



GLENAPP

C A S T L E

SEA SAFARI

“Mara Cuairt-Dànachd”

(Sea adventure in Scottish Gaelic)



HEBRIDEAN SEA SAFARIS



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INTRODUCTION

After nights of fine dining and surrounded by the wonders of Glenapp Castle and its estate, come on board the Glenapp boat to now explore the Hebridean islands and your adventure will continue. Your private chef will be on board and the professional crew will navigate you towards remote islands, coastal castles and distant inns. Enjoy lunch at one of the many famous sea food restaurants, before arriving at an island or beach where the Glenapp island concierge team will have prepared your luxury glamping in the wild. A well-deserved hot shower and a 'dram' before chef prepares a memorable dinner under the stars. This will be an adventure which few have experienced before.

Travelling between islands you will spot bountiful sea and bird life, or go ashore to the site of an ancient monastery, archaeological site, hidden castle garden, or whisky distillery. This will be your memorable and unique Glenapp sea safari.

For the first part of your adventure you might decide to take 'Ripley' the sea eagle with you. 'Ripley' has been trained aboard the boat to catch fish in the local waters. At 7 pounds and with a wing span of 7 feet she is a formidable hunter and can easily take fish up to 4 pounds in weight, one of the many raptors who visit Glenapp through our partnership with Elite Falconry.

Cameras ready, the Hebridean islands await.



