Isle of Arran Guided Walking



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided Walking Holidays	Scottish Islands	4 & 9	114kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Often described as 'Scotland in miniature', the Isle of Arran is an enchanting landscape of majestic mountains and incredible coastline scattered with relics and ruins from its rich past. Our walks cover the full range of scenery and take in plenty of landmarks along the way. This includes the 13th century Brodick Castle, Machrie Moor's ancient standing stones, the Neolithic tombs known as the Giant's Graves, plus the chance to conquer Goatfell, Arran's highest peak. You'll also stay at the Kinloch Hotel, a cosy sea-facing spot for savouring delicious local cuisine, sampling beer and whisky from Arran's very own brewery and distilleries and relaxing in the hotel's spa.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Climbing some of Arran's spectacular mountains
- Spotting Scotland's Big 5 - golden eagle, red deer, seals, otter and red squirrel
- Visiting the 4000-year-old Machrie Moor standing stones
- Conquering Goatfell, the highest point on the island
- Making use of the hotel's excellent spa facilities
- The choice of two walks a day – one easier and one more challenging

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

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Day 1 **Arrival Day**

You're welcome to check in at the Kinloch Hotel from 2pm on the day of arrival. Your HF Holidays Leaders will be on hand from 6:30pm to give you a warm welcome and quick introduction to the days ahead before dinner.

Day 2 **KING'S CAVE OR BEINN A' CHLIABHAIN**

Option 1 - Machrie Moor and King's Cave

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 400 feet (120m)

This is a fabulous walk on the west coast, visiting the 4000-year-old Machrie Moor standing stones with its Bronze Age burial cairn and Robert the Bruce's famous King's Cave – the spot where the Scottish hero was supposedly inspired to continue his struggle for independence after an encounter with a spider. We'll return via the spectacular basalt cliffs of Drumadoon and along the shore to Blackwaterfoot.

Option 2 - Cnoc Breac and Beinn A' Chliabhain from Glen Rosa

Distance: 8.5 miles (14km)

Ascent: 2300 feet (700m)

After a gentle ascent into the delightful Glen Rosa, we'll climb steeply beside the Garbh Allt burn on a well-built path and then on open hillside towards Cnoc Breac. Continuing north there'll be some easy scrambling onto the rocky summit of Beinn A' Chliabhain where, in fine weather, we are rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. We'll return via our outward route.

Day 3 **GLEN ROSA OR MULLACH BUIDH**

Option 1 - Glen Rosa and Brodick Castle

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 700 feet (210m)

This wonderful walk in Glen Rosa takes us into the heart of Arran's mountains and peaks, providing a good chance of spotting red deer herds. We'll continue to the impressive Brodick Castle where there's free time to explore its beautiful gardens before making our way back to Brodick to catch the bus.

Option 2 - Mullach Buidh Circuit from Pirnmill

Distance: 9.5 miles (15km)

Ascent: 3100 feet (955m)

Our longer option offers the opportunity to climb the little visited west coast mountains of Beinn Bharrain, Mullach Buidhe and Beinn Bhreac. We'll start at Pirnmill, climbing gently through birch and oak woodland before making our way across an area of rough moorland, boggy in places, to ascend the northwest ridge of Beinn Bharrain. We'll be rewarded with spectacular views as we traverse the high tops before making our descent over some rough ground to Coire Fhionn Lochan and down to Thundergay and Pirnmill.

Day 4 GLENASHDALE FALLS OR COCK OF ARRAN

Option 1 - Whiting Bay to Kildonan via Glenashdale Falls

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

Departing from Whiting Bay, we'll head inland and ascend to the impressive Glenashdale Falls and on to the two Neolithic chambered tombs known as the Giants' Graves. Continuing south along the inland route of the Arran Coastal Way, we'll enjoy extensive views over southwest Scotland. Finally, we'll descend to Kildonan for the final part of our walk along the coast which, hopefully, will offer some good views of seals.

Option 2 - Cock of Arran

Distance: 8.5 miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 300 feet (90m)

Today's coastal walk starts in the lower reaches of Glen Sannox (the name meaning 'sandy bay' in old Norse). Keep a look out for seals, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks, minke whales which all inhabit these waters. Birders should bring their binoculars to help spot various sea birds, including cormorants, black guillemot and diving gannets, and the chance to see golden eagles and peregrine falcons.

