



Welcome to Cologin. We are so pleased you have chosen to spend your holiday with us. As a small family-business we live and work here, so if you have a problem, please let us know. If you cannot find us and have any questions regarding your stay or want some local information you can send a WhatsApp to 01631564501 or text 07468410343. Please only *call* this mobile number if there is an emergency.

Our aim is to provide a relaxing, rural and peaceful setting for your visit to Oban and Argyll.

The chalets and lodges are all simply furnished, but they should be comfortable and warm - and everything should be in working order. Equipment has been selected for its simplicity, so things (usually) just switch on and off and turn up or down! Here are a few simple pointers to get you going, but of course if you have a problem with anything just let us know and we'll do what we can to put things right!

HOW TO WORK STUFF!

Isolator Switches:

The **oven** will not operate unless the clock is showing a time without flashing – any time will do – if you inadvertently switch off the cooker at the isolator wall switch you will need to reset the clock when you switch it back on. The oven hob will also have an isolator wall switch – this must be on before you can use the hob (we usually leave both switches on for your arrival.)

All electric **Showers** (by law) must have an isolator switch, which may be a pull cord in the bathroom or more often as a separate wall mounted switch located outside the bathroom itself. There may also be a wall switch (or pull cord) for the **bathroom heated towel rail** so do double check which one you have turned on or off. In the winter we will have left the towel rail on for your arrival.

The lodges and chalets are all electric and the **wall heaters** have an isolator switch on the wall. If it is on (displaying a red light) then you can turn the heater on via the push button switch on the top right on the heater itself or by adjusting the round dials on the front depending on the model.

All the heaters offer thermostatically controlled temperature settings from 'Frost Control' upwards and midway between the two extremes is usually comfortable. You may also have an **additional electric log fire/stove** – these simply switch on at the side (or the stove door opens to reveal the switches) there are two settings for heat and one for the log effect which can be used by itself if you wish to add atmosphere!

The **hot water** is also operated from an isolator switch and it is also thermostatically controlled if you are planning on using the bath then I would leave this on for a while. Otherwise, there should be enough hot water in the tank to cover the washing up etc and should only need to switch it back on after a couple of days (depending on how much hot water you use). If your hot water is hotter than you'd like just let us know and we'll lower the thermostatic setting.

Please note, as your rental includes electricity on a 'fair usage' basis there is no need to record meter readings. As we are signatories to the Glasgow Declaration – Climate Action in Tourism we respectfully ask that you are considerate with your energy consumption and do not leave heaters and lights on unnecessarily. Thank you for your co-operation.

Our Spring Water Supply:

Please note, our **water** is from a private supply and may be coloured by naturally occurring peat. It can stain the bath and toilet (as we cannot use bleach as it is incompatible with our septic tanks) but please be reassured it is safe to drink for most adults and children and is exceptionally soft and great for your skin! If you are making up babies bottles you should use boiled water and if you (or anyone in your party) has a compromised immune system, it would be sensible to use bottled water. If you are in this group, then we urge you to take precautions through Argyll as many businesses are on a private supply so you may wish to carry bottled water when you are out and about. In Oban there is a water bottle filler point in Station Square.

Our private supply is tested by environmental health officers every few months and there is a comprehensive water filtration system in the water treatment shed.

Outside Lights:

We are a **Dark Sky park** so there are no street lights at Cologin. If you have not brought your own torch and you don't have a torch app on your smart phone, just come and ask us for a torch to borrow. To help you find your accommodation at night please leave your outside light on before you head out! The switch is just inside the front door. Don't leave your windows open at night unless you have **drawn your curtains** – otherwise the inside lights will attract in the dreaded midges!

TVs and DVDs:

Due to our rural location we cannot pick up a digital signal so the Sky or freesat Box must be on (displaying a green light) before you can watch TV. Many of our TVs are SMART and now that we have fibre broadband you should be able to stream Netflix etc.

If your Sky/freesat box IS ON (green light displaying) and you are not getting a signal, then try pushing the **SOURCE** button on the TV remote as they (usually) work off the scart or HDMI feed. If you adjust the language setting (or any other setting), please restore these before you leave. If you have brought your own Sky card then please remember to take it with you when you go, but you will need to pre-agree this with Sky before using it in our boxes. You can also log into any of your streaming services via our smart TV function or smart sticks. Please remember to sign out of any streaming services you log into otherwise there is a risk other guests will use your account as we do not monitor this.

