40 CELEBRATING OUR 40TH SEASON!

Est. 1988

Adventureline

WALKING HOLIDAYS

Isles of Scilly

A WEEK OF EXPLORING, ON FOOT



Bespoke walking tours Melding *Nature*, *History* and *Story Telling* into an art

To view our 2027 Isles of Scilly tour dates between May and September, please go to the *'Holiday Availability'* page on our website to see the latest availability

"There are fresh delights around every corner: a deserted cove; a windy headland; a hedgerow speckled with wild flowers; a necklace of other islands shimmering in the distance"

Max Davidson, The Telegraph

A week of exploring the Isles of Scilly, on foot

A Stunning Archipelago Set in Radiant Turquoise Seas. Our first walking tour of the Isles of Scilly in 2004 was such a huge success, that we have been running a couple of trips to these golden isles every year ever since because it's so beautiful there, we just have to keep going back!

Situated about 30 miles south west of Lands' End, this exquisite group of about 100 islands and islets sit magically and serenely out in the turquoise blue Atlantic Ocean.

We stay on St Mary's (the largest of the inhabited islands) at the 'eco-friendly' Mincarlo Guest House, located directly on the waterfront overlooking Hugh Town harbor, with beautiful sunset views. During the week, we will spend a day (perhaps more) exploring St Mary's. This island has a circumference of approximately 12 miles and has the largest footpath network. It is also the most rural island, with large arable areas under daffodil flower and bulb cultivation and other vegetables.

Then we will use the wonderful wooden passenger boats to access 4 other different outer islands on the other days; St Agnes, Bryher, Tresco, St Martins - and perhaps even the un-inhabited island of Samson. The boat trips depend to a certain extent on the prevailing weather, although they nearly always run every day. They are a little adventure in themselves - a really great way to commence and end the day.

Probably the most fantastic aspect of these islands is the clear light and the magical turquoise seas, particularly when the weather is settled and the sea is calm. Because the air is so very clean out there in the Atlantic, there are fantastic lichens everywhere. In fact, these islands are the very first 'landfall' between England and North America. The large 'twice daily' tides of up to 26ft sweep the beaches clean every day and the surrounding relatively warm sea water keeps the archipelago somewhat mild, which is why sub-tropical plants flourish here.

The islands have a wonderful flora, being bathed by the Gulf Stream, which keeps them mild the year round. They are famous for their 'wavy maritime heath' and particularly the early spring flowers - especially daffodils and narcissi - and later, when we run our August tour, there are masses of blue and white agapanthus and great swathes of ling and bell heather and beautiful succulents, such as mesembryanthemumandHottentotFig.

Most of the islands are quite small and can easily be explored in a single day - leaving enough time to 'do your own thing' - relaxing on some remote gorgeous beaches or on cliff tops with stunning views over the archipelago.

These islands are composed of granite that is 296 million years old and they do not have any large hills - the highest point being only about 155 feet (50m) above sea level.

On most of the islands there are numerous white sandy beaches and spectacular granite outcrops. On the island of Tresco, there is a renowned walled garden called *'The Abbey Gardens'*, which is set amongst the ruins of an old 13th century medieval priory.

It has many rare plants and is exotic and sub- tropical in nature. Entry is included on your holiday.

On the day we visit the beautiful island of St Agnes, we may tides and weather permitting) dine in the famous 'Turks Head' pub and take the late evening boat back to St Mary's.

