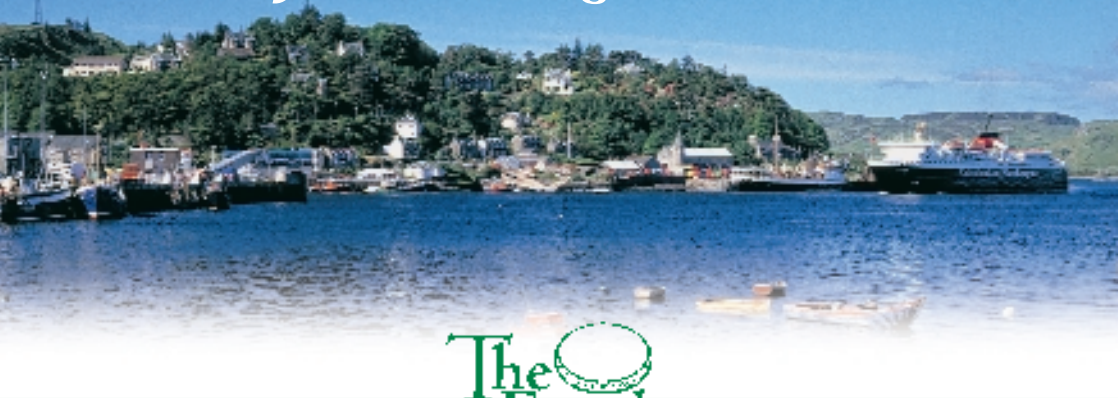


The Very Best Things to See and Do



Inside - “Unmissable on your Doorstep” featuring:

- The Glorious Gardens of Argyll & Bute
- The Islands
- Iona
- Kilmartin

Plus comprehensive area guide with special grading

♥ for romance ♿ for disabled access 🚲 cycling 🐕 for dog walking

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Boat Trips, Whales & Seals | 11 Short Walks |
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“Unmissable on your Doorstep”

The Glorious Gardens of Argyll & Bute

19 stunning and varied gardens
Many interesting houses and castles
Plants from around the world



Oriental Gardens, Torosay Castle



Tobermory, Isle of Mull

The Islands

From tiny Easdale to Mull
Great views, birdwatching and walking
Go under your own steam or take a tour



Iona

Birthplace of British Christianity
Visit the Abbey
Explore the beaches



Standing Stones, Ballymeanoch

Kilmartin




350 ancient monuments within a six mile radius
Exhibition and visitor centre
Visit Dunadd, ancient capital of Dalriada

1 Boat Trips, Whales and Seals

- 1 5 mins
Map Ref: C2 **Seals & the private island trips** – There are several operators on the front in Oban. **Gordon Grant** on the pier is one of the larger and more organised – but just size up the boat and the skipper and take your pick! Gordon Grant – 01631 562842, www.staffatours.com.
- 2 40 mins
B2 **Sea.fari Adventures** – the original and we think the best RIB ride in the area taking in the Garvellachs and The Gulf of Corryvreckan with great commentary. You have to drive to Easdale (4.7) but its worth it. 01852 300003, www.seafari.co.uk.
- 3 2 hours
A3
♥ **Whale watching with Sea Life Surveys** – daily whale watching and research cruises from Tobermory. A genuine charitable concern that has discovered populations of whales and dolphins off the west coast. Shop on the main street in Tobermory. 01688 302916, www.sealifesurveys.com.
- 4 5-30 mins
C2 **Small Boat Hire** – in Oban we recommend **Borro Boats** on 01631 563292 (April - October) or drive to quiet Dalavich by Taynuilt and try **Lochaweside Marine** on 01866 844209.
- 5 30 mins
♥ **Into the mountains – Loch Etive Cruises** sail on fjord-like Loch Etive where only boats can reach. Cruises leave Taynuilt at 10, 12 and 2pm, Sunday - Friday, Easter to October. 01866 822430.
- 6 5 mins
C2 **Puffin Adventures** – do regular diving and boat trips including try-a-dive. The Sound of Mull is one the finest diving locations in the UK. Drop into the shop on the main street opposite the Cinema or call 01631 566088, www.puffin.org.uk.
- 7 5 mins
C2
♥ ♿ **Cruise to Colonsay** – if you like a bigger boat and want to see the Islands we can't recommend highly enough the trip to Colonsay on the Calmac Ferry on a fine day. This big ferry runs a lifeline service to this small Island so they are keen to get people on board and offer surprisingly nice dinner cruises. Special views. Call in at the Calmac ticket office on the pier, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk.
- 8 5 mins
C2
♿ **The Waverley** – in May the world's last sea-going paddle steamer offers super cruises from Oban – it will be busy but pick a good day and this will be memorable, 0141 221 8152, www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk. If you like old boats then try the **Lady Rowena** from Loch Awe Village to see Kilchurn Castle (7.4), 01838 200440.
- 9 45 mins
♥ **Gemini Cruises** for the remoter islands & private cruises. Mike Murray runs a compact stable high-powered catamaran from Crinan. He does regular cruises and a custom water-taxi service. He has a great local knowledge and if you would like your own trip to Jura, Corryvreckan or the Garvellachs then this is the one for you. 01546 830238 or visit www.gemini-crinan.co.uk.