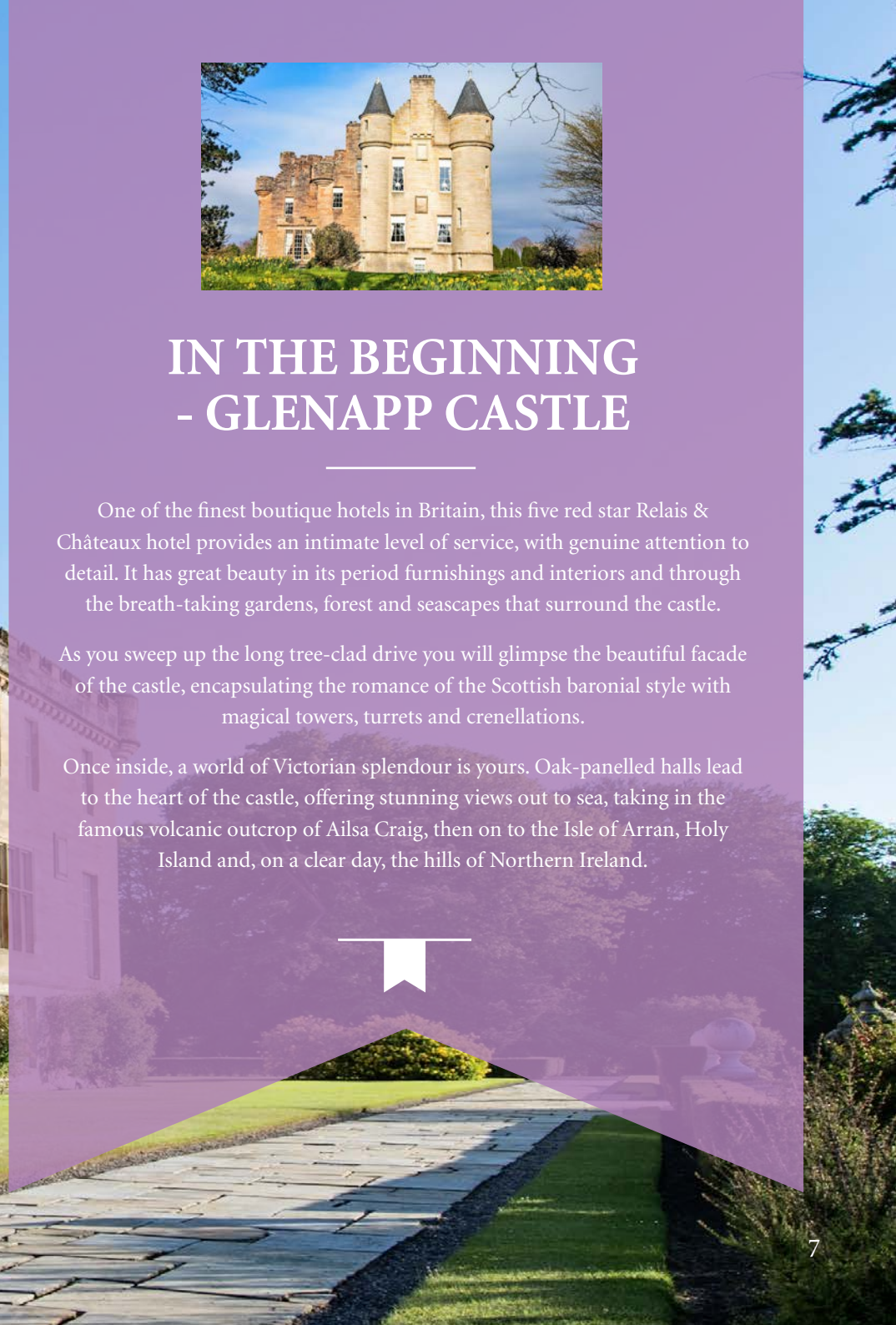


IN THE BEGINNING - GLENAPP CASTLE

One of the finest boutique hotels in Britain, this five red star Relais & Châteaux hotel provides an intimate level of service, with genuine attention to detail. It has great beauty in its period furnishings and interiors and through the breath-taking gardens, forest and seascapes that surround the castle.

As you sweep up the long tree-clad drive you will glimpse the beautiful facade of the castle, encapsulating the romance of the Scottish baronial style with magical towers, turrets and crenellations.

Once inside, a world of Victorian splendour is yours. Oak-panelled halls lead to the heart of the castle, offering stunning views out to sea, taking in the famous volcanic outcrop of Ailsa Craig, then on to the Isle of Arran, Holy Island and, on a clear day, the hills of Northern Ireland.





ALL ABOARD - EMBARKING ON YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE HEBRIDES



Torridon



Inverlochy



Airds Hotel



Isle of Eriska



EMPHASIS AND INTEREST

The sea safari is designed to bring the very best of a five star castle hotel experience, together with days and nights in the wilds of the Hebridean islands. On your journey you will visit uninhabited and sparsely populated islands which have remained largely unchanged for millennia. Every sea safari adventure will allow guests to enjoy the most glorious of local sea food restaurants and inns. As you travel you will without doubt glimpse both the abundant marine life, and vast colonies of guillemot birds together with puffins and cormorants.

With your own private chef on board it will enable you to experience both the very freshest of local ingredients in unique Scottish island cuisine.

Whilst these elements will form the major part of all sea safaris, it will be for you to decide the emphasis of your trip. It could be that you have a special interest in remote island castle gardens, or that you would like to visit an ancient archaeological site. There are also many Christian settlements and monasteries to visit dating back to the very early centuries. You may have a desire to 'tee off' on that far away hidden golf course overlooking the sea, or for your journey you may wish to understand more of the culture and music of the islands, together with visiting a wide variety of historic castles. Perhaps long ago you had ancestors who lived in the Hebrides and you would like to discover their history, or you have always had a desire to visit a genuine Scottish island distillery. Share your sea safari emphasis and it will be designed into your sea safari experience.





INTO THE WILD – ISLAND LUXURY GLAMPING

Inspired by the classical African safari adventure, the Glenapp sea safaris offer similar drama but on this occasion surrounded by sea, islands, mountains, cliffs and sea life. Whilst you are enjoying the seascapes and breath-taking views, the Glenapp concierge team will have travelled ahead preparing the night's accommodation with luxury glamping. Beds will be made, rugs laid, lamps and hot water prepared for the much-needed shower. Positioned in unique and remote locations, this is the the perfect setting for a memorable dining experience prepared by Glenapp's chef before a well-earned night's sleep under the stars.

Breakfast is already being cooked when you arise the following morning as the skipper prepares for the next leg of your seaward journey.





