

Spring **THE COLONSAY TIMES** 2025

The Colonsay

The place to go for delicious local seafood, meat, gins and whisky. Open fires, bare floorboards, comfy sofas, you can choose to eat or drink in the bar, the log room or in the restaurant. No dogs allowed in the restaurant but they are welcome in the bar where dinner can also be served. Breakfast is served from 7:30 AM until 10:00 AM, Lunch between 12 PM and 2 PM and dinner from 5 PM until 8:30 PM. We open the bar at noon and we close around 11.00pm. The restaurant is very popular and it is best to book direct on our website

www.bespokehotels.com/colonsayho
tel or by emailing
info@hebrideanhotels-colonsay.co.uk

Sometimes local players have an informal evening music session – check our Facebook page or ask at the hotel! There is free WIFI throughout.

Colonsay House Gardens, Woodland Gardens, Old Workshop Café

The gardens are famous for their wide variety of rhododendrons, including many rare species. There are also sub-tropical plants and trees from around the world. The private gardens include the rose, lighthouse and kitchen gardens. Colonsay House private gardens and café are open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1200 to 1700. The Woodland Gardens are open to the public every day free of charge. Entrance is via the old road by Avenue Cottage or through the gate at Pondsides Cottage. Please park at the Old Village Hall.

Colonsay Distillery & Shop - 4 Star Visitor Attraction

Home of multi-award winning Colonsay Gin located in Upper Kilchattan along from the Primary School where all our products are available to sample and purchase. The Distillery Shop is open Mon – Sat 12 noon until 5 pm. Distillery tours are also available Mon – Sat and can be booked on-line at www.colonsaygin.com or by calling 01951 200082.

info@theislandshop.com

The Colonsay Bookshop

Next to the Distillery at Scalasaig, the bookshop specialises in Scottish publications but also has a supply of good holiday reading and children's books with a distinctly Highland flavour. Please call in, as a small independent bookshop we really value your support. We are open Monday – Saturday 10.30 -12.30, or by appointment: Tel 07789 866340/07831 474447 or email mcbyrnel@gmail.com

The Pantry

The multi award-winning Pantry is a fully-licensed Restaurant & Bar, serving breakfast, lunch & dinner, teas & coffees, ice cream, fresh cakes and pizzas made to order. Carry-outs are available by phoning. We also have a selection of Colonsay sweatshirts, local crafts, postcards, honey and other gifts.

Spring/summer Opening Hours:

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am-10pm;
Tues 9am-3pm; closed Sun & Thu.
Evening meals from 4.30-8.00pm.
Booking for evening meals is essential (& advised for lunch when the weather's bad); phone 01951 200325 or
mail@thecolonsaypantry.co.uk

The Old Waiting Room Gallery and Tourist Information Point

Opposite the pier at the harbour selling artwork, ceramics, jewellery and homewares from Colonsay and Scottish artists. During the season we're open: Mon & Fri 10.30-14.00 and 17.00-19.00; Tues 10.00-14.00; Wed 10.30-14.00 and 18.00-19.30; Thurs CLOSED; Sat 10.30-14.00 and 18.00-19.45; Sunday 17.00-19.00.

www.theoldwaitingroomgallery.com

Guided walks from The Wee Croft

Explore off the beaten track with one of Colonsay's crofters. Visit one of the community-owned crofts and set out from the back gate, or venture further afield. Bird cliff vantage points, dramatic coastlines & sites of archaeological interest. Call Lizzie on **07712132529** to arrange a time that suits!

www.theweecroftcolonsay.co.uk

Colonsay Wild Island Distillery

(next to bookshop at Scalasaig)
Three different gins, three different whiskies. Generally open Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 15.00-17.00 and Mon – Sat 10.30-12.30.

Colonsay Smokery

We're always busy making delicious hand-crafted traditional hot and cold-smoked salmon as well as cured gravadlax for our visitors and mail order customers. Opening hours are normally Tues-Sat 10.30am to 12.30pm when we'll be happy to show you round (and sell you some salmon). But do give us a call (no texts please!) to check first on 07493 939876. You'll find us behind the hotel at Scalasaig Steading.

www.colonsaysmokery.com

Bike & Paddleboard Hire/Lessons

Colonsay Bikes and Boards has men's, ladies' and some children's bikes for hire. Children's seats and tag-alongs are not available, but you are welcome to attach your own. We also offer paddleboard and wetsuit hire. Prices etc can be found at:

www.colonsaybikesandboards.co.uk

The Island Shop, Scalasaig Spring/Summer Opening Hours

Mon–Fri 09.00–17.30; Sat 09.00–15.00

The shop caters for all your grocery needs from fresh fruit & vegetables, beautiful local beef, salmon and eggs, to gourmet ready meals and artisan pies. We also stock a selection of local island ales and spirits from across Argyll including Colonsay Gin. For those visiting the island why not place an order using our online click & deliver service in advance and we will deliver to your holiday cottage in time for your arrival. Tel: 07469 918558

www.theislandshop.co.uk

Sunday Sessions in the Village Hall

Serving delicious Sunday roasts from 12-3pm along with a fabulous bar serving draft beers and cocktails from 12-11pm. Cash prize QUIZ featuring 50 questions starts at 8pm - £2 per person entry. For up to date news and how to book, check out our FaceBook and Insta pages.