2 Fantastic Beaches & Bays

- 1 10 mins
C2 **Ganavan Sands** – Oban's own beach. Go left at the roundabout as you head North out of Oban and follow the road along the harbour front for about 2 miles – also a pleasant walk. The beach can be busy but peace can usually be found by carrying on the rocky path beyond the beach which eventually leads to Dunstaffnage (11.4).
- 2 20 mins
C3 **Tralee Bay** – another popular family beach but big enough to cope. Drive North from Oban A828 over the Connel Bridge to Benderloch. Park in the centre of the village and follow signs.
- 3 2 hours
A3
♥ **Calgary Beach, Mull** – the origin of the Canadian City can be found at the Western end of the B8073 past Dervaig. Beautiful sand and excellent refreshments at nearby Hotel.
- 4 **Smaller Beaches & Bays** can be discovered with the aid of the Ordnance Survey map and a little adventure. There are many treasured spots throughout the islands – try Iona, the Ross of Mull, and the minor coastal roads around Seil and the Ardfern area.

- 1 3 hours +
C3
 **Lismore** – By ferry or foot from Oban pier (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk). On Lismore hire a bike or just walk this quiet green Island. A great day out. Alternatively drive north to Port Appin on A828 (3.4) where the road ends and the passenger ferry takes 5 minutes to cross to lovely Lismore. Last crossing 8pm. Fit in a visit to the Pier House Restaurant at the ferry slipway.
- 2 3 hours +
C2-D1
 **Around Loch Awe** – you have a choice of ways to get to know this long and lovely loch. Head to Taynuilt on the A85 then go right to Kilchrenan through beautiful Glen Nant on the B845, then 18 miles of quiet unclassified roads between forest and loch with many walking opportunities. When you reach Ford at the other end you can loop back up the other side of the Loch or pick up the A816 back into Oban from the south.
- 3 3 hours +
C2 **The Crinan Canal** – a charming small old-time canal with little automation. Its fun watching the yachtties push their way through and its in a very picturesque setting close to historic Kilmartin (7.6). Head south on the A816 then follow the signs for Crinan just south of Kilmartin. You can extend by taking the lovely minor road south to Tayvallich. Lunch Stops at Crafty Kitchen, Ardfern (14.4), The Crinan Hotel, Tayvallich, the Cairn in Kilmartin (14.8).
- 4 2 hours +
C3
 **Appin** – head North to Kidnapped country and take in classic views such as Castle Stalker (5.5). Take the A828 then pickup the first left sign for Appin and follow the loop of unclassified road around the coast. Great lunch stop at The Pierhouse, Port Appin and trips to Lismore (3.1). The best view of Castle Stalker is from further along the A828 where it takes a sharp right hand turn to the top of a steep hill. A new visitor centre is under construction here.
- 5 6 hours +
A2-B3 **Around Mull** – Mull is an Island full of variety and a day doesn't really do it justice. We'd recommend that you do Iona on a separate day. Take the Calmac Ferry from the pier (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk) then take the A849 to Salen. Take a left here on the B8035 before picking up the coastal B8073 to take you anti-clockwise around the Island. Favourite stops are Ulva, Calgary Bay and Tobermory.
- 6 Day
A2 **Iona** – take a whole day for this long but worthwhile journey to the cradle of British Christianity. Visit the Abbey and explore the colourful rocky and sandy beaches of this lovely Island. Take the Mull Ferry (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk) then follow signs to Fionnphort where you take the passenger ferry to Iona. Alternatively take an organised tour from the Pier (1.1).
- 7 3 hours +
D1 **Inveraray** – a day out to Inveraray offers the opportunity not just for some great views but the chance to visit Inveraray Castle (7.8), the famous Loch Fyne Oysters (14.2) and other attractions (13.5, 6 & 7, 15.3). Take the A85 to Dalmally then A819 to Inveraray. Its possible to make a circuit by returning on the A83 to Lochgilphead then back to Oban on the A816.
- 8 3 hours +
C3 **Loch Etive** – take the A85 and then A828 over the Connel Bridge. When over take first right and follow the road to historic and scenic Bonawe. On the way you can stop at Ardchattan Priory (7.7) and return via the B845 and Barcaldine.
- 9 3 hours +
B2-B1 **The Bridge over the Atlantic** – Take the A816 south to Kilninver then head off at the Easdale signs to explore this honeypot area. Try Ardmaddy Castle & Gardens (17.1) , Easdale (4.7), the An Cala Gardens, The Isle of Luing (4.6) and of course the remarkable Clachan Bridge itself. Lunch at Clachan or Easdale. There's more than a days worth here!
- 10 3 hours +
D3 **Glencoe** – Travel north on the A828 and then A82 to Glasgow. Glencoe speaks for itself and famous all over the world. Try the the old road through Glencoe Village, the folk museum, National Trust Visitor Centre and lay-bys in upper Glen. Drive back through to see new and exciting views (5.4) or continue to Tyndrum, join the A85 and follow the road back to Oban.

- 11 3 hours +
C1
♥ **Ardfern** – another charming single-track road peninsula. Lots of sailing boats, quiet corners and castles. Head south on the A816 then pick up the B8002 – its worth following to the bitter end and all the side roads too. Lunch stops at The Crafty Kitchen, Ardfern (14.4).