If you unplug anything to set up a Playstation/X-box etc please make sure you plug it all back in before you leave.

We have put a selection of books and DVDs in the old red phone box. Please help yourself.

Fridge:

This will be on for your arrival. Please turn it off when you leave. If your fridge still has a working door shelf then PLEASE *do not use it* for large milk cartons or heavy bottles as the shelf will just break and cannot then be replaced. Bottles should be stored in the bottom of the fridge. Our cleaners do their best to defrost the ice boxes every week – it is a great help if you could turn the fridge off on departure to aid that process.

Microwave:

Please don't put *ANYTHING METAL* (or foil) in the micro as you may cause a fire.

Fire Safety:

Chip pan fires (and most kitchen fires) should be extinguished using the fire blanket provided. To avoid causing fires in your accommodation please DO NOT cover the panel heaters with clothes or leave furniture too close to the heaters or the electric log fire. Please also avoid using candles – unless we have a power cut – and always extinguish them fully before retiring to bed or leaving the property. There is a fire extinguisher in your lodge. In the event of a fire please **leave the lodge** and **alert neighbouring properties**. Obviously, as all our lodges are single storey you can also leave via the windows in an emergency. Please leave keys in any window locks to aid escape.

Dial 999 and report the fire – if you are asked for the postcode (which is **PA34 4SE**) please tell the operator that the postcode covers the entire glen, and the chalets are located behind the **Barn Bar** pub. Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue, UK Coastguard and Scottish Ambulance service all use and accept **3 word addresses** as our postcode is not specific to Cologin. We recommend downloading the free app to be prepared. It can be used off-line so perfect for our area with its unreliable data connection. The app will pinpoint your location exactly. **Do not put yourself at risk by returning to collect belongings – safety is paramount – just get out.**

BBQ:

These are available on loan – just send us a WhatsApp or text message saying what lodge you're in and when you would like it and we will arrange delivery. We don't provide charcoal and we do ask that you return the BBQ CLEAN ready for the next guest to borrow. Please do not use disposable BBQs on wooden patio tables or inside your lodge. Respect your neighbours and please don't sit outside after 11pm.

Wi-fi:

The main question. We are very pleased to announce we now have a fibre internet connection supplying all our properties. To log in please use the voucher code that is presented on a notice on the wall next to the front door. Please do not remove these notices.

The code will work for all your devices (the TV is already connected) but there is a download cap of 20mbps per lodge to help distribute the bandwidth equally around the whole site.

The Barn Bar has their own network inside the pub which is also free to join and no download limit. You will only pick this up when you are inside the building though so if you need to use a lot of bandwidth, we recommend getting a coffee in front of the fire and using their network.

Pets:

We are one of the Association of Scottish Self-caterers founding members of the 'Pets Welcome' charter and we pride ourselves on welcoming dogs and a range of other animals.

Our pet rules are as follows: pets are welcome but not on the furniture and preferably not in the bedrooms. If you have not brought a towel for your pet, we can provide an old one so you can dry your dog's paws and coat after a muddy walk. I am afraid we will have to charge if your pet causes damage so it's best not to leave your pet unattended. Please remember your pet may be used to being left alone in their own home but leaving a pet alone in a strange environment is a stressful experience and your pet may well bark, scratch and claw through anxiety.

There are dog bins around the site – please clear up after your pet and do not allow pets to cause a nuisance with other dogs or people!

Your pet should be on a lead on site – there's 17,000 acres of woodlands to explore off a lead so do please keep your pet under close supervision at Cologin. Pets are also welcome in the Barn Bar on ***a lead and under close supervision***. The Barn rule for pets is the same for children – they should not cause a nuisance or more seriously a safety hazard and unruly ones are likely to be shown the door!

Remember under certain circumstances a landowner has the right to shoot a dog which is attacking or causing distress to their animals. In Scotland the fines for livestock worrying are considerably higher than the rest of the UK – up to £40,000 – and you could be sent to prison for up to 12 months. Please just don't risk it. If you are in a field containing livestock always have your dog on a lead and during lambing season (April/May) you should avoid walking near sheep.

Feel free to use the 'pet shower' outside chalet 1. If you've just come down from the loch your pet is likely to be wet already so a quick clean up before you head to your lodge would be appreciated.

