

Ulva Island, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

Tiny, community-owned Ulva sits a one-minute ferry hop off Mull — no cars, no shops, just sea eagles overhead, otters at the shoreline, and fresh oysters at the island's sole eatery. A favourite of small expedition ships and luxury Hebridean cruises.

- Tender / small-ship pontoon
- Typical call: 4–6 hrs
- GBP (cash useful)
- English (Scottish Gaelic heritage)
- Hiking boots essential

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Small-ship pontoon or tender to Ulva Ferry slipway; no cruise pier

Best For: Wildlife spotting (sea eagles, otters, seals), history walks, Hebridean seafood

Walk from landing: Boathouse 50 m · Sheila's Cottage 300 m · Livingstone's Trail 9 km loop

Don't Miss: Oysters & crab at The Boathouse; White-tailed Sea Eagle scan from the ferry pontoon

Getting around: Taxi Varies · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Livingstone's Trail — Heritage & Landscapes Loop** — A 9 km circular trail past abandoned blackhouse townships, Livingstone's Cave (Mesolithic finds), Bronze Age standing stones, and coastline with...
- Sea Eagle & Otter Watch** — White-tailed Sea Eagles nest on Ulva — scan the crags from the ferry pontoon or open hillside.
- Sheila's Cottage & Heritage Centre** — A beautifully restored 18th-century thatched cottage 300 m from the ferry, serving as Ulva's heritage centre.
- The Boathouse — Fresh Hebridean Seafood** — The island's only eatery, right at the landing.
- Gometra Island Extension Walk** — A longer trail from Ulva crosses a bridge to the uninhabited island of Gometra — dramatic Atlantic views, total solitude, and a real sense of the...

BEST WALKS

- Ferry Landing to Sheila's Cottage & Walled Garden** 0.5 km · 15 min · Easy — A short flat stroll from the landing to the heritage cottage and the historic walled garden being restored by volunteers.
- Livingstone's Trail Loop** 9 km · 3–4 hrs · Moderate — The main island circuit.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Go to the Boathouse first. It's the island's only café and fills fast when a ship is in — grab your table or oysters right on arrival, not after a long walk.
- Proper footwear is non-negotiable. Trails are muddy and uneven; trainers will suffer. Waterproof hiking boots are the minimum.
- Midges June–September. Carry Smidge or a high-DEET repellent — the midges here are legendary. Also check for ticks after walking in bracken.
- Bring cash. The Boathouse takes cards but connectivity can drop. There is no ATM on Ulva or within easy reach once ashore.
- Watch the clock on long walks. Livingstone's Trail takes longer than it looks on a map. Give yourself a 45-min buffer to reach the ferry before your ship departs.
- Layer up for Hebridean weather. Sunshine can flip to horizontal rain in minutes. A windproof waterproof jacket is essential year-round.

Ulva Island, Inner Hebrides, Scotland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Sheila's Cottage museum** Restored thatched croft house turned heritage museum, named for a resident who lived there from about 1900 to the 1950s.

- 2** **The Boathouse** Seafood restaurant and tearoom right at the island's landing slipway, a popular first stop for arriving visitors.

- P** Cruise port / terminal