

Lewis & Harris Guided Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island Hopping

Destinations: Scottish Islands & Scotland

Trip code: ZBLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Step into history on Lewis then discover stunning white beaches, turquoise waters and remote wild rugged mountains as you walk on Harris. Some of the many highlights include the majestic Callanish Stones, the awesome cliffs of the Butt of Lewis, and pristine white sands of Luskentyre Beach.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Transfer from Stornoway ferry terminal or airport on arrival day and group transfer from Tarbert on departure day
- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Luggage transfer between accommodation
- Admission fees to Na Gearrannan Blackhouse Village and reconstructed Iron Age House
- In 2022, our "with flight" price includes return flight from Glasgow to Stornoway

- Regional flights available from London Heathrow/Southampton/Exeter on request

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the famous Callanish Stones and the Island of Great Bernera
- Walk the coastline of Lewis and the spectacular cliffs at The Butt of Lewis
- Visit The blackhouse village of Na Gearrannan
- Walk the wild and remote Harris Walkway to Tarbert
- Take in the views and the beaches on Harris including Luskentyre with its white sands and turquoise sea

TRIP SUITABILITY

Harris and Lewis is graded 3, with most walks/hikes on paths, although these can be faint, rough, boggy and rocky at times. Ascents and descents are generally fairly gradual with only a few steep sections. Weather can be unpredictable. Good walking boots, waterproof jacket and trousers and warm layers including hat and gloves are essential. Walking poles are useful on rough ground. You will require a good level of fitness as you will be walking every day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete each walk and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. Some sections of the walk are across remote country and the terrain can be rough underfoot in places. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. Each walking day on this holiday will vary between approximately 6 and 7 hours and 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

We'll pick you up at either Stornoway Airport or Stornoway ferry terminal for the journey to the first hotel. Your leader will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before

dinner.

Day 2: Callanish And Great Bernera

After visiting the famous Callanish Stones, we cross the Bridge Over the Atlantic to the island of Great Bernera in Loch Roag on the west coast of Lewis, and follow the Great Bernera trail up the west side of the island to the magnificent beach of Bostadh and its replica iron age village, before returning along the quiet road to Breascleit.

7 miles (11.5 km) with 820 feet (250m) of ascent.

Day 3: The Butt Of Lewis

Follow the spectacular coastline around the Butt of Lewis from Dail to Port Nis, with magnificent cliffs and the stunning Eoropie beach. Cross the foot bridge to the historic sea stack of Dun Eistean, and visit Port Nis, home of the guga hunters.

9 miles (14.5 km) with 600 feet (185m) of ascent.

Day 4: Blackhouses And Clifftops

Starting with a visit to the restored blackhouse crofting village of Na Gearrannan, we take the short but challenging walk around the pathless and rugged, rocky headland of Aird Laimisiadair, contrasting the wild Atlantic coastline with tranquil inland lochs, and enjoying the myriad of wild flowers. We visit the deserted township of Laimishader, one of the first on Lewis to be cleared in 1796, before making our way back to Carlabhagh (Carloway) for our transfer to Tarbert.

4 miles (6.5 km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent.

Day 5: The Harris Walkway And Cleit Aird

The Harris Walkway was opened in 2001 and links a series of old paths to make a route of 20 miles across Harris. We walk the wild northern section from Scaladal to Tarbert, alongside several lochs, and with excellent views of the Clisham Horseshoe. At the highest point of the pass we detour to climb the small hill of Cleit Aird with stunning views down Loch Seaforth.

9 miles (14.5 km) with 1,540 feet (470m) of ascent.

Day 6: Luskentyre And The Coffin Road

Starting from the road end, we re-join the Harris Walkway at Greosabhagh and follow old paths across the rocky undulating landscape of the Bays district before joining an old coffin route which crosses a low pass to reach the machair at Seilebost, overlooking the famous Luskentyre sands.

7½ miles (12 km) with 1,035 feet (315m) of ascent.

Day 7: Huisinis

Out on the Huisinis Peninsula to the north-west of Tarbert, we take a mountain path to cross a high hill pass and walk past inland lochs to reach the stunning beach at Loch Crabhadaill. We pass another inland loch, then follow a spectacular path along the sea cliffs to the remote hamlet of Huisinis and another lovely beach.

8 miles (12.5 km) with 1,400 feet (425m) of ascent.