Your pets are likely to meet our chocolate Labrador, Benjie, and our golden Labrador, Toby. Both are very friendly dogs, but Benjie is an old boy now (deaf and occasionally a bit wondered) whilst Toby is a youngster so very much enjoys a good play with a fellow friend. We also have a black cat – Baz – who is very friendly and one (or all three) may appear outside your lodge door if they have escaped from the garden. Benjie will happily go for a short walk with anyone that is willing and he loves company, but as he is getting a bit older now we ask if you could try and leave him on site. Baz will treat your home as his and if you let him in, he is likely to make himself comfortable and stay, so please don't encourage him indoors.

Other pets are welcome by arrangement, and we also offer livery for guests bringing their horses on holiday. There are wonderful treks from Cologin and the local stables offers trekking through nearby Glencruitten forest.

Walks:

There are numerous tracks through the woods and fields around Cologin and under Scottish legislation you have a 'RIGHT TO ROAM' but with all rights this comes with responsibilities. Please follow the Scottish Access code and take away nothing but memories and leave nothing but footprints.

The main walk that we recommend you do while you are staying with us is up to Loch Gleann a' Bhearraidh.

This can be found if you take the path through the wooden gate next to lodge number 1, straight up through the field (it is very important to have your dogs on a lead through this field as it often has sheep in it and the farmer isn't far away), once you have reached the second gate at the top of the first hill, go through the kissing gate and you can let your dogs roam free.

Follow the path straight up (keep right at the fork in the path about halfway up). It should take about 25mins, and some parts can be muddy, so we suggest wearing boots. The loch is right at the end of the path, and you can go down to the shoreline, both you and your dog can go for a dip if you wish. We have had guests in the past who walked up every morning for a swim before they start their day, I am not that brave!

Once in the forest you can spend hours exploring the paths in the trees. It is owned by Scottish Land and Forestry Commission, and they may be doing some work while you stay with us. Unfortunately, we have no control on when and where they do this work on their land, but they will put signs up to let you know if you cannot access the forest that day.

Wherever you walk there's a good chance of spotting Buzzards and other wildlife up in the woods. Pinemartens are quite shy but recently we have had one stroll around the site. If you do see one, please **do NOT let** your dog give chase. Like badgers, these animals will seriously harm a pet dog if cornered and they should be left alone.

You may also see deer, owls, rabbits, moles, field mice (sorry but you are in the countryside) water voles, ducks, geese and occasionally sea eagles. Further afield you can see badgers, otters, beavers and wild goats – plus marine wildlife – especially porpoise and dolphin and the odd basking shark. Well worth checking out the local sea safaris for a tour on the water, you will always see something interesting!

Kids:

Not wildlife exactly but you may find they turn feral after a week at Cologin! Let them get wet and muddy – city kids don't get the freedom to explore anymore and building a den in the woods is a rite of passage in this part of the world. However, do watch wee ones with the burns – they are not deep, but we all know how dangerous even shallow water can be.

The **playground** is normally available for all Cologin customers *under the age of 12*. It is used at your own risk. According to our lawyers we can accept **no liability** for any injury that may result from your children using the playpark unsupervised. Likewise, if you decide to use the boat on the loch for a family picnic or a fishing trip you should only do so if you have your own life jackets/buoyancy aids. We are no longer allowed to provide these for you.

Children are welcome into the pub – the licence allows them to come in with an adult for the purpose of a meal anytime up to 9pm.

If you are part of a large group on site and have a *private function* booked at the Barn Bar then children are allowed in for the duration of the function.

Laundrette:

We have a washing machine just for guests – it is coin operated and accepts pound coins. There is also a coin operate tumble dryer, it takes about £2 for a 70min programme.

The entrance to the laundrette is just inside (on the left) in the old stone byre, which is the stone building at right angles to the metal roofed Dutch Barn. It is a working barn so apologies for its appearance! At least this year there are no animals in it! Next year it may be home to a micro-brewery so keep an eye on our socials for news updates....

We usually leave a few *emergency* supplies in the laundry so if you need a loo roll in a hurry then just grab one and go!

