



Credit - Gareth Tibbs

## Isles of Scilly

Arguably the best coastal holiday destination in the UK – where sea, sky, and shoreline combine to create an escape like no other.

# VISIT ISLES OF Scilly

Just 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly offer a warm welcome and a world apart from mainland Britain. With pristine waters, white-sand beaches, breathtaking scenery and a mild climate, these Atlantic islands are one of Britain's most captivating and unspoilt destinations.

A short tender ride brings guests to the historic sixteenth-century harbour of St Mary's, where colourful streets, independent shops, galleries, cafés and fascinating maritime history await. Nearby Tresco is home to the world-famous Abbey Garden, renowned for its extraordinary collection of exotic plants from around the globe. Beyond these islands, St Martin's offers spectacular coastal walks, an observatory and vineyard, while Bryher and St Agnes provide rugged landscapes, secluded coves, fresh local seafood and authentic island hospitality.

The Isles of Scilly are an excursion-rich destination, where expert local boatmen make every journey between the ship and the islands part of the experience. Whether exploring dramatic coastlines, discovering unique wildlife and rare flora, or simply relaxing in the peaceful atmosphere, every visit creates lasting memories.

A natural addition to European, Celtic Sea and Transatlantic itineraries, combining spectacular scenery, exceptional shore experiences and a warm island welcome. With sheltered anchorages and short tender journeys, guests can spend more time discovering one of Britain's most unique destinations.

## Top Five Facts!

1. More than 140 islands – only five are inhabited  
The Isles of Scilly comprise over 140 islands, islets and rocky outcrops, but only five have permanent communities: St Mary's, Tresco, St Martin's, Bryher and St Agnes. Together they are home to around 2,200 residents.
2. The Gulf Stream creates Britain's mildest climate  
Although just 28 miles (45 km) off the coast of Cornwall, the warming influence of the Gulf Stream gives the islands one of the UK's mildest climates, allowing exotic plants to flourish year-round.
3. Nearly 1,000 shipwrecks lie beneath Scilly's waters  
The islands sit on one of Europe's most historic shipping routes, and almost 1,000 recorded shipwrecks surround the archipelago. Many artefacts, including beautifully carved figureheads, can be seen at Tresco's fascinating Valhalla Museum.
4. Pilot Gig racing began here  
The traditional six-oared pilot gigs of Scilly were once raced out to incoming merchant ships, with the winning crew earning the lucrative job of piloting vessels into port. Today, gig racing remains at the heart of island life and attracts crews from around the world.
5. Tresco Abbey Garden is one of Britain's botanical treasures

Established in 1872, Tresco Abbey Garden is home to more than 20,000 individual plants representing over 2,000 species from around the world, many of which cannot survive outdoors anywhere else in Britain.

## Experience Isles of Scilly

### Tresco Abbey Gardens

Discover one of Britain's finest subtropical gardens, home to over 20,000 plants from more than 80 countries. Wander among towering palms, vibrant succulents and rare species flourishing in Scilly's mild climate, while also exploring the fascinating Valhalla Museum with its remarkable collection of shipwreck figureheads. Available as both self-guided and guided experiences.

**Link:**

### Wildlife Sea Safari

Experience the Isles of Scilly from the water aboard a thrilling wildlife safari. Cruise amongst uninhabited islands, watch for Atlantic grey seals, seabirds and, if you're lucky, dolphins or porpoises, while learning about the islands' fascinating wildlife, geology and maritime history from experienced local boatmen.

**Link:**

### Guided Island Walks

Explore the islands with knowledgeable local guides who bring Scilly's history, wildlife and community to life. Choose from a range of walks across St Mary's, St Martin's, Bryher, St Agnes or Tresco, discovering hidden paths, ancient monuments, coastal scenery and stories that only locals can tell.

**Link:**

### St Martin's Vineyard & Winery

Visit England's most south-westerly vineyard for an introduction to island winemaking. Meet the owners, explore the vines using a self-guided trail and sample a selection of locally produced wines while enjoying spectacular views across the island.

**Link:**

### Glass Bottom Boat Trip

See beneath the crystal-clear waters without getting your feet wet. Special viewing panels reveal colourful marine life, seagrass meadows, shipwreck sites and Atlantic grey seals as you cruise around the beautiful Eastern Isles or dramatic Northern Rocks.

**Link:**

### Tresco Abbey Gardens – Guided Tour

Join one of Tresco's expert gardeners for an exclusive tour through the internationally renowned Abbey Garden. Discover remarkable plants from around the world, hear stories of island gardening and gain behind-the-scenes insight into maintaining one of Britain's most unique botanical collections.

**Link:**

### Tresco Beekeeping Experience

Meet Tresco's Head Beekeeper for a fascinating insight into island beekeeping. Learn how bees thrive amongst thousands of exotic flowers, visit the hives, hear about local conservation projects and finish with a tasting of delicious Tresco honey.

**Link:**

## SC Dogs Distillery Tour & Tasting

Visit this award-winning family distillery on St Martin's to discover how premium rum, gin and vodka are crafted using island botanicals. Learn about Scilly's maritime heritage, tour the distillery and enjoy a guided tasting of its unique spirits.

**Link:**

## Museum & Cultural Centre Experience

Discover the rich history of the Isles of Scilly through expertly curated tours of the Museum and Cultural Centre on St Mary's. From prehistoric settlers and maritime heritage to famous shipwrecks and island traditions, this is the perfect introduction to Scilly's unique story.

**Link:**

## Bus Tour

yet to come

**Link:**

## Port Information

**Time Zone :** GMT

**Operational Hours :** 24 hours

**Berth Enquiries :** Via SMC Port Agency

**Latitude & Longitude :** Lat 49°55'N Long 06° 18.'W

**Prevailing Weather :** Variable

**Anchorage position :** Two available anchorages : St Mary's Roads and Crow Sound

**Distance to landing stage in nm :** Tendering time 5-7 mins from St Mary's Roads and 15-20 from Crow Sound

**Berth Information :** Tendering berth with steps

**Vessel Length :** No limit

**Vessel Width :** No limit

**Air Draft Restrictions :** No limit

**Vessel Draft :** 8.5m

**Depth on Berth :** Tidal harbours and landing points suitable for local tenders

**Largest cruise ship to call to port :** To date Ambience

**VTS - Channel: :** 14 for St Mary's Harbour

**Pilotage: :** Compulsory

**Security Facilities: :** ISPS compliant

**Hot works / painting/ lifeboats :** Permitted

## Passenger Facilities

**Cruise Terminal Building :** Passenger terminal at St Mary's Harbour

**Currency Exchange: :** At Post Office

**Internet Access: :** In local establishments

**Mailbox: :** At Post Office

**Taxi Rank: :** Toot's Taxis +44 1720 422142

**Distance to Airport (miles & km) :** 1 mile/ 1.6 km

**Banks / ATM Machines: :** No banks, ATM at post office

**Restaurant/Café: :** Various in town centre (0.5 m) and on the harbour quay

## Contacts & Further Information

**Name :** Tom Jackman

**Telephone :** 0044 (0) 1720 422124 (option 1)

**Email :** tomjackman@scillonianmarine.co.uk

**Website :** www.scillonianmarine.co.uk / www.visitislesofscilly.com

**Facebook :** Visit Isles of Scilly

**Instagram :** Visit Isles of Scilly

**Tiktok :** Visit Isles of Scilly

**Address :** SMC Port Agents Maritime House Hugh Street St Mary's Isles of Scilly TR21 0LL