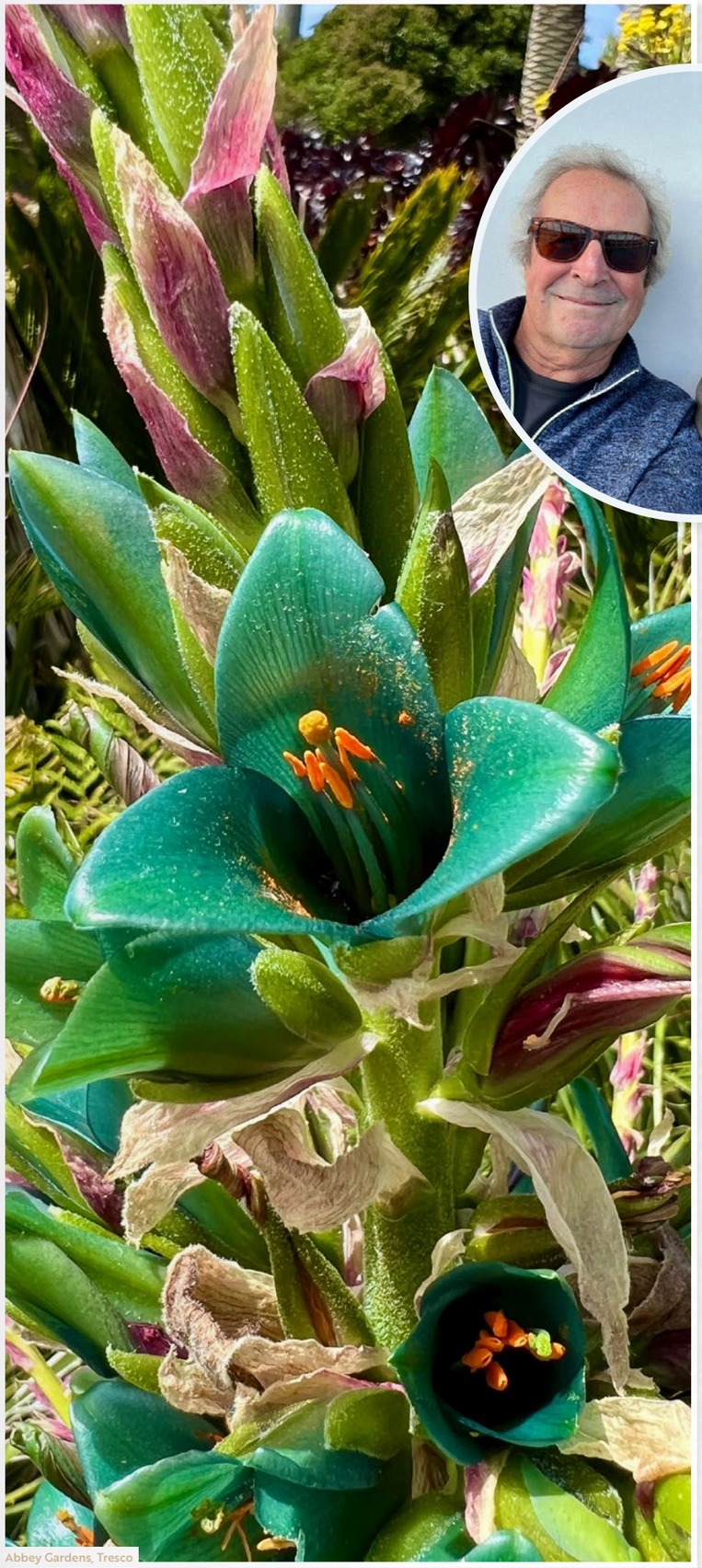
In June, the days will be very long, with about 18 hours of daylight, in August somewhat less. Sunsets on the Isles of Scilly are quite often spectacular and happen frequently. It is lovely to relax and view them from our westerly facing guesthouse patio.

We might take an optional wildlife viewing boat trip to some of the outer isles. The wildlife is very varied, with seals, puffins (June only), guillemots, razorbills, shags, ravens, peregrines, kestrel, cormorants and many other species.

The waters are exceptionally clear and turquoise in colour and sometimes, Leather Backed Turtles, Bottle Nosed Dolphins, Porpoise, Sunfish and Minke Whales can be seen.



