

# ST COLUMBA HOTEL

ISLE OF IONA

*a haven for  
total freedom  
& relaxation*



from the garden



quiet garden



north end

## WELCOME

The St. Columba Hotel is owned by a partnership of eleven individuals, ten of whom live and work on Iona.

We aim to offer superb food and warm, friendly service in an environment of relaxation and comfort.

We welcome all guests to the hotel and hope that, whether they are regular guests or visiting Iona for the first time, they will have a happy and memorable stay.

## ST COLUMBA HOTEL

Comfortable sun lounges and restaurant provide glorious panoramic views, in ever changing colours, over the



Sound of Iona to the Ross of Mull and the mountains beyond. An open fire warms the inner lounge.

Originally built as a Manse in 1846 and since extended, the hotel stands on rising ground next to Iona Abbey and

less than a quarter of a mile from the jetty.

The accommodation for 47 people consists of single, double and twin rooms, all with en-suite bath or shower. Three can be used as family rooms.

The hotel has a Restricted Hotel Licence, which enables us to serve wine and spirits to our residents, and to non-residents with meals.



dining room

view from the hotel

room 1 detail





west coast



dolphin off iona



ferry

## ISLE OF IONA

This famous Inner Hebridean island, only three miles long by a mile and a half wide, is separated by the narrow Sound of Iona from Fionnphort, which is located at the south western tip of Mull. A passenger ferry runs between Fionnphort and Iona and takes approximately five minutes.

Even before the Christian era, Iona was considered to be a place of special spiritual significance – there are said to have been over 300 standing stones on the island. Today it is most famous for the coming of the passionate and renegade St. Columba from Ireland in 563AD. The Saint founded a small Celtic monastery here, and for 34 years, carried on his work of introducing Christianity to the Scottish mainland and as far south as Switzerland, until his death in 597AD.

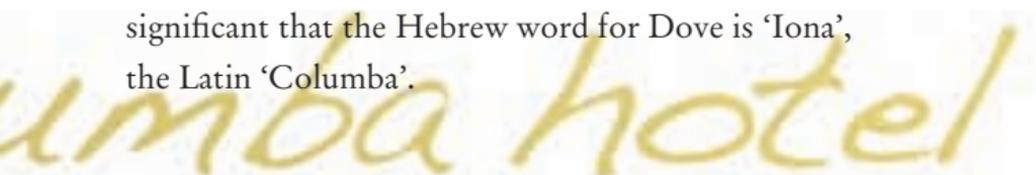


The Benedictine Abbey was built in the 12th Century, but fell into ruin after the Reformation. The buildings have now been restored, principally by the 'Iona Community', who have a permanent residence in the Abbey.

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## 'IONA' & 'COLUMBA'

There are many explanations of the origin of the word Iona, and some think it is derived from I-shona, the Blessed or sacred Isle. However, it is curiously significant that the Hebrew word for Dove is 'Iona', the Latin 'Columba'.



quiet garden

quiet garden

'freya'





**RESTAURANT**

Our restaurant is committed to serving wholesome, freshly sourced, local produce. Our salads and vegetables couldn't get much more local with two full time gardeners working in the hotel grounds and our gardens are certified organic.



Vegetarian choices are always available and guests with particular dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice. We also offer a fine selection of wines and beers to enjoy with your meal. Morning coffee and afternoon teas are served daily along with home-baked cakes, scones and biscuits. All breads and patisserie are freshly baked daily in our own kitchen.



With spectacular views across the Sound of Iona to the Ross of Mull and beyond, we are confident that we provide an exceptional eating experience.

**CHILDREN**

Children are most welcome. High Tea for young children can be provided at 6 pm by request. Special terms are available for children sleeping in a folding bed or a cot in the parents' room.

**ACTIVITIES**

The island is really its own 'activity'. There are endless different walks to places of legendary or actual fame. Bird-watching, the study of wild flowers and geology occupy the time of many visitors. However, the island offers the greatest facilities for doing absolutely nothing in complete peace and quiet, and if necessary, in solitude. The hotel has no television.



A perfect haven for relaxation and tranquillity and, with the lack of cars, children do not have to be so closely guarded.

**BOAT TRIPS**

Local boats sail twice daily to the Isle of Staffa where you will find Fingal's Cave. Wildlife including whales, dolphins, porpoise, basking sharks, seal pups, puffins and many other sea birds are often sighted on these trips. There is also a small skippered sailing boat which can be chartered for alternative boat trips and fishing trips. Bookings for boat trips can be made through the hotel.



**EXPLORING**

Within walking distance is a wonderful choice of beaches, mainly of white sand, others with multi-coloured pebbles and shells – it is hard to leave the island without a pocketful of small treasures. Expect to enjoy sand dunes, rock pools, beach-combing and excellent swimming, when the sun shines, in crystal clear turquoise water. Packed lunches may be ordered in advance and bikes are available to hire on the island.



**GOLF**

There is a 'natural' 18-hole golf course on the Machair beside the sea. Greens are kept cropped by sheep. Green fees are by donation.

**COME PREPARED**

Part of Iona's majesty is the weather. Bring suitable footwear for walking and all weather clothing!



**GETTING TO IONA**

Iona is located in the Western Isles of Scotland and may be reached by public transport via the town of Oban. For detailed instructions on how to get to Iona, maps and links to transport providers, please visit our website at [www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk](http://www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk) or phone us on 01681 700 304.

**GETTING TO THE HOTEL**

Cars are not allowed on Iona except with a permit. There is ample free parking at Fionnphort beside the Columba Centre. The hotel is a short walk from the jetty. We can pick up and deliver your luggage to ferries if requested – please call us when you know which ferry you will be on.

**COMMUNICATION**

Guests with their own wireless-enabled laptops can make use of the hotel's wireless internet facility. We also have an internet room which is free of charge for residents. There are no phones in the rooms and you should be aware that mobile phones have limited coverage on Iona. Please phone us if you would like an update of what networks have the best coverage. There is a guest payphone and incoming guest calls should be directed to this number (01681 700 318).



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# ST COLUMBA HOTEL

ISLE OF IONA



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