

Best of the Isle of Skye

Tour Style: Island Hopping

Destinations: Scottish Islands & Scotland

Trip code: ZALDW

Trip Walking Grade: 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Join us and enjoy some of the best walking and hospitality in Scotland. Our Best of the Isle of Skye holiday introduces you to a walker's paradise of landscapes to explore, accompanied by the ideal home from "Home" where you can recount your day's adventures in comfort, accompanied by a dram or two in the evening. We discover the best walks the island has to offer – some of them world-renowned, others hidden gems that are our personal favourites from years discovering the island. All your accommodation, transport and meals are taken care of. Pop on your boots, join us and enjoy the journey.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Superb walking exploring the island - world-renowned walks as well as some fabulous hidden gems

- Enjoy the comforts and haven of Hame Hotel – the perfect base for our stay
- Spot a wealth of wildlife: watch out for red deer, whales, golden eagles, sea otters, dolphins, basking shark and more
- Discover an island steeped in mystery & legend – admire the impressive Macleods Maidens and the Lord of the Rings like scenery of the Quiraing
- Explore the heart of the island discovering both Black and the Red Cuillins

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Best of Isle of Skye Island Hopping holiday is graded 4 which involves walks /hikes on good paths with some significant ascents, often quite a distance each day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this walk and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. 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

Join us in the hotel lounge at 6:30pm to find out the plan of action before dinner.

Day 2: Macleod's Maidens

We start with a good leg stretcher of a walk, straightforward but it'll give you a workout! Our journey along the coast takes us past Loch Bharcasaig with stunning views over to the Cuillins, and out to Idrigill Point where we're treated to views of the mighty sea-stacks - MacLeod's Maidens. Steeped in mystery and legend these impressive sea stacks are said to commemorate the wife and two daughters of a MacLeod chieftain. The

largest stack is the mother, the two smaller stacks the daughters.

10.5 miles (17km) with 1900 feet (580m) of ascent.

Day 3: The Red Cuillin

The Red Cuillins. While not particularly high at only 736m, Marsco is the finest of the Red Cuillins, with one of the best viewpoints for a hill of this height - blue sea and jagged peaks all around. A good path initially, followed by a wetter one and steep grass. The summit ridge is narrow but not difficult.

9 miles (14km) with 2450 feet (750m) of ascent

Day 4: Free Day

There's plenty to see and explore on the island during your free day. Close by there's the Talisker distillery, the Fairy Pools, Dunvegan castle – the choice is yours. If you travelled by public transport, please ask your HF leader and they'll have local taxi numbers should you wish to explore further afield today, otherwise, enjoy the comforts of Hame hotel – the lounge is the perfect place to relax with a good book.

Day 5: Quiraing

The Old Man of Storr is world-famous and one of the most iconic landscapes on the island. While the Old Man gets all the crowds, only a tiny proportion of visitors continue to the dramatic ridge above. Our walk leads through these iconic landscapes and then heads north up the spine of the Quiraing, with superb views in all directions, to descend Glenhinnisdal on the west side of the island.

10 miles (16km) with 3150 feet (950m) of ascent

Day 6: The Black Cuillin

Into the Black Cuillin. Coire Lagan is one of the most impressive corries in the Cuillin. The tiny loch is ringed by gigantic rocky peaks, an unforgettable place. The approach is initially on a good path, but it becomes rougher with some easy scrambling higher up.

5½ miles (9km) with 2080 feet (640m) of ascent

Day 7: Neist Point

The dramatic Northwest coast. An excellent walk along dramatic coastline, visiting terrific coastal cliffs and culminating in the famous Neist Point, with views back towards Macleod's Maidens and the Cuillins, and seawards towards the Outer Hebrides. Bring your binoculars – this is a fantastic walk for wildlife.

10 miles (16km) with 2300 feet (700m) of ascent.

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast start to make your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Hame Hotel

Hame Hotel offers us the perfect base for our walking holidays – a stunning coastal location overlooking the loch, with panoramas of the Black Cuillins and MacLods Tables in the background. Our remote hideaway is a world away from the crowds and hubbub of Portree, and offers us 10 modern scandi-style rooms, all spacious,

comfortable en-suites, and plenty of communal space where we can kick back and relax after our walks. Delicious home-cooked food too – the perfect haven for our groups to really escape from it all and immerse themselves in the very best of the Isle of Skye. Each room is equipped with a tea and coffee station, complimentary locally-made tablet (a delicious crunchy fudge-like Scottish delicacy), TV, Wi-Fi and toiletries from Highland Soaps. Due to the remote location of the hotel, it is essential that you advise us at the time of booking, if you have any dietary requirements, and we can check in advance that these can be catered for. The hotel offers evening meals for our groups only, so plans its menu using the requirements we give them in advance. If we haven't been advised at the point of booking, they may not be able to adjust the menu.

Accommodation Info

Food & Drink

Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others, if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: bread sandwiches or rolls with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/flapjack or similar, crisps and/or yoghurt, fruit, biscuits.

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.

TRAVEL DETAILS

By Car: this is the easiest way to travel to the holiday. Please use the address below in your Sat Nav to take you to the hotel:

HAME HOTEL ROAG
ORBOST
BY DUNVEGAN
IV55 8GZ

There are a number of ways to reach Skye, including two options of ferry crossings, but though Skye is an island there is also a road bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh (mainland) to Kyleakin (Skye). Please keep this in mind if you are driving with a Sat Nav. If you select the shortest route, some devices will take you to Mallaig for the ferry to Skye. If you are driving via the road bridge, just double-check the route the Sat Nav is taking you.

By bus/train: the nearest train station is Kyle of Lochalsh (www.scotrail.co.uk). City Link buses (www.citylink.co.uk) offer the option of travelling to Kyle, or to Skye (Portree) by coach, from Glasgow & Inverness. From Kyle of Lochalsh you can either take the bus (Citylink or www.scottishstagecoach.com) to Portree (1hr), and take a taxi from there (Gus's Taxis 01478 613000, 40mins, approx. £60), or take a taxi direct from Kyle (Kyle Taxis 01599 534323, approx. £115, 1hr 15mins). Please book all parts of your journey ahead of travel.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

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 – 5.30pm, 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 £30 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: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

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

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. 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](tel:01702427236) 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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