

Isle of Staffa, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

A 59-million-year-old volcanic jewel in the Inner Hebrides, Staffa's cathedral-like Fingal's Cave and geometric basalt columns inspired Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture — and still stop visitors in their tracks today.

 Tender only (no pier for large ships)

 Typical call: 2-3 hrs ashore

 GBP — no facilities on island

 English (Scottish Gaelic heritage)

 Puffins: May–early August

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender / Zodiac from anchor — highly weather-dependent

Best For: Geology, wildlife (puffins), photography, Hebrides scenery

Walk to Fingal's Cave: 250 m from landing jetty along basalt causeway

Don't Miss: Walking into Fingal's Cave mouth; puffin colony on the plateau

 Getting around:  **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Fingal's Cave** — Walk the basalt causeway from the jetty to the mouth of this 20-metre-tall sea cave.
- Puffin Colony Walk** — Climb the steep staircase to the grassy plateau, then walk 800 m to the eastern cliffs at Ruanaich.
- Geology & Clamshell Cave** — Just beside the jetty, Clamshell Cave displays warped basalt columns bent into curved, ship-rib shapes — a stark...
- Boat Wildlife Spotting** — The crossing to Staffa passes prime waters for harbour porpoises, minke whales, basking sharks, and grey seals.

BEST WALKS

- Jetty to Fingal's Cave & Back** 0.5 km return | 30-45 min | Moderate — From the landing jetty, follow the natural basalt causeway south along the cliff face to the mouth of Fingal's Cave.
- Plateau & Puffin Cliff Loop** ~2 km loop | 1 hr | Moderate — Climb the steep metal staircase from the jetty to the island's grassy top.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Footwear is non-negotiable. Waterproof hiking boots with aggressive grip are essential. The basalt columns are slick with algae and sea spray — smooth-soled shoes are a...
- Dress for Scottish weather at sea. Layers, a windproof/waterproof jacket, hat and gloves — even in July. Conditions change fast and the boat crossing is fully exposed.
- No toilets on the island. Use facilities on the ship or tour boat before landing. There are also no bins — carry out everything you bring.