

SEIL SEA ACCESS

This document signposts existing facilities for boating around the Isle of Seil.

This information has been collated by the marine access working group of the Forward Planning Group, Seil & Easdale Community Council.

- The tides around Seil can be fierce; there can be an 8 knot current running in the Cuan Sound for instance, and strong currents under Clachan Bridge and around Torsa.
- If leaving your car overnight, please leave a note of your estimated date/time of return, and intended route on your vehicle.
- There is very little reliable phone signal around the island; VHF radios are advised.

YACHTS

Anchorage

There is safe anchorage for all weathers in Puilladobhran (NW Seil) and Balvicar Bay on the east, and Ardinamir Bay on Luing. Between the islands of Torsa and Luing there is fair weather anchorage.

Fair weather anchorages can be found in Easdale Bay and Easdale Sound.

Easdale harbour is suitable for small bilge keel yachts, up to about 24 feet easily. Larger boats, up to around 35 feet, can be accommodated if they can turn tightly. The harbour dries at LWS.

Moorings

Eilean Eisdeal has one visitor holding mooring available for a maximum of two nights in Easdale Sound, close to the old pier ruins. Pay (£10/night) in the honesty box on the outside of the Easdale ferry shed.

Seafari has five moorings north of the visitor mooring; these are for the use of Seafari RIBS in calm weather. Seafari *may* be willing to allow their use by yachts for a charge, telephone 01852 300003 to ask. These are occasional moorings and yachts need to accept that the weight of a RIB is considerably less than a yacht; the moorings are not to be used in bad weather.

One or two visitor moorings *may* be available off Balvicar Boatyard; contact Mike & Morag McSweeney on 01852 300557 for availability and charges.

RIBS & SMALL BOATS

Launching is available at Ellenabeich and Cuan Slip on Seil.

In addition, pontoon berths are available in Easdale Harbour. It is possible to tie up for a few hours on the pier (NOT the passenger slip) at Ellenabeich, Seil.

KAYAKS

Ellenabeich (slip and beach) and the Cuan slip are suitable for launching.

Facilities are available at Argyll Kayakers Cove at North Cuan (see below)

Kayaks and dinghies may be launched from Scottish Water pump station 2, at Clachan Seil, opposite the track up to Seil Island cottages.

TRAILER PARKING

The Argyll & Bute free carpark in Ellenabeich is available for trailer parking, provided that the trailers remain attached to the vehicle. If the trailer is detached from the vehicle then it has to be placed off the tarmac. There is plenty of space for this on the grass.

Trailer parking, for a fee, *may* be allowed in Highland Arts in Ellenabeich, but only until the change of ownership on 31 October 2017, when it will no longer be possible.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Sealife Adventures pontoon and carpark is for Sealife clients only.

Similarly, the pontoon below Oban Seil farm is for the use of the farm's holiday house guests only. The small pontoon to the north, accessed from the garden of The Old House, is also private.

The carpark at the Tigh an Truish by Clachan Bridge is for the use of pub patrons only.

Balvicar Boatyard is a working boatyard, with no casual launching available. It has winter storage, water and toilets, and a brokerage.

Local marine businesses:

Seafari Adventures	5* Visit Scotland marine wildlife tour operator www.seafari.co.uk/oban
SMS	Specialised Marine Support. Boat contract & charters, skipper and crew training www.specialisedmarinesupport.com
Sealife Adventures	Wildlife, whales & whirlpool voyages www.sealife-adventures.com
Argyll Kayakers Cove, Cuan Ferry	Accommodation, launching, campervan & camping. (07867893349/ 01852 300366).
Sea Kayak Scotland	Sea kayak guiding and rental company www.seakayakscotland.com
John R MacFarlane Ltd	A fishery operation working from Balvicar quay, mainly prawns. No public access

Also of interest:

The Isle of Seil has a community-built, and owned, St Ayles skiff. *Selkie* is rowed by four folk and a cox. See: www.seilskiff.org

The island is on the route of the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail (see: www.paddleargyll.org.uk/kayaktrail.html)

The Rib Rendezvous is run annually. See: www.easdaleribrendezvous.org.uk

Balvicar Bay Moorings Association. Telephone: Fiona Stephenson, 01852 300578

Seil Sound Mooring Association. Telephone: Bill McDicken, 01852 300445