REMOTE ISLANDS, GARDENS AND BEACHES

In the south west Hebrides closest to Glenapp Castle sits the Island of Gigha. Gigha is a beautiful small fertile island just three miles off the west coast of Kintyre. The Hebridean islands are touched by the gulf stream, a warm ocean current which over the centuries has allowed many unique species to thrive in these sheltered island stately gardens. One such garden is Achamore with fifty-four acres of unusual plants and trees flourishing in this micro climate.

On the nearby Island of Colonsay is the famous eighteenth century Colonsay House with its many hybrid species of rhododendrons and exotic plants from the southern hemisphere.

The weather in the Hebrides can of course be changeable, but in recent years the summers have been beautiful. As we move between the islands, you will glimpse the white sandy beaches of Gigha or Tiree or the steep pebble beaches of the Island of Jura.

West of the famous Isle of Mull sits Fingal's Cave. Hidden away until 1772 due to its remote location, you will see here a most remarkable sight. Columns of basalt, seemingly man-made but in fact the result of volcanic eruptions millions of years ago, have been revealed with the passing of time.

In years gone by, the cave has mesmerised many literary figures, including Jules Verne and John Keats. While its most famous visitor may have been Queen Victoria, Fingal's Cave has undoubtedly been immortalised by Felix Mendelssohn's renowned composition, known as the 'Overture of the Hebrides.'





FOOD AND LOCATION

Fresh island seafood plays a central theme in our sea safari through the Hebrides. It may begin with a formidable Glenapp prepared picnic on an uninhabited island with a cold glass of Chablis. By early afternoon we stop for late lunch at the three hundred year old Boathouse, a beautiful restaurant set on the community-owned Island of Gigha overlooking the sea. Enjoy local lobster, delicious oysters or incredible and sustainable organic Gigha-farmed halibut. By mid-evening settle down for a rack of lamb or the freshest of mackerel accompanied by delicacies prepared by your Glenapp chef.

Nearer to home, enjoy a cream tea with hot scones, jam and clotted cream in a beautiful café setting on the edge of the Victorian-engineered Crinan Canal basin.



WHISKY AND WILDLIFE

On one island alone, the Island of Islay, the diversity of bird life is quite extraordinary with more than two hundred species of birds. Slightly inland on both Islay and Jura there is an abundance of deer and on Jura particularly the red deer. With a good camera or binoculars you will see sea otters, grey seals, brown hare, oystercatchers and barnacle geese. There are gannets in abundance from Ailsa Craig to the Isle of Mull and the comical puffin can be seen around many of the islands. Golden eagles, fish eagles and buzzards can be spotted around the higher mountain islands. On many of our Glenapp sea journeys we have been surrounded by dolphins, porpoise, and heard shrieks of glee as minke whales have come alongside the boat. The picture here taken by one of our sister boats depicts the spectacular sight of a whale jumping clean out of the water as if 'showing off' for the benefit of guests. On occasions the famous orca is spotted in these waters and truly these sparsely populated islands are home to some of the most unusual marine, bird life and wild life in the whole of Scotland.

The west of Scotland and the Hebridean islands are home to many world famous whisky distilleries, from Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Laphroaig on the eastern side of the island to Kilchoman distillery on the west coast. Ten distilleries in total make Islay the most prolific home of whisky distilleries in the world. Many of the island distilleries from Arran to Islay and Jura happily accept guests and often provide a wonderful lunch to accompany a 'wee dram.'



Kate McLelland © 2019





What a glorious way to end the day, malt in hand surrounded by beauty and the noise of wild life settling down for the night.





CASTLES, CULTURE AND MUSIC

Leaving the home port of Girvan, you might glimpse in the distance the imposing eighteenth century Culzean Castle, designed by Robert Adam as one of Scotland's most impressive fortresses.

Moving west out to sea ten miles lies the iconic Ailsa Craig, an eleven hundred feet high uninhabited granite island, soaring high above the sea. At around three hundred feet sits a fifteenth century castle once the home of monks and Scottish clans on the lookout for marauding Spanish galleons coming from the south.