Fishing:

The loch above Cologin is free for residents to fish for wild brown trout as we hold Riparian Rights. As this is Oban's water supply outboard motors are NOT allowed. The fishing season for brown trout runs from **15th March to 6th October**. We do not provide any rods but there is an angling shop in Oban (Anglers Corner) which can provide rods, bait, flies and other tackle or you can bring your own.

According to the local fishing club the left-hand side of the loch offers the best fishing and flies work best.

Wild swimming is possible, but we advise caution as the water in the loch can be very cold and has no natural buoyancy being fresh water.

Cars:

Please don't park or drive over our grass. It may look dry, but it is usually wet beneath the surface and even a 4 x 4 will damage it. There is parking for just one car outside your lodge and any extra cars, boats, trailers should be parked in the car park either by the stone byre or in front of the playpark.

There is a hose for washing your car should you need it (or for washing down RIBS or dive equipment). Taxis can be called from The Barn Bar and they generally pick up and drop off from outside the pub and cost around £11 to get into town. There is little in the way of public transport nearby, but hitching is perfectly acceptable. Wear something bright at night and always walk towards the oncoming traffic so you can see them, and they can see you. We are always popping in and out of town so don't hesitate to ask if you are looking for a lift. We can't promise but we'll do our best.

Breakages:

If you do break anything during your stay please replace it and/or report it. If something is not working on arrival or it breaks down during your stay, please let us know so we can repair or re-new as appropriate – even if it's not bothering you. Tradesmen may have to be called from further afield so the more notice we have the better. If you are missing something from your accommodation, then please do ask us to see if we have spares in our storeroom. If it's not something we normally provide, but it's available, we may lend you our own. Just don't pack it and take it home with you!

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The best source of information on things to see and do in our area is the website www.oban.org.uk we also list our personal favourites in this folder so read on for more information. And don't hesitate to ask for advice or help if you have a specific activity or attraction on your bucket list for this trip.

The Barn Bar:

This little gem is a popular place with non-residents and during the summer season or at weekends it's advisable to book a table for dinner (**01631 565721**). The Barn is a member of VisitScotland's **Taste our Best** Quality Award scheme. To gain this award the Barn uses over 40% Scottish produce and local suppliers. Everything is cooked to order and TripAdvisor have just awarded them a Certificate of Excellence again this year. Table bookings are usually for 90 minutes at the weekends. Weekdays are less busy and you can keep your table for longer - if it is not re-booked. Of course, The Barn's operational hours change depending on the season so please keep an eye on their Facebook page for their up-to-date opening times and menus.

In the winter they are usually only open at the weekends (other than the Festive week!) and they always close in early January for staff holidays and a winter brush-up. Smoking is not permitted in the pub and to meet the requirements of our licence under 25s should always have ID with them in the pub. Under 18s are welcome in the pub for the purpose of a meal but please book an early table for dinner as the children (and young persons of 16/17) license requires them to be out of the pub by 9pm.

The Barn also offers private functions and group booking set menus, but this is usually only possible outside the main summer season – unless you have a full site booking. Private functions allow for children to be present beyond our standard 9pm watershed.

We have hosted several weddings at Cologin and The Barn Bar and it's an intimate venue for a small function.

Entertainment:

Apart from the informal Sunday Session with local musicians, The Barn may book live music during the main summer season and occasional gigs in the winter. Keep up to date with them on their Facebook page. If you've an instrument with you and you fancy a gig then have a word with Julie!

The Barn Bar usually has a couple of real ales on tap as well as a selection of bottled craft beers. Currently you will find local brewers Fyne Ales and they also stock bottled beers from local breweries. Tastings and other events are occasionally organised so it's always worth checking social media. You can also purchase off sales from the Barn Bar if you want to take some unusual beers or spirits home with you.

Local Banter:

Our locals are a friendly bunch, and they mean well! If you are ever in need of some advice on what to do and where to go during your stay, then just ask at the bar and someone in the pub will be keen to offer advice! The Barn Bar was featured in Scotland's 'A Story to Tell' pub promotion.