4 Islands

- 1 Day
A2-B3 **Mull** – by Ferry or foot. Try the Scenic Drive (3.5), Torosay Castle (7.1), Calgary Beach (2.3) or Ben More (9.3). The Boathouse Visitor Centre (Ulva) and Tea Room is lovely and the start of a great Circular Walk.
- 2 Day
A2 **Iona** – take a whole day for this long but worthwhile journey to the cradle of British Christianity. Visit the Abbey and explore the colourful rocky and sandy beaches of this lovely Island. Take the Mull Ferry (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk) then follow signs to Fionnphort where you take the passenger ferry to Iona. Alternatively take an organised tour from the Pier (1.1).
- 3 Day
A2
♥ **Staffa** – The world famous Island now in the care of the National Trust – inspiration for many a musician and artist. Landing on the swell-bound island is easier than it was. Turus Mara on 08000 858786, www.turusmara.com or see 1.1.
- 4 Day
A2
♥ **Treshnish** – truly unforgettable in July and August when you can sit on the cliff tops with the puffins landing around you with colourful beaks full of fish. Not just for the bird enthusiast and interesting all year. Turus Mara on 08000 858786, www.turusmara.com or see 1.1.
- 5 4 hours +
C2 **Kerrera** – easily accessed by Ferry from Oban from 08:45 then on the half hour from 10:30 until 6pm (lunch break 12:30-2). Winter times call 01631 563665. Try the walk (10.4).
- 6 Day
B1 **Luig** – easily reached Island by small but frequent ro-ro ferry from Seil (01631 562125 for queries). Just drive or walk around and take in picturesque views or quiet corners. Famous for its cattle.
- 7 Day
B2 **Easdale** – excellent museum and heritage trail make this tiny island a fascinating visit – also try An cala Gardens (17.1) and Sea.fari Rib Rides (1.2), putting green and golf course. Home of the world stone skimming championships in September. Charming cottages, wee ferry and Oyster Bar.
- 8 Day
C3 **Lismore** – By ferry or foot from Oban pier (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk). On Lismore hire a bike or just walk this quiet green Island. A great day out. Alternatively drive north to Port Appin on A828 (3.4) – the road ends and the passenger ferry takes 5 minutes to cross to lovely Lismore. Last crossing 8pm. Fit in a visit to the Pier House Restaurant at the ferry slipway.
- 9 Day
A4
♥ **Ulva** – if Mull is too big for you then hop on the little ferry to Ulva where the seaweed seems to bubble with Otters. Great Visitor Centre & Tearoom features super seafood and a variety of easy and longer walks or just find a quiet corner and enjoy the isolation that only a little island with a little ferry can give you.

5 Great Viewpoints

- 1 10 mins
C2 **McCaigs Tower** – built in 1895 as a family memorial this coliseum like structure dominates Oban and provides great views. The lazy can drive all the way up – others can walk. Just follow your sense of direction!
- 2 10 mins
C2 **Pulpit Hill** – Oban's other viewpoint arguably better than McCaigs at the southern end of the Town. Follow signs for the Ferry then it is well signposted by foot or car. For a longer walk see 11.6.

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| 3 | 10 mins
C2 | Falls of Lora – popular for whitewater rafting and unusual in that it changes direction with the tide. The water runs at up to 20 knots underneath the Connel bridge. Take the A85 North and stop in car park just short of the bridge – if it's calm come back in two hours! |
| 4 | 1 hour
D3 | Glencoe – Drive to Glencoe (3.10) and take your pick of spectacular views. Lunch at The Isles of Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre (14.3) or Crafts and Things (12.5). |
| 5 | 45 mins
C3
♥ | Castle Stalker – head North to Kidnapped country (3.4) and take in classic views above Castle Stalker. The best view is the A828 just past Appin village where it takes a sharp right hand turn to the top of a steep hill. A new visitor centre is under construction here. |

6 Places for Kids

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| 1 | 30 mins
C3 | Sea Life Centre – on A828 near Barcaldine. Fun for all the family including frequent seal and fish feeding. The Sea Life Centre also rescues and rehabilitates orphaned seal pups. Outdoor play area, shop and cafe. Open daily from 10. 01631 720386, www.sealsanctuary.co.uk . |
| 2 | 30 mins
D2 | Cruachan Power Station – head South on A85 then signposted. Not what you'd think as this one was hollowed out of a mountain. Its like being in a James Bond movie and the tour and usual facilities are excellent. Open April - November, 01866 822618. |
| 3 | 10 mins
C2 | Rare Breeds Park – 2 miles from town, through the Golf Course on the Glencruitten road. A weird and wonderful collection of animals in hill-side pens and runs. Its a funny farm for kids with lots of opportunities to feed the animals. Parents also admit they have a great time here. Tearoom. Open daily from 10. 01631 770608, www.oban-rarebreeds.com . |
| 4 | 20 mins
C2 | Inverawe Country Park, Fishery & Smokery & Tearoom – what you'd think plus an angling school and kid popular "Little Rabbit Reserve" and gentle walks. Head south on A85 then signed. Open Easter - Christmas, 01866 822777. |
| 5 | 10 mins
C2 | Atlantis Leisure Centre , Dalriach Road, Oban – the town leisure centre has a big pool with flumes and all the rest. Discounted entry vouchers on sale here at Hotel Reception, 01631 566800. |
| 6 | 20 mins
C3 | Tralee Rally Karting – on A828 at Benderloch village. Great fun outdoor carting amongst sand dunes for ages 7 and up. Nearby is well used Tralee bay (2.2). Open Easter, Whitsun and summer holidays plus weekends till mid September, 01631 720297. |
| 7 | 2 hours
B2 | Mull Rail – cross to Mull (4.1) and Scotland's only island railway. A unique narrow gauge railway is part of the Mull Experience – buy a ticket from Calmac (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or www.calmac.co.uk) for the ferry crossing, rail journey and entry to Duart and Torosay Castles (7.1). Available April - September, 01680 812494, www.mullrail.co.uk . |

7 Castles & Historic Places

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| 1 | 2 hours
B2 | Duart Castle, Mull – get there by direct boat trip from Oban. This is the ancestral seat of the Clan MacLean who still take up summer residence. A heady atmosphere of bloodthirsty history. Tearoom. Additional nearby activities include Torosay Castle and lovely Gardens and the Mull Light Railway (6.7). Open May to end September, 10:30 - 6.30. 01680 812 309, www.duartcastle.com . |
| 2 | Day
A2 | Iona – take a whole day for this long but worthwhile journey to the cradle of British Christianity. Visit the Abbey and explore the colourful rocky and sandy beaches of this lovely Island. Take the Mull Ferry (visit the ticket office, 01631 566688 or |

www.calmac.co.uk) then follow signs to Fionnphort where you take the passenger ferry to Iona. Alternatively take an organised tour from the Pier (1.1).