Twelve miles to the north east sits the island of Arran with its grand baronial Brodick Castle packed with treasures including valuable antiques, silverware, porcelain and paintings. Brodick Castle is dramatically set against the backdrop of Goat Fell Mountain and this grand castle has stunning views over the Brodick Bay.

Heading north Duart Castle with its 13th century seat and dungeons has been the home of Clan Maclean for over 700 years. The Castle dominates the view to the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe.

Much further north dating back to the fifteenth century is Kisimore Castle, the only significant surviving medieval castle in the Outer Hebrides. Known as the castle in the sea due to its location on a rock, this castle is only accessible by sea.

For those who would like to include Ireland on their journey, the famous Giant's Causeway renowned for its polygon columns of layered basalt is the only World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland, and lies sixty miles to the west.

North again towards Oban is Dunstaffnage Castle, the once mighty stronghold of 'the kings of the isles' where Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald was believed to have been held prisoner. Built around 1220, the castle was built at the time of the battle between Scotland and Norway for control of the Hebrides. Once besieged by Robert the Bruce during the wars of independence, its formidable stone curtain still has the power to inspire awe in visitors.

For those in search of deeper Hebridean culture, depending on the time of year there are an array of Gallic music festivals, street food and whisky and book festivals. Depending on the specific days of your journey, there are also live Celtic musicians performing in a variety of inns and pubs throughout the Hebrides.



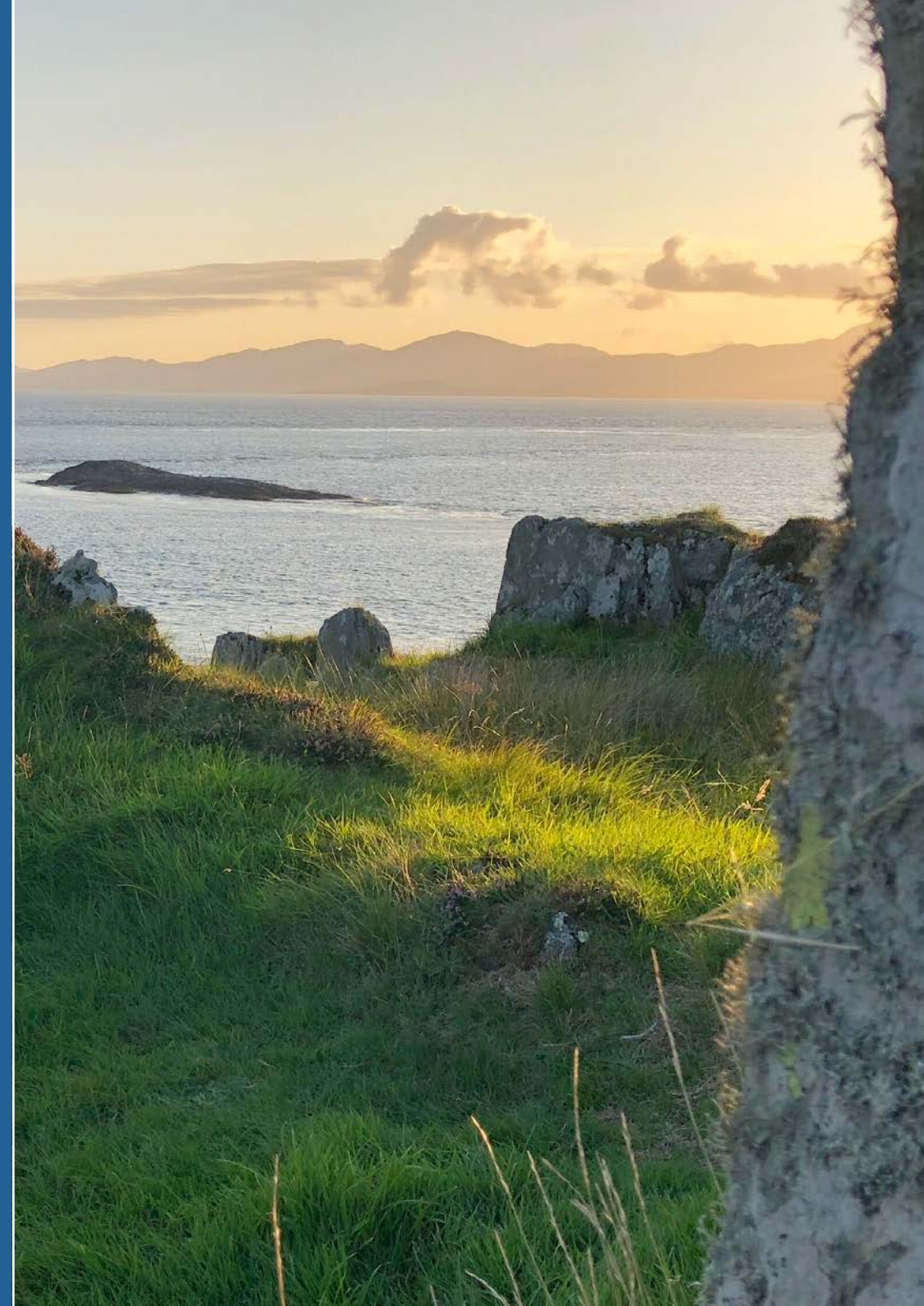
ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE EARLY CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENTS AND MONASTERIES

