

EASDALE

A LITTLE south of the West Highlands hub of Oban lies a small chain of islands in an idyllic location. Their neat white-washed cottages present an attractive picture and film-makers have raved over their location for years.

These are the slate islands of Luing, Seil and Easdale and for a time they thrummed with industry as their workers strove to roof the world.

With the slate islands looking out to the Atlantic and truly beautiful views of the mountains of Mull, you'll see West Highlands scenery at its very best. No wonder that you might get a feeling of déjà vu if you visit for the first time because several films have been made here.

The conservation island of Easdale stood in for Camusfearna in Ring of Bright Water, Ellenabeich featured in The Bridal Path as does much of Argyll and the Donald Sutherland Second World War spy thriller Eye of the Needle was also filmed here.

Slate quarrying on Easdale ceased on a commercial basis in 1911 and you can find out about the history of the industry at the island's fascinating museum.

You get the same feeling about the island. You can walk round it in minutes but you'd miss an awful lot if you did. Once you've stepped off the wee ferry from Ellenabeich after your three-minute crossing you'll see the marvellous spanning new village hall, worth a visit in itself. Walking

round the island you'll come across all kinds of wildlife and wild flowers as well as spectacular views at every turn. Some of the quarries are water-filled and attract water birds. And once you've seen everything you can refresh yourself at the island's bar and restaurant.

You can reach the islands by the Bridge over the Atlantic, actually the Clachan Bridge, completed in 1793 to a design by Thomas Telford. It's probably one of the most photographed in Scotland.

When you come on to Seil Island over the only bridge in the world that crosses the Atlantic you'll marvel at the creative works of the late C John Taylor, poet, artist and composer at Ellenabeich.

There's also the picturesque Isle of Seil Golf Club at Balvicar. Enjoy the magic of the 'Islands of Beauty' where you will see nature's flowers in profusion, glimpse seals, otters and - if you are lucky - watch the dolphins at play! Journey back to a different time in the ancient slate-mining village of Ellenabeich - home to Highland Arts Exhibition and Twelve Isle Putting Green.

- Free admission to artist's gallery
- Free parking and picnic area
- Free entry to prize-winning quizzes
- Free colour reproduction of a C John painting
- Complimentary tea or coffee for all visitors

See also the sister exhibitions at Luss village on the banks of lovely Loch Lomond, or at Inveraray, ancient capital of Argyll whose beautiful castle is home to the Duke of Argyll. Visit our showroom at Callander in the heart of Rob Roy MacGregor country or at Oban, Gateway to

the Islands. All our showrooms offer a wide range of gifts to suit all tastes and pockets.



The picturesque village of Ellenabeich

You'll be enchanted with your visit to the slate islands with their pretty quarries and wildflowers. The fertile island of Luing is no different, though it's a lot smaller being six miles long. It's easily reachable by ferry over the short Cuan Sound and once you're on island soil you can hire a bike and cycle round this enchanting place packed with industrial heritage and fascinating wildlife.

There are cottages and caravans to be hired and with a shop and post office you don't need to leave it to stock up. It's an ideal base from which to explore the West Highlands.

Summer turns to autumn then winter, the wildlife breeding season may be over yet there is much still to view on sea and land. Minke whales will remain hopefully till the end of September but porpoise and seals remain resident throughout the year.

Bottlenose dolphins are frequently spotted during the winter months as they forage for food. On the islands the red deer rut will commence and this is a fine spectacle

Seafari's Corryreckan Wildlife tour aboard open boats remains the firm favourite and offers the best opportunity to see a variety of wildlife.

There is a comprehensive commen-

tary from our qualified guide. This tour culminates at the World's Third Largest Whirlpool. For those who specifically wish to see the whirlpool in full action why not try one of the Whirlpool Specials - trips specifically designed and timed to coincide with the best of the tides.

Seafari Adventures have a new cabin RIB which provides both comfortable seating inside and an open deck wildlife viewing platform.

Iona and its famous Abbey are just 75 minutes away and Colonsay with its grey seal colonies (grey seals pup in September) is even closer. If you just require a water taxi service we are more than happy to help.

Seafari Adventures are open all year with limited winter sailings between November and January. Full information is available from the ticket office Tel 01852 300003 or visit the website www.seafari.co.uk



Sea.fari's new boat Celtic Voyager will cut the travel time from Easdale to Iona to 75 minutes

HIGHLAND ARTS EXHIBITION
C. John Taylor's music, poetry and paintings of Scotland
SEIL ISLAND, by OBAN

Cross the only bridge in the world over the Atlantic Ocean!
• Free admission to Artist's Gallery
• Free Parking • Free Picnic Area
• Win a prize in one of our quizzes
• Receive a complimentary colour picture of one of C John's paintings

See also the Exhibition at Luss Village, on the banks of lovely Loch Lomond - or at Inveraray, ancient capital of Argyll - or visit our showroom at Callander in the heart of Rob Roy MacGregor's country.

We offer a wide range of gifts to suit all tastes and all pockets - come and browse in our Aladdin's Cave!

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