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| 3 | 45 mins
D2 | St Conan's Kirk – this church is visited for its unique architecture and the Robert the Bruce Chapel. Head south on A85 – in Loch Awe village. |
| 4 | 45 mins
D2
♥ | Kilchurn Castle – its billing as the "oldest surviving barracks block in the UK" doesn't do justice to this romantic castle marooned in the middle of lovely Loch Awe. Boat trips from the village (1.8) in the season or admire from A85 or A819. There's a further castle a couple of miles on. |
| 5 | 20 mins
C2 | Dunstaffnage – a well preserved 13th century castle in the care of Historic Scotland. Big sign on the A85 north of Oban or walk from Ganavan (2.1 & 11.4). Open all year with limited winter hours, 01631 562465, www.historic-scotland.net. |
| 6 | 45 mins
C1 | Kilmartin – Kilmartin Glen is one of the most important historic sites in Europe. A few square miles is littered with stone circles, burial chambers, castles and the ancient capital of Dalriada – Dunadd. Go south towards Lochgilphead. This area is littered with standing stones and other ancient relics. Ancient capital Dunadd is worth a visit with mysterious footprint on the rocks. Great exhibition and visitor centre at Kilmartin House (in village), an excellent stop with first class café (14.9). Open all year except Christmas and New Year, 10 - 5. 01546 510 278, www.kilmartin.org. |
| 7 | 20 mins
C3 | Ardchattan Priory – first right on A828 after Connel Bridge, then 5 miles. Ruins, carvings, gardens and seasonal tearoom. Open all year, 01796 481355. |
| 8 | 1 hour
D1 | Inveraray Castle – when in Inveraray (3.7) visit the home of the Duke of Argyll. Fairytale castle with magnificent interiors and lovely grounds. 01499 302203, www.inveraray-castle.com. |

