

Winter THE COLONSAY TIMES 2023

The Colonsay

Open fires, bare floorboards, comfy sofas, and occasional folk sessions on a Saturday night, The Colonsay is open on a limited basis over the Winter season. The hotel is open for residents all week, though non-residents may also be able to book evening meals in advance. The Bar is open on a Friday and Saturday night from 5.00pm-10.00pm. Tel 01951 200316, or email info@colonsay-hotel.com There is WIFI throughout the hotel.

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 are open to the public from 1st April to 23rd October on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1200 to 1700.

The Gardens and Café are now closed for the Winter.

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 Wild Island Distillery (next to bookshop at Scalasaig)

Three gins, malt whiskies and lager for sale. We're closed now for winter but please phone 07736432729 and we'll open up.

The Colonsay Bookshop

The Bookshop is now closed for the winter, but should you wish to browse, buy a map, book etc, please contact Christa at mcbyrne1@gmail.com.

The Pantry

The 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. **Winter Opening Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 11am-3pm and 6pm – 9pm. Booking for evening meals is essential (& advised for lunch when the weather's bad); phone 01951 200325 or mail@thecolonsaypantry.co.uk

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

Winter Opening Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 0900-1230
Tue & Thu 1230 – 1600
The shop caters for all your grocery needs from fresh fruit & vegetables, beautiful local produce such as beef, pork, salmon, eggs, and homemade tablet to tasty ready meals and pies. We also stock a selection of local ales and spirits from across Argyll including Colonsay Gin. Fresh Fish ordered by mid-week can be collected on a Saturday morning. For those visiting the island why not place an order in advance and we will deliver to your holiday cottage in time for your arrival. Can't find what you are looking for? Just ask and we will try our best to source for you. 01951 200082 Info@theislandshop.co.uk

The Old Waiting Room Gallery and Tourist Information Point

Opposite the pier at the harbour, the Gallery is closed for the Winter, though copies of the Visitor Compendium can be found at the Pantry. Our range of ceramics, artworks, jewellery and woodware from Colonsay and Scottish artists can be purchased online from www.theoldwaitingroomgallery.com

Wild Thyme Spirits 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. Distillery tours and shop are open by appointment. Please telephone 01951 200082 or email info@wildthymespirits.com

Colonsay Smokery

Over Winter, we're still making delicious hand-crafted traditional hot and cold-smoked salmon as well as cured gravadlax for our mail order customers. And we'll happily sell you some salmon (and give you a wee tour) if we happen to be in the smokery – or indeed if you call us on 07493 939876. You'll find us behind the hotel at Scalasaig Steading. www.colonsaysmokery.com

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.

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Golf

There is an eighteen-hole links golf course at Machrins. Daily fee is £10 payable at the Honesty Box at the first tee. Annual membership of Colonsay Gold Club is £60 per adult for unlimited golfing for the season. Membership forms are available at the first tee, in the Estate Office or from the Secretary. 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 telephone 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, Fri 0900-1300 & 1400-1700; Tues, Weds, Sat 0900-1300; Thurs 1000-1700; Sun 1600-1700

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 and can be purchased from 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...

Oyster Farm

Arguably the best in the UK (if not the world!) oysters are an essential part of the Colonsay experience. They must be ordered in advance, and if you order more than four dozen, Andrew will come and open them for you. Telephone Andrew Abrahams on 01951 200365.

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.
- Do not let your dogs roam freely amongst sheep and cattle. Sheep have been chased over cliffs when panicked by strange dogs.
- 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 up the track towards Balnahard. Please park inside the gate at An Crosan 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.