



Welcome to Malts Cruise

Your Adventure Starts Here!





Malts Cruise: 2016

The Malts Cruise is a happy mix of sailing in company, free cruising and social gatherings ashore. Add in a dram of the west coast's most famous single malt whiskies, a ceilidh and perhaps a sighting of a sea eagle, and you have the Malts Cruise.

The Route

In 2016 the Malts Cruise will take a circular route, west then south through the Inner Hebrides, allowing crews to circumnavigate the Isle of Mull and visit the Islands of Skye and Islay. Starting in Oban, the first rendezvous is at Tobermory on Mull, before sailing to Rum, allowing time to visit the Small Isles and the remote anchorages on the Morven peninsular. On Rum there will be an informal social evening, a chance to trek in search of sea-eagles ashore, and a visit to Kinloch Castle.

The next rendezvous takes place at Loch Harport on Skye, the home of Talisker, the only distillery on Skye, where we anchor in sight of the jagged Cuillin Hills. The favoured route from Skye goes southwest, calling at Canna and Coll and giving you the chance to explore the isolated islands and bays on the west side of Mull, including Ulva, Gometra, Iona and Staffa, world renown for Fingal's Cave, before gathering at Jura. If contrary weather arrives, an alternative route east of Mull is an option.

West Loch Tarbet on Jura is a desolate yet beautiful anchorage well worth visiting before heading south via the tidal Sound of Islay to call at the whisky capital of the west coast. Islay's fertile soils have made it home to eight distilleries including famous names such as Lagavulin, Laphroaig and Ardbeg. This gentle green island will be our final rendezvous of the cruise.

Whisky Distilleries

Guided tours of the distilleries in Oban, Tobermory and Talisker are included in the Malts Cruise, with the route also passing by Caol Ila, Jura, Ardbeg, Lagavulin, and Laphroaig distilleries for those keen to add to the list. During the cruise, tutored tastings (nosings) will be held at scenic locations along the route and on board our lead boat.

Malts Cruise 2016 Schedule

15 July 2016:	Malts Cruise office opens in Oban Marina
16 July 2016:	Welcome supper in Oban
17 July 2016:	Parade of Sail in Oban Bay Sound of Mull to Tobermory Cruise Supper
18 July 2016:	Tobermory Distillery Tours Local guided walking tours
19 July 2016:	Free cruising: Loch Moydart/Small Isles/Canna
20 July 2016:	Rendezvous at Rum – tours of Kinloch Castle Local guided walking tours Cruise BBQ ashore
21 July 2016:	Free Cruising: Canna/Loch Scavaig/Loch Harport
22 July 2016:	Talisker Distillery Tours Cruise supper
23 July 2016:	Free Cruising: Canna/Coll/Iona/West Mull
24 July 2016:	Free Cruising: Iona/Tiree/Colonsay
25 July 2016:	Rendezvous at West Loch Tarbert, Jura
26 July 2016:	Free Cruising: Craighouse, Jura
27 July 2016:	Rendezvous at Islay Ardbeg & Lagavulin Distillery Tours
28 July 2016:	Final Cruise Buffet Supper & Ceilidh at Islay

Requirements

We have no specific requirements for boat type or size - all seaworthy boats capable of completing the cruise itinerary are welcome.



“Well organised, relaxed cruising in some of the most beautiful scenery in the world in great company with a little bit of whisky thrown into the mix.”

Martin Lunt, yacht *Gilliatt* (GBR) Malts Cruise 2013

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Benefits of Joining the Cruise

Most people join a World Cruising Club rally for the security and peace of mind of an organised event; for the camaraderie and friendship of a large group of like-minded people; and for the fun of sailing in a fleet of boats.

Malts Cruise participants are a mix of people including those who return year after year; those exploring Scottish waters for the first time; and charterers making use of the excellent crewed and bareboat charter companies in the region.

“A very memorable experience that combined the sociability of an organised cruise with the opportunity for independent exploration. The destinations were well thought out and challenging enough to build confidence for future adventures on the West Coast. We thought World Cruising Club were first rate in their organisation of the event and very friendly and approachable. Thank you”

Callum and Sally Leslie, yacht *Nicole* (GBR) Malts Cruise 2011

What do the entry fees include?

