

OBAN - Gateway to the

ALTHOUGH famous as a holiday resort, with visitors returning year after year, the West Highlands' main town of Oban is also an important ferry port and the major retail and administration point for surrounding communities. It offers everything for the holiday-maker, with its shops, its 'bonnie bay', plenty of entertainment and activities and stunning views.

One of the first things to greet you will be the plaintive cries of the seagulls which float in the air above the bay.

Queen Victoria loved Oban (Gaelic for 'little bay'), deeming it 'one of the finest towns we have seen' and since the early 19th century the town has proved a popular holiday destination for Glasgow's Merchant City folk keen to take in the fresh sea air and recharge their batteries.

They came by steamship in those days and a fine sight these vessels must have been steaming into the bay.

Today it is easy to reach Oban by car, coach and train, making it a popular visitor destination, but it also serves an important role as the main town for its extensive hinterland, with its court, police station, auction mart and regional council headquarters.

It also has a fishing fleet and important port facilities for such things as lighthouses, coastguard operations and fisheries.

If you don't wish to do anything energetic - though there is still plenty for those who do - Oban can offer you a really relaxing time. Our hotels, guest houses, camping and caravan sites and hostel in and round the town offer all kinds of accommodation and facilities from the luxurious to the basic - whatever you are looking for Oban can supply it. Because

we have few of the chain stores found in most big towns and cities, the shops in Oban make for a more exciting purchasing experience because they are different and unusual. There is so much choice as well - delicatessen, a distillery, book-shops, a wealth of clothes shops and shoe shops, beauty parlours, souvenir and craft shops, galleries, outdoor activity retail outlets, and plenty of others which stock Highland memorabilia for you to



Oban is a popular resort for tourists visiting the Highlands

take home. All are within a short walking distance of each other.

One outlet well worth a visit is the Footwear Discount Centre at 11 John Street, a tiny lane just off George Street.

Footwear Discount Centre is open seven days a week during the summer so there is ample time for customers to work a visit into their schedule. The centre is famous for its quality footwear at bargain prices, so whatever the type of shoe you need there is something for you. Labels include Fly Flot, Hotter, Padders, Hush Puppies and Rieker, but there are many more and staff ensure that customers can shop in a relaxed atmosphere without any sales pressure to make it all the more enjoyable.

The Footwear Discount Centre has a staggering number of pairs of shoes on display on its two floors - 5,000 pairs to be exact. And the emphasis is definitely on self-selection which makes it easier for you to try and buy.

Self-catering holidaymakers will love

Oban as they can buy fresh local produce in our butcher and baker shops. We also have a choice of supermarkets, hardware stores, chemists and so on, so you'll never be short if you need to stock up.

The town's many gift shops have a plethora of goods to delight the eye. For a memorable experience visitors should definitely try Kranenburg Fine Arts, at Star Brae and Stevenson Street, which specialises in wonderful original works from the best contemporary Scottish and British artists. Solo and mixed exhibitions are held regularly throughout the year and it is a pleasure to browse all the works on display.

As well as works by artists such as Peter King, Helen Turner and Mary Davidson and there are also works of sculpture, glasswork and designer jewellery finely fabricated by the hands of local and international artists.

At the start of this year's season Kranenburg Fine Arts will be exhibiting works by

Ronnie Ford. It also has in stock prints by world-famous artist John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) who lives near Oban. Each October the gallery hosts an exhibition of this fine artist's work.

One of the most enjoyable things about Oban is the chance to sit and savour your surroundings. An ideal location is the bay area where you can sit and watch the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries with their striking red, black and white livery swishing in and out of the heading for the islands of Mull, Coll, Tiree, Lismore and Islay and further west to

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EXPERIENCE A
OBAN
DISTILLERY TOUR



Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban, one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt whisky is but a stone's throw from the sea. Open all year round, limited availability during winter months, please contact for details...

Oban Distillery, Stafford St., Oban, Argyllshire.
Tel: 01631 572004
Fax: 01631 572011



OPENING TIMES 2007

JANUARY
Closed

FEBRUARY
Monday to Friday
12.30pm - 4pm

MARCH to EASTER
Monday to Friday
10am - 5pm

EASTER to JUNE
Monday to Saturday
9.30am - 5pm

JULY to SEPTEMBER
Monday to Friday
9.30am - 7.30pm
Saturday
9.30am - 5pm
Sunday
12noon - 5pm

OCTOBER
Monday to Saturday
9.30am - 5pm

NOVEMBER
Monday to Friday
10am - 5pm

DECEMBER
Monday to Friday
12.30 - 4pm
(until 20th December)
NEW YEAR
Closed



SHOES DIRECT!





Lots of brands including







Hush Puppies

SUMMER OPEN 7 DAYS

TELEPHONE 01631 563633
11 John Street, Oban

Famous for our quality footwear at bargain prices
Over 5000 pairs on two floors of self selection display
Come and browse around in a relaxed atmosphere with no sales pressure