Here a few pointers so you can spot the *truth from the tall tales!*

- Mick Jagger – yes he has visited the pub – his film company held their 'wrap party' in the barn after completing some action sequences for the film 'Enigma' further down the glen.
- No, Mick Jagger did not play the pipes, but he did dance a 'Strip the Willow' and he was extremely friendly and very happy to be able to have a pint and a chat.
- Lady Di's mum – yes, another regular in the pub before she died. She liked a drink and was great company.
- Ghosts – yes there have been several reports of ghosts up in the fields behind the pub. A highland cattle thief was put to death (hanged) on the hill behind the chalets and supposedly his widow haunts the glen!
- The Black Panther – famous in Argyll and loads of the locals have seen it – or perhaps there are more than one!
- Whisky from the SS Politician – yes we have some and no sorry we won't sell you a nip.
- No you can't drink beyond our legal closing time just because you are a resident – the locals will try to persuade you otherwise so they can stay as your guest!
- Scottish licensing laws are different (stricter) from the rest of the UK. Fortunately, there's no need for anyone to drive to the Barn when you're staying at Cologin!

Historic Kilbride

An 18th century kirk with a fascinating history located just a 5min walk down the field from us. This site has had a massive historical impact for our area and the whole of Oban. If you would like to take a wander around, feel free to head down along the path that runs along the wooden fence next to the Barn. You will then cross a field (please note there is usually livestock in here so keep dogs on a lead) once you cross to the other side you will see signs on the other side of the road pointing you in the right direction. You may get an impromptu tour from the live-in historian Liam who has a great deal of knowledge and passion for Kilbride, or you can just explore the site yourself using the self-guided QR tour.

Please note, this is a community-run charity project and, if you can donate a few pounds when you visit, please do so. We're proud to support Kilbride and encourage all our guests to do so too.

Oban Restaurants:

We obviously think the Barn is wonderful but here are a few of our favourites in and around town:

- Coast – top end of George Street – upmarket and worth every penny
- Eeusk – fresh seafood and shellfish with lovely views from North Pier
- Piazza – family friendly and great views from North Pier
- No17- based along the esplanade towards the war memorial. Does fantastic cocktails and has a lovely Italian inspired menu. Perfect for a date night.
- The Waterfront Fish House Cafe – fish plus local produce on south pier. Eat some good food while watching the ferries come and go.
- The Manor House – fine dining, sea views – perfect for a special treat
- Cuanmor – good value family dining on the main street. They have a good outside eating area that is ideal in the summer months.
- The Olive Garden- fantastic value for money and a great selection on their menu. A large seating area and friendly staff means it is a good option for families.
- Markie Dans- bottom of town. If you are in the mood for some classic pub grab and need somewhere that accepts dogs, this is your place!
- Tigh an Truish- down on Seal island about a 20min drive from us. Great pub/restaurant. The pub side is dog friendly with a fire so perfect on a wet day.
- Oyster Inn, Seal- Really nice little bar which serves fresh seafood and fantastic views over Easdale island. Ideal place to visit when the sun is shining.
- Kilchrenan Inn- Taynuilt based and a bit of a drive down 5 mile single track road but there are some great walks and the food is well worth it. Again, dog friendly.

- The Oyster inn- They are in Connel close to the bridge. Fantastic views of loch Etive and they have a beer garden for those sunny days. Local simple menu and dog friendly.
- The Lorn- A classic lovely pub in town. Has its own dog friendly menu.
- Pier House – further afield at Port Appin but worth the drive for some amazing seafood. They have a dog friendly area.
- The Old Inn- located in Appin as well. Predominantly a steak restaurant. The setting is in a rustic barn with a large log burner and a bar made from old whisky barrels. They also have a lovely beer garden with views over castle stalker. A must visit for meat eaters. Dogs are welcome in the garden and will need to get prior permission to enter the restaurant.
- Knipoch Hotel – recently renovated and upmarket if you fancy a treat.
- Melfort Hotel – head south from us and it's next door to Arduaine Gardens. This is the perfect dog friendly spot for those that want more than “pub grub” when eating out.
- Deck Restaurant at Isle of Eriska Spa – lovely views from this posh facility within the Eriska Spa complex, perfect for a lunch after a spa day.
- Norries Fish & Chips – one of many really good chippies in Oban – you will just have to try them all!
- Oban Fish & Chips- If you want a more sit in dining experience then head to these guys. Small, candle lit restaurant serving fresh seafood.
- Waypoint Restaurant, Kerrera- This is only open during the summer months but well worth a visit. You can catch the passenger ferry at North pier and head over the water to the island where you disembark on the pontoon and walk up to the small restaurant with cracking views back over at Oban.
- The View, Oban- catch the sunset on their outside terrace while enjoying their cocktails and food.
- China Restaurant- located beside the distillery. Doesn't look much but does a very yummy Chinese takeaway or sit in.
- Taj Mahal- At the top of town next to the cinema. Good service with a nice selection of Indian dishes.
- Gelato Burger- a great place for families. Offers burgers, waffles and ice cream.
- Cafés – too numerous to list. Our favourite is Roxy's for their fabulous baking.