We will pass by Ossian's Cave and the Cock of Arran; a large block of sandstone resting on the beach; although its upper part has been broken off, originally, when seen from the sea, the block resembled a crowing cockerel. The route continues along the coast towards Newton Point then comes to the shores of Loch Ranza, finishing at Lochranza Distillery. Please note that some sections of the walk are on rocky path and care should be taken over boulders which can be slippery when wet.

Day 5 CLAUCHLAND HILLS AND FAIRY GLEN OR GOATFELL

Option 1 - Lamlash to Brodick via the Clauchland Hills and Fairy Glen

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 900 feet (270m)

Starting in Lamlash at the Highland Clearances Memorial, we'll walk along the coast to Clauchlands Point before turning inland to climb to the Iron Age hill fort of Dun Fionn and on over the Clauchland Hills. We'll descend towards Brodick down the delightful Fairy Glen before finishing off on the Fisherman's Walk to the grounds of Brodick Castle.

Option 2 - Goatfell from Corrie

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 2920 feet (890m)

For our final day, this walk allows us to tackle Goatfell, Arran's highest peak. We'll start at Corrieburn Bridge and ascend via Coire Lan on a good path towards North Goatfell. A final scramble will put us on the summit of Goatfell itself for superb views across the island and to the neighbouring Inner Hebrides. We'll descend south on a well-built path, eventually finishing in the woodland near Brodick Castle.

Day 6 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home. Check-out is at 10am.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.



Challenging walking grade 9

Demanding full day walks with greater distance, ascent, and fewer stops. Best for very fit walkers. Typically, 13-14 miles (21-23km) with around 2,750ft (840m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Kinloch Hotel

Located in Blackwaterfoot on Arran's tranquil western side, the 3-star Kinloch Hotel has been run by the Crawford family since 1954. With an enviable seafront setting, it puts some of the island's best beaches and coastal paths within walking distance. Rooms all come with en-suite bathrooms, hairdryer, free tea and coffee making facilities, flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, and local Arran Aromatics toiletries. When it's time to refuel, the restaurant features local produce, including Kilbrannan Sound seafood and Arran Dairies ice cream. Guests can also make use of an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, and snooker room. Public bus stops are located outside the hotel, and free onsite car parking is also available, with access to electric car charging points.

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Walking safety

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Travel Details for Isle of Arran

Address

Kinloch Hotel

Blackwaterfoot

Isle of Arran

KA27 8ET

Tel: 01770 860 444

Email: reservations@kinlocharran.co.uk

Please note the holiday start location is Kinloch Hotel. You will need to make independent travel arrangements, including ferry bookings to get to/from the hotel.

Getting to Arran:

By Ferry:

Please visit the Caledonian MacBrayne website for up-to-date ferry timetables and booking your ticket. Tickets must be purchased in advance of travel, even if you are a foot passenger. Regular ferry services (taking less than 1 hour) are available from Ardrossan to Brodick. The ferry terminal is a short walk from the train station. You can also get ferries to Arran from Troon and Claonaig.

By Train:

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

By Air:

There are a number of low-cost flights from around the UK, to Glasgow International or Glasgow Prestwick airports. If arriving from overseas, Glasgow International will be your inbound airport. From here, take the regular airport bus to Glasgow Central station (journey time 30 minutes), and connect with the train and ferry services described above.

From Brodick to Blackwaterfoot:

By Bus:

Catch the 322 bus from Brodick Ferry Terminal to Blackwater Ferry Cottage. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes. For up-to-date timetables, please visit the Stagecoach website.

By Taxi:

The 12 mile journey from Brodick Ferry Terminal to Kinloch Hotel takes approximately 25 minutes by taxi.

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, A.R.C Private Hire. The 2024 guide price for a taxi is around £30. Please pre-book your taxi in advance by contacting:

Tel: +44 (0) 7776082752

*A.R.C private Hire is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By Car:

From Brodick pier turn right to B880 to Blackwaterfoot. From Lochranza pier turn right on to A841 Blackwaterfoot.

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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.

Document produced: 26 November 2026