The Hebrides and the west coast of Scotland are home to a vast array of archeologically important sites together with monasteries and early Christian settlements. Kilmartin stands in an attractive glen near to Oban, and the area contains more than 350 ancient monuments, of which 150 are pre-historic. This extraordinary concentration of monuments includes rock carvings, standing stones and Neolithic and bronze age burial cairns.

To the west is Iona, a crofting island off the west coast of Mull, the home to 130 people. For many centuries Iona has been an island of special significance for all Christians. In AD 563, Columba and his followers arrived here from Ireland to spread the gospel in Scotland and the north of England. There has been Christian worship on Iona for 1,450 years. The early Columban monks survived repeated Viking attacks and moved their treasures, including the famous 'Book of Kells' which had been created on Iona, to Ireland. St Oran's Chapel and Reilig Odhran is reputed to be the burial place of 48 kings of Scotland, including Macbeth.

Far to the west is St Kilda, an isolated archipelago of volcanic islands, now owned by the National Trust of Scotland. The awe-inspiring St Kilda is the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site. With the world's largest northern gannet colony, a community existed here for at least four thousand years, eating puffins and fulmars and taking their feathers and oil. The final 36 islanders were evacuated nearly ninety years ago. Now uninhabited visitors can brave the weather to sail to the islands at the edge of the world for an experience of a lifetime.

Travelling south, the McCormaig Isles lie in the entrance to Loch Sween within the powerful tides of the Sound of Jura. At one of the high points on the main island called 'Eilean Mor' is a medieval chapel dedicated to St Cormac. There is a cave to the south of the chapel with eighth century carvings on its rock walls, where Cormac once lived.





SPORT BY BOAT

Sea fishing can be practised in secluded bays all around the south Hebridean islands. You are likely to catch mackerel, pollock and coley which can be caught in abundance. Seabass are also caught in these waters and, under the guiding hand of our skipper, accomplished fishermen and novices alike can enjoy the thrill of sea fishing.

Whilst the west coast of Scotland and particularly Ayrshire has 5 world-class open golf courses there are a number of lesser-known golf courses, for example on the Island of Arran which is a most spectacular island. Arran hosts Shiskine golf club, Brodick and Whiting Bay golf club, together with Lochranza golf club.

