



Scotland News - July 2021 (UK)

Welcome to a new edition of **Scotland News during Covid-19**.

In this edition we would like to inform you about the current situation in Scotland and our continuing efforts to suppress Covid-19.

We would also like to share with you some new **inspirational content and destination information** that you might be able to share on your own consumer communication channels, not least to inspire your clients to dream of and **book holidays in our beautiful destination!**

With best wishes,

Your VisitScotland Team

Our Road to Recovery



Please be aware that Scotland's **move out of lockdown is gradual**. Although businesses have started to re-open, physical distancing, enhanced hygiene measures, as well as other **restrictions will remain in place** in all areas of life for the foreseeable future.

What does this mean for you and your clients?

Scottish tourism businesses continue to work hard to adapt their offerings in order to give visitors the best and safest possible experience in this new world. Not all attractions and accommodation providers have re-opened so we recommend that you and your clients **plan and check in advance** which businesses are able to welcome you at that moment in time. Our website highlights these businesses as "Good-to-Go" and "We're Open".

If you or your clients are planning a trip to Scotland in the near or far future, we ask you to **take your time, plan ahead, familiarise yourself with the guidelines that apply in Scotland** and **ask your clients to discover our cities and countryside locations responsibly**.

More information on the situation here in Scotland and answers to frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

Our recovery in the months and years to come will be very much focused on safeguarding our unique communities, our history and heritage and our nature and environment. Read more about our pledge on **responsible tourism recovery** [here](#) - and join us on our journey to **#RespectProtectEnjoy** Scotland.

Scotland Now (from 19 July 2021)



Since April 26, Scotland has initiated its phased way out of lockdown following the Scottish Government updated strategic framework.

Scotland has been adopting a **geographically-targeted approach to outbreak management** implemented in November 2020. Depending on the protection levels, **different restrictions will be in place for different areas**.

On 13 July, the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, confirmed that all areas of Scotland will move to **level zero from Monday 19 July**. However, there will be modifications to the original plans to ensure a sensible further easing of restrictions. A summary of the announcement can be found [here](#) and you will find the key points recapped below.

Our [FAQs page](#) has been updated, along with the downloadable Covid Protection Levels map.

The next review of restrictions is scheduled for **9th August**.

What does this mean for visitors?

- **Socialising:**

Informal social gatherings of up to 15 people from 15 households will be permitted outdoors without physical distancing.

Gatherings of up to 10 people from four households will be permitted in all indoor public settings with 1 metre physical distancing.

Up to 8 people from 4 households can meet and stay overnight in private homes without the requirement for physical distancing.

Under 12s do not count towards the total number of people in any setting.

- **Accommodation:**

Hotels, B&Bs, self-catering venues, caravan and camp sites are permitted to open for leisure and tourism purposes. In public spaces within regulated (staffed) tourist accommodation, the rules about socialising in an indoors public place apply. In self-catered or other unregulated (unstaffed) accommodation, private home socialising rules apply. A bedroom should be occupied by members of only one household.

- **Hospitality:**

Hospitality settings can open till midnight, if their current licence permits that, and customers will no longer be required to pre-book a two-hour slot to go to a pub or restaurant but will still be required to provide contact details to assist Test & Protect.

Physical distancing will reduce to 1 metre in all indoor public settings and outdoors.

- **Travel:**

Travel is allowed between Scotland and England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

International quarantine regulations apply with a new exception for children and travellers who are fully vaccinated through a UK vaccination programme who will no longer have to self-isolate on arrival from an Amber country.

Visitors travelling to any of Scotland's islands are being encouraged to take pre-departure lateral flow tests. Details [here](#).

- **Other:**

Face coverings must continue to be worn on public transport, when not seated in indoor public hospitality settings and when in other indoor public spaces such as shops and visitor attractions.

Places and business that can open at Level 0 include:

- cafés, pubs and restaurants
- all shops and stores
- all close contact services including hairdressers, barbers and beauty salons
- all sport and exercise
- tourist accommodation

- all visitor attractions
- all public buildings like libraries and community centres
- all entertainment (apart from nightclubs and adult entertainment)
- stadiums and events – with maximum numbers

National Partner Updates



Caledonian MacBrayne have shared an update relating to **coach capacity on their ferry services**.

While Scottish Government travel restrictions are still in place, they are only able to accommodate a specific number of coaches and passengers on each of their vessels due to physical distancing.

They have been reviewing the capacity and can now advise that a total of 35 passengers (including driver and guide) can be accommodated across their network **apart from**:

- Wemyss – Bay Rothesay
- Berneray – Leverburgh
- Oban – Craginure

This is due to a Maritime and Coastguard Agency exemption which currently permits passengers to remain in their vehicles on the car deck during the crossing. While they can have passengers in their vehicles on the car deck, they have a legal limit of passenger numbers that must be adhered to. They will continue to review the numbers in line with feedback from customers and communities and we

will share any further updates as we receive them. Please see the following document for a full breakdown of the restrictions per route.

Contact them at traveltrade@calmac.co.uk for more details.

