

A leisure sailor's  
guide to

# Oban and its approaches



Oban is a popular safe haven that owes much of its success to the shelter provided by the island of Kerrera which creates a natural harbour. The port is home to many commercial, fishing and leisure vessels and is often referred to as the Gateway to the Isles. Oban is a main public transport hub linking bus, train and ferry transport routes. Consequently it is Scotland's busiest ferry port, providing life-line services to many of the island communities.

Oban and its surrounding waters offer any leisure user tranquil sailing, stunning scenery and excellent facilities. Approach can be made from the south through the tranquil and scenic Sound of Kerrera or, more directly via the north entrance.

This guide has been designed to provide sailors and small craft owners with information which will contribute to the safe navigation and enjoyment of the area.

More information and the full Oban Bay Code of Practice can be found at

[www.obanharbour.scot](http://www.obanharbour.scot)



**NOT TO BE USED FOR  
NAVIGATION**



## Available Facilities

Facility	Available within Oban	Available within Oban
Oban Marina	●	●
North Pier Pontoons	●	●
Community Berthing	●	●
Dunstaffnage Marina	●	●
Visitor Moorings	●	●
Pontoons	●	●
Diesel	●	●
Petrol	●	●
Water	●	●
Bottled Gas	●	●
Electricity	●	●
Wifi	●	●
Showers	●	●
Toilets	●	●
Laundrette	●	●
Chandlery	●	●
Supermarket	●	●
Bar/Restaurant	●	●
Recycling	●	●
General Waste	●	●
Launching Slip	●	●
Boat Yard/Hoist	●	●
Repair Services	●	●

## Isle of Kerrera

Ardenrive Hill

Hutcheson's Monument

Oban Marina

Recommended Small Vessel Route  
Large Vessel Channel See Caution One

**SPEED 10 KNOTS LIMIT**

Maiden Island

Oban Bay

**SPEED 10 KNOTS LIMIT**

Community Berthing

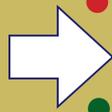
Sgeir Rathaid

**SPEED 6 KNOTS LIMIT**

CalMac Pier See Caution Two

North Pier Pontoons

**LISTEN TO VHF CH 12**



Dunstaffnage Marina

Dunollie Castle

Dunollie Light

Corran Lodge

NLB Pier

North Pier

OBAN

**Caution One**  
Large Vessel Channel  
Small vessels of less than 20m in length should not impede the safe passage of a large vessel entering or leaving the bay. Small vessels should avoid using the designated large vessel channel that runs through the centre of the north entrance and instead follow the recommended small vessel route shown. Also consider the swinging room required for large vessels to make a sharp turn. A large vessel's stern swings to the east side of the north channel entrance as it turns to enter or depart the bay. This area is best avoided.

**Caution Two**  
CalMac Pier  
This area is busy with large ferries manoeuvring to and from their berths. Keep clear of this area when occupied by a vessel, or when a vessel is manoeuvring in the area. They will require a large area of clearance to manoeuvre and you should assume you have been seen, keep a good all round lookout at all times.

