

Celebrate on Scilly



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Welcome

Congratulations on your forthcoming celebration from the Isles of Scilly Registration Service. This guide contains all the information you need to know about getting married in a civil ceremony or holding a civil partnership on the Islands.

We share detailed advice, from legal requirements to venues and local services. Our friendly team is here to help you create a ceremony that will exceed your expectations and ensure a delightful day that you and your guests will always remember.



Photo: BareFoot Photographer | @BareFoot_IOS

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About Scilly

Located 28 miles off the coast of Cornwall and surrounded by glistening blue seas, the Isles of Scilly are a world apart from everyday life.

The archipelago has five inhabited islands each with its own personality. Scilly is home to 2,000 people and the waters are busy with colourful launches travelling between the islands.

From A-list celebrities to regular yearly visitors, the Isles of Scilly has for more than 100 years attracted people to its laid back, relaxed pace of life. With the UK's mildest climate, Scilly offers white sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, exotic plants and star-filled night skies.

Accessible by ferry on the Scillonian III, by air with Skybus or by helicopter with Penzance Helicopters, the islands are a peaceful getaway where you will be welcomed by the local community.

Whether you fill your stay with activities from horse riding to kite surfing, or simply find your own deserted stretch of beach, Scilly will stay with you forever.



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Before you can marry

Your first step is to give notice. The guidance below applies if you are both British or Irish citizens; or if you have settled or pre-settled status; or you have applied under the EUSS

“Giving notice” means telling your local register office that you intend to marry or form a civil partnership. To do this, you must:

- ◆ Know *where* you will hold your ceremony *before* you give notice (see page 7)
- ◆ Give notice at least 28 clear days before the date of your ceremony
- ◆ Hold your ceremony within 12 months, otherwise you must give notice again
- ◆ Pay the relevant fee, typically £42 per person

You must each visit your local register office in person and provide:

1. A valid UK or Irish passport; OR a valid EEA or Swiss passport and your EUSS share code or Certificate of Application
2. A recent utility bill, bank statement, council tax bill or valid UK driving licence to prove residency in England or Wales

If you don't have a valid passport and were born in the UK on or after 1 January 1983, your full birth certificate must be produced together with the birth certificate or UK passport of your mother, or father where your parents are or have been married, or formed a civil partnership with each other, to prove your nationality.

If you have been married or in a civil partnership before then also provide:

3. Your British Isles decree absolute or final order papers, bearing the court's original stamp OR the death certificate for your former partner
4. If your divorce took place outside the British Isles, your divorce or final order papers **plus** a certified translation if not written in English originally
5. Your previous marriage/partnership certificate(s) if your current name is not shown on the decree absolute, final order or death certificate.

Other documents

6. Any change of name documents (eg deed poll or change of name deed)

ALL documents provided must be originals!

About Marriages and Partnerships

You can personalise your civil marriage or partnership ceremony, to make it unique.

On booking a ceremony with us we will give you a planner to help you prepare your ideal day. The planner includes a choice of ceremony words and helps you to decide on the best place to add in any music and readings you would like to include. It also helps us to understand the style of wedding you want so we can give it that personal touch.

Civil ceremonies are by definition non-religious ceremonies and the law prevents the use of any religious music or readings. That said, you can have one or both of the wedding marches (Mendelssohn and Wagner) if you wish. Please tell the Superintendent Registrar well in advance of the ceremony about any readings or music you would like to include.



You will need to have two witnesses who will sign your marriage documentation. They can be friends, relatives or even somebody you have just met.

Ideally, they should be 16 years or over, although there is no legal minimum.

Your ceremony must be carried out in accordance with UK laws.

Choosing a venue

Scilly offers you a choice of six delightful venues for your marriage or civil partnership ceremony



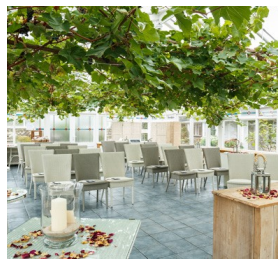
The Porthcressa Beachside Room **St Mary's**

Just a few steps from the beach and offering a gorgeous view across the sea. Seats up to 12 guests.



Juliet's Garden Restaurant **St Mary's**

Set above Porthloo beach a short distance from Hugh Town. Enjoy panoramic views across the harbour and choose from the garden room or the restaurant for your ceremony.



