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# Walking Holiday on the Outer Hebrides

27. June -  
04. July 2021



# Exploring Scotland's Westernmost Isles Remote & Beautiful

## Highlights

- Experience Island life in Scotland's most remote archipelago
- Hike in spectacular wild nature and endless, seascapes, dunes, beaches, coves, moorland
- Discover 5000 year old stone circles and standing stones
- Enjoy excellent wildlife spotting opportunities

## Wilderness Walking Holiday & Culture - The Outer Hebrides

The Western Isles, a 200 km long string of islands flung into the Atlantic ocean on the edge of Europe conjure up remoteness and mystery, a place still to be discovered. As different as these islands are from the mainland they are even more surprisingly different from each other: the stark moorlands of Lewis give way to the rugged hills of Harris followed by the island scattered Uists with their endless white sandy beaches and turquoise waters. The Isle of Barra, a small rocky outpost is the most southerly of the inhabited islands.

**Big Skies, Wind, Open Sea, Sandy Beaches** Here the ever present wind hugs you and the big skies and open sea will make you gasp. There are small but vibrant communities which form the last bastion of truly Gaelic culture and where life happens at a refreshingly gentle pace with people eking a modest living from croft farming, fishing and, of course, the weaving of the famous cloth Harris Tweed.

**Ancient History** Within the raw nature of these landscapes you find ancient history evident by the amazing collection of monuments such as the neolithic standing stones of Callanish and the pictish Carloway Broch.

**Wildlife** The archipelago is a natural paradise for birds such as eagles and harriers but also corncrakes, redshank and waders. Particularly stunning in early summer are the beautiful blooming machairs, flowering meadows along the sandy beaches. Offshore, and often visible from land visitors can spot dolphins, basking sharks and even whales.

**Price:** £1485

### What's Included:

- 6 x Guided Walking Days
- 2 x Sightseeing/Journey Day
- Experienced and knowledgeable Guide throughout
- 7 x Nights Bed & Breakfast:
  - 3 x Royal Hotel, Stornoway
  - 1 x Harris Hotel, Tarbet
  - 1 x Langass Lodge, Lochmaddy
  - 2 x Castlebay & Craigard Hotel, Barra
- 4 x Picnic Lunches
- Minibus Travel from Glasgow



### **Day 1 - Journey to the Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides**

Our journey begins around 9:30 am when your guided will meet you at a pre-arranged location in Glasgow.

A wonderful bonus of your holiday is travelling from and back to Glasgow through some of Scotland's most iconic landscapes: the rolling hills and big tree forests of Perthshire, the mountainous Cairngorms National Park, the impressive Moray Firth estuary near Inverness and finally the remote and wild western seaboard. En route we stop at the spectacular Corrieshalloch Gorge for a short walk before we board the ferry in Ullapool for our sailing to Stornoway.

*Journey time 5 hours; Walking: 1 hour, 1 km; Overnight Stornoway*

### **Day 2 - Clifftop hike to the Butt of Lewis and Lighthouse**

Ness is the name of the northern tip of Lewis. A fabulous hike on top of spectacular cliffs and along sandy beaches, leaning into the wind and enjoying our first day in these wild Hebriden elements. We explore the remains of a former crofters summer shieling village. We may even witness some traditional peat cutting underway.

*Walking: 4 hours with breaks, 12 km, undulating; Overnight Stornoway*

### **Day 3 - Standing Stones of Callanish, Carloway Broch**

A little must do sightseeing with two or three shorter walks. The Callanish standing stones date back 5000 years and are a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is an unusual assembly of remarkable menhirs with many unresolved mysteries surrounding this structure. We also explore other and lesser known stone circles and visit the Pictish Carloway Broch which is one of the largest and best preserved in Scotland. If time permits, we may be visiting one of the Harris Tweed weavers near Stornoway.

*Walking: 3 hours, 8 km, undulating; Overnight Stornoway*

### **Day 4 - Hills of Harris, Rhenigadale**

An ancient route with fabulous views across rocky hills and cliffs to the once remote village of Rhenigadale. These days there is also a road which we romantically ignore.

*Walking: 4 hours with breaks, 8 km, alt 410 m; Overnight Isle of Harris*





### **Day 5 - The Golden Road and Luskentyre Beach, Harris**

One of Scotland's most scenic roads is the Golden Road along the eastern rocky shoreline of Harris. Remote, rugged and wildly beautiful. Luskentyre Beach on the west counts as the top UK beach, so we might be enticed to a dip or watch the mesmerizing rolling blue waves onto white sand.

Then our journey continues south and a wonderful ferry ride meanders past a scattering of little islands to Berneray from where we can drive across a causeway to North Uist and Lochmaddy.

*Walking: 3 Hours with breaks, 7 km alt 340m; Overnight North Uist*

### **Day 6 - South Uist and Whisky Galore on Eriskay**

We explore some of South Uist's vast sandy beaches and expose ourselves to wind and waves, looking out for seals and birds. Completely energised, we continue to explore Eriskay and find out what happened to 260,000 bottles of whisky 'rescued' from a ship run aground in the 1940s which inspired the famous story and film 'Whisky Galore'.

*Walking: 4 Hours plus breaks, 12km, undulating; Overnight Isle of Barra*

### **Day 7 - Barra and Watersay**

Barra is the southernmost island of the Outer Hebrides and small as it is boasts both beaches and a scenic hill walk. Watersay a little further on and connected by a causeway seems to consist of white sand dunes only surrounded by turquoise waters and you may be forgiven to think this could be Turkey ... We take our pick from these options according to moods and weather.

*Walking: max 4 hours, Overnight Isle of Barra*

### **Day 8 - Return to Glasgow**

This morning we catch the ferry across the sea of the Minch all the way to Oban, a 5 hour journey which takes us through the islands of the Inner Hebrides and the Sound of Mull to mainland Scotland. Our onwards drive south rewards us with a very different beauty of inland lakes and forested mountains of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park before we reach Glasgow.

*Ferry 5 hours, drive to Glasgow 2.5 hrs. Arrival time around 17:00 hrs*



## Route Map

\*Please note that tour programme may experience changes according to weather conditions, group ability or other unforeseen circumstances.

## Walking

### Your group - small is beautiful:

Our groups are of a personable size of no more than 8 persons and accompanied throughout by an experienced and knowledgeable guide who will do her/ his best to make your time with us in Scotland interesting, enjoyable and comfortable.

### Level of fitness:

The hiking on this trip is of an easier nature and designed for people with a good general level of fitness and mobility. We hike on good trails but also some rough, rocky and uneven paths. You should be sure footed, have good balance and be used to regularly walking on unpaved tracks. You may like to consider bringing some walking poles. Our itinerary lists distances/ times for each day. If you are unsure, please contact us and we are happy to discuss any issues.

### Kit List:

Once we receive your booking we will send you further details regarding the trip as well as a comprehensive list.

## Walk Wild Scotland

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