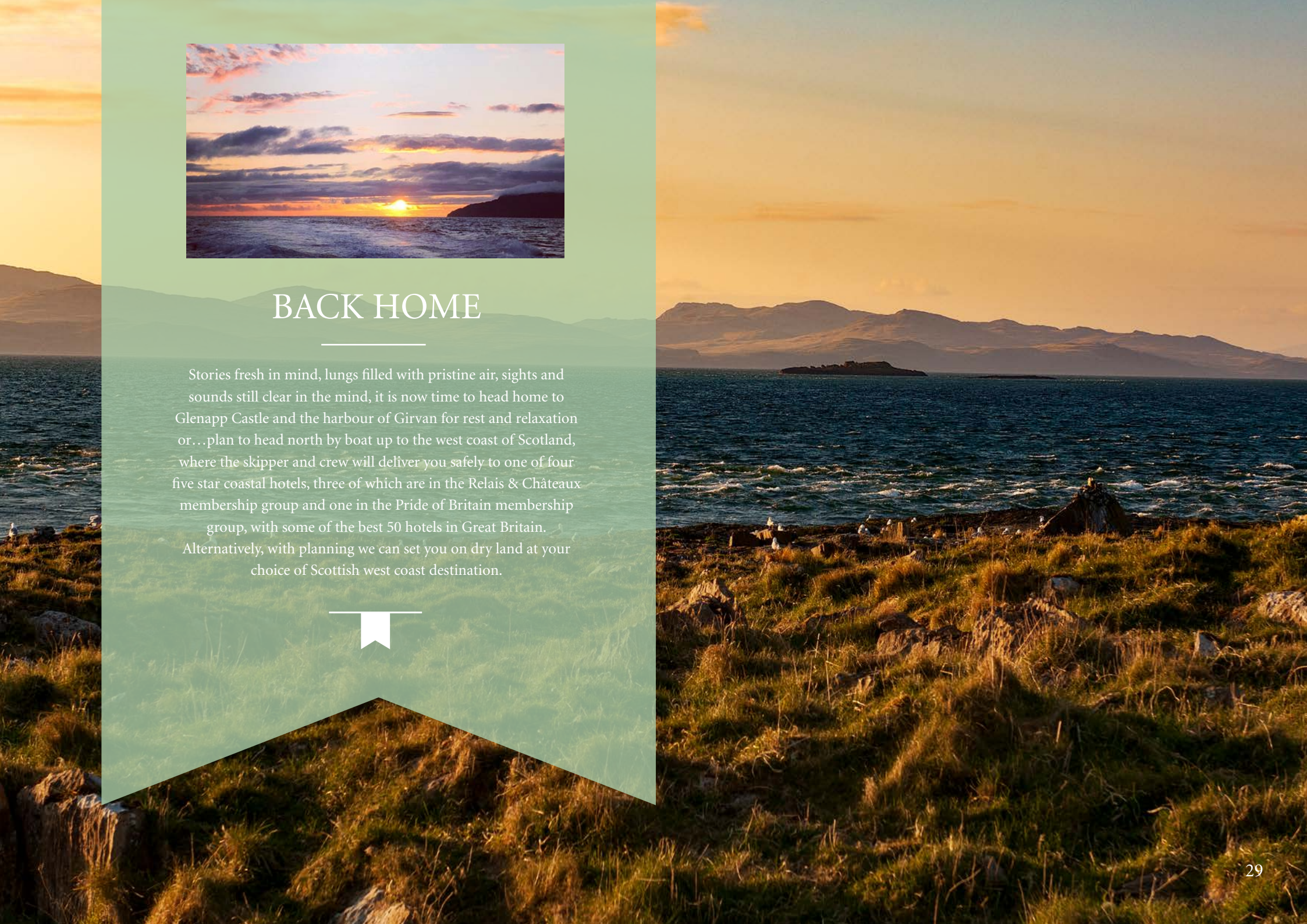
There is a small golf club on Gigha and a newly designed golf course on the Island of Jura. Most notably on the Mull of Kintyre close to the Island of Arran is the Machrihanish golf course. To quote old Tom Morris in 1878 it was *'specifically designed by the almighty for playing golf.'* Imagine yourself on the best first tee to be found, with the drive across the beach to the fairway.