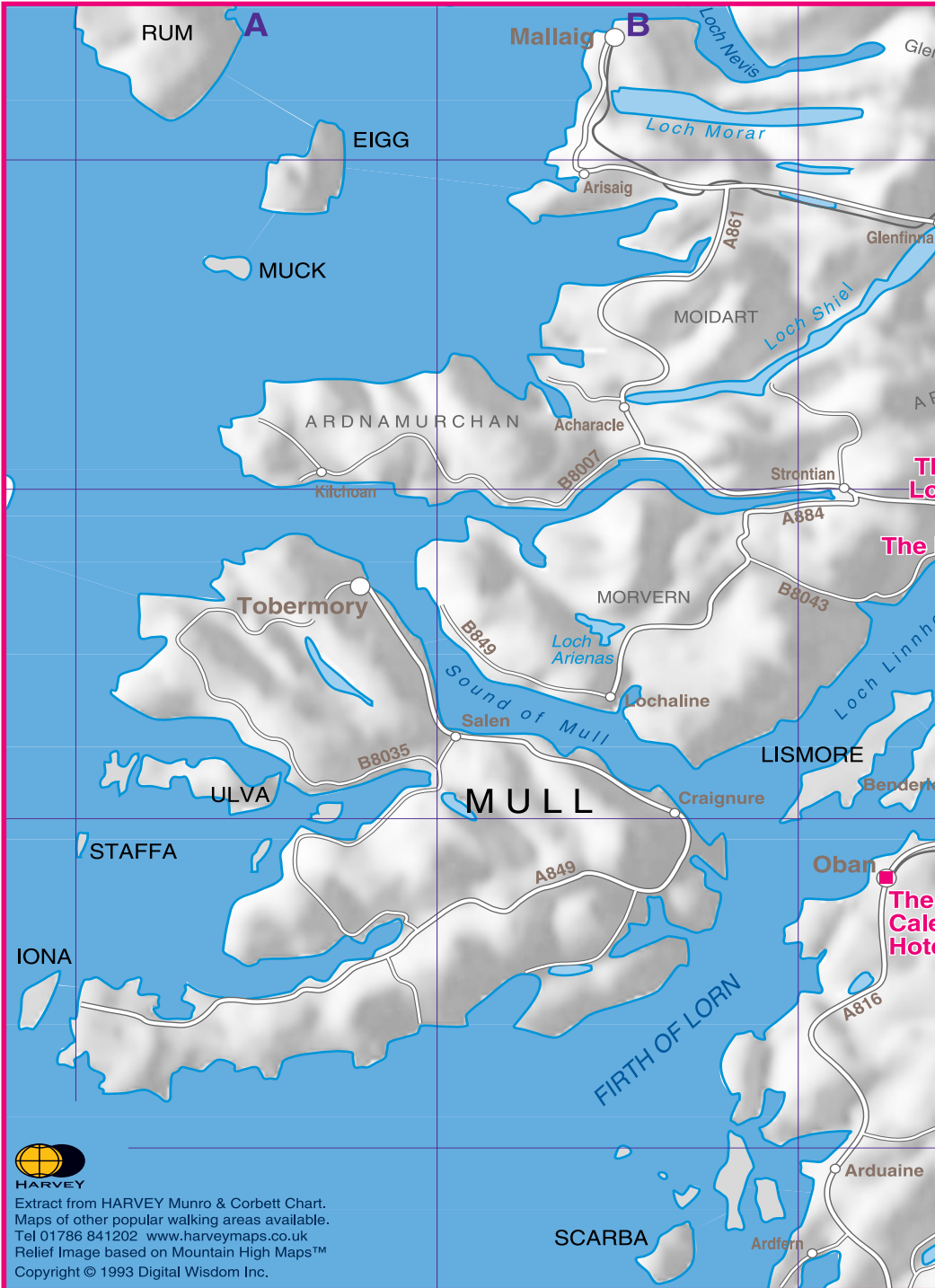
8 Golf

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|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | 10 mins
C2 | Glencruitten Golf Course (18) – nice open course. Head South on A816 and bear left at church. 01631 526868. |
| 2 | 45 mins
D3 | The Dragon's Tooth Golf Course (9) – Glencoe (3.10) provides the setting for one of the most spectacular Golf Courses in Scotland. Licensed Clubhouse or lunch at The Ballachulish Hotel (14.3). Open all year from dawn until dusk. 01855 811695, www.dragonstoothgolfcourse.co.uk. |

9 Hill Walks

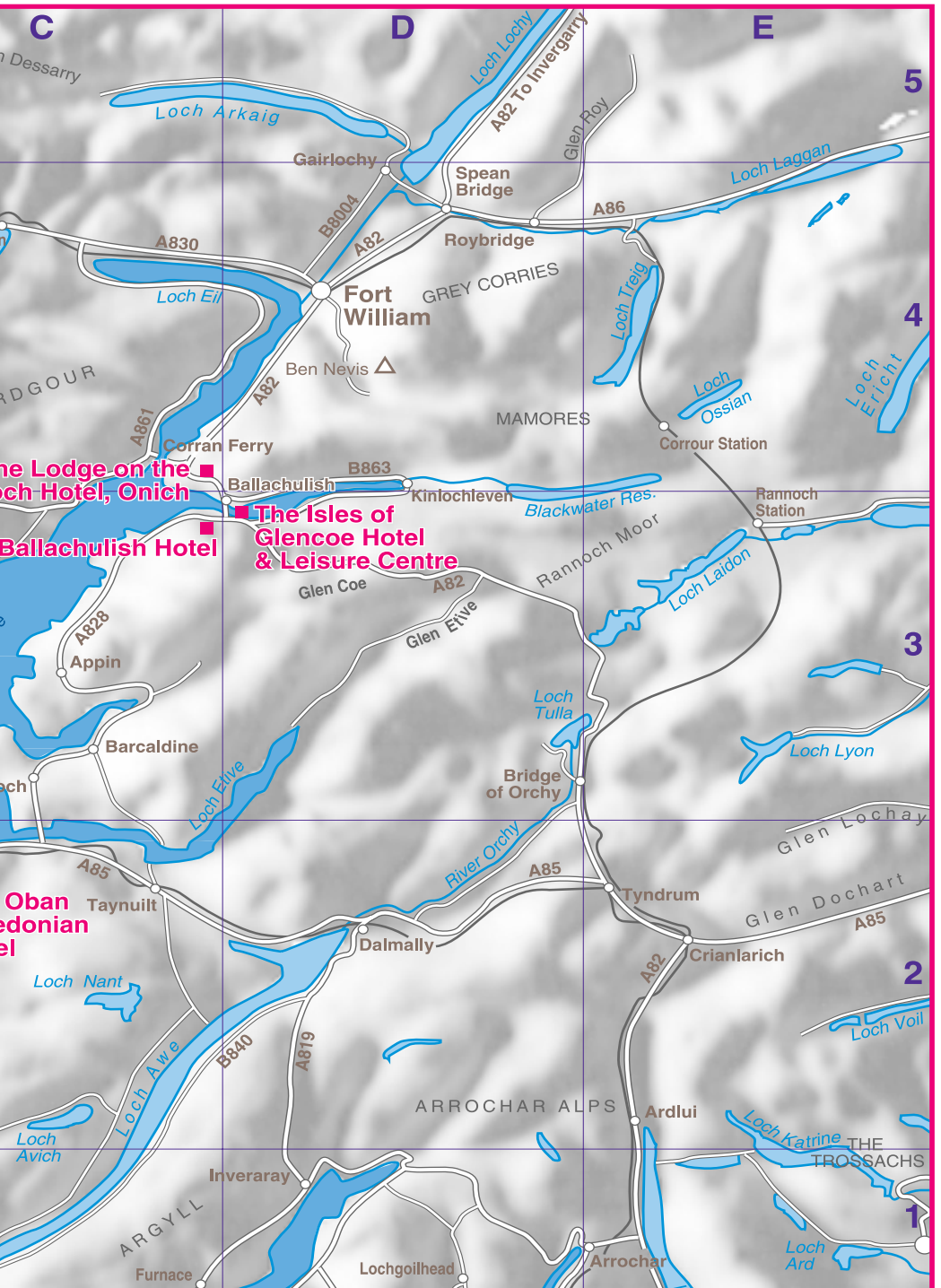
All walks in this section require some mountain walking experience, proper walking boots & foul weather gear.

