

Portree



Location: 57° 24' N 006° 11' W
No. of Berths: N/A – Anchorage only
Anchorage: Yes

Anchorage Position: 57° 24.80' N 006° 09.60' W
57° 24.55' N 006° 10.13' W
Distance to Landing Stage: 0.5 NM
Tidal range/movement: None discernible at anchorages
Pilotage: Not required
Town centre: 0.4 km
Shuttle to town: Not required
Nearest airport: Inverness 200 km

Portree is the principal town on the romantic Isle of Skye. A natural harbour, Portree is protected by the cliffs of Ben Tianavaig, offering a deep sheltered anchorage for cruise ships visiting the Isle of Skye. Wherever you go on the island you will find the Gaelic language and culture still thriving, giving Skye a distinctly different feel to mainland Scotland. Skye's Gaelic name is "An t-Eilean Sgitheanach" meaning the winged isle. Portree itself derives its name from the Gaelic "Port an Rìgh", the King's Port, following the visit in 1540 of King James V, father of Mary Queen of Scots.

Tender operations are easy. Journey time from the anchorage is around 10 minutes with passengers disembarking on to a pontoon at the picturesque quayside. Coaches are parked on the quayside for shore excursions. For passengers who simply want to explore the town, a short walk past a row of pretty pastel shaded houses, shops and restaurants takes you into town centre. As the island's capital, Portree offers everything you'd expect of a bustling Highland town with a great selection of shops, restaurants and pubs.

The peninsula to the south of the harbour is known as "The Lump" and it once provided the dramatic setting for public hangings, the last of which took place in 1742. Nowadays it is where the annual Highland Games take place.

The rugged Cuillin mountain range dominates the skyline from many parts of the island. A few miles north of Portree, the Old Man of Storr, an extraordinary rock pinnacle, marks the start of the Trotternish Ridge – 20 miles of bizarre rock formations.

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Shore Excursions

The following is a list of popular shore excursions from Portree

It should be noted that these details are not definitive but are intended to demonstrate the range of excursions and activities available to cruise passengers visiting Portree as part of a cruise. Cruise Scotland cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of this information.



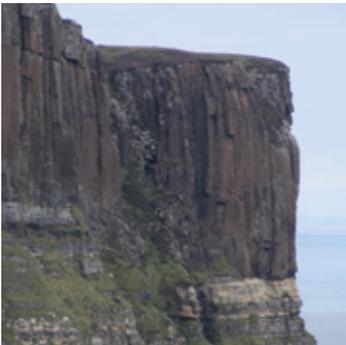
Eilean Donan Castle (half day)

As one of the most iconic images of Scotland, Eilean Donan is recognised all around the world. Situated on an island at the point where three great sea lochs meet, and surrounded by majestic scenery, it is little wonder that the castle is now one of the most visited and important attractions in the Scottish Highlands. Although first inhabited around the 6th Century, the first fortified castle was built in the mid 13th Century. Since then at least four different versions of the castle have been built and re-built as the feudal history of Scotland unfolded through the centuries. The castle now has its own visitor centre with coffee shop, gift shop and toilets.



Skye Museum of Island Life (half day)

The Skye Museum of Island Life is an open-air museum which has preserved some of the “black houses” (thatched cottages) and workshops which were typical of a 19th Century crofting community. You can visit the croft houses where the family would have lived, the barn, weaver’s shop, smithy and the ceilidh house. Step through the doors and step back into history.



Trotternish Peninsula (half day)

Trotternish is Skye’s most northerly peninsula and offers a circular tour of around 50 miles through breathtaking scenery. The Storr is an impressive mass of rock rising to a height of 2,358 feet. Right in front of it stands an extraordinary basalt pinnacle 165 feet high, known as “The Old Man of Storr” which can be seen for miles around. On the coast, Kilt Rock is formed of black basalt columns creating the folds which give the cliff face its name. The Quiraing is possibly one of the most unexpected and exciting rock formations anywhere in the British Isles.



Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles (half day)

Armadale Castle was the principal home of the MacDonalds of Sleat from 1870. Although the main structure is now a ruin, the impressive Museum of the Isles will take you on a journey from the Lordship of the Isles through the clans and Jacobite period to the story of the Highland Clearances. Genealogy research is also available. The magnificent gardens date back to the 17th century and visitors can enjoy 40 acres of exotic trees, shrubs and flowers.



Dunvegan Castle (half day)

Dunvegan Castle, Skye’s most famous landmark, is a fortress stronghold in an idyllic lochside setting on the northwest side of the island. The castle has been home to the MacLeods since the 13th Century and it is believed to be the oldest inhabited castle in Britain. Here you can get a taste of the rich inheritance of the Clan MacLeod, the great clan battles, legends, tragedies, murders most foul and great loves and romances.