

# Isles of Scilly Guided Island Hopping Holiday

**Tour Style:** Island Hopping

**Destinations:** Cornwall & England

**Trip code:** XSLDW

**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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The unique character and beauty of this archipelago is undeniable. Stunning silvery white beaches, translucent turquoise seas, rugged coastline bounded by golden gorse. Tiny pocket-sized bulb fields filled with scented narcissi in spring - this charming landscape, warmed by the breezes of the Gulf Stream, is the ideal escape for leisurely walking, peace and relaxation. Hop from island to island using the local boat service discovering the individual identities that each has. Explore Tresco with its famous sub-tropical Abbey gardens and see the stunning array of Bronze Age archaeological sites on Gugh.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Half Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced local leader or HF Leader
- Island boat transfers on walking days

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- The chance to explore the sub-tropical gardens of Tresco
- Visit wild and windswept Bryher
- Discover the charm of St Mary's and St Martin's
- See the stunning array of Bronze Age archaeological sites on tiny Gugh

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century castles. There will be the chance to visit the Abbey Garden (admission approx £15.00 or £13.50 for concessions; payable locally) 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)

### **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)

### **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)

### **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)

### **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)

### **Day 7: Departure Day**

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **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.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### 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, Treco, 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.

### Food & Transport

#### 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.

#### Luggage Transfers

When you change from one Hotel to another we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

### Joining Instructions

The easiest way to reach the Isles of Scilly is by air flying from Lands End, Newquay, and Exeter. Sailings are also available from Penzance on the Scillonian III. To reach the hotel from the 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.

If your luggage has been labelled with your name and accommodation it can be transported to the hotel for a small fee (approx £2.00) which will be charged to your hotel extras bill. If not, you will need to wait for it to be unloaded and take it with you. Please note, we no longer provide guests with luggage labels. To reach the hotel from the Airport: Drivers from the Skybus shuttle bus service meet all flights and will take you and your luggage to your accommodation. They will also arrange to collect you for your return journey. The return bus fare is payable locally (approx £8.00).

Once you have made your travel arrangements, please contact us via email at [productoperations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:productoperations@hfholidays.co.uk) with your travel plans and expected time of arrival. This will help your

group leader determine the most appropriate time for the introductory meeting on the first evening.

## Essential Information

### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Waterproof walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

### Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

## Trip 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.

## Useful Information

### 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

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## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### PEACE OF MIND

#### ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

**MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

**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.

**PRICE GUARANTEE**

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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