The Star Castle Hotel **St Mary's**

An Elizabethan castle commanding magnificent views of the sea and isles in every direction. Choose from the dining room, the conservatory or an intimate ceremony in the lounge.



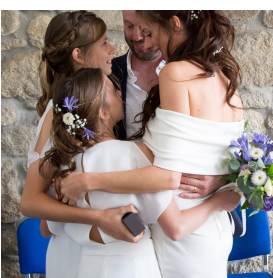
Karma St Martin's **St Martin's**

Set on the secluded western side of the island, overlooking white sandy beaches, clear blue ocean and uninhabited islands. Choose from three beautiful rooms for your special day, or hold an affirmation of vows ceremony on the beach.



The Seven Stones Inn **St Martin's**

With magnificent views across the islands this venue offers rustic charm and a warm welcome. Choose between the oak framed "Tinklers Hill Barn" and the secluded garden for a beautiful outdoor alternative.



The Register Office **St Mary's**

For those looking for a simple and low-cost ceremony, the Register Office has space for the couple and two guests.

Porthcressa Beachside Room

An intimate, light and airy room overlooking the sea.
Perfect for ceremonies with up to 12 guests.



The south-facing glass facade of the room offers a light and airy feel with wide views of Porthcressa beach and the sea. We offer a room preparation service with chair covers, sashes in a colour of your choice and floral arrangements, making a wonderful venue even more special. See overleaf for details.

For further information call 01720 424 501 or email registration@scilly.gov.uk

Porthcressa Beachside Room

Our room decoration packages

We offer three stylish decoration themes - classic, coastal and rustic - each of which can be customised to suit your colour scheme. See the Pricing section of this brochure for the latest pricing information. Each decoration package includes:

- ◆ White chair covers
- ◆ A choice of organza sashes in a variety of colours, or linen sashes in gold
- ◆ One large floral arrangement and 3 or 4 smaller displays.
- ◆ Special touches as requested, such as additional ribbons, bows etc



For further information call 01720 424 501 or email registration@scilly.gov.uk

Porthcressa Beachside Room

Examples of our decoration package themes are below



Classic

Pedestal floral arrangements in white with added colours to suit your colour scheme.



Coastal

Floral arrangements and shells to bring the “beach” into the room.



Rustic

Floral arrangements in wooden boxes and baskets.

For further information call 01720 424 501 or email registration@scilly.gov.uk

Juliet's Garden Restaurant

Offering panoramic views of the harbour and neighbouring islands.



Juliet's Garden Restaurant is set above Porthloo Beach, a short distance outside Hugh Town.

You can have your ceremony in the beautiful garden room or in the restaurant and then enjoy canapés, mini cream teas or an excellent meal.

Open throughout the summer, this rustic and spacious venue is perfect for a relaxed, modern wedding.

From its superb setting you can watch the fabulous sunset whilst sipping champagne on the terrace - a perfect end to your special day.

For further information email office@julietsgardenrestaurant.co.uk, call 01720 422428 or see www.julietsgardenrestaurant.co.uk.

The Star Castle Hotel

**A romantic, fairy-tale location
perfect for your special day.**

The Star Castle Hotel stands on the fortified Garrison Hill to the west of Hugh Town. Dating from Elizabethan times, the castle commands magnificent views of the sea and isles in every direction.

A range of rooms are available for your ceremony so you to find the perfect space. Choose between: the **Dining Room**, a Grade 1 listed room with an original Elizabethan fireplace; the **Conservatory**, with a light, outdoor feel and grapevines growing overhead; and the **Lounge**, a small and intimate room enjoying striking sea views.

The Star Castle offers a perfect combination of modern elegance and a setting steeped in history.

For further information, contact:

www.star-castle.co.uk

01720 422317

info@star-castle.co.uk



Karma St Martin's

Karma, situated on the tranquil island of St Martin's, offers a stunning and unique setting for your special day.

Set on the secluded western side of St Martin's, the hotel overlooks white sandy beaches and glistening blue ocean, with views across the water of uninhabited islands framed by wonderful sunsets in the evening.

This modern venue offers every comfort in a traditional-looking granite building. Karma St Martin's offers a secluded, stunning wedding, and its dedicated staff will be on hand to make sure your day is special.