[@colonsaysundaysessions](https://www.facebook.com/colonsaysundaysessions)

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Golf

There is an eighteen-hole links golf course at Machrins. Green fees (for over 12s) are £15 per day payable by scanning the QR codes at the first tee or the Estate Office. Annual membership is £80 per adult for unlimited golfing for the season (again QR code). Please carry proof of purchase with you on the Course. The Club holds competitions throughout the season and all visitors are invited to play; details from the Secretary on 077717 64644. We hold a ceilidh in the summer and a Golf Open Competition during August. All are welcome to join in these events

Public Lavatories

These are located at the pier.

Colonsay Service Point, Scalasaig

Located at the far end of the Village Hall, open 0930-1230, Monday to Friday. Sales of coal, anthracite and gas. Access to fax machine, photocopier and internet. Library books and local information. 01951 200263.

Community Gardens

Next to the village hall and service point, the gardens are maintained by local volunteers. Please help us by doing a spot of weeding! Tools in the shed.

Public Telephones

There is a public phone by the pier.

Doctor and medical services

We have a doctor on the island. The doctor is on call 24 hours seven days a week. **Tel 01951 200328**
In the event of a medical emergency, an air ambulance will lift patients to the appropriate hospital in Glasgow - the service is very quick and efficient. Call **999** in an emergency.

Church Services

Services are held in the church each Sunday at 10.30 and all are welcome. You are also welcome to attend by Zoom any week and from anywhere, please contact Alastair Scouller for a Zoom invitation:
alastair.scouller@gmail.com or William Leigh-Knight, Session Clerk (07808 586370)

Colonsay Post Office, Scalasaig

Opening Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 0900-1700 (closed for lunch between 1300 and 1400); Tues, Thurs, Sat 0900-1300.

Trout Fishing

The lochs are managed with a view to conserving the native brown trout. There are no rainbows and no imported fish. The native stock is a distinct strain, descendants of the fish introduced by the monastic community of Kiloran Abbey. **Trout fishing is only permitted from March 17th to October 6th, using only fly-fishing methods.** A permit costs £30 per adult per week or £60 per season, payable by scanning the QR codes at the Estate Office. There are boats on Mid Loch Fada, East Loch Fada and Loch Sgoltaire available for hire for £20 a day. Two good-sized fish (over 8 inches) per day may be kept for the table, all others to be returned.

The ancient Priory, Oransay

The island of Oransay is accessible from Colonsay at low tide. The ruins of the priory church and magnificent Celtic cross date from the 14th century. In the Prior's House, there are around 30 beautiful carved stone tombstones dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. It is said that St Columba landed on Oransay on his way to Iona in the 6th century. When he climbed Ben Oransay he found he could still see Ireland and decided to move on! Normally, you'll have about two hours either side of low tide to walk to and from Oransay. But it's vital that you check the tidal timetables (the Post Office and The Colonsay have copies) so you set out when the tide will be out for the longest period. You will need at least three to four hours, depending on how fast you walk. The RSPB manage the farming and dogs are only allowed on Oransay if on leads.

Ceilidhs and Music Evenings

Ceilidhs are usually held regularly throughout the Summer season in the Village Hall. Check the notice board in the shop or the Visitor Information Point for dates and times of various social events. There is often a music session with island players in the hotel on Saturday evenings. Bring your instrument along...

Colonsay & Oransay Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is situated next to Kilchattan School in what was formerly the Baptist Church. The door is usually open and visitors are welcome to come and have a look at exhibitions and artefacts of local interest. There is a donation box and comments are always welcome.

Colonsay is a wonderful place to explore on foot, but please remember that this is a rural community; we would ask you please to observe the following:

- **Do not walk on cultivated land.**
- **All dogs must be on leads when walking across farmland.**
- **Leave gates as you find them: open if they are open, closed if they are closed.**

Colonsay is perfect for family cycling; peaceful, safe and fairly flat. However, even on Colonsay, cycling can have its hazards. Look out for rough surfaces. We would ask you to try and observe the following:

- Please ensure your children know the basic rules of the road.
- Helmets, especially for children, are recommended.
- Do not allow children to career down steep hills at high speed - it would be a shame to ruin your holiday by spending it in the surgery.
- **The roads are narrow - we would advise cyclists to allow traffic to pass by pulling into the grass verge or lay-bys and stopping.**

AND FOR DRIVERS...

Please drive **SLOWLY** and with caution on our single track roads.

It is strictly forbidden to drive on all tracks to cottages unless you are a resident there.

It is not permitted to drive to Balnahard, Balerominmhor, on the golf course or beyond the airport.

If going to Balnahard, please park inside the gate at An Crosan just off the public road by Kiloran bay and proceed on foot.

4 wheel drive vehicles must stay on roads (and tracks if relevant) at all times.

Thank you for your co-operation.