also be taken, but please pass any gas cylinders to quay staff for safety. Musical instruments and fishing rods must be flight cased for shipping and bicycles appropriately protected for the journey. To book your excess luggage please call our travel centre on 01736 334220.



SKYBUS

Hold luggage

Allowance per person	2 pieces
Max weight	15Kg (combined)
Max size	75cm x 50cm x 30cm

If you're using a joint allowance, please make sure no single piece of luggage weighs more than 20Kg. Day trips do not include a hold baggage allowance.

Cabin luggage

Allowance per person	1 piece
Max weight	3Kg
Max size	30cm x 15cm x 15cm

Important: You can bring a small bag as hand luggage, but cases that would be allowed on larger aircraft may not be allowed, so please check the size carefully.

You can also bring an overcoat, small camera, binoculars and something to read. If you are in any doubt about an item you'd like to take on-board, please feel free to check with our travel centre on 01736 334220.

Excess luggage

Cost £5 per KG

Excess luggage space is limited, so please check with Skybus on 01736 785233, and remember to ask about both for your outward and return flights. If either flight is full, it may be possible to find room for your luggage on the next available flight. If you are in any doubt about an item you'd like to take on-board, please feel free to check with our travel centre on 01736 334220.



ISLAND HELICOPTERS

Hold luggage

Allowance per person	1 piece
Max weight	15Kg (combined)
Max size	60cm x 40cm x 30cm

If you're using a joint allowance, please make sure no single piece of luggage weighs more than 20Kg. Day trips do not include a hold baggage allowance.

Cabin luggage

Allowance per person	1 piece
Max weight	3Kg
Max size	30cm x 15cm x 15cm

Important: You can bring a small bag as hand luggage, but cases that would be allowed on larger aircraft may not be allowed, so please check the size carefully. You can also bring an overcoat, small camera, binoculars and something to read. If you are in any doubt about an item you'd like to take on-board, please feel free to check with our travel centre on 01736 334220.

**PLEASE SEE THE PLAN YOUR TRIP SECTION OF OUR
WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS OR CALL 01736 334220**

*No single piece of luggage should weigh more than 20Kg.



Connect to Scilly **GWR Night Riviera**

Take the newly refurbished Night Riviera to Penzance then join Skybus, Island Helicopters or Scillonian for a relaxing car-free trip to Scilly.

The Isles of Scilly are truly an unspoilt paradise that is a world apart from everyday life and offers peace, quiet and relaxation in beautiful surroundings. By using GWR's Night Riviera sleeper service, you'll begin your break as you mean to go on – relaxed and refreshed.

The sleeper service travels every evening in both directions between London Paddington and Penzance Station, arriving the following morning. From Penzance it's a short walk along the quay to board the Scillonian III passenger ferry or if you are booked to fly from Land's End Airport, the shuttle bus service, found at the station bus stop, can transport you to your connecting Skybus or Island Helicopters flight.

Upgrades to the Night Riviera Sleeper Service

GWR in partnership with Cornwall Council is conducting a major upgrade to the sleeper service which is due to be completed this spring. Passengers are however already

seeing improvements to the service with many of the newly designed sleeping berths already in use.

The improved service will feature a redesigned onboard lounge, a new menu and accessible cabins – each service will have one accessible cabin and an accessible toilet. New sleeper lounges at Penzance and Truro Stations are also being installed with the help of Cornwall Council.

The newly upgraded cabins feature:

- USB charging points and plug sockets
- Keyless door locks
- Free WiFi
- Redesigned sink with integrated table and waste bin underneath
- Wardrobe and extra space to store luggage beneath bottom bed
- A choice of lighting – including a reading lamp
- A redesigned bottom bunk which converts into a sofa.

How much does it cost?

The cost of a single occupancy cabin is £70 in addition to a GWR ticket price, or £90 for a double occupancy cabin. The price includes exclusive use of the onboard lounge, with complimentary non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks. Customers also have the use of the First Class Lounge and showers at London Paddington.

The prices of the Night Riviera are designed to offer value for money as an alternative to a traditional hotel.

It runs from Paddington to Penzance 23.45 to 07.53, and 23.50 to 08.59 on Sundays. The return sleeper service runs from Penzance to Paddington from 21.45 to 05.23 or from 21.15 to 05.03 on Sundays. In this instance you can, of course, stay on board the train until 07.00 if you wish. The service stops throughout the night at various points along the route.

Find out more by visiting www.gwr.com or call 03757 000 125.



Connect to Scilly with **Flybe** and **Skybus**

Catch one of the many Flybe flights to Newquay or Exeter from across the UK then join Skybus for the short hop to Scilly.

Start your island adventure by flying to the Isles of Scilly, with connecting flights from Flybe and Skybus linking together seamlessly so you can journey to the islands with ease.

