

THE ISLES OF SCILLY ARE THE FIRST PLACE IN THE COUNTRY TO GREET THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING

Visit the UK's finest staycation destination in 2021 - the perfect alternative to a European break

Lying just 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly are a group of sand-fringed islands bathed in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, meaning they enjoy an especially mild climate.

With their white sand beaches and clear blue seas, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd flown long haul to an exotic overseas destination rather than a 15-minute hop with Skybus from Land's End, 30 minutes from Newquay or under an hour from Exeter. The Scillonian III ferry from Penzance takes a gentle two hours and 45 minutes.

And when you arrive, you'll discover why the most south-westerly part of the South West is the region's best kept secret, with car-free roads and empty beaches enabling you to unwind and destress.

Life here moves at a slower pace, as relaxing as the rhythm of the tides, with a peace and quiet the mainland often lacks.

Five wild, unspoiled inhabited islands are connected by inter-island ferries, with a host of other uninhabited islands to explore, all bathed in clear, turquoise waters.

Walk and explore, watch grey seals playing in the ocean and try to spot puffins, or just soak up some of the best sunsets you'll ever see over slowcooked, local food: every moment on Scilly is one to remember.

Your holiday feels longer when you move at a slower pace, and on Scilly you'll have plenty of space to relax in; yours may be the only footprints on the beach, and there are miles of coastal footpaths to wander in peace.

Discover the delights of the islands as you reconnect with nature, all of Scilly is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and its rare and unusual flora and fauna are protected and main-tained by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust.

If it's adventure you crave, hire a kayak to seek out a hidden cove, try snorkelling with seals, or take a wildlife safari boat to look for rare birds and wildlife.

A less strenuous day out is simply to island-hop between St Mary's, Tresco, St Martin's, Bryher and St Agnes by catching one of the daily ferries, and discover the individual charms of each island at your leisure.

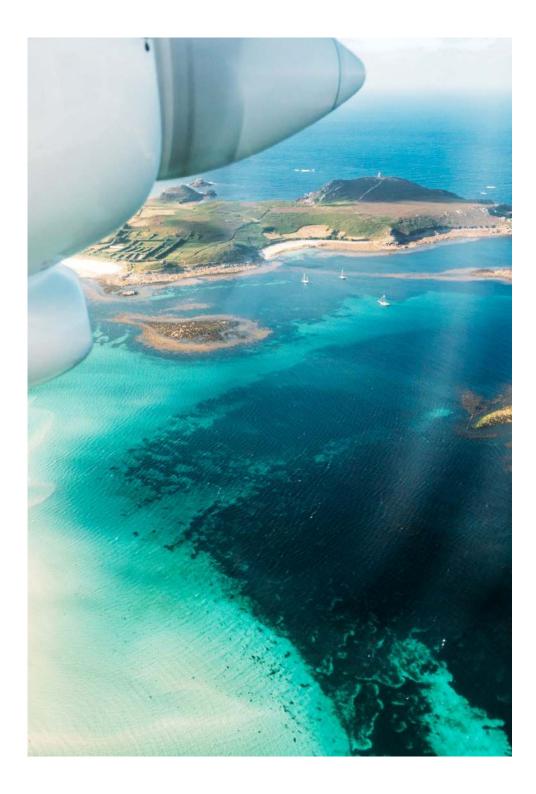
Fresh fish and seafood are the stars of the show amidst a wealth of local produce to enjoy, and Scilly is a gardener's paradise with bright and colourful exotic plants thriving in the subtropical cli-mate.

The Isles of Scilly is famous for drawing visitors back year after year - so make 2021 the year you discover why and take your part in the story of these islands.

Isles of Scilly Travel can connect you with the islands by air with Skybus flights from Land's End, Newquay or Exeter, or sail on the Scillonian III ferry from Penzance.

In the light of Covid-19, all bookings are transferable with free amendments and cancellations, and both Skybus and Scillonian are operating in a Covid-secure manner with social distancing, mandato-ry mask wearing and hand sanitising among the practices in place to ensure the safety of passen-gers, crews and islanders.

