

Sail Hebrides

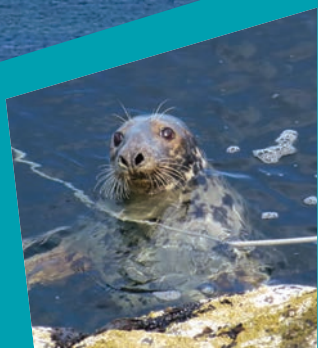
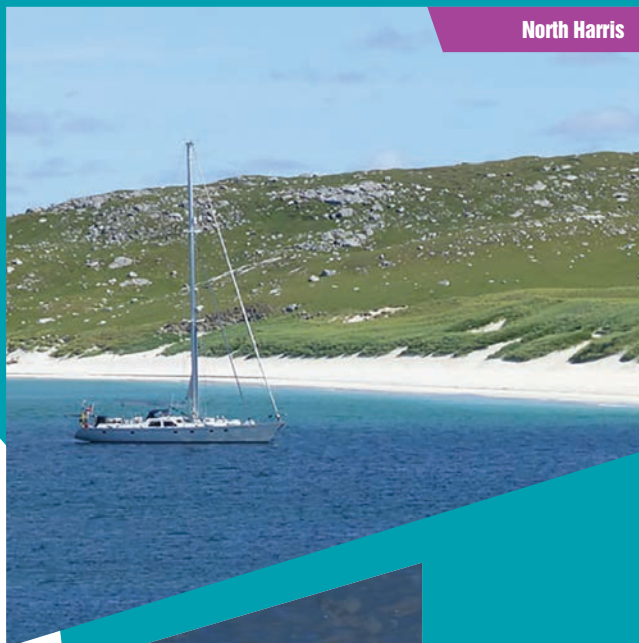
Explore the finest cruising and wilderness in the British Isles - the Outer Hebrides.

“The long summer days give you more time to enjoy all that the Outer Hebrides has to offer and the leisure to plan your next trip as you surely will want to come back again and again.”

Experience Life on the Edge
www.sailhebrides.co.uk



Sail Hebrides



With new sheltered facilities throughout, you need only choose your route and destinations ranging from fully serviced first rate facilities or isolated wilderness anchorages, often within a day's sail of each other. Whether on a skippered boat a charter or on your own boat, the choice is yours.

Each island in this unique chain has its own character blending Gaelic culture with outstanding land and seascapes and abundant wildlife. The sailor can experience first hand a maritime heritage forged by the Kingdom of the Isles, Vikings, fishing communities and even ocean going monks over the centuries.

Island hopping down the more sheltered east coast offers the experience of the bustling Hebridean capital of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, through Tarbert and Scalpay in Harris, Lochmaddy and Lochboisdale in the Uists via Eriskay to Castlebay on Barra and beyond to the southernmost islands of Vatersay and Mingulay

For the more adventurous, the west coast offers white sand beaches, sea lochs and small island groups leading to the renowned World Heritage Site of St Kilda.

While many destinations are easily approached, some, particularly on the western, Atlantic side require careful planning and settled weather. Extensive, detailed guidance is contained in "Outer Hebrides, Sailing Directions & Anchorages" published by the Clyde Cruising Club.

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Sailing in the Outer Hebrides What to know, what to prepare for

If you have explored other coastal areas around the North Sea, the Baltic, the English Channel, the Atlantic coast of France or the Irish Sea and are looking for new places to sail in Europe you should have few problems on the west coast of Scotland and sailing the Western Isles. The Clyde Cruising Club's Outer Hebrides is the only sailing directions describing yacht anchorages and inshore passages in the Western Isles and is essential reading. Charts can be selected from the Admiralty Chart Catalogue (NP109)

The main centres of Stornoway, Lochmaddy, Lochboisdale and Castlebay (all Outer Hebrides ferry ports) make good first landing points in the Western Isles. Rapid changes of conditions are more frequent in the Outer Hebrides squalls can pass through fast and benign weather return. As a result unexpected adverse conditions may arise which may test your boat and your crew – be prepared.

(This information is for guidance only, not to be used for navigation)

Passage to the Outer Hebrides What to know, what to prepare for

Looking to sail to the Western Isles? There are three main ways to cross to these wonderful islands. Crossing the Sea of the Hebrides - the distance from Canna to Loch Boisdale is 25 miles and is the shortest sailing route to the Outer Hebrides for boats coming from the south. Crossing the Little Minch - forms an area about 15 miles wide between Skye and Harris. The preferred sea crossing to the Western Isles here is from Dunvegan or Uig on Skye to avoid the outlying hazards to the north west of Skye. Crossing the North Minch - more exposed in the strong northerly winds which can build up a swell.