There are some cracking restaurants over on Mull so a day trip to Tobermory should include lunch at Café Fish and even Calmac ferries offer pretty good grub so grab breakfast onboard.

Takeaways:

There is a good selection of takeaways in town so lots to choose from. Only a handful deliver out to us but take it from personal experience it is a lot quicker to order over the phone and go in to collect (you can sometimes wait over 2 hrs for delivery).

- Any of the chipperies in town- you will need to go in and collect from these places and Norrie's is a firm favourite in our house.
- Kababish of Oban- Kababs, Indian dishes, munchie boxes and pizzas. Will deliver.
- Mondo Peri Peri- pizza, peri peri & fried chicken, deserts. Will deliver.
- Taj Mahal-Indian food. Pick up only.
- Piazza- takeaway pizzas. Pick up only.
- Marmaris- kababs, pizza, wraps and burgers. Will deliver.
- Chilli Grillz-munchie boxes, donner, chips, hoagies and pizza. Will deliver.
- GelatoBurger- burgers & deserts. Pick up only.
- China Restaurant- Chinese food. Pick up only.
- Spice World- offer Thai, Indian and Chinese dishes. Will deliver.

Visitor Attractions:

There are plenty of things to see and do in and around Oban. Each season we try to negotiate discounts where we can so do check on arrival if we have any guest discounts on offer during your visit. Don't miss the following (many are free):

- The View- ceilidh nights are on every Monday & Thursday evening from 8pm-10pm. If you book online in advance, you can get a 10% discount using the code "COL10" www.obanview.com/ceilidhs/
- Woodlands Glencoe Activity & Experience Centre- spend the day learning how to Segway, do archery or a bit of clay pigeon shooting. These guys offer it all. We have secured a 20% discount with them for our guests, all you have to do is enter the code "COLOGIN" when booking online. www.woodlands.scot/activities-experiences/
- McCaig's Tower – a steep walk (or you can drive and park in the car park) but worth it for the fabulous views over the bay
- Dunollie House – Oban's oldest inhabited house and the home of the MacDougall Collection. Dunollie castle ruins are also worth a look.
- War and Peace Museum – Oban was the base for the flying boats during WWII – this volunteer run museum has lots of interesting artefacts and displays
- Oban Distillery – try Oban malt in the pub – now go and see how it is made!
- Pulpit Hill – another spectacular viewing point above the town
- Dunstaffnage Castle – lots to look around and explore.
- Bonawe Iron Works – interesting and informative
- Kilmartin House museum – south of us and close to Dunadd Hill Fort and Standing stones
- Cruachan – the hollow mountain – go inside Argyll's largest hydro power station

- Inveraray – the castle, the jail and the bell tower are all worth a visit – a good day out for all the family!
- Glenfinnan Viaduct- If you love Harry Potter then you must see this magical location.
- Glencoe- Even if you just drive through the mountains, you won't regret it.
- Beaches:
 - Ganavan is the “local” beach to Oban and is a great place to take the kids and the dogs. Golden sandy beach with some good walks around it. There is a large car park which is free for the first hour but you still need to get a ticket from the machine.
 - Tralee- This is another cracking beach but is a bit further away. Head out to Benderloch and follow signs to Tralee. It's a lot bigger than Ganavan and has a good play park for the kids. Again, dogs are welcome and it is a lovely place to go swimming.