Route	Vessel	Coach Capacity	Additional Notes
Glasgow - Cairnryan	MV Coraonk	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 23 - All pass stay on board the coach
Cairnryan - Oban	MV Coraonk	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 23 - All pass stay on board the coach
Oban - Cairnryan	MV Isle of Mull	3 per AM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 30
Oban - Cairnryan	MV Isle of Mull	2 per PM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 30
Cairnryan - Oban	MV Isle of Mull	2 per AM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 30 Alternative route - Fionnabh - Lochaline
Cairnryan - Oban	MV Isle of Mull	3 per PM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 30 Alternative route - Fionnabh - Lochaline
Fionnabh - Lochaline RTN	MV Lochmear	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Portsmouth - Killybegs RTN	MV Loch Taltbert	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Ardsrossan - Brodick	MV Isle of Arran	No coaches permitted	Maximum Passengers - 33
Ardsrossan - Brodick	MV Caledonian Isles	3 per AM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Ardsrossan - Brodick	MV Caledonian Isles	2 per PM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Brodick - Ardsrossan	MV Isle of Arran	No coaches permitted	Maximum Passengers - 33
Brodick - Ardsrossan	MV Caledonian Isles	3 per AM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Brodick - Ardsrossan	MV Caledonian Isles	2 per PM sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Largs - Gairloch RTN	MV Loch Shira	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
Clonsilla - Lochranza RTN	MV Cairns	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach
Wemyss Bay - Broomport RTN	MV Aggie & Iain	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach
Colonsay - Rhubodunn RTN	MV Loch Dunvegan	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach
Tayinloan - Gigha RTN	MV Lochranza	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach
Kenmore - Islay RTN	MV Finlaggan/MV Hebridean Isles	Unlimited MV Finlaggan 1 MV Hebridean	Maximum Passengers - 33 No coaches over 10M on the MV Hebridean
Oban - Collieston RTN	MV Clansman/ MV Hebridean Isles	Unlimited MV Clansman 1 MV Hebridean	Maximum Passengers - 33 No coaches over 10M on the MV Hebridean
Oban - Coll - Tiree RTN	MV Clansman	Unlimited	Maximum Passengers - 33
Oban - Castlebay RTN	MV Isle of Lewis	Unlimited	Maximum Passengers - 33
Malbeg - Armadale RTN	MV Loch Fyne & MV Loch of The Isles	MV Loch Fyne 1 per sailing MV Loch of The Isles 2 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach (MV Loch Fyne)
Malbeg - Lochmaddy RTN	MV Loch of The Isles	MV Loch of The Isles 2 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33
King - Tairbh - Lochmaddy RTN	MV Hebridean	Unlimited	Maximum Passengers - 33
Ardenker - Goswick RTN	MV Loch Ailinan	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 33 - All pass stay on board the coach
Broomport - Levenburgh RTN	MV Loch Portair	3 per sailing	Maximum Passengers - 23 - All pass stay on board the coach
Ulswater - Stormora RTN	MV Loch Seòimh	Unlimited	Maximum Passengers - 33

1 - Coach Capacity Table

New Product in 2021



Mercat Tours

History is a damn good story,
what it needs is a damn good telling



THE THREE BRIDGES
RESTAURANT AND BAR

The team behind Glasgow eateries **Mharsanta** and **Van Winkle** are venturing east to take over **The Three Bridges Restaurant and Bar** overlooking the commanding Forth Road and Rail Bridges over the firth of Forth on the outskirts of Edinburgh. The restaurant is opening in summer 2021.

For 2022, in celebration of The Year of Scotland's Stories, The Three Bridges is teaming up with award-winning storytellers **Mercat Tours** to bring people a unique evening where the tales behind Scotland's myths, history and music will be served at people's tables alongside some fantastic food and drink.

The Three Bridges is also set to launch a range of other unique experiences for your clients to enjoy including an evening with a Scottish piper, Scottish dinner and a few wee 'Highland Tales', Scottish dinner and live traditional Scottish music, a walking tour and dinner with **Walking Tours in Scotland** and a special collaboration with **Forth Boat Tours**.

We are planning regular product updates in the coming weeks and months - watch this space!

Inspirational Itineraries



There are many positive benefits of travelling and Scotland has a lot to offer to your clients in terms of beautiful landscapes, vibrant cities and towns, enthralling stories and culture, luscious food & drink and much more to enjoy all year round.

After the Covid-19 pandemic, travellers are more discerning about the impact of their choices on the environment – whether it is how they travel and how frequently, what they eat, where they stay and what they do.

With this in mind, we have built sample itineraries to help you give your clients the feel-good factor of a responsible and eco-friendly holiday in Scotland and still enjoy outstanding travel experiences, meeting small communities, farm animals and wildlife along the way, and help restore greenery and encourage the natural world to thrive.

Below is a selection of travel trade friendly itineraries for [Responsible Travel](#) in Scotland:

- [Edinburgh Responsible Itinerary](#)
- [The Scottish Borders Responsible Itinerary](#)
- [Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Responsible Itinerary](#)
- [Dundee and Angus Responsible Itinerary](#)

If you are looking at joining us on our journey towards responsible tourism, speak to your VisitScotland contact, who will be happy to help.

Scotland's Year of Stories 2022



2022 will be Scotland's Year of Stories. Every culture has its stories to tell, and Scotland has a particularly rich heritage of stories and storytelling which will be showcased and celebrated in 2022 with a programme of events and activities. From icons of literature to local tales, the year will encourage residents and visitors to experience a diversity of voices, take part in events and explore the places, people and cultures connected to all forms of our stories, past and present.

Watch this space for more information on our new Themed Year - coming soon!

VisitScotland - Advice & Support



We continue to closely monitor the Covid-19 situation as well as the developments around Brexit.

For latest industry information and business advice please visit our [Covid-19 response pages](#) or reach out to your VisitScotland contact.

Further Information



If you would like to follow us on Social Media:

- [Facebook](#),
- [Twitter](#),
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#).

Websites:

www.visitscotland.com

www.scotland.org

www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com

Photo Credits: Many of the images and videos used in this Marketing Toolkit can also be found in our [Digital Media Library](#). All our imagery and video assets are free of charge and registration only takes a few minutes.

Disclaimer: The information in this Sway is accurate at the time of sharing. Always check the [Scottish Government website](#) for latest information on Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank Co



If you have any questions or if we can be of any support, please feel free to reach out to your VisitScotland contact:

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