The distance of this sailing crossing to the Outer Hebrides is also greater than that of the Little Minch, however the reduced tidal streams can make for a simpler passage plan. From the North of Skye to Loch Shell it is 20 miles, passing east of the

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Maritime heritage of the outer Hebrides A Start to Sailing in the Hebrides – by Ian Stephen

I was born, one street back from 'the hoil' of SY harbour and grew up in one of the Terraces which housed so many families, moved into the town, for work, from rural areas of Lewis. But the kids still found their way to the piers, to jump on bales of wool, come to feed the Harris Tweed mills which were busy then, turning out warps to deliver to weavers out on their crofts. We gathered the spill of herrings by the neat heaps of corked black cotton mesh. I studied the raked Zulu stems of the Lilac and the Daffodil. We could all intone the names of the small trawlers which were beginning to serve the international appetite for nephrops – simply 'prawns' to us.

Now, in 2014, the Klondykers come no more for herring, the number of trawlers has fallen to the smallest in my lifetime. High steel piles have been driven into the bed of 'the hoil' to take an impressive system of pontoon berths, serviced with electrical power and ready for the needs of a developing leisure industry.



Explore...

Island Facilities

Lewis East Coast

	Harbours	Pontoons	Visitor Moorings	Anchorage	Fuel	Water	Power	Toilets/ Shower	Food/Drink & Shops	Waste Disposal
1 North of Stornoway	•									
2 Stornoway	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3 Loch Erisort & Loch Mariveg	•									
4 Loch Shell										
5 Loch Bhròllum & Loch Claidh										
6 Loch Seaforth										
7 The Shiants										

Harris East Coast

6 Loch Seaforth										
7 The Shiants										
8 East Loch Tarbert	•									
9 Scalpay	•									
10 The Bay										
11 Rodel	•									
12 Leverburgh	•	•								
13 The Sound of Harris										

North Uist

13 The Sound of Harris										
14 Berneray	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
15 Lochmaddy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
16 Loch Eport										
17 Grimsay	•									
18 Monach Islands										
19 St Kilda										

South Uist and Benbecula

20 Benbecula										
21 Loch Skipport										
22 Loch Eynort										
23 Lochboisdale	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
24 Eriskay	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Barra

25 The Sound of Barra										
26 Northbay	•									
27 Castlebay	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
28 Watersay										
29 Islands to the South of Barra										

The Atlantic Coast

18 Monach Islands										
12 Leverburgh	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
30 Sound of Taransay										
31 West Loch Tarbert										
32 Scarp and Braigh Mor										
33 Loch Roag	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
34 Remote Atlantic Islands										
19 St Kilda										



Lochmaddy



Connected by causeways to Benbecula (via Grimsay), Berneray, and Baleshare, North Uist (Uibhist a Tuath) makes a great stopping off point for crews exploring the Outer Hebrides by boat.

A new fully serviced 24 berth pontoon in (due to open for the 2014 season) makes the island even more accessible for crews sailing in the Western Isles, providing a great base for exploring the area. In Lochmaddy there is a shop, phone, bank, hotels, showers, and medical facilities.

You can buy petrol and diesel on North Uist at the garage in Lochmaddy, and visitors to the village can also access taxi or mini bus services. There is also a shop at Sollas.

The island is covered with a patchwork of peat bogs, low hills and lochans, with more than half the land being covered by water. This results in spectacular views with reflections of the sky and clouds in the water. ■

North Uist

Lochmaddy's new serviced pontoons, wildlife watching, watersports and archaeology



Images with thanks from Moonshadow Yacht Charter Ltd, P. Tomkins, VisitScotland, Scottish Viewpoint



New Pontoon



Scalpay



Harris East Coast

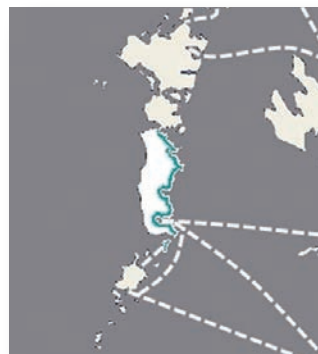
Beautiful rugged coastline, mountains, machair and spectacular sand beaches, trips to St Kilda

The east coast of the Isle of Harris (Hearadh an Ear) is a great destination for sailing in the Outer Hebrides, offering ample opportunity to explore. The Bays are a collection of

small sea coastal indentations each with a small community offering wild anchorages on the east coast of Harris.