Get Active:

- Atlantis Leisure – family friendly sports complex with pools, playzone and climbing wall
- Oban Walking Tours – Highly recommend Michelle at [Imagine Alba | Walking Tours in Oban](#).
- Mountain or hill walks – if you want to go with a qualified guide, contact Heather from [Heathery Heights - Outdoor Adventure & Discovery](#).
- Open water Swimming - such a beautiful part of the world to do it and Bekah from Oban Wild Swimming will be able to take you to some of the best spots!
- Go Bananas Soft Play – upstairs at the Bridge Cafe near the Co-op
- Nevis Range – the gondolas are in action all year round at Fort William for walking and cycling
- Sutherland's Grove – a great forest walk for all the family!
- Ben Lora at Benderloch - another nice walk with a lovely view
- Oban Cycles – one of several bike hire shops in town which will deliver to Colgin
- Coastal Connection – fast RIB transport and scenic tours from Oban
- Seafari – Adventure RIB rides through the Corryvreckan from Easdale
- Sealife Adventures – wildlife trips from Seil Island
- Kayaking – Seafreedom at Connel or Oban Kayaking Centre – check out the Argyll Kayak Trail for the long-distance waymarked route from Oban to Helensburgh
- Seafishing – various boats available from the pier
- Vertical Descents – more outdoor and adventure trips for kids and adults
- Glencoe Mountain Resort – open all year – our favourite local ski area
- Crinan Canal – lovely walks and nearby Beaver Trail

- The National Cycle route – cycle from Oban to Fort William (and add in the Appin loop if you wish)
- Sub Aqua Diving – over 50 well documented dive sites in the Firth of Lorne – don't forget we have a storeroom equipped with de-humidifiers which are great for drying diving or walking gear and there's a launch site at Ardoran Marina (Lerags)
- Basking Shark trips – you don't have to be a diver.
- Via Ferrata – a chained cliff walk with a difference (c/o Vertical Descents at Kinlochleven)
- Golf – Oban has a challenging 18-hole course designed by James Braid. There are also several 9-hole courses locally including Dalmally, Easdale, Eriska and Ballachulish. And don't miss golf courses on the islands. Usually operate with honesty boxes and you might be sharing a fairway with some sheep but fab views.

Chill out:

- Portavadie Marina Spa is superb, but you'll need a full day as it is a good hour's drive plus a wee ferry crossing. Well worth the journey....
- Isle of Eriska Spa – on a private island but accessible by car over their rickety bridge. Good golf course and lovely spa with a full range of treatments.
- Oban Bay Hotel and Spa – not luxury but their hot tub does have a lovely view over the bay and they offer a great massage.
- Oban Massage- can personally recommend Lynne. She has a space in town and will give you a bespoke massage tailored to your needs.
- Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa – Inveraray.

Check out:

- Places to visit maps on wildaboutargyll.co.uk and oban.org.uk and a variety of trails to follow for cafés, food and drink, crafts and details of local farmers/craft markets
- Tourism Information Office in Oban opposite the Oban Inn
- Information Oban Facebook group
- Rockfield Community Centre in Oban – local groups and activities
- West Coast Motors – for trips and travel information

You can drive north or south of us and see wonderful land and seascapes. Sometimes they are even more dramatic in bad weather – one of our favourites is on the road which winds down to Easdale island – huge Atlantic rollers make this view spectacular.

You can also walk from Coligin anywhere if you have decent boots. Get up on the hills and enjoy the views – walk over to Oban (around the dam) and cross by ferry to Kerrera and walk around the island to Gylen Castle (stop off at the Kerrera Tea Rooms for some home baking to keep you going). Or simply chill out and relax with a good book and let your fingers do the walking!

It's your holiday so just enjoy it – whatever the weather!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (updated 2024)

EMERGENCY SERVICE – CALL 999 – or 101 for non-life-threatening emergencies

NHS 24 (for medical help which is not an emergency) - Call 111

Doctor 01631 563175 - Lorn Medical Practice OR NHS 24 dial 111

Dentist 01631 562791 or 563006

Vet 01631 562876 – answer phone for 24 hour cover details

Optician 01631 567770 - Specsavers

Chemist 01631 562517 - Boots

Hospital 01631 567500 (switchboard) or for NHS 24 call 111

Taxis Lorn 01631 564744

Tower 01631 569999

Argyll 01631 565293

A2B 07493120917

Oban Tourist Office 01631 563122 - for tickets to attractions, tours, transport

CalMac 0800 066 5000 (for car and passenger reservations)

Travel Line Scotland 0871 200 22 33 (24 hours)

Cologin Country Chalets and Lodges – 01631 564501 (call or WhatsApp) or email manager@cologin.co.uk

The Barn – 01631 565721

We believe that Cologin and the Barn Bar are special and truly unique. We hope you will agree.

Katie, Linda and Jim Battison – resident owners.

