

The Isle of Bute is the most accessible of the westerly isles from the Scottish Central Belt. It is a peaceful island haven, just a stone's throw away from the mainland. An hour's drive or train ride from Glasgow takes you to the grandeur of the Victorian station at Wemyss Bay where the frequent ferries take you on a 35 minute journey across the Firth of Clyde to Rothesay. Be sure to keep a look out on the observation deck for seals and porpoises and the odd submarine. Alternatively, take the drive through Loch Lomond National Park and down onto the Cowal Peninsula for some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland and hop on the 5 minute ferry across the Kyles of Bute, a designated National Scenic Area, from Colintraive to Rhubodach at the northerly tip of the island. In the summer months you can get to Rothesay on the **P.S. Waverley**. The world's last ocean going paddle steamer will bring you down from Glasgow to Rothesay for a spectacular day trip on the Clyde.



A rich diversity of flora and fauna can be discovered on the 15 miles long by 4 miles wide island. From the possibility of porpoises accompanying your ferry journey to the nesting pair of ospreys that can be viewed from the west road all the way over to Scalpsie Bay and its large population of seals, there is an abundance of wildlife all within a short walk, cycle or drive.

The island has long been a holiday favourite in Scotland. It has been an island retreat for Scottish kings and generations of Glaswegian holidaymakers and now you too can come here to see why.



Useful Information

Ferry - Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd : 01700 502707
www.calmac.co.uk

Buses - West Coast Motors : 01586 552319
www.westcoastmotors.co.uk

Rothesay Tourist Information : 01700 502151

Journey Times

Glasgow - Wemyss Bay ferry by rail/road is approx. 50 mins
Glasgow - Colintraive ferry by road is approx. 1hr 20 mins
Wemyss Bay - Rothesay ferry - 35 mins
Colintraive - Rhubodach ferry - 4 mins

Visit Bute



Beautiful Beaches

Bute is renowned for its beautiful beaches with wonderfully scenic vistas across to the mainland on the east of the island and across to Arran on the southwest. Whatever the weather, all of Bute's beaches are worth a visit.

Play a Round of Golf

Bute is home to 3 golf courses with 40 holes between them. Each course has its own challenges and its own spectacular views across the Firth of Clyde and surrounding hills.

Sample our History

Bute's heritage is unsurpassed. Thousands of years of history await your arrival on Bute where people have lived for over 8,000 years. Standing stones, cists, Iron Age forts, the remarkable Mount Stuart House, the 13th century Rothesay castle and the small but perfectly formed museum next to it.

Wonderful Walks

Bute is a lovely place to walk. It is fairly low lying so there are no strenuous climbs, just 360 degrees of beautiful views. From the recently established West Island Way to the trials and paths through the Bute Community Forest.

The Gardens of Bute

The gardens on Bute have something to delight every taste. From the substantial 300 acres of vibrant gardens, woodland and walks at Mount Stuart to the informal abundantly planted Ascog Hall with its unique, award winning Victorian Fernery to the formal, immaculately tended bedding displays, aviary and glasshouses at Ardenraig.

Cyclists Love Bute

Bute is a fantastic destination for cyclists. It's big enough to offer a wide range of cycling options, but not too big that the main town of Rothesay is ever that far away. The short ferry journey means that it's ideal for a day out with the bikes and it has some truly splendid views and scenery.

Enjoy the Sea

Bute is a dream come true for sailors & watersports enthusiasts. The clean, clear water and fantastic scenery will complement your choice of transport around the island whether it be by yacht, motorboat or even kayak. We have two marinas as well as numerous coves to moor up in and relax onboard.



Events

Bute hosts some notable events throughout the year. In May the excellent **Jazz Festival**, in its 28th year features artists from the UK and European Jazz scene. In August we hold the **Bute Highland Games**, an exciting day for both locals and visitors. Also in August the annual **Agricultural Show** brings our farming community together in a festival of prize bulls and sheep, huge red tractors, Llamas (yes, really) and a gymkhana. It's a great day out.

In September our **Cycling Weekend** sees the island inundated with lycra clad enthusiasts competing in road races, time trials and the infamous Serpentine hill climb. The year is rounded off with the **Hogmanay Ceilidh** at the iconic Rothesay Pavilion - it's an exhausting but exhilarating party. There are also many smaller events and music gigs throughout the year. **Check the Events Calendar on our website for more details.**

Eating & Drinking

With new restaurants opening and our many pubs, visitors to Bute are spoiled for choice on a night out. Take your pick from great pub food, British fusion, Italian, Asian and of course good old fish and chip shops. The local ice cream is gorgeous too - treat yourself to a "99"!

We also have a brand new micro brewery on the island. Their hand crafted ales are available in some local pubs.

There's a full list of restaurants on our website.

Sleeping

There's somewhere to stay for every budget on Bute. We have self-catering houses dotted all over the island, boutique B & B's, flats to let, town centre hotels and of course traditional deaside guest houses. There's also backpacker's hostel and a camping & caravan park - it even has glamping pods!

To search for somewhere to stay visit our website

Shop on Bute

What about taking a souvenir home from Bute? We have craft shops, art galleries, clothing and gift boutiques, antiques shops and souvenir shops. For foodie gifts we have wonderful butchers and fishmongers for Bute Beef, Haggis and locally smoked salmon. In September the Bute Studio Trail allows you into the workshops and studios of local artists and buy their work direct.