Malts Cruise is independent cruising within a social framework, so social and sightseeing activities are included at the start and finish, and at the cruise rendezvous locations. You may choose to anchor, use a mooring buoy or dock, so berthing after the first two nights in Oban Marina is at your discretion. By joining the cruise, you can access discounts for nautical books and charts, and GILL clothing on orders placed through our website.

Included:

- Organisation of the cruise
- Pre-event newsletter
- Skippers' Briefcase and Malts Cruise flag (one per boat)
- Malts Cruise fleece and World Cruising Club cap (one per crew)
- Two nights berthing at Oban Marina (nights of 15 & 16 July 2016)
- Comprehensive social programme

Distillery tours and tutored whisky tastings
World Cruising Club staff on hand throughout the event

Entry fees

The entry fee is made up of a boat fee and a crew fee payable for each person onboard the boat.

Boat fee	£350
Crew fee per person (entire cruise)	£275
Crew fee per person (1 leg only)	£125
Child fee (aged over 10 and under 18 years)	£125
Children aged under 10 years	Free



“When considering the meals, tours and staffing I do not know how you managed to do it for the price! ”

Steve Huckvale, yacht *Arcarius* (GBR)
Malts Cruise 2011

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How to Join the Cruise

To enter, all you need to do is to complete an online entry form and pay your boat fee online at www.worldcruising.com and select 'Join a Rally'. You can also opt to pay by bank transfer.

The Malts Cruise is limited to 40 boats, and places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis as payment is received. If demand exceeds 40 boats, we may open a waiting list.

The date for final payment of extra crew fees is 31 May 2016.

What happens next?

After you have completed your entry and paid your boat fee, we will send you a confirmation email and receipt. You'll begin receiving the rally newsletters in Spring 2016, which are packed with useful tips and reminders.

The Malts Cruise office opens in Oban Marina on 15 July, and all boats should be registered by 1400 on 16 July.

Refunds

A refund of Entry and Crew Fees paid, less an administration fee of £175, is available for withdrawals made in writing (by email) before 1 June 2016. There will be no refund for withdrawals made after this date.

There will be no refund for boat or crew fees for any withdrawals during the cruise. See our [Conditions of Entry](#).

Responsibility of the skipper

We will not check your boat or its equipment - it is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that the boat is seaworthy, suitably equipped, and crewed for an offshore passage.

We do not require that boats carry specific equipment, but we are happy to advise if you are considering buying safety or communications equipment.

Chartering a boat

Chartering is a popular option for the Malts Cruise, and there are a number of charter companies offering a wide range of vessels in bareboat and skippered charter in Oban, Crinan, Inverkip and the Clyde marinas. If you are unused to the area, a skippered charter may be the answer.

If you are chartering a Clyde-based boat, don't forget to factor-in up to two days for the trip from the Clyde to Oban, and another two days return. See our [Local Information](#) or www.sailsotland.co.uk for details.

Crinan and Caledonian Canals

Boats joining the cruise from the North Sea or from the Clyde may choose to use the scenic Caledonian or Crinan Canals. Details of costs and size limits from www.scottishcanals.co.uk



"A fantastic introduction to sailing in Scotland, the cruise encouraged me to push comfort zones and visit places we may not have ventured alone"

Dan Bower, *Skyelark of London* (GBR)
Malts Cruise 2013

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Cruising in Scotland

The joys of the Malts Cruise include exploring remote lochs and islands, testing your navigation skills in rocky narrows, and sitting to your anchor in a beautiful bay. This requires a degree of self-reliance, some preparation and forethought, and a suitably-equipped boat.

Anchoring

Most of the time boats will be at anchor, so it is essential that you have at least two anchors of sufficient weight (heavier is better) and a working windlass. Thick kelp weed is prevalent in many anchorages, and your anchor must be able to break through the weed to the seabed below. CQR anchors are not good for this - Delta, Spade and Fisherman's are better. Having a choice of anchors will extend your choice of anchorages.

Chain is better than rope as it will stop the boat 'roving' in the inevitable katabatic gusts, but if you have a rope rode, an anchor chum or angel can help. A dinghy with an outboard motor will be necessary for getting ashore.