However you choose to make the crossing, the journey itself will be a unique part of your holiday memories.



FLYING WITH SKYBUS

The Isles of Scilly in 15 minutes - it's that simple

Skybus flights operate from Exeter, Newquay and Land's End Airports and take as little as 15 minutes to reach Scilly.

There are stunning aerial views of the Cornish coastline whichever route you take, and when the islands come into view you'll have a unique opportunity to see the Isles of Scilly from the air as you come in to land at St Mary's Airport.

Flights leave year-round from Land's End Airport (15 minutes) and Cornwall Airport Newquay (30 minutes), and from Exeter Airport (60 minutes) six days a week between March and October.

Thanks to a new partnership with Loganair, from April 2021 Skybus services will connect directly with Loganair services to and from airports at major UK cities including Manchester, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow, connecting through Exeter and Newquay Airports.

You can buy one combined ticket from www.loganair.co.uk for your trip.

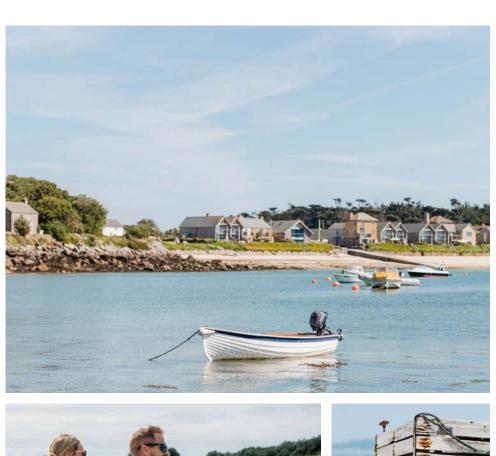
There is also a dedicated shuttle bus running between Land's End Airport and Penzance train station, enabling connections from Skybus flights to GWR rail services to London Paddington and other regional railway stations.



Secure car parking is available at all three airports, and Isles of Scilly Travel's dedicated Land's End Airport is small and friendly with no long waits and helpful staff on hand to help you check in just one hour before your flight.

Enjoy a coffee and admire the sea views from full length windows looking out over the coast, with no need to worry about rushing or queuing in a busy terminal.

When you walk out to board your DHC-6 Twin Otter plane, you'll be greeted personally by your pilot before enjoying a truly memorable flight.













SAILING WITH SCILLONIAN

Start unwinding with a relaxing sail along the Cornish coast

The Scillonian III ferry takes a gentle two hours and 45 minutes to sail to the Isles of Scilly from Pen-zance, creating a truly peaceful start to your Scilly break.

Sailings leave Penzance up to seven days a week from spring until late autumn and offer a scenic boat trip along the Cornish coastline before arriving at St. Mary's Quay.

You'll pass by famous landmarks like St Michael's Mount, Porthcurno beach and the Minack Theatre as well as quaint fishing villages and towering cliff tops before the islands themselves come into view.

Look out for pods of dolphins playing in the ferry's wake or try to spot rare birds and marine wild-life; there is plenty of time for wildlifespotting from the deck.

There are comfy, reclining seats inside and you can enjoy hot and cold drinks and a range of snacks from the on-board cafe, Western Rocks Coffee Company.

Dogs are welcome on board too with designated areas for your four-legged friend.

Travelling to the ferry departure point is a relaxed process too. Penzance Quay is just a short walk from the town's train station, with its direct rail services to London Paddington.



If you're driving, there is ample car parking just 1.7 miles away at the Scillonian Ferry Car Park and Ride, with quick six minute transfers to and from the quay, or a large pay and display public car park opposite the main harbour.

If you're torn between flying and sailing, you can do both with a Fly+Sail option offering the chance to book a Skybus flight to Scilly with a Scillonian return journey - an especially memorable way of enjoying a day trip to Scilly from the Cornish mainland.











WHAT'S ON 2021

The perfect staycation at any time of the year

A Scilly staycation is as relaxing as the rhythm of the tides, making the islands the perfect place to take life at a slower pace - but if you want to do more, the islands have a lively events calendar all year round.