Rodel is a sheltered pool offering visitor moorings and there is a small hotel and restaurant close by. There is a pontoon in the Harris ferry port of Leverburgh and the nearby Sound of Harris gives access to the Atlantic Coast and St Kilda. Tarbert, the main centre boasts shopping, banking and tourist information facilities as well as a selection of Harris accommodation and eateries.

Drop anchor on the east coast of Harris and you can visit spectacular island beaches, archeological sites, take boat trips to St Kilda and other outlying islands, enjoy a selection of wildlife walks and even a trip to the Harris eagle observatory. ■



South Uist

Inlets and bays, miles of white shell beaches, birdwatching, freshwater lochs, angling and golf

Cruising round South Uist (Uibhist a Deas) is a wonderful Western Isles sailing

experience, and the island's east coast offers a complex of inlets and bays facing across the Minch to the Isles of Skye, Rhum and Eigg. Lochboisdale is the main port of entry to South Uist by boat, and offers visitor moorings close to local services and transport links.

A new marina development is underway in Lochboisdale and due for completion in 2015. Eriskay has the sheltered harbour of Arcasaid Mhor with basic services on the pontoon and access to local village shops at Haun near the north end of the islands. Loch Skipport and Loch Eynort are remote areas offering wild anchorages off South Uist where you can enjoy the landscape and wildlife. ■



Lochboisdale



Lewis East Coast

Stornoway's new marina, all facilities, wild anchorages and the Shiants, culture and heritage

The largest harbour in the Western Isles, Stornoway is well sheltered and easy to enter at all states of the tide. The newly installed 70 pontoon berth

marina provides mooring at Stornoway for crews sailing in the Outer Hebrides and also gives walking access to the town with all the facilities you would expect including airport and ferry terminal.

South of Stornoway are Loch Erisort and Loch Mariveg, Loch Shell, Loch Claidh and Loch Bhròllum and finally Loch Seaforth - all sheltered sea lochs with wild anchorages for boats sailing around the Isle of Lewis.

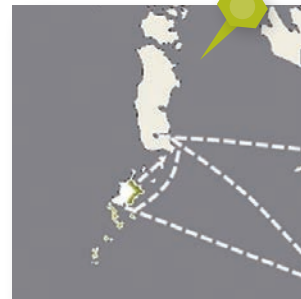
This section of Hebrides coastline offers ample opportunities for sailors to explore the wildlife and wilderness of Lewis as well as visit some of the small fishing communities along this shore. Beyond the coast lie The Shiants, and seal and puffin colonies. ■



Stornoway Marina



Castlebay



Barra

Island hopping, visitor moorings, cockleshell beaches, all facilities, the craic

At the southern tip of the Outer Hebrides, Barra (Barraigh), Vatersay (Bhatarsaigh) and the small uninhabited islands to the south offer a great sailing destination in the Outer

Hebrides as they are known for their stunning white beaches and warm friendly welcome.

The airport on Barra beach has been voted the world's most stunning landing spot, the only place in the world to have scheduled flights to land and take-off on a beach, timed to coincide with low tides. Calmac ferries travel from Castlebay to Oban, Lochboisdale and Tiree, while the Ardmor to Eriskay ferry is at the north of the island.

There are 12 visitor moorings and anchorages in Castlebay, Barra and the settlement also offers a good range of facilities ashore for what is a small village. Kayak hire is available to explore the coastline and bike hire to explore inland. ■



Atlantic Coast

Wild and wonderful, St Kilda - World Heritage Site, weather forecasts and passage planning

Sailing the west coast of the Outer Hebrides gives access to stunning white sand beaches scattered along a coastline that faces the full might of the Atlantic Ocean (An Cuan Siar).

The Monach Isles, Taransay, West Loch Tarbert, Scarp and Loch Roag with marine life including common and harbour seals, basking sharks, dolphin, porpoise, blue shark and Minke whale all resident in the summer months. Boats sailing the west coast of the Outer Hebrides are warned that there are few dedicated moorings available, with the area offering mostly wild anchorages with little shelter and can access key services at Leverburgh, West Loch Tarbert and Loch Roag.

The ultimate Scottish sailing destination, the dual World Heritage Site of St Kilda lies 42 miles out to the west from the Sound of Harris. However visibility and weather suitable for sailing to St Kilda are infrequent, which makes opportunities do so more precious. ■



St Kilda