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|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | 20 mins
C3 | Ben Lora – 308M. 20 minutes drive on A828, easy to miss on right just before shops in Benderloch. Varied well marked forestry walks with great view points (11.3) including worthwhile 2 hour climb to summit. |
| 2 | 30 mins
D2 | Ben Cruachan – 1126M. A serious walk taking in seven summits but you can always choose to do just a part. Park at laybys on the main road near the power station and start at tracks opposite the staff car park. Follow the well worn path keeping right of the dam on the ascent. This takes you from peak to impressive peak before bringing you back down on the far side of the dam. |
| 3 | 2 hours
A2 | Ben More (Mull) – 966M. Another munro mountain that should only be tackled in fine weather. The views from the summit to the Islands and back to the mainland are jaw-dropping. Park on B8035 on south shore of Loch na Keal at Dhiseig Farm. Walk up the farm drive and bear right just before the entrance towards a metal gate. A well used path follows streams most of the way to the summit. |






HARVEY

Extract from HARVEY Munro & Corbett Chart.
 Maps of other popular walking areas available.
 Tel 01786 841202 www.harveymaps.co.uk
 Relief Image based on Mountain High Maps™
 Copyright © 1993 Digital Wisdom Inc.



- 4 | 1 hour
D3 | **Pap of Glencoe – 742M.** Park in Glencoe village then walk a mile along single track road towards Clachaig Inn. Pass through gate into first field on the left when trees end then follow the river than the path to the top. A rewarding and quite arduous 3 hour walk with tremendous views. Typically a 3-4 hour hike.

10 Non-hill Walks & Cycles

- 1 | 30 mins
C1 |  | **Around The Craignish Peninsula (8 miles)** – this is a varied and rugged low level coastal walk with great views to the inner Hebrides and lovely Loch Craignish. Park in Ardfern Village (3.11) and take the minor road which branches past the school and walk over to Lunga House. Close to the house road-end a rough farm track heads left and south. Where the path splits take the higher inland route for the best views eventually a series of gates leads to Gartcharran Farm and from here turn left onto the minor road to walk back to your car.
- 2 | 30 mins
C2 | | **Kilchrenan Circle (9 miles)** – Start in the village of Kilchrenan (signposted right off A85 at Taynult) and walk East on the minor road to Ardanaseig. Take the only left turn before the Hotel. After about a mile the road turns to path as it swings back inland with a cottage and sheep fold on the left before rejoining a Landrover track at Ballimore. Great views of Ben Cruachan.
- 3 | 30 mins
B2 |  | **Degnish Peninsula and the Wishing Tree (9 miles)** – Park where the road takes a sharp right hand turn to Ardmaddy Castle at The Lodge. From here a landrover track takes you 2 miles past the historic wishing tree (jammed with coins). At its summit you can clamber off to nearby hillocks with great views of all the surrounding area. The walk can be extended to 9 miles by either carrying onto the shores of Loch Melfort or by heading right to the peak of Dun Crutagain which has magnificent views.
- 4 | 5 mins
C2 |  | **Around Kerrera (6 miles)** – Take the Ferry to Kerrera (4.5) and turn left when you disembark to follow the coast southwards. After you pass cottages at the bay and the track climbs inland fork left before the white cottage (Upper Gylen) going through a gate to climb the hill – now head for the ruined 1587 castle and follow the cliffs west and the path eventually rejoins the track which circles around the Island and back to the ferry point. If you miss the coastal path section of this walk you will still get around Kerrera but miss the castle. Oddly there's rather a nice Tea Garden on the southern section of this walk.

11 Short Walks

- 1 | 30 mins
C2 |   | **Glen Nant** – a lovely Caledonian Forest Reserve. Forestry Car Park 3 miles south of Taynult on B845 has details on a choice of walks.
- 2 | 30 mins
C3 |   | **Sutherland's Grove** – 30 minutes drive on A828, near Barcaldine. Variety of well marked forestry walks including dramatic gorge and pleasant reservoir.
- 3 | 20 mins
C3 |  | **Benderloch Forest** – 20 minutes drive on A828, easy to miss on right just before shops in Benderloch. Varied well marked forestry walks with great view points including 1 hour climb to summit of Ben Lora (9.1).
- 4 | 10 mins
C2 | | **Dunstaffnage Castle** (7.5) from Ganavan (2.1) great sunset views. Bear left at roundabout on A85 heading south of Oban and follow road to bitter end. Park in large beach car park and follow coastal path all the way to the castle. On the way back you can retrace your steps or the track bears left to form a loop.
- 5 | 30 mins
C2 |  | **Lochaweside** – several forest walks well signposted on minor road Kilchrenan to Ford. Best ones Inverinan Glen and Avich Falls.

- 6 10 mins
C2 **Oban & Pulpit Hill** – a good 2 hour walk right from the Caledonian Hotel. Follow the coastal road 1.5 miles past the Ferry Terminal as far as the Kerrera Ferry Terminal. Head uphill here along a track to a gate, bear left to join a track which heads back towards the town. Follow your sense of direction to Pulpit Hill which provides great views over the town and surrounding area (5.2).

