

A Residential History of Art Study Course on the, Isle of Iona – 5th-10th June 2026

“From Kells to Cadell”



Scotland has always held a strong sense of location which has prompted artists to respond to its unique places. The Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript, renowned for its intricate pattern and strong colour, was begun on Iona c800AD. Charles Rennie MacKintosh, architect, designer and painter had a huge influence on the Art Nouveau movement, and The Scottish Colourists, married colour and light into their Scottish heritage – some of the Colourists visited Iona regularly, having found their inspiration there.

Alice will lead a series of lectures and discussions, with other related activities – a walk to the North End, favourite spot of Francis Cadell and Sam Peploe, a visit to Iona Abbey and the Nunnery and, weather permitting, the Isle of Staffa. There will be time to discover other parts of this magical island, which still today attracts artists and other craft activity

The Argyll Hotel is delighted to host Alice Foster* to lead this study holiday. They are offering a five night package for £1,200, with room upgrades available at an extra cost. This covers five nights bed and breakfast accommodation, a three course evening meal on the first and last nights and five illustrated lectures with tea and coffee in the breaks.

Praise for our previous History of Art Study Holidays

“Magical island...blissful hotel...delicious food. Lectures pitch perfect”

Annetta

“...a truly magical week on Iona...excellent presentations”

Lucy

"Everything surpassed our expectations" Rae

***ABOUT THE SPEAKER** – Alice Foster MA is a freelance art historian of more than 20 years' experience and has been an accredited lecturer with The Arts Society since 2004. She has worked for Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education and Oxford's Ashmolean Museum, amongst others. She has previously taken study groups to Europe and, in 2025, undertook lecture tours in Australia and New Zealand with The Arts Society. In 2026 she will deliver lectures in Gibraltar and Spain.