Have a relaxing journey to the stunning archipelago with connecting flights from some major UK airports taking just two hours to link you from your home to the Isles of Scilly. It's now quicker and easier than ever to visit the magical islands. Flybe offers regular flights into Newquay and Exeter Airport from cities including London, Manchester, Newcastle, Dublin and Edinburgh

Connecting with Skybus

Fly via Exeter Airport from Manchester to St Mary's and have your feet on the island in just two hours and twenty minutes. Or if you're connecting at Newquay Airport, flights from Stanstead, Gatwick and Birmingham take less than two hours, giving you even more time to discover your own island story.

The Skybus experience

When you step on board your connecting Skybus flight, you'll soon realise the trip will be one you'll never forget. Although you might end up wishing it was longer as Skybus flights take just 30 minutes from Newquay Airport and only 60 minutes from Exeter.

No matter where you fly from, you'll experience striking views from your Skybus plane which are second to none. Take in the wonder of Exeter's gothic cathedral as you begin your Skybus journey over the Devon countryside and Tamar Valley before you pass into Cornwall, where you'll be in awe of the Eden Project, Truro Cathedral and famous landmarks.

When connecting at Newquay Airport you'll immediately be greeted by incredible views of the North Cornish coast with cliffs and beaches framing the idyllic towns and villages. Keep an eye out for the historic mining works and engine houses of Poldark country.

If at any point during your journey you can tear your eyes away from the window, you'll be able to watch the pilots navigate the plane through the open cockpit, making flying with Skybus a truly immersive experience.

How much does it cost?

Skybus flights start from £102.50 for single adult fare from Newquay to St Mary's with flights from Exeter beginning at £152.50. Fares for connecting Flybe flights are available at www.flybe.com. Airports with connecting Flybe flights from Newquay include Belfast, Birmingham, Dusseldorf, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Stanstead. Airports with connecting Flybe flights from Exeter include Paris, Amsterdam, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Guernsey, Jersey, London City, Manchester and Newcastle.

Find out more call the Travel Centre on 01736 334220 or visit www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk. For Flybe information, visit www.flybe.com

Amazing Wildlife

We've partnered up with the RSPB and ORCA to collect vital data of wildlife species that are regularly spotted on the crossing to the Isles of Scilly. The coastal waters around West Cornwall are rich in wildlife; Marazion is often a hotspot for dolphins and basking sharks and are known to follow Scillonian out to the coast as far west as Land's End.

Sailing on Scillonian III is one of the best ways of connecting with cetaceans and viewing seabirds. In 2017 the RSPB ran a weekly survey on-board Scillonian III, each month is different with different species to be seen. See which ones you can spot this year from Scillonian, Skybus or Island Helicopters.

Birds

March to July

Puffins were spotted from Scillonian

– were spotted 3 times in 2017.

May to August

Storm Petrel are small and often difficult to spot but came alongside Scillonian. Manx Shearwater were seen feeding in the waters off Land's End

September

Sootys Shearwater were seen often

October

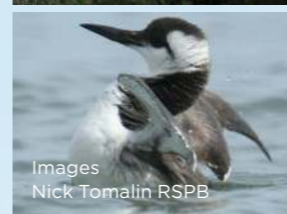
Artic Skua were seen up to the last Scillonian sailing in November

August

Wilson's Storm Petrel, a sought after rare visitor

Images clockwise from top left

Manx Shearwater, Turnstone Shag, Guillemot



Images
Nick Tomalin RSPB



Marine life

Above Common dolphin

ORCA OceanWatch encourages bridge crews and seafarers across the UK ferry & cruise network to collect sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises (collectively known as cetaceans) during a dedicated part of the summer.

Common Dolphin, Harbour Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin were seen throughout the season, often right alongside the ship. Risso's Dolphin were seen once. There were also at least two if not more Minke Whale seen from July to October, often around Wolf Rock Lighthouse. Atlantic Grey Seal are seen regularly around the Cornish coast.

A Leather back Turtle was seen in October.

In October over 30 Portuguese Man o' War jellyfish were sighted from Scillonian. Where there are large numbers of small fish, there are likely to be big fish... and huge Atlantic Bluefin Tuna were seen on several days (These were viewed from Skybus too!). Other species of fish included Ocean Sunfish.

Whether at sea on-board Scillonian III, or on land, keep your eyes peeled and capture any sightings. Be sure to share what you see with us on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

Fly by helicopter from Land's End Airport to the Isles of Scilly

BOOKING NOW, FIRST FLIGHT 21ST MAY



ISLES OF SCILLY
Travel

A stylized graphic element consisting of three overlapping, curved shapes in blue, red, and white, resembling a wave or a stylized 'S'.

Discover more at islesofscilly-travel.co.uk
or call 01736 334220 #connectscilly