Granite promontory on St Martins



Abbey Gardens, Tresco

Your guide

Pete Isaac

Some 39 years ago now, Martin spearheaded his unique discovery walking holidays in Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly and founded what became the very first walking tour operator in Cornwall, Adventureline - often mimicked, but never equalled. There are few footpaths in Cornwall and on the Isles of Scilly that Martin does not know intimately!

In 2025, Martin's son Pete is joined the business, having been partially involved for 2 years. With an often international mix of guests, Martin and Pete maintain a close group cohesion (with humour!), which is warmly appreciated by all. Martin and Pete are always interested in others, so you will be appreciated and enjoyed for whoever you are - and wherever you come from.

They are keen for their guests to have fun learning about the islands, its flora and fauna, geology, history and archaeology - and developing good group dynamics/ comradeship too. They achieve this cheerful dynamic by stopping for an informal lecture, taking a closer look at the frequent natural phenomena, enjoying an exploratory scramble, taking a swim - or perhaps exploring with them, some of the ancient burial chambers, impressive granite outcrops and the always fascinating foreshore.

Find out more on the 'About Adventureline' page of the website.



Bryher beach

There is an ancient legend in Cornwall that there once existed an advanced culture called *'Lyoness'* on an island placed somewhere west of Lands' End. The legend tells of the island being destroyed in a great cataclysmic inundation/flood/earthquake back in the dark ages. There is indeed some geological evidence that this may have in fact occurred. The island's recent history is long and convoluted - having been the home of many famous people throughout historical time. For example, the young King Charles 1st came to the Scilly Isles to try and escape from Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War.

Ultimately, he failed. There are many surviving relics from the civil war days and later fortifications from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

We will visit the pretty little churchyard of Old Town. In this same cemetery can be seen numerous graves and memorials to those who have perished in the many shipwrecks that have occurred here over the centuries.

In 1707, when returning with the fleet to England *'Admiral of the Fleet'*, Sir Cloudesley Shovell's ship, HMS Association, struck on the Western Rocks along with several other ships and broke up. The event was witnessed by those on board HMS St George and it was said that the ship 'went down in three or four minutes', not a soul being saved of 800 men on board. With three other large ships also being wrecked (HMS Eagle, HMS Romney and HMS Firebrand), nearly 2,000 sailors were lost that terrible night.

This Scilly Isles disaster was one of the greatest maritime disasters in the history of the British Navy. It was later determined that the main cause of the disaster was the navigators' inability to accurately calculate their longitude.

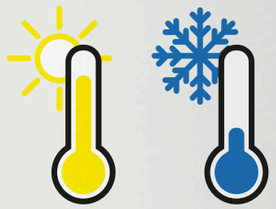
The islands are home to an unusually large number of prehistoric chambered burial tombs dating from the Bronze Age. Possibly, in ancient times, it was desirable for tribal chieftains to have themselves 'laid to rest' in these western islands, which says something quite remarkable about the islands' perceived beauty, mystery and of course their sacred status.

There will be one (optional) free day during the holiday; giving you time to browse the galleries and shops, relax on the beach, take a leisurely walk on your own - or simply take in the enchanting views from the front patio at Mincarlo, whilst sitting in a deck chair taking it easy.



Gaia sculpture, Abbey gardens

Average Temperature on the Isles of Scilly in summer



High
66°F / 19°C

Low
59°F / 15°C

Rain Fall 3 inches / 64mm

The temperatures mentioned above are only average...there can be days of up to 25C

ACOMMODATION

Accommodation on the Isles of Scilly

Mincarlo has a good range of rooms, most with sea views – although a few not. There are twins, doubles and several singles too. There is no single room supplement in the four single rooms, however these rooms book up very fast. (If all the singles have been booked, we may be able to arrange for you to stay in B&B's nearby with available single rooms). The house has a patio which overlooks the harbor and is far enough away from the actual quay to be quiet and serene.