Other equipment

Water and fuel can't always be obtained from an alongside berth, so jerry jans are a good idea. In some locations, the fuel berth is for fishing boats, and while yachts are most welcome, service may not be speedy.

Up-to-date charts for the whole area are a must, and we recommend you have pilot books and cruising guides too. There is a list in [Cruise FAQs](#) and the Malts Cruise [Local Information pages online](#).

The islands provide diverse habitats for a range of wildlife, including basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises, sea eagles, ospreys and sea otters. The range of sea birds is particularly impressive. Binoculars are vital for navigation and spotting wildlife, plus a guide to birds and sealife.

Meeting the locals

The remote communities of the western isles welcome visiting cruisers, so take the opportunity to meet the locals and support local businesses. The region is famous for seafood and venison as well as whisky, so see what the local shop, fishing boat or pub has to offer, whether eating aboard or ashore.

If you are musical, or enjoy singing, you can get involved in music sessions and impromptu ceilidhs in the local pub or village hall.

Skye (in Gaellic, Eilean a' Cheò or misty isle) has played a central role in the history of Scotland. It was the base of the clans MacLeod and MacDonald, Lords of the Isles, and the 'Skye Boat Song' depicts the flight of Bonnie Prince Charlie after the failed Jacobite rebellion of 1745. This history can be seen in the castles and ancient monuments.



"This was an excellent way to venture beyond the comfort zone of habitual cruising grounds and explore the magnificent western isles with good company."

David Homer, yacht *Noisette* (GBR)
Malts Cruise 2013

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Your Questions Answered

What is the minimum size of boat and crew? There is no minimum size, and all types of boat are welcome. Boats must be 'sea-going' and capable of handling the conditions on the west coast of Scotland. Every boat must have at least two people on board.

When does the cruise start and finish? The cruise office opens in Oban on Friday 15 July 2016, and the departure is on Sunday 17 July. The cruise ends on the morning of Friday 29 July. For more information go to [About the rally](#) and see the [Conditions of Entry](#)

What safety equipment or training do I need? There are no mandatory safety requirements for the Malts Cruise, but we strongly recommend that you check that your boat, crew and equipment are suitable for the west coast of Scotland. We have some remote cruising tips in [Cruising in Scotland](#)

I have never sailed in Scotland before, how do I prepare? It is a good idea to buy up-to-date pilot books and cruising guides (as well as charts), as these will help you plan your itinerary for the 'free cruising' periods. These books will also have tips on local facilities, navigation and anchoring. Some suggestions:

Cruising Scotland by Mike Balmforth & Edward Mason

Clyde Cruising Club/Imray ISBN 9781846236976

Yachtsman's Pilot: Skye & Northwest Scotland by Martin Lawrence

Imray ISBN 9781846231780

Clyde Cruising Club Sailing Directions:

Firth of Clyde ISBN 9781846233685

Kintyre to Ardnamurchan ISBN 9781846235801

Ardnamurchan to Cape Wrath ISBN 9781846235542

You will be anchoring on a regular basis, so check your ground tackle and windlass. More tips on [Cruising in Scotland](#)

Can I charter a boat? Yes, there are many companies that offer bareboat or skippered charters on a variety of boats. Yachts can be chartered from Ardfern, Dunstaffnage and Loch Melfort. Visit www.sailscotland.co.uk for charter links, or ask World Cruising Club. If chartering from bases on the Firth of Clyde, extra time should be allowed to sail to Oban via the Crinnan Canal.

What will the weather be like? The weather is influenced by the passage of depressions over the Atlantic, and is very variable. Over the two weeks of the cruise, most conditions are likely to be experienced. The Clyde and Stornoway Coastguards broadcast the shipping area and inshore waters forecast on VHF. The pre-departure Skippers' Briefing includes a weather forecast.

What facilities are on the route? This is remote cruising, and you need to be prepared to anchor-off and dinghy ashore. Planning for fuel, water and food is important:

Fuel is available alongside in Oban and Tobermory, and by jerry-can at Port Ellen on Islay.

Water is available in Oban, Rum, Arisaig, Tobermory, Coll, Craighouse (Jura) and Port Ellen, but you may need to use jerry-cans.

