

Best of Isle of Arran Guided Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island Hopping

Destinations: Scottish Islands & Scotland

Trip code: XRLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde with a circumference of just 56 miles. Despite its diminutive size it is home to majestic mountains, cracking coastline, ancient sites, plentiful wildlife and its own distillery; it's like Scotland in miniature! Guided walks here will cover its range of scenery including the option to climb Goat Fell – a Corbett which offers superb views across the island and to neighbouring islands from its summit. Points of interest include a Bronze Age burial cairn, ancient standing stones and Fairy Dell – rumoured to be the gateway to the land of the fairies! Along the way there's the chance of spotting wildlife including red squirrels, golden eagles, sea otters, red deer and basking sharks. Nearby Holy Island is home to a Buddhist retreat; there is a rewarding walk to the top of Mullach More – the island's highest point. Relax knowing all your accommodation, transport and meals are taken care of, you just need to put on your boots and enjoy the journey. Use of the spa facilities at our hotel is included too, the perfect way to end your day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full Board en-suite accommodation

- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Use of the hotel's spa facilities

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Brodick Castle & spiritual Holy Island
- Spot early Christian and Pictish carvings on the walls of Kings Cave
- Conquer Goat Fell, the highest point on the island
- Experience mystical Machrie Moor and it's 4000yr old stone circle
- All meals included. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, including spa facilities.
- Guided walks each day

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Best of Arran Guided Walking/Island Hopping holiday is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on good paths with some significant ascents, often quite a distance each day. The final walk of the holiday is optional and would be our grade 4. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascent as listed. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace. It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Meet your leader prior to your evening meal, to find out the plan of action. If you've time before then, why not try out the spa facilities at the hotel.

Day 2: From Lamlash To Brodick

A nice introductory walk along the coast from Lamlash to Brodick over the Clachland Hills & Glen Cloy, with time in Brodick to explore independently at the end of the walk.

9 miles (14km) with 1,160 feet (360m) of ascent

Day 3: The Lochranza Circular

Superb coastal scenery, and a great mix of geology and history on this walk, topped off by a well earned wee dram at the end. Fossilised giant millipede tracks, Ossian's Cave, Fairy Dell and the fabulous Lochranza distillery. There's a pretty good chance of spotting herds of wild deer too.

8 miles (13km), with 1,300 feet (400m) of ascent

Day 4: Holy Island

Enjoy a visit to the ancient spiritual Holy Island. Hop over by boat and visit the Tibetan Buddhist retreat, head to the summit of Mullach Mor (the island's highest point) and enjoy spectacular coastal scenery.

4.5 miles (7km) with 150 feet (470m) of ascent

Day 5: Walking The West Coast

Fabulous walking on the west coast today, visiting the 4000yr old Machrie Moor standing stones, its Bronze Age burial cairn and Robert the Bruce's famous King's Cave – the site of Robert the Bruce's famous encounter with a spider!

7 miles (11km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent

Day 6: Glen Rosa

A wonderful walk in Glen Rosa takes us into the heart of the mountains, craggy peaks and a good chance of spotting red deer herds too. We end at impressive Brodick Castle, with the afternoon free to explore the castle or its beautiful gardens.

5.5 miles (9km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent

Day 7: A Fitting Finale

Today you've the option to tackle Arran's highest peak – Goatfell, for superb views across the island and to the neighbouring Inner Hebridean islands too.

6 miles (10.5km) with 2,900 feet (900m) of ascent.

Prefer something a little less strenuous? Take time out and enjoy the spa facilities at the hotel, or hop on the public bus and do a circuit of the island, maybe stop off at Blackwaterfoot, or in the south of the island - there's plenty of possibilities.

Day 8: Departure Day

Time to say goodbye, we hope to see you again!

ACCOMMODATION

Auchrannie Hotel, Arran - Best Of Isle Of Arran

The multi-award winning, family owned Auchrannie Resort, is our accommodation for the week. Located in the village of Brodick on the Isle of Arran, the Auchrannie offers us a fantastically central base, superb 4* accommodation and the free use of the leisure facilities, including indoor pools, sauna, steam room and solarium, so we can rest our weary legs after our walks. All rooms have a fridge, tea and coffee making facilities, TV, hairdryer, use of an iron and ironing board. Wi-Fi is available.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Food & Transport

Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

Joining Instructions

A complimentary pick-up and drop-off service is offered from Brodick Ferry Terminal to/from the Auchrannie Resort. This must be arranged in advance with the hotel, please call them on [+44 \(0\)1770 302 234](tel:+44101770302234).

Train:

Trains operate frequently from Glasgow Central to Ardrossan (55mins) – times to connect with the ferry services to and from Ardrossan.

Ferry:

Regular ferry services (taking less than 1 hour) are available from Ardrossan. For up to date ferry timetables, please visit the [Caledonian MacBrayne website](http://www.caledonianmacbrayne.co.uk).

Air:

There are a number of low-cost flights from around the UK, to Glasgow or Prestwick airports. If you are flying from overseas there are international flights to Glasgow International. From Glasgow International Airport take the regular airport bus to Glasgow Central station (journey time 30 minutes) (www.glasgowairport.com). There are also flights to Glasgow Prestwick Airport, which has its own railway station with frequent trains (journey time 45 minutes to Glasgow Central station), (www.gpia.co.uk). From Glasgow Central train station you can get the train to Ardrossan for the ferry to Arran.

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Waterproof walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra

- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litres)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent and a midge hood is highly recommended for Scotland
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Useful Information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional

card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a

link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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