



David McGuffin's
EXPLORING EUROPE

OBAN

DESTINATION GUIDE



INDEX

[Introduction](#) - 2 pg

[McCaig's Tower](#) - 3 pg

[Oban Distillery](#) - 3 pg

[St. Johns Episcopal Cathedral](#) - 3 pg

[Saint Columba's Cathedral](#) - 4 pg

[Dunollie Castle](#) - 4 pg

[Dining Suggestions](#) - 5 pg

[Tips for Dining](#) - 8 pg

[Local Specialtie](#) - 8 pg

[Seasonal Changes](#) - 9 pg

Introduction

Oban is a port city on the Argyll coast. It started out as a small fishing and trading village, and expanded in the early Victorian era as more and more steamers started sailing in. It then became the main point of departure for the Western Isles.

The town is laid out in a crescent with the hills behind it and the Oban Bay in front. Thanks to the surrounding islands, the bay is protected from the brunt of any bad weather, which makes it a good harbor for fishermen. On a nice day, you can walk along the waterfront and see the fishing boats.

Oban is also the start of the Coast to Coast Walk, which stretches 128 miles across Scotland and ends at Saint Andrews on the east coast.



The most prominent feature of Oban is **McCaig's Tower**, an unfinished Victorian-era replica of the Colosseum in Rome that stands above the town. It was built by a local banker between 1895 and 1902, and was meant to provide work for local unemployed stonemasons and create a lasting monument to the banker's family.

If you can brave the 10-minute walk uphill from Argyll Street, you're in for a treat. It is a tranquil area with a nice walled garden and gorgeous views of the sea.

If you like whiskey, the **Oban Distillery** is said to produce one of the finest malt whiskeys in the country. It is located in the center of town and has been operating since 1794. It is almost to the waterfront, and you can find it by its tall chimney. The distillery offers tour showing how malt whiskey is made.

Toward the northern end of George Street on the west side you will find **St. John's Episcopal Cathedral**. It is a large red stone building that is easily missed. It was originally built in 1864 with plans to upgrade to a much larger church. When the money ran out in August 1910 only part of the church had been completed.

The interior clearly shows several phases of building, including the (originally temporary) wooden construction used to finish off the roof

at the altar. When the construction funds ran out, the temporary buttresses remained as a permanent feature. This makes the interior design very unique.

On the northeast side of Oban Bay you will find the Roman catholic **Saint Columba's Cathedral**. Construction on the Cathedral began in 1919, but it wasn't until 1953 that it was actually completed. It is the seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

Follow the coastal road for about a mile to the north of town and you will come across the ruins of **Dunollie Castle**. For many centuries it was the most important fortress of the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall. It was built in the 13th century, and withstood a year-long siege during the 1715 Jacobite rebellion.



Dining Suggestions

1. Seafood Restaurants

Ee-Usk

Location: North Pier, Oban

Specialties: Fresh seafood, including scallops, mussels, oysters, and the famous Scottish salmon.

Ambiance: Modern, with stunning views of the harbor.

The Waterfront Fishhouse Restaurant

Location: Railway Pier, Oban Specialties: A variety of seafood dishes, including langoustines, crab, and daily specials from local catches.

Ambiance: Casual and cozy, with a nautical theme.

Oban Seafood Hut (Green Shack)

Location: Calmac Pier, Oban Specialties: Quick, fresh seafood snacks such as oysters, lobster rolls, and crab claws. Ambiance: Informal, takeaway-style with outdoor seating.

2. Scottish Cuisine

The Olive Garden

Location: Stafford Street, Oban

Specialties: Combines Scottish and Mediterranean influences, with dishes like haggis and seafood paella.

Ambiance: Warm and welcoming, with a family-friendly atmosphere.

Cuan Mor

Location: George Street, Oban

Specialties: Traditional Scottish dishes, including haggis, neeps, and tatties, along with locally sourced seafood and meats. Ambiance: Rustic and cozy, with a strong focus on local heritage.

The Lorne Bar

Location: Stevenson Street, Oban

Specialties: Traditional pub fare with a Scottish twist, including steak pie, fish and chips, and a selection of local ales and whiskies.

Ambiance: Classic pub setting, friendly and lively.

3. International Cuisine

Coast Restaurant

Location: George Street, Oban Specialties: A mix of European and Scottish dishes, featuring seasonal and locally sourced ingredients.

Ambiance: Elegant yet relaxed, perfect for both casual and special occasions.

Spice World

Location: George Street, Oban

Specialties: Indian cuisine, offering a range of curries, tandoori dishes, and vegetarian options.

Ambiance: Vibrant and colorful, with a welcoming atmosphere.

China Restaurant

Location: Albany Street, Oban

Specialties: Classic Chinese dishes, including dim sum, sweet and sour chicken, and Peking duck.

Ambiance: Traditional Chinese decor, casual dining.

4. Cafes and Light Bites

Piazza

Location: North Pier, Oban

Specialties: Italian cuisine, with a focus on pizzas, pastas, and salads.

Ambiance: Family-friendly, with views of the bay.

Oban Chocolate Company

Location: Corran Esplanade, Oban

Specialties: Artisan chocolates, hot drinks, and light bites like sandwiches and pastries.

Ambiance: Cozy and charming, perfect for a sweet treat or light lunch.

Food from Argyll at the Pier

Location: Calmac Pier, Oban

Specialties: Locally sourced produce, including sandwiches, soups, and pastries.

Ambiance: Casual, with an emphasis on local flavors and ingredients.

5. Fine Dining

Etive Restaurant

Location: Stevenson Street, Oban Specialties: Fine dining with a focus on local, seasonal produce, offering tasting menus and expertly crafted dishes.

Ambiance: Intimate and sophisticated, ideal for special occasions.

The Manor House Hotel Restaurant

Location: Gallanach Road, Oban

Specialties: Gourmet dining with a focus on fresh, local ingredients, featuring dishes like venison and seafood.

Ambiance: Elegant and historic, set in a beautifully restored Georgian house.

Tips for Dining in Oban

Reservations: Many of the popular restaurants, especially those with fine dining and seafood, can get busy, so it's advisable to make reservations in advance.

Local Specialties: Don't miss out on trying local seafood, especially oysters, scallops, and the famous Oban whisky.



[Jump to index](#)

Seasonal Changes: Menus often change with the seasons to incorporate the freshest ingredients, so be sure to check for any special offerings.

Enjoy your culinary journey through Oban!



[Jump to index](#)