Karma St Martin's also offer a beach ceremony to complement the legal ceremony that you would have in one of their licenced rooms indoors. Add to the mix delicious canapés, set menus and buffets plus glorious accommodation and you have a perfect wedding venue.

**For further information, contact:
01720 422 368
gm@karmastmartins.com
www.karmagroup.com**



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Seven Stones Inn, St Martin's

A unique country pub with charming gardens and buildings.

A magical setting for your ceremony.



Situated on the island of St Martin's, this quirky, rustic, family run pub with magnificent views offers the perfect location for couples looking for a unique venue.

You can choose between Tinkler's Hill Barn, a beautiful oak frame building adjacent to the main bar, an ideal indoor venue for weddings and receptions; or the private, granite walled gardens, filled with island plants and trees which provides a romantic outdoor alternative.

You will be assured of a friendly, warm welcome from the islanders and memories to last a lifetime.

For further information email sevenstonesinn@gmail.co.uk, call 01720 423777 or see www.sevenstonesinn.co.uk

The Register Office

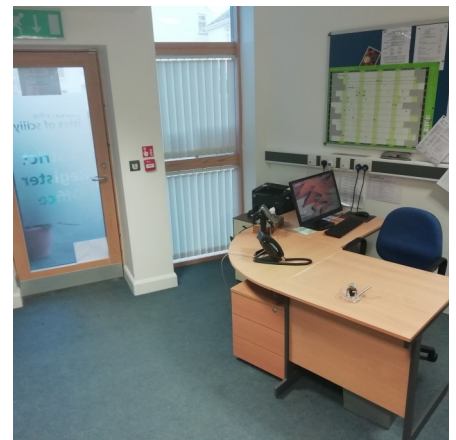
Relax and enjoy with your closest guests and a simple ceremony



The simplest ceremony is provided at a statutory price of £46 in the Isles of Scilly Register Office.

This is a short legal ceremony with enough room for the couple and two witnesses.

Although the ceremony takes place in our office, you would have our undivided attention and ceremonies held in this room are often deeply heartfelt.



Civil Ceremony Fees

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Registrar Fees

Venue	Max Capacity	Mon to Fri	Sat	Sun & Pub Hols	6pm to Midnight
Isles of Scilly Register Office					
Porthcressa Beachside Room	14	£382	£435	£459	£594
The Register Office	4	£56**	n/a	n/a	n/a
** non-refundable					
The Star Castle Hotel					
The Dining Room	38	£562	£600	£728	£1169
The Conservatory	50	"	"	"	"
The Lounge	10	"	"	"	"
Juliet's Garden Restaurant					
The Garden Room	30	£562	£600	£728	£1169
The Restaurant	50	"	"	"	"
Karma St Martin's					
The Honeymoon Suite	20	£768	£799	£933	£1340
Ground Floor Restaurant	80	"	"	"	"
The Conference Room / Garden	60	"	"	"	"
Beach 'Replica' Weddings	80	£868	£899	£1033	£1440
Seven Stones Inn					
Tinklers Hill Barn	75	£768	£799	£933	£1340
The Garden	75	"	"	"	"
Notice of Marriage					£42
Non-Refundable Deposit (all venues except The Register Office)					£72
Registered Building Marriage eg chapel (not Church of England)					£104
Room Decoration Package (Porthcressa Beachside Room only)					£230
Wedding or Civil Partnership Certificate					£12.50
Commemorative Certificate					£16

About Beach Ceremonies

Celebrate with a ceremony that can take place anywhere: indoors, outside, on a beach or even on a hill overlooking the sea!

At the current time British law allows a marriage ceremony to take place outside, but only within the grounds of an approved venue. We can offer an additional option - hold your civil marriage or partnership first and follow this with an “affirmation of vows” on one of Scilly’s beautiful beaches.

The Civil Ceremony

This would be a simple ceremony involving just the couple and your two witnesses. You will need to sign the schedule as part of your civil ceremony, before the affirmation can take place, but you can exchange rings during the affirmation if you wish and keep your civil ceremony as low key as possible.

The Affirmation of Vows

This ceremony is led by a celebrant and can take place wherever you choose. We offer a ceremony planner for you to use to tailor your ceremony; choosing or writing your own vows and selected readings, music etc to make your ceremony unique to you. It can follow the lines of a wedding ceremony and as the affirmation of vows has no legal status you can include items of a religious nature if you would like to.