There is good provisioning in Oban, Tobermory and Port Ellen, but only very limited facilities in Canna, Rum and Eigg, and Loch Harport.

What about flying to Scotland then getting to the cruise? The closest international airport is Glasgow International (GLA), 140 km (approx 2½ hours). There is a train to Oban Pier from Glasgow Queen Street www.scotrail.com and also a bus service www.citylink.co.uk from the city centre.

Planning crew changes can be tricky if connecting with ferries to the Islands, so check with World Cruising Club or refer to the information on our website.

What about visas? Only non-EU nationals may need visas – check with the closest British Embassy or see the UK country information pages on www.noonsite.com

Can I take my children? Families with children of all ages are very welcome.

Can I take my pets? We have no restrictions on the animals you carry on your boat. Any animals arriving from outside the UK will have to comply with British laws. See the UK country information on www.noonsite.com



“Wonderful, wonderful scenery, sailing, scotch and seafood.”

Paul Browning, yacht *Island Air* (AUS)
Malts Cruise 2013

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Contacts

If you have any questions about joining the rally, the suitability of your boat, selecting equipment or any other issue please contact us:

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About World Cruising Club

World Cruising Club organises sailing events around the world. The rallies are devised for the 'average' cruising boat and crew; helping people to realise their dream of making a long offshore passage.

The company was formed by Jimmy Cornell following the success of very first ARC in 1986. After Jimmy's retirement in 1998, the company has been run by Andrew Bishop.

World Cruising Club Rallies

ARC The original sailing rally has run every year since 1986. Departs Las Palmas de Gran Canaria for Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia every November. Direct route starts 21 November 2016, or 7 November for ARC+ Cape Verdes.

ARC Caribbean 1500 North America's largest and longest-running rally. Departs Portsmouth VA for Tortola, BVI every November.

World ARC The ultimate circumnavigation rally takes 15 months, departing from Saint Lucia sailing via Panama, Galapagos, Pacific islands, Australia, Indonesia, Cocos, Mauritius, South Africa and Brazil. Starts 9 January 2017.

ARC Europe Explore the Atlantic Islands of Bermuda and the Azores, on passage from Tortola, BVI or Portsmouth, VA bound for Lagos Portugal. Starts on 7 May 2016.

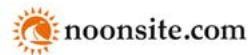
ARC USA Sail from the Caribbean to Portsmouth, VA or Ft. Lauderdale, USA. Starts 7 May 2016 in Tortola BVI.

ARC Channel Islands Run in association with RYA Active Marina, the rally offers a week long organised cruise to Cherbourg, Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney. Yachts gather in Gosport Marina from

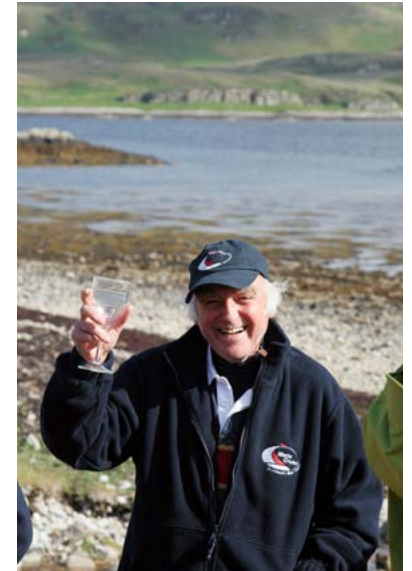
ARC Baltic takes you on a 1,500nm voyage of discovery through Europe's "east sea", combining days of social cruising with exploring the Baltic's fascinating culture and history ashore.

Seminars and Forums

Helping you prepare for your offshore adventure is an important part of our role. We run a number of 2 hour panel Forums and 2 day intensive Seminars in locations across the UK, USA and Europe. For more information go to www.worldcruising.com/training



The global resource for cruising sailors www.noonsite.com features essential information on all matters of interest to sailors planning an offshore voyage - a one-stop website providing essential information on all maritime nations of the world.



"We were particularly impressed by all the WCC staff we encountered who were uniformly friendly and helpful"

Steve Huckvale, yacht *Arcarius* Malts Cruise 2011