

How to reach Oban and SAMS (by public transport)

All travel options by public transportation require travelling through central Glasgow.

By Air

The closest airport is Glasgow (GLA), which is served e.g. by British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, Continental, CSA, British European, British Midland, etc. Edinburgh (EDI) is also an option and has some better direct connections to the European continent (e.g. Air France, Lufthansa, CSA, German Wings, besides British Airways, British Midland, KLM, Aer Lingus and Continental), but this requires taking another bus or train from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Prestwick (PIK), located southwest of Glasgow, is served by some low-cost / no-frills airlines (e.g. Ryanair) and also requires another rail or bus trip.

From Glasgow Airport (GLA)

Outside the airport terminal building, take an **airport express bus** (e.g. operated by *Citylink*, but there are other operators as well – at peak times, buses leave as often as every 10-15 min) to **Queen Street Station** (for the *First Scotrail* train) or to **Buchanan Bus Station** (for the *Citylink* bus) in central Glasgow (Queen Street Station and Buchanan Bus Station are only 5 min on foot apart). The one-way fare for the airport bus from the airport to the city centre is around £ 3.30, the open-return fare is £ 5.00 (attention: return tickets have to be used within 28 days, after which they expire!).

From Edinburgh Airport (EDI)

Take the Airport bus to Edinburgh city centre (£ 3 one-way, £ 5 return, approx. 30 min). From there, take the train to Glasgow Queen Street Station from either Haymarket or Waverley in central Edinburgh (approx. £ 8 one-way), or, alternatively, the bus from St. Andrew Square Bus Station to Glasgow Buchanan Bus Station (approx. £ 5 one-way, but as little as £ 1 when booked online in advance at www.citylink.co.uk or www.megabus.com).

For directions from Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station to Oban, please see below.

From Prestwick Airport (PIK)

Take the train just outside the airport terminal to Glasgow Central Station (Note: Rail fares in Scotland – i.e. also the trip from Oban to Glasgow Queen Street Station) are half-price if tickets are used in connection with flights into or out of Prestwick – it is sufficient to say this when buying the train tickets!) – about 1 h.

From Glasgow Central Station, either walk (10 min on foot) or take the free shuttle bus to Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station.

Alternative: Take the bus to Buchanan Bus Station.

For directions from Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station to Oban, please see below.

By Rail

All trains from other UK cities arrive at either Glasgow Central Station or Queen Street Station. From Glasgow Central Station, either walk (10 min on foot) or take the free shuttle bus to Queen Street Station or Buchanan Bus Station.

From central Glasgow to Oban

For exact schedules from Glasgow to Oban (and elsewhere in Scotland), please check:

Trains from Queen Street Station:

www.firstscotrail.com , www.thetrainline.com (the latter website offers numerous discount fares)

Buses from Buchanan Bus Station:

www.citylink.co.uk

Bus and train trips usually depart Glasgow shortly after 8 am, 12 pm and 6 pm on weekdays (and less frequently on winter Sundays, when there may be one single departure a day), arriving in Oban around 3 h later (there is no significant difference in travel time between the bus and the train) – **it is highly recommended to double-check schedules before travelling to avoid getting stuck in Glasgow!** Both the bus and train journey are very scenic – enjoy!

Advance booking over the internet can result in substantial savings – and reserves you a guaranteed seat (the line from Glasgow to Oban is not busy for most of the year, but individual trips can get oversold during the summer tourist season)! Regular one way fares are around £ 16 (train) and £ 12 (bus), but APEX fares can give you up to 50 % reduction.

For going directly to the SAMS marine lab:

- leave the *Citylink* bus at **Dunbeg** (ask the driver to stop, since he may not do it otherwise) and walk to the lab (10 min on foot), following the signs to **Dunstaffnage Castle** – the lab is just before the castle, you can't miss it.

- leave the train at either **Connel Ferry** or **Oban** (and continue to the lab by taxi – Connel is slightly closer, but the station is much smaller and there tend to be fewer or no taxis waiting).

For going to Oban, simply get off the bus or train at **Oban Station**. There are both reasonable in-town and area connections by public bus (schedules at <http://www.westcoastmotors.co.uk/> , enquiries@obanbuses.co.uk) leaving frequently from Oban Station, as well as numerous waiting taxis. Oban is small – it might be worthwhile checking out / asking if walking is not an option either!

Useful phone numbers:

SAMS Reception:	01631 - 559 000
CCAP Secretary:	01631 - 559 268
Citylink:	08705 50 50 50
First Scotrail:	0845 601 5929
Oban & District Buses / West Coast Motors	01631-570 500

--please refer to www.sams.ac.uk and www.ccap.ac.uk for the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of individual staff members.

(This information was compiled in May 2005 and last updated in January 2006)