Mix and Match

We can also perform the civil ceremony some time in advance of the affirmation of vows. Or, you could hold your civil ceremony elsewhere, before coming to Scilly for your affirmation of vows.



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Beach Ceremony Locations

The islands of St Mary's and St Martin's offer stunning locations for a beach ceremony

On St Mary's, your civil ceremony would take place in the Register Office followed by an affirmation of vows, perhaps on Porthcressa beach. We can offer the Porthcressa Beachside Room as a wet weather venue. At present we cannot offer outdoor seating but we hope to offer this in future.

On St Martin's, the Karma St Martin's Hotel offers a gorgeous location for your civil ceremony, followed by an affirmation of vows on the white sandy beach in front of the hotel. Pricing will vary if there is a delay between the two ceremonies and fees would also be payable direct to the hotel.



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Contact the Superintendent Registrar to discuss pricing and the options available.

Other Services we Offer

Our Registration team are delighted to help with civil naming ceremonies, citizenship ceremonies and more

Civil Naming Ceremonies

A naming ceremony provides an opportunity for you and your family and friends to celebrate the birth and naming of your child in a non-religious way. This ceremony can be adapted to welcome a child or children joining your family unit through adoption or step-relationships too.

While this ceremony has no legal standing and is purely ceremonial, it can be personalised to meet your individual needs, offering you the opportunity to create unique and special memories.

Citizenship Ceremonies

This ceremony is approved by the Home Office and celebrates the end of a journey for successful applicants seeking British nationality. Please contact us for further information.

Birth and Death Registrations

If you need to register a birth or death, please contact the Registrar in the first instance, to make an appointment. The Registrar will advise you of any documentation that you will need to provide and the cost of any certificates.

Family History

The Isles of Scilly Register Office holds all of the birth, death and marriage registers for the islands dating from 1837 to the present day. This includes the non-current marriage registers from the Church of England and St Mary's Methodist Church. You can search the indexes of the registers by prior arrangement with the Superintendent Registrar and you can buy copies of certificates should you wish.

Frequently asked questions

I'm not from Scilly, can I still hold my ceremony there?

Yes! Anyone can marry or enter into a civil partnership on Scilly, regardless of whether you live here on the islands, on the UK mainland or even abroad.

Can our ceremony take place during a day trip?

Travel to Scilly is often disrupted due to weather. Arranging your ceremony to take place during a day trip would add an unwelcome degree of risk to your special day! If you decide to stay on Scilly for a few days instead then be sure to book your accommodation well in advance.

How far ahead can I book a ceremony?

We typically take bookings up to a year in advance, but we can make exceptions to this when needed. Prices are revised from 1 April each year. If you book prior to 1 April for a ceremony taking place after this date, the increased price will apply.

Who do I contact to make a booking?

That depends on the venue you have chosen. If your ceremony will be in the Register Office or the Porthcressa Beachside Room, contact the Superintendent Registrar to discuss the date, time and venue.

If you have chosen one of our approved venues (The Star Castle Hotel, Juliet's Garden Restaurant or Karma St Martin's) contact the venue first to make a provisional booking, then contact the Superintendent Registrar to check availability.

What if I live anywhere other than in England or Wales?

Please contact the Superintendent Registrar to discuss.

How do I contact the Superintendent Registrar?

Call Lesley and the team on 01720 424 501 or email registration@scilly.gov.uk.

Legal Requirements for Foreign Nationals

The legal process ahead of marrying or forming a civil partnership is a little different if one or both of you is a foreign national

“Giving notice” means telling your local register office that you intend to marry or form a civil partnership.

There are additional steps involved if you are subject to immigration control and possibly Home Office referral. This will be the case if either of you:

- Is **not** a British or Irish national; or
- **Does not** have settled or pre-settled status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS), not a pending application under this scheme that was made prior to 30 June 2021

You and your partner must visit your *local* register office together, in person, with the relevant documentation.

There will be a fee to pay, typically £47 per person, if referred to the Home Office

Contact your local register office in the first instance to discuss your status and confirm the documentation needed.

The Home Office *may* choose to investigate intended marriages or civil partnerships to be certain they are genuine if they have reasonable grounds to suspect it is a sham.