BACK HOME

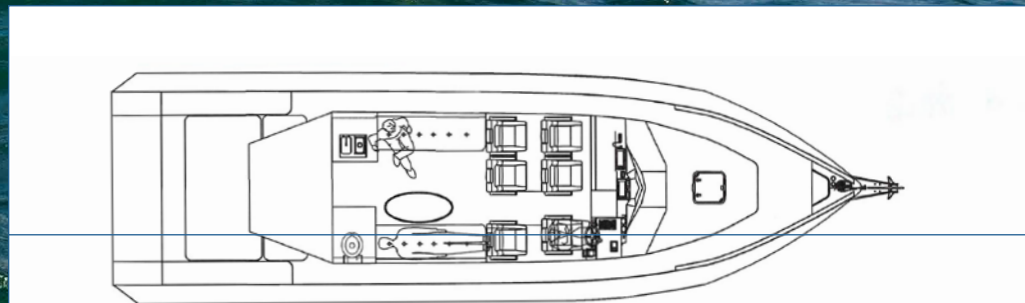
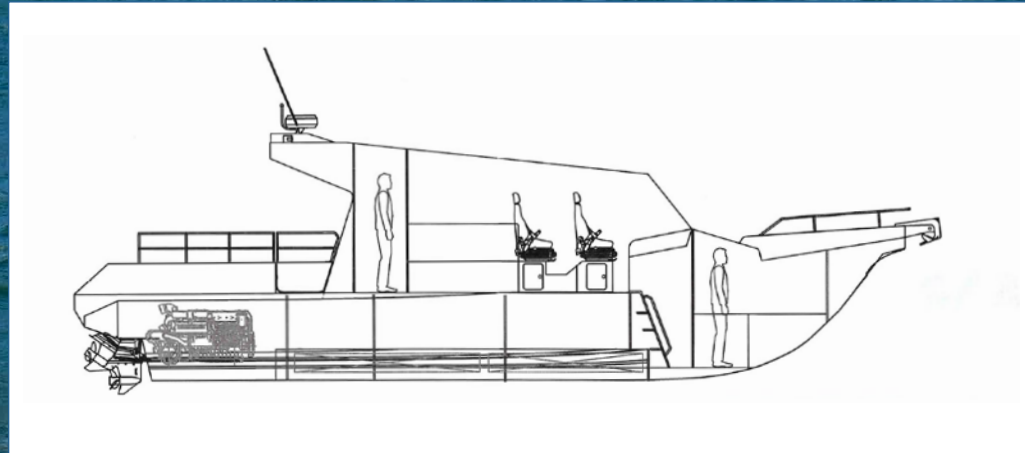
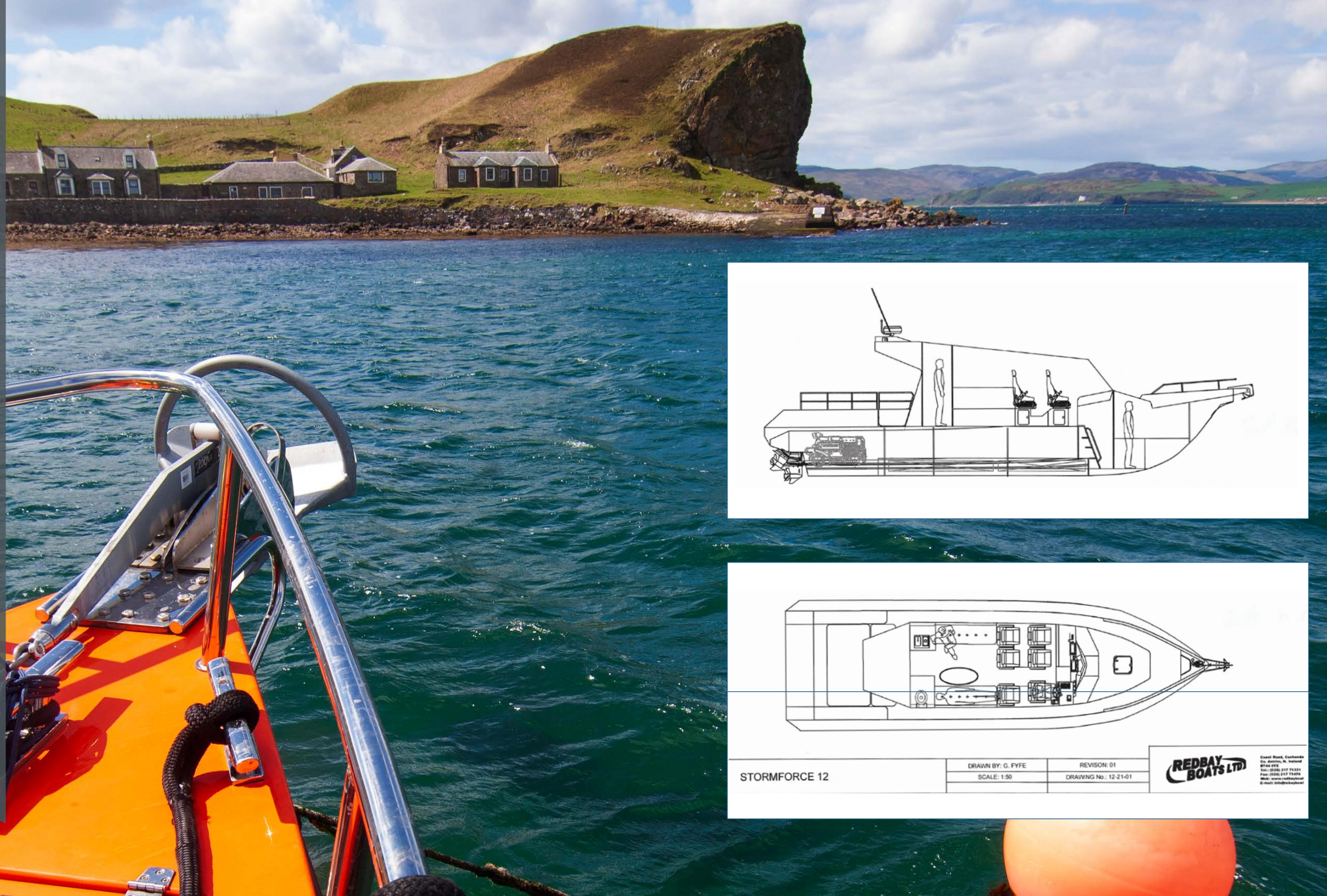
Stories fresh in mind, lungs filled with pristine air, sights and sounds still clear in the mind, it is now time to head home to Glenapp Castle and the harbour of Girvan for rest and relaxation or... plan to head north by boat up to the west coast of Scotland, where the skipper and crew will deliver you safely to one of four five star coastal hotels, three of which are in the Relais & Châteaux membership group and one in the Pride of Britain membership group, with some of the best 50 hotels in Great Britain. Alternatively, with planning we can set you on dry land at your choice of Scottish west coast destination.






ABOUT THE BOAT

The Glenapp Castle is a 12.5 meter (42 ft) long all weather boat designed for the Scottish West Coast by Redbay Marine in Ireland. The vessel is spacious inside and is commercially licensed for 16 people. On the Glenapp Sea Safari we carry a maximum of 8 guests and a further 3 to 4 crew/staff. The Glenapp Castle has two powerful Yanmar engines and can comfortably cruise at 28 knots. With a weight of 10.5 tons she plies effortlessly with a deep V hull through the offshore waters. With cooking facilities, shower and toilet facilities on board there are endless travel possibilities ahead. The Glenapp castle has 6 hydraulic suspension seats at the front of the cabin for those who enjoy an extra comfortable journey. Generally the maximum passage time between island will be 2 hours and often much less. The Glenapp Castle has a fuel range of 500 miles and there is spacious storage space. Whilst nights will be under luxury canvass, if needed, the vessel is able to sleep up to 8 on board. There are 4 trained and rotating boat crew including the skipper with any 2 on board at any time. The skipper, Roddy Leitch, was the longest servicing RNLI Cox (lifeboat man) and is the former harbour master at our home port of Girvan. Roddy has over 10,000 miles of travel on the Glenapp boats and there is great experience on board at all times to ensure safety.



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