A variety of events, from major international sporting championships and walking tours to food and drink festivals, are held annually across the five inhabited islands and offer a range of oppor-tunities to enjoy Scilly at its finest.

Some events in 2021, including the famous World Pilot Gig Championships, have sadly had to be cancelled owing to Covid-19 but are expected to go ahead in May the following year.

Other individual events may be subject to change depending on the latest Government guidelines for social distancing and travel; please check beforehand.

Walking is the best way to explore the islands, and the popular twice-yearly Walk Scilly festivals offer a host of guided walks led by local experts. In 2021, the festivals are due to be held in April and October.

Scilly's famous Low Tide Events are a uniquely Scillonian experience with a pop-up festival of food and live music held mid-channel between the islands of Tresco and Bryher and an opportunity to walk across the sandbar. Low Tide events in 2021 are planned for April 27th, May 27th and October 7th , subject to Government guidelines.

Many visitors enjoy watching the Ötillö Swimrun World Championship, an endurance swim-run event held across the islands which is taking place from June 19th-20th in 2021, or try swimming between islands themselves in the Scilly 360 Swim Race.

You can celebrate Scilly's fantastic home-grown produce at the annual Taste of Scilly Festival held in September.

Other regular annual events include the Scilly Folk Festival in the spring and the Creative Scilly Festival each autumn.

Dates and full details of all these events will be published on the Visit Isles of Scilly website.

Visit www.visitislesofscilly.com to learn more.



ISLES OF SCILLY TRAVEL. BY SHIP | BY PLANE

Isles of Scilly Travel can connect you to Scilly by air or sea.

FACT BOX

Skybus flights operate year-round from both Land's End Airport, taking just 15 minutes, and from Newquay (30 minutes) between Monday and Saturday. Scheduled flights from Exeter Airport run six days a week between March and October, and reach Scilly in under an hour.

Standard return fares start from £186.50 from Land's End, £256.50 from Newquay and £359 from Exeter.

From spring through to late autumn, the Scillonian III passenger ferry sails up to seven days a week between Penzance and St. Mary's. Standard return ferry crossings start from £117.90.

To book your journey, phone 01736 334220 or visit www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk

In the light of Covid-19, Isles of Scilly Travel/ is offering transferable bookings with free amend-ments and cancellations on both Skybus and Scillonian crossings.

ISLES OF SCILLY

covid-19/ islesofscillytravel (islesofscillytravel)

Skybus, Scillonian and Land's End Airport

are all operating in a Covid-secure manner

are in line with Government best practice

to ensure the safety and protection of all

These include social distancing, mandatory

mask wearing and hand sanitising stations.

You can find out more about Covid-secure

measures at www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/

passengers, crews and islanders.

with a number of measures put in place that

BOOKING A PRESS TRIP

Enjoy a Scilly Staycation in 2021

Isles of Scilly Travel can offer a select number of journalists, travel bloggers and social media influencers the chance to visit Scilly on a press trip.

Your trip includes complimentary travel, accommodation, and a selection of meals and/or activities during your stay, chosen to complement your publication, feature angle and audience.

In addition, we put together a suggested itinerary, tailored to suit your needs.

Travel can be either return Skybus flights from Land's End, Newquay or Exeter Airport, or return ferry travel via the Scillonian III passenger ferry; mode of travel is based on availability and publication suitability.

Travel and accommodation is complimentary for one journalist and a guest. Decisions on discounts for further press trip companions are based on the angle of the feature.

Complimentary places can only be provided for children if the feature will be strongly focused on family-friendly holidays.

Journalists will be asked to post on social media throughout their trip, with links to Isles of Scilly Travel's channels, and to include the hashtag #ScillyStaycation.

Overall, we would require at least one review in print media, two blog posts online, or an agreed set number of social media posts both during and following your trip.

Any review must include the Isles of Scilly fact box below as a minimum, along with the URL for the company's website www.islesofscilly-travel. co.uk

Travel to and from the Isles of Scilly is weather dependent, and journalists should note that both sailings and flights can sometimes be affected by poor weather conditions, such as low lying clouds or strong winds. If bad weather is forecast, it may be advisable to reschedule your press trip.



