

Isles of Scilly Guided Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island hopping

Destinations: isles of Scilly, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: XSLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Little beats the Isles of Scilly for dazzling white sand beaches, translucent turquoise waters, dramatic headlands, and a beautiful interior dotted with prehistoric sites. For those keen to hop from island to island and experience the very best of what each has to offer, this is the perfect introduction to the archipelago. Highlights include Gugh for its Bronze Age monument, St Mary's for an exploration of the island capital, Hugh Town, St Martin's for its lovely stretches of sand, and Treco for Abbey Garden – a botanical paradise with more than 3,000 species of plants and trees.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Spending time at the Valhalla Museum on Tresco
- Exploring the archaeological sites on Gugh
- Discovering the charm of St Mary's and St Martin's
- Birdwatching and walking on the wild and rugged Bryher
- Soaking up stunning views of the sea and the sky
- Visiting St Agnes on the archipelago's south-westerly edge

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 2 with walks/hikes on good paths, though often quite a distance each day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Your leader will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

The daily itinerary has to be very flexible as our itinerary, like life on Scilly, is determined by weather and tide. We have provided you an outline of the selection of walks on each of the islands which could be included in the itinerary. There are lots of things to see on each island, so some of the walks are not as lengthy as others. The holiday runs at a relaxing pace so that you get a real flavour of island life.

Day 2: Tresco

This is the second largest of the islands. Tresco and its garden are world-renowned and attract many visitors each year. We will see white sand beaches and a panorama of islands from the coastal path and explore the north of the island with its wild heathland, rocky coastlines and 16th and 17th century castles. There will be the

chance to visit the Abbey Garden and to explore this collection of sub-tropical plants, and also to see the Valhalla museum – housing figureheads salvaged from shipwrecks from around the islands' shores.

6 miles (9.5km) with 550ft (160m) of ascent.

Day 3: St Agnes And Gugh

Surrounded by rocks and reefs, St Agnes is the most south-westerly community in the UK, where the whitewashed lighthouse and traditional stone cottages tumble down to tiny bulb fields, and pocket sized farms. Our circular walk will take us past the old lifeboat station, Troytown Maze, a labyrinth laid out in beach pebbles, and the granite outcrop of the Nag's Head. From the coastal path we will have impressive views of the treacherous Western Rocks and the famous Bishop Rock lighthouse. A visit to Gugh (pronounced like the name Hugh, but with a G) is determined by the tide. This small island is home to a bounty of archaeological sites.

5 miles (8km) with 500ft (150m) of ascent.

Day 4: St Martin's

Though the third largest of the islands, St Martin's is a narrow island only 2 miles long. Easily recognisable from its fine shimmering white sandy beaches, the shores of St Martin's have the longest stretches of sand in Scilly. Following the coastal path takes us past kelp pits, through scented gorse heathlands, to stone and rope labyrinths. We follow the sandy shore of Little Bay and Great Bay, before turning inland to the flower fields and glasshouses of Higher Town. We also head over the golden gorse heathland of Chapel Down to St Martin's Head with its chapel, Daymark and ruined Signal Station.

6½ miles (10.5km) with 550ft (170m) of ascent.

Day 5: St Mary's Circular

Our walk circumnavigates the Islands' hub of St Mary's, starting out from our base in Hugh Town. We explore the coastline, passing by the archaeological sites of Bant's Carn and Innisidgen, the granite tors of Porth Hellick and Peninnis Head, and the one and only set of traffic lights on the islands, at the airport! Before returning to Hugh Town, the coastal path brings us to Old Town– a favourite haunt and now the resting place of the former Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

10 miles (16km) with 900ft (280m) of ascent.

Day 6: Bryher

Bryher is wild, windswept and unkempt, and has a very individual feel to it. Fewer than 100 people live here. There is only one road, and the locals quote the definition of a traffic jam as being "when two tractors meet"! The island has a magnificent variety of scenery, from the wild and rugged Hell Bay in the north, to the peaceful bays and secluded beaches of the south. Our walk will take us across heather moorland, past prehistoric cairns and boulder walls and along sandy coastal paths to see these different sides of Bryher.

5 miles (8km) with 600ft (180m) of ascent.

Day 7: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

Bell Rock Hotel, St Mary's - Isles Of Scilly

You will be staying at the Bell Rock Hotel on St Mary's, the largest of the islands stretching to two-and-a-half

miles by one-and-three-quarters. Mid-way between the two beaches of Porthcressa and Town Beach, it is situated on a quiet street, minutes from the shops, and a short stroll from the harbour. The hotel has a small heated indoor swimming pool and good WiFi. Rooms have a hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities and a boot tray. The holiday is Half Board with the opportunity to eat in pubs and cafes at lunchtime, experiencing the local produce, rather than buying a packed lunch.

Food & Drink

Our holidays on the Isles of Scilly are half-board, with breakfast and evening meal provided.

Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

TRAVEL DETAILS

By Ferry

We recommend travelling by ferry as it tends to be less prone to disruptions and cancellation. The Scillonian Ferry sails from Penzance Harbour to St Mary's Harbour (return) most days. Details of timetables and prices can be found [here](#). The Bell Rock hotel is a half mile walk from the harbour and directions have been provided below. [Island Carriers](#) can transport your luggage to the hotel for a small fee.

From St Mary's Quay: At the end of the quay, turn left in front of the Mermaid Inn. Follow this road (Hugh Street) passing the Post Office on your right and the Co-op on your left. At the end, where the road divides, take the left fork and stay on the right-hand side of the road, passing the Town Hall on your right. Continue on this road (Church Street) until you reach the Bell Rock Hotel on your right.

By Air

The Skybus operates flights from Land's End Airport, Exeter Airport & Newquay Airport, flying directly to St Mary's Airport on the Isles of Scilly. Details of flights, and prices can be found [here](#).

[Island Transfers](#) can provide a return transfer service for both guests and luggage for approx. £11.00 (£6.00 single). Guests using this service will need to wait to collect their luggage and take it with them on the transfer.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

An introduction to Isles of Scilly

The unique character and beauty of this archipelago is undeniable. Each of the five islands, St Mary's, Tresco, St Martin's, St Agnes, and Bryher, has a distinct character, shaped by geology, nature and the communities

that live there. Our island hopping holiday explores each of these islands from our base on St Mary's. The islands are designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Stunning silvery white beaches, pristine translucent seas, rugged coastline bounded by golden gorse and heather heathland, and tiny pocket-sized bulb fields filled with scented narcissi - this charming landscape is warmed by the breezes of the Gulf Stream.

In the hopefully rare event of any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

Useful Information

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Suggested Reading And Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides for this holiday. For your own enjoyment you may

consider buying the 1:25,000 Map Explorer 101: Isles of Scilly

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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