

Wilderness Adventure Culture Relaxation

Highlands and Isle of Skye Walking Holiday 2011

Walking in rugged mountains surrounded by wild sea, white beaches and green islands, this tour is for those with a taste for wilderness and adventure and an appetite for Scotland's cultural delights.

The western Highlands of Glen Shiel and Kintail and the famous Isle of Skye is where you find the Scotland of your dreams: craggy mountains and the wild sea, green islands, wide skies and white beaches in spectacular harmony with each other fill this inspiring and sparsely populated landscape.

Our walks take you up and over rocky heights, past impressive waterfalls and through wide glens, visiting places such as the lonely peninsula of Glenelg with its mysterious 2000 year old towers called 'brochs', stunning west coast settings in Applecross, the giant rock formations of Torridon, the delightful coastal village Plockton, great for spotting seals, white beaches on the Isle of Skye, blue mountain lagoons surrounded by the peaks of the famous Cuillins and romantic castles in spectacular scenery which seem strangely civilized in this expanse of natural wilderness.

Dates

a) 7. - 12 May 2011 b) 18. - 25. Juni c) 20. - 27. August 2011 **Price £295**

What is included in your walking holiday

- Minibus travel from and back to Glasgow
- 6 guided walking days plus 2 travel/ sightseeing days
- booking of recommended local accommodation
- minibus travel throughout
- knowledgeable and experienced guide
- picnic lunches on walking days
- ferry from Armadale (Skye) to Mallaig (Scottish mainland)

*** not included in the price are accommodation, meals other than stated above, entrance fees and other expenses**

Accommodation

We have selected excellent local Bed & Breakfast guesthouses and hotels for our clients and are happy to make all reservations for you. The cost of accommodation is not included in the tour price and is to be paid separately by yourself.

Level of fitness

This holiday is designed for people with a good basic level of fitness and mobility and who exercise regularly. You don't need to be an experienced walker but be prepared to walk please note that paths may be muddy and are, at times, a little rough and uneven.

Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday - Journey through the Highlands

Following our departure from Glasgow Central Station (1 pm) and Glasgow Airport (1.30pm) you travel through some of the Highlands most scenic landscapes: along the shores of Loch Lomond, through dramatic Glen Coe, past Britain's highest mountain Ben Nevis further and north west with wonderful views of lakes such as Loch Garry and Loch Cluanie.

In Shiel Bridge, surrounded by the peaks of the Kintail mountains on the shore of Loch Duich we find our accommodation and hospitality for the next 5 days.

Day 2 Sunday - Hiking Glen Licht

An excellent first day's walking in the wide river valley Gleann Licht: At the end of the valley you climb your first pass into the wide mountain scenery and admire an impressive (and refreshing) waterfall.

Walking: 6 hours with breaks, alt 500m

Day 3 Monday - Remote Peninsula Glen Elg

A short but spectacular drive over the steep Ratagan Pass offering superb views of the neighbouring peninsula famous for its wild landscapes, Knoydart, as far as the craggy peaks of the Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye.

In the gentle hillside of Glen Elg we discover mysterious ruinous towers left to us by the Pictish people who inhabited Scotland 2000 years ago.

Driving further along the wild coastline we arrive in the tiny and romantic village of Corran where our path takes us along a beautiful pebble beach, through heather and oak forests, always with magnificent views over to Skye and the lonely valleys of Knoydart and its big mountain, Labhar Bhein.

To celebrate the day, we take a delicious cup of tea in Sheena's wonderfully decorated hut.

Walking: 4 hours, undulating

Day 4 Tuesday - Hiking into Glen Affric

Steadily up and across a hopefully tamed river we head for Loch a'Bhealaich which opens up to famous Glen Affric, a world of waterfalls, lakes, mountains and wide valleys.

In the early evening there is the opportunity of a trip to the nearby picturesque coastal town Plockton with many delightful pubs and possibly some Scottish folk music ...

Walking: 5 hours with breaks, alt 500m

Day 5 Wednesday - Torridon and Applecross

An excursion into the spectacular rocky high mountains of Torridon and an inspiring hike in quite a different landscape: a wonderful walk up the high valley of Duibh Mhor along the mighty walls of Torridon's giant Liathach.

In the afternoon our drive continues along the northern coastline of the stunning and remote peninsula Applecross. Its only village lies in a sheltered bay and offers perfect views, once more, across to the islands of Skye and Raasay. Our return journey takes us over a breathtakingly alpine pass back to what seems like lively civilization.

Walking: 3.5 hours with breaks, alt 350m

Day 6 Thursday - The Heart of the Isle of Skye

Sligachan is the heart of the famous Isle of Skye, where all mountain paths and hill walkers meet. We take one of the few paths into the spectacular splendour of the Cuillin mountains to the high valley of Coire Lagan. Here we can catch our breath while watching the climbers on their ropes on far less obvious routes up the mountains

On our way down we are spoilt for choice of views: the spectacular silhouettes of the Small Isles, Rum, Eigg and Canna and the coastline of Skye.

We spend the next 2 night in comfortable Bed & Breakfast guesthouses in Carbost, a traditional haven for walkers and climbers.

Walking: 5 Hours with breaks, alt 550m

Day 7 Friday - The North of Skye, Castle Dunvegan

The north of the island offers sandy beaches, cliffs, rocky table mountains as well as a romantic castle! These are the lands of Clan McLeod. This is a versatile day offering culture, history, beach walks, seal watching, possibly a swim in the sea and a picnic.

In the afternoon we stop by at the famous whisky distillery Talisker for a tour and a taste of this delicious life giving water.

In the early evening you are free to stroll up one of the paths into the glens right from our hotel as a farewell walk.

Walking: 2 X 1.5 hours, beach and dunes

Day 8 Saturday - Return Journey via the famous 'Road to the Isles'

Armadale lies on the lush and green southern coast of the island and is the seat of the chiefs of Clan McDonald. In the former castle grounds you can take an appreciative stroll through the wonderful semi-tropical garden or visit the excellent modern Museum of Clan History offering a deeper perspective of Scottish history.

Around midday we begin our return journey to Glasgow: the traditional ferry takes us to the lively fishing town Mallaig on the mainland and along the spectacular 'Road to the Isles' with its sparkly white sandy beaches, romantic sea lochs and, of course, the now famous rail viaduct Harry Potter passes on his way to school.

We arrive in Glasgow around at around 5pm

What you need to bring

Please bring walking boots or sturdy footwear with good profiled soles, a day rucksack, clothing for sun and rain including a waterproof jacket, a hat, a spare light pullover (fleece), as well as a container for drinking water and a foam mat to sit on during breaks.

We will provide a delicious complementary picnic lunch on walking days plus tea/coffee and orange juice on touring days.

Not the right holiday for you?

Do take another look at our website for more adventure, sightseeing, more walking and other areas of Scotland: <http://www.walkwild.org>