Mincarlo website: http://mincarlo.info



Pelistry, St Marys



View of Cromwell's Castle and Bryher, from King Charle's Castle



Typical Maritime Wavy Heath in late summer



Lush subtropical flora

The Abbey Gardens

The Abbey Gardens on Tresco are quite unique, being full of unusual plants from all over the world. Created by the Lord Provost Augustus Smith, commencing in 1830's, these gardens are a paradise for plant lovers - with exotic plants and trees from many parts of the world that flourish here in the generally frost free climate.



View from Bryher over to Tresco



Happy group exploring the islands



The highest point in the islands on St Martins - 165ft!



The Abbey Gardens



Granite of Peninnis Point, St Marys

Our Philosophy...

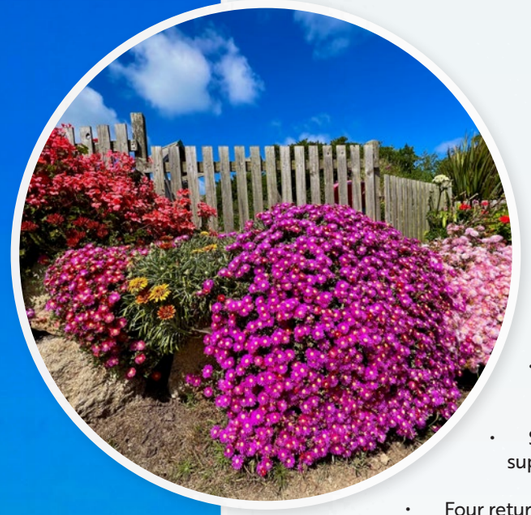
...is to enrich our guests lives and enjoy our work on a daily basis, providing impeccable customer service and promoting long-term sustainability of ecology, economy and community.

See what our many satisfied clients say about us - you'll be surprised!
https://adventureline.co.uk/testimonials/

Read more reviews: Trip Advisor | Google Reviews

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AdventurelineUK

Old Grimsby, Tresco



Booking

Tour cost
£2,150 pp

Our great package includes:

- Seven night's accommodation, with full English cooked breakfasts, cereals and fruit, yoghurt, toast, etc.
- Seven excellent two course restaurant/pub evening meals in superb mixed locations.
- Four return boat rides to the outer islands.
- Martin and/or Pete's services services as guides and companions throughout the tour.
- Entrance to the famous sub-tropical Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco.
- We will advise on all your travel requirements, so you may easily book your travel arrangements.

Adventureline's unique formula for a relaxing yet stimulating holiday (in good company) is well rounded and is good value for money too. Early booking is recommended as we have limited capacity per week.

Being remote islands, to which absolutely everything has to be shipped, prices here are higher than on the mainland. Shipping it seems is an expensive business. But fear not... we will breakfast like Kings at Mincarlo and dine in the evenings at several restaurants and pubs, all with full international a la carte menus and wines from around the world. The seafood is superb and everyone has always been incredibly impressed and surprised at the quality of the 'fusion cuisine' now served at many establishments on The Isles of Scilly. The main street of Hugh Town is a short 5-minute stroll away, with its fascinating local museum and several charming and interesting shops and galleries.

Not included

Flights/ferry. Any extra boat trips additional to the four included. Any alcohol or beer. Lunch. There are several places to buy a snack in the morning on our way to the quay.

Booking and cost:

1. All bookings must be confirmed by email or letter. We will hold your reservation provided that a £250 per person deposit is received within 3 weeks of the date of your email of intent to book this holiday.

2. We require payment in English pounds sterling (GBP) and will provide our bank details in the event of a reservation. We do not accept credit cards due to the high cost of administration.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or email for further information, or details of any of our other holidays around the world, our terms and conditions, or to make a reservation. Phone: **+44 (0)1209 820847** | **adventureline@btinternet.com**

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to have the pleasure of your company on the Isles of Scilly in 2027.

Pete Isaac & Martin Hunt

Pete Isaac & Martin Hunt

See you soon!



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