Day 8: Departure Day

Transfer back to Stornoway Airport and ferry terminal.

ACCOMMODATION

Doone Braes Hotel, Carloway, Lewis - Harris & Lewis

The Doone Braes Hotel in Carloway, just over 30 minutes drive from Stornoway, offers comfortable accommodation and spectacular surroundings. Part of the hotel's charm and tranquil feeling is accentuated by the beautiful lochan that fronts the hotel. All rooms have TV, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities. Drying facilities and Wi-Fi are available at the hotel.

Harris Hotel, Tarbert, Lewis - Harris & Lewis

A warm welcome awaits you at the Harris Hotel, which has been family owned and run for over 100 years. It offers traditional island hospitality and a relaxing atmosphere. The 22 en-suite bedrooms are a mix of modern style and a more traditional feel. All rooms have flat-screen televisions, hair dryers and hot drinks tray. There are two lounges over-looking the front garden, a television lounge and a small library for guests to use. The cosy residents bar has the largest selection of malts in the Outer Hebrides, stocking over 100 varieties! Free WiFi connection is available throughout the hotel.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

The Western Isles, also known as the Outer Hebrides, form an arc stretching for 130 miles off the north-western coast of Scotland. They include Barra, South Uist, Benbecula, North Uist, South and North Harris and Lewis.

Lewis and Harris are not in fact separate islands, but rather the northern two-thirds (Lewis) and the southern third (Harris) of the same island, divided by history and a range of high mountains. Ancient stone circles stand on the same land as the bustling town of Stornoway, while most of the inhabitants still speak Gaelic as their native tongue, and peat is still cut for fires.

We spend the first three nights on the North West side of Lewis, with its varied and dramatic coastline, beautiful beaches, and fascinating archaeology, including the famous Callanish Stones, Carloway Broch and the Na Gèarrannan Blackhouses village. The second half of our holiday is based at Tarbert on Harris, where we can explore dramatic glens, ancient paths, and stunning white sands.

The culture in the Western Isles continues to be very strong, particularly in its religious beliefs. Sunday remains a special day, with many people observing strict compliance to the traditional values of the Free Church of Scotland, and almost all shops and cafés closed.

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.

Luggage Transfers

When you change from one Hotel to another we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

Joining Instructions

Travel

Holiday start

This holiday starts and finishes in Stornoway. Your holiday includes an arrival transfer from Stornoway Airport of Ferry Terminal to the Doune Braes Hotel. As there are a number of different arrivals by flight and ferry, we will arrange your transfer after you have told us your arrival details.

We will confirm your transfer arrangements approximately 2 weeks before the start of your holiday.

At least 8 weeks before the start of your holiday please contact us on 020 8732 1250 or e mail trails@hfholidays.co.uk with your exact travel details and your pick-up location. If you will not be using our transfer or travelling by car, please also let us know.

Holiday finish

We will return guests to Stornoway ferry terminal for 10.30am or Stornoway airport for 11.00am. If your flight is later in the day, we can drop you in Stornoway and you can pay for a later taxi to the airport. There is a left luggage at Stornoway bus station for approx £2 per suitcase per day. (Open from 9am to 5pm).

Travel by car

Either take the ferry from Uig on Skye to Tarbert, or from Ullapool to Stornoway. Both crossings take around two hours. You can park at the Doune Braes Hotel where we begin the holiday and you will have the opportunity to be dropped off at the hotel at the end of the day that we transfer to the Harris Hotel. You can then drive the 45-minute journey to Tarbert yourself and park at the Harris Hotel for the rest of the holiday.

Travel by bus

Citylink run buses from Inverness to Ullapool from where you can take the ferry to Stornoway. There is also a bus service from Glasgow to Uig on Skye, and a local service from Tarbert to Stornoway.

Travel air

There are flights to Stornoway from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

Essential Information

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
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Trip Information

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

Useful Information

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.

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.

Suggested Reading and Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at some of the following:

www.virtualheb.co.uk/the-western-isles/

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 maps

Landranger 8: Stornoway & North Lewis

Landranger 13: West Lewis & North Harris

Landranger 14: Tarbert & Loch Seaforth

Landranger 18: Sound of Harris

Walking on Harris & Lewis: Richard Barrett (Cicerone Guide)

The Outer Hebrides Guide Book: Charles Tait

The Lewis Trilogy: Peter May (fiction)

Coffin Road: Peter May (fiction)

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 £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: 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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