

Mull & Iona Guided Island Hopping Holiday

Tour Style: Island Hopping

Destinations: Scottish Islands & Scotland

Trip code: XKLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Join us for an island hopping adventure. Explore Mull and enjoy some of the finest and most varied scenery of any of the Scottish islands. Relish rugged coastal walks, wild landscapes of white sand beaches and towering mountains, and make sure to watch out for some of Mull's famous wildlife – sea eagles, whales, sea otters, seals and more. Relax and enjoy your final three nights on the mystical island of Iona – the perfect escape. All your accommodation, transport and meals are taken care of, just put your boots on and enjoy the journey.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- group transfer to/from Craignure ferry terminal

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit four fabulously unique islands: Mull, Iona, Staffa and Ulva
- Spot Sea eagles, Golden eagles, whales, Sea otters, and more
- Tick off Ben More – Mull's only Munro
- Stay on the mystical island of Iona, so you can explore long after the day visitors have gone
- Admire the unique geology of Staffa by boat
- Explore community owned Ulva island
- All meals included. Comfortable ensuite accommodation & guided walks each day

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Mull & Iona 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. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete these walks. 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

Join us for a late afternoon group transfer from the Craignure ferry terminal, to Tobermory, or make your own way and meet us at the hotel prior to the evening meal, to find out the plan of action.

Day 2: The Hidden Gem Of Ulva Island

A ferry ride takes us to the hidden gem of Ulva island. This pristine island is community owned and home to more endangered animals than islanders (it has just 6 permanent residents). We stretch our legs with a cracker of a walk exploring the beautiful south coast.

8 miles (13km) with 650 feet (260m) of ascent.

Day 3: Mull's Only Munro

We earn bragging rights today, and tackle Mull's only Munro. Ben More is the only Munro on an island, other than on Skye. This fabulous rocky peak affords us a fantastic top of the world feeling and superb views over the islands.

6 miles (9km) with 3,050 feet (950m) of ascent.

Day 4: Dun Da Ghaoithe

We tackle Dun da Ghaoithe today, the second highest hill on Mull, and the island's only Corbett. Be prepared for some pathless walking and you'll be rewarded by some of the finest views on the island.

9 miles (15km) with 2,700 feet (840m) of ascent.

Day 5: Treshnish Peninsular

A fantastic circular route takes us on an exploration of the beautiful Treshnish peninsular. Superb coastal scenery, abandoned villages, excellent chances to spot wildlife, and the legendary Whisky Cave – where the finest “moonshine” on Mull was produced. We then head south, for the mystical Isle of Iona, where we spend our final three nights.

7 miles (11km) with 1,100 feet (340m) of ascent.

Day 6: Great Basalt Columns And Caves Of Staffa

A boat trip today, to discover the great basalt columns and caves of Staffa, and hopefully a wealth of wildlife on the way. If there's time there may also be the option this afternoon, of a walk along the northern coastline of Iona, or take time out and explore the Abbey, or relax and enjoy the beaches.

Day 7: Exploring Iona

Explore the quieter southern end of the island, visiting its beautiful beaches and the bay where St Columbus first landed on the Isle of Iona.

5 miles (8.5km) with little ascent.

Day 8: Departure Day

We've organised a morning group transfer to Craignure ferry terminal.

ACCOMMODATION

Park Lodge Hotel - Mull

The family owned Park Lodge Hotel, is our accommodation for our stay in Tobermory, Mull. The hotel is in a quiet location, just a short 5 minute walk down to the harbour. The rooms are basic but comfortable en-suites, 2-3* standard, equipped with tea/coffee making facilities, flat screen TVs, and hairdryers. There's free internet access & parking at the hotel too.

Argyll Hotel - Iona

In the heart of the village, and overlooking the Sound of Iona, you'll find the Argyll Hotel. Rooms are not the biggest in terms of size, but are well kept comfortable en-suites, all equipped with tea/coffee making facilities, hair-dryers & alarm clocks. The hotel focuses on locally sourced food and prides itself with using plenty of ingredients from its own hotel garden. It's the ideal escape too, in that your chance of Wi-Fi coverage is slim!

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

Our group transfer meets the 1645 ferry arrival at Craignure, for a 30 minute transfer to Tobermory and our accommodation. If you'd prefer to make your own way to Tobermory, we'll meet before dinner for an introduction to the holiday.

Ferry:

Regular ferry services (taking less than 1 hour) are available from Oban to Craignure on Mull. Our group transfer meets the 1645 arrival at Craignure. The ferry terminal is a short walk from Oban train station. For up to date ferry timetables, please visit the [Caledonian MacBrayne website](#). You can also get ferries to Mull from Lochaline and Kilchoan on Morvern and Ardnamurchan, and make your way to the hotel independently.

Train:

The Oban train leaves from Glasgow Queen Street station. For up to date timetables, please visit the [Scotrail website](#).

Air:

There are a number of both national and international flights to Glasgow International. From there, take the regular airport bus to Glasgow Queen Street station (George Square) (journey time 30 minutes). From Glasgow Queen Street train station you can get the train to Oban for the ferry to Mull.

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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