12 Shopping

- 1 5 mins
C2 **Kitchen Garden**, George Street, Oban. Downstairs for deli/gourmet foods and kitchenware, upstairs for tasty food in the busy restaurant, 01631 566332.
- 2 10 mins
C2 **Saulmore Farm Shop**, Connel, By Oban. Proper Farm Shop ie. with Farm attached! Next to main road about 1 mile north of Dunstaffnage, 01631 710247.
- 3 5 mins
C2 **Nancy Blacks**, Argyll Square, Oban. This chandlery has become an Oban tradition. Essential for yachties and definitely worth a browse for all, 01631 562550.
- 4 5 mins
C2 **Outside Edge**, MacGregor Court, Oban. Outdoor gear specialists. The friendly staff will give advice on what to buy and have good local knowledge, 01631 566617.
- 5 1 hour
D3 **Crafts & Things**, Tighpuirt, Glencoe. One to visit when in Glencoe (3.10). This traditional whitewashed cottage contains a well stocked and varied craft shop. Tasty snacks in the coffee shop. 01855 811325, www.glencoe.u-net.com.
- 6 30 mins
C3 **Argyll Pottery**, Barcaldine, Near Oban. A828 at Barcaldine. Range of tableware and individual pieces. All pots are hand-made on the premises from stoneware clay fired in a wood-fired kiln. Closed Sundays, 01631 720503.
- 7 30 mins
C1 **Crafty Kitchen**, Ardfern. For directions see 3.11. A café (14.4), craft shop and exhibition. Sells a wide range of Scottish and ethnic crafts including clothing, jewellery and textiles. 01852 500303, www.craftyk.co.uk.
- 8 1 hour
D1 **Loch Fyne Oysters**, Cairndow. Travel to Inveraray (3.7) and then A83. Originally a small shed but now a well stocked store selling seafood, meats and other fine foods. Visit the Oyster Bar (14.2) and The Tree Shop (17.3). Open all year with limited winter hours. 01499 600264, www.loch-fyne.com.
- 9 20 mins
C2 **Taynuilt Antiques**, Taynuilt. Browse here, all the usual antique curios and many old/rare books too, 01631 720578.

13 Art Galleries and Museums

- 1 5 mins
C2 **War & Peace**, North Pier, Oban. Interesting war/peacetime photographs, memorabilia & models. Open April - end September.
- 2 40 mins
B2 **Easdale Island Folk Museum**, Easdale Island, by Oban. (4.7) A snapshot of 19th century life on the island when the slate quarry was in its heyday – fascinating. Open April - October, 01852 300370.
- 3 5 mins
C2 **Kranenburg & Fowler**, Star Brae, Oban. We recommend this gallery which is just off Argyll Square, for striking, contemporary Scottish Art. Closed Sundays. 01631 562303, www.kranenburg-fowler.com.
- 4 20 mins
C2 **Bonawe Ironworks Museum**, Bonawe, by Taynuilt. The most complete charcoal fuelled ironworks in Britain. See how iron was made in a beautiful Lochside setting. Open April - September, 01866 822432, www.historic-scotland.net.
- 5 1 hour
D1 **Inveraray Jail** – (3.7) living 19th century prison with lots of interactive stuff – a favourite with the kids. Exhibition and gift shop. Open all year, limited winter hours, 01499 302381, www.inverarayjail.co.uk.

- 6 | 1 hour
D1 | **The Arctic Penguin**, The Pier, Inveraray. Step aboard a three masted schooner for sea-faring history, hands on children's section, on board cinema and more. Open all year, 01499 302213, www.skwebpages.com/arctic.
- 7 | 1 hour
D1 | **Auchendrain Township**, by Inveraray. An original West Highland township. Open April - September, 01499 500235.
- 8 | 45 mins
C1 | **Kilmartin House**, Kilmartin. Sited in one of the most important historic sites in Europe (7.6) this visitor centre is an excellent stop with first class café (14.9). Open all year except Christmas and New Year, 10am - 5pm. 01546 510 278, www.kilmartin.org.

14 Lunch Stops

- 1 | | **Café Caledonian**. The Café is a meeting place for locals and travellers alike. Great all day food, great views and great atmosphere!
- 2 | 1 hour
D1 | **Loch Fyne Oysters**, Cairndow. The first of a now growing chain of Oyster Bars – fantastic quality seafood in a lochside setting (12.8 & 17.3). 01499 600264, www.lochfyne.com.
- 3 | 50 mins
D3/C3 | **The Isles of Glencoe Hotel & Leisure Centre and The Ballachulish Hotel** – Visit our sister hotels to sample the family friendly atmosphere of the Isles and the traditional Ballachulish Hotel. Both serve great food all day, www.freedomglen.co.uk.
- 4 | 30 mins
C1 | **Crafty Kitchen**, Ardfern. For directions see 3.11. A café, craft shop (see 12.7) and exhibition. Unusual veggie food, excellent seafood and the best chocolate puddings! 01852 500303, www.craftyk.co.uk.
- 5 | 5 mins
C2 | **Robin's Nest Tearoom**, Taynuilt. One of the best in the area, serves snacks, homebaking etc, 01866 822429.
- 6 | 30 mins
C1 | **Loch Melfort Hotel**, Arduaine. Traditional hotel food and service but with a strong reputation and excellent setting. 01852 200 233, www.lochmelfort.co.uk.
- 7 | 2 hours
A3 | **Calgary Farmhouse & Dovecot Restaurant**, Calgary, Isle of Mull. Lovely small Hotel/Restaurant close to lovely beach. Its worth stopping in for Coffee to see some of the home-made furniture. 01688 400256, www.calgary.co.uk.
- 8 | 45 mins
C1 | **The Cairn Restaurant**, Kilmartin. A small restaurant of long reputation in the wee village of Kilmartin. Pubby bit at the back is included in the rosetted food, 01546 510254.
- 9 | 45 mins
C1 | **Kilmartin House**, Kilmartin. This Visitor Centre is the hub of historic Kilmartin Glen (7.6) and the organic café comes highly recommended. 01546 510 278, www.kilmartin.org.
- 10 | 1 hour
D1 | **The George Hotel**, Inveraray. With its original flagstoned floors and four roaring log and peat fires, the George is a characterful place to dine on quality Scottish produce. 01499 302111, www.thegeorgehotel.co.uk.


