Lewis & Harris Guided Walking with Sightseeing



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Scottish Islands	6	240kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Located off the west coast of Scotland, the Isle of Lewis and Isle of Harris form the main island in the Outer Hebrides. Technically one landmass divided into two islands, there's plenty here to impress: lunar-like landscapes, wild mountains, white beaches, turquoise waters, and a unique Gaelic culture. This holiday highlights some of the sightseeing greats such as the mystical Callanish Standing Stones, the dramatic Butt of Lewis, and the stunning Luskentyre Beach.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Admiring the Neolithic standing stones at Callanish
- Visiting the beautiful island of Great Bernera
- Walking the wild and remote Harris Walkway to Tarbert
- Relaxing on sparkling white sands at Luskentyre Beach
- Marvelling at the 18th century Eilean Glas Lighthouse
- Soaking up views down to lochs and coastal inlets
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

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
- Luggage transfers
- Entrance fees to Bernera Museum/Bostadh Iron Age House, Calanais Standing Stones Visitor Centre, Port of Ness Museum, Na Gaearrannan Blackhouse Museum.
- Return flights including hold baggage and airport transfers

ITINERARY - ISLAND HOPPING

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

If booked on our 'with flight' package, we'll transfer you from Stornoway Airport to the Doune Braes Hotel. For those arriving independently, our HF walks leader will be at reception at 6:30pm, when we'll gather to give you a warm welcome and explain the plan of action before dinner.

Day 2 **Callanish and Great Bernera**

We start the day with some time at the impressive Calanais Visitor Centre, opened Summer 2026, which is well worth looking around prior to stepping outside to see the magnificent stones themselves. We then cross the Bridge Over the Atlantic to the island of Great Bernera 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 iron age village. We are then transferred to Dun Carloway Broch for a short walk back to the hotel on old paths past inland lochs.

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 Lighthouses

We start with a visit to the restored blackhouse crofing village of Na Gearrannan, then after transferring our luggage to the Harris Hotel in Tarbert, we explore the island of Scalpay, now joined to Harris by a bridge. We pass tranquil lochs and climb to the highest point on the island with excellent views on a clear day, before visiting the impressive Eilean Glas lighthouse.

4.5 miles (7 km) with 600 feet (180m) 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 follow a spectacular path along the sea cliffs to the secluded sweep of Mheilein beach overlooking Scarp. After a short ascent of the top of Meilein we descend to the magical Crabhadail beach. From here we follow the shore of an inland loch then ascend to meet our outward path.

5.5 miles (8.5 km) with 1,065 feet (325m) of ascent.

Day 8 Departure Day

We will transfer those booked on our 'with flight' package back to Stornoway airport.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 6

Longer full day walks with more ascent and varied terrain. Good fitness and agility are needed. Typically, 9-10 miles (15-16km) with around 1,500ft (460m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

The Dunan Hotel , Carloway, Lewis - Days 1-3

The Dunan Hotel in Carloway, just over 30 minutes drive from Stornoway, offers comfortable accommodation in a spectacular setting. Formerly Doune Braes Hotel, the Dunan Hotel was taken over in late 2025 by Douglas and Gregor, who have lovingly renovated the rooms in preparation for the 2026 summer season. Accommodation choice is limited in this area, and we feel this is the best option for our groups, thanks to the fantastic hospitality that HF guests receive here. All rooms have TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. Rooms are tight on space, but the superb location of the hotel more than makes up for this. Drying facilities and Wi-Fi are available at the hotel too. This hotel is dog-friendly so you may meet four legged friends in some of the communal areas.

Harris Hotel, Tarbert - Harris - Days 4-7

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.

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

Joining instructions for Lewis and Harris

The hassle-free option

Book your holiday 'with flight' from Glasgow to Stornoway airport. For flight times and prices please follow the booking process. If you choose this option, we automatically include return transfers between the airport and hotels. The coach transfer takes approx. 30 minutes to the Doune Braes Hotel at the start of your holiday and approx. 1 hour from Harris Hotel at the end of your holiday.

The flexible travel option

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to make independent travel arrangements. If you choose this option, hotel transfers are not included in the price. Check in at the Doune Braes Hotel is from 2pm. Below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

By car

Either take the ferry from Uig on Skye to Tarbert, or from Ullapool to Stornoway. Both crossings take around 2 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.

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. Independent taxi transfers need to be arranged to Doune Braes Hotel at the start of your holiday, approx. 30 minutes, and from Harris Hotel at the end of your holiday, approx. 1 hour. We recommend Stornoway Taxi & Courier Services.

By air

There are flights to Stornoway from Glasgow. Independent taxi transfers need to be arranged to Doune Braes Hotel at the start of your holiday, approx. 30 minutes, and from Harris Hotel at the end of your holiday, approx. 1 hour. We recommend Stornoway Taxi & Courier Services.

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.

Your Island Hopping Leader

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday 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 your group, 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 and 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.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

Maps and Guides for Harris and Lewis

Suggested Reading and Mpas

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For you 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)

Travel Insurance

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.

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.

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