15 Whisky

- 1 | 5 mins
C2 | **Oban Distillery and Visitor Centre**, Stafford Street, Oban. Set in the heart of Oban. See the distillers at work, try a complementary dram. Oban is one of the six 'Classic Malts of Scotland'. 01631 564262, www.scotch.com.
- 2 | 1 hour
D4 | **The Ben Nevis Distillery and Visitor Centre**, Lochy Bridge, Fort William. Take the A828 to Fort William and you'll get a warm welcome at The Ben Nevis Distillery! Join the tour and sample the 'Dew of Ben Nevis'. 01397 702476, www.bennevis.co.uk.
- 3 | 1 hour
D1 | **Loch Fyne Whiskies**, Inveraray (3.7). A sanctuary for whisky lovers and worthy of a visit from all. Huge range of whiskies which includes their own blend plus all the usual. Open all year with limited winter hours, 01499 302219, www.fw.co.uk.

16 Get Active

- 1 5 mins
C2 **Atlantis Leisure**, Dalriach Road, Oban – the town leisure centre has a big pool with flumes and all the rest. Discounted entry vouchers on sale at Hotel Reception. 01631 566800, www.atlantisleisure.co.uk.
- 2 30 mins
C1 **Appaloosa Holidays**, Ardfern – ride out on Appaloosas and Quarterhorses in the most stunning of surroundings. Various routes and activities for riders of all ages. Open all year. 01852 500632, www.aboutscotland.com/argyll/appaloosa.html.
- 3 10 mins
C2 **Achnalarig Riding Centre**, Glencruitten Road, Oban. Offers riding and trekking in the countryside. All ages and abilities catered for. Open all year, 01631 562745.
- 4 5 mins
C2 **Bike Hire**, Hazelbank Motors, Oban – bike and helmet hire, half day £10, full day, £15. 01631 566476, www.obancarhire.co.uk.

17 Gardens

- 1 varies
 **The Glorious Gardens of Argyll & Bute**, 19 stunning and varied gardens dotted around Argyll, many with interesting houses or castles in the grounds! Visit as many as you can. 01499 600261, www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk.
- 2 45 mins
C3 **Druimavuic House**, Appin. A828 to Appin (3.4), detour around Loch Creran and lookout for the turnout. Stream, wall and woodland gardens with lovely views over Loch Creran. Spring bulbs, rhododendrons, azaleas, primulas, meconopsis, violas. Plant stall. Open from April to end of June, 10 - 6.
- 3 1 hour
D1 **The Tree Shop**, Cairndow. Situated next to the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar (14.2) this garden centre sells an extensive range of trees, rhododendrons and plants together with gifts and freshly made food. Don't miss nearby Loch Fyne Oysters (12.8) and Ardkinglas Woodland Garden (17.1). 01499 600263, www.scottishtrees.co.uk.

18 Fishing

- 1 5 mins
C2 The hub of all information in Oban is **The Anglers Corner**, open 7 days in season 01631 566374, www.anglerscorneroban.co.uk.
- 2 10 mins
C2 **Glencruitten Sporting Estate**, Oban – a rainbow trout fishery just 10 mins out of town. Full details and permits from The Anglers Corner above.
- 3 20 mins
C2 **Inverawe Country Park, Fishery & Smokery & Tearoom** – what you'd think plus an angling school and kid popular "Little Rabbit Reserve" and gentle walks. Head south on A85 then signed. Open Easter - Christmas, 01866 822777.

19 Transport

- 1 **Bowmans Tours**, 01680 812313, www.bowmanscoaches.sagenet.co.uk.
- 2 **Scottish Citylink Coaches**, 08705 505050, www.citylink.co.uk.
- 3 **Oban & District Buses**, 01631 570500, www.westcoastmotors.co.uk.
- 4 **Taxis**, Oban Taxis, 01631 564666; Lorn Taxis, 01631 564744; West Coast Taxis, 01631 564148 or cross the road to the taxi rank.
- 6 **Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries**. Ticket office on the pier or 01631 566688, www.calmac.co.uk.
- 7 **Scotrail**, 08457 55 00 33, www.scotrail.co.uk.
- 8 **Hazelbank Car Hire**, Hazelbank Motors, Oban. 01631 566476, www.obancarhire.co.uk.

Books and Maps – we recommend these publications, all on sale at the Hotel.

Oban Mull & Kintyre Walks (Ordnance Survey)

Nicholson Tourist Map of Oban & Mull

OS Landranger 49 – Oban & East Mull

OS Landranger 55 – Lochgilphead & Surrounding Area

OS Landranger 47 – Tobermory & North Mull

Os Landranger 50 – Glen Orchy & Surrounding Area

OS Landranger 48 – Iona, Ulva & West Mull

Forest Enterprise – Trails in North Argyll

Genealogy – try these websites if tracing your family roots.

www.mullgenealogy.co.uk/

www.ancestralscotland.com



Eilean Munda, Loch Leven, ancient burial ground of the MacDonalds of Glen Coe.



Dunstaffnage Marina near Oban.



Kilchurn Castle

Loch Fyne



Castle Stalker