

SCOTLAND – ISLE OF SKYE

7-days / 6-nights **QUALITY** guided wilderness walks among the dramatic landscapes of the Cuillins



Velvet moors, sparkling lochs, jagged mountains and towering sea cliffs make the often mist-shrouded Isle of Skye a place of wonder, romance and legend. The history of this 50-mile-long island encompasses dinosaur fossils, clan warfare, Highland clearances, Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite rebellion. Its spectacular and varied landscapes also offer some of the best walking in Scotland, if not the world.

On this two-centre-based guided walking tour, we explore all four corners of Skye on a series of hikes which show off the best of this fabled island. From gentle bays to wave-ravaged peninsulas, elegant glens and Tolkien-esque rock formations, Skye delights and surprises at every turn. We cross the famous Skye Bridge to arrive on the island, sail to a remote loch, take in a number of walks on this wild and scenic island, and when we bid Skye farewell we use the unique turntable ferry to return to the mainland. *Eilean a' Cheò* – or *the island of mist*, in Gaelic – is a place which draws visitors back time and time again for its special blend of wild landscapes, beautiful light and rich culture.

Cost from: \$3395 per person twin share Single supplement from \$1215 – limited availability

Departs: 27th April; 4th May; 1st, 15th, 29th June; 6th, 13th, 27th July; 3rd, 17th, 24th August; 12th October, 2019

Includes: 6 nights' accommodation in quality 3-star guesthouses / hotels, 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 2 dinners (meals indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), an experienced, knowledgeable guide / driver, all transport throughout the trip starting and finishing in Inverness, all private boat and ferry transfers.

Not included: Drinks, meals not mentioned, transport to the start/end of trip, personal expenses, gratuities.

Grade: Easy to Moderate with about 5 hours of walking each day, following generally good trails with no major ascents, plenty of stops to rest or take photos. The terrain is usually on paths or hill trails, which may be muddy or rough. Daily walks are glen and coastal hikes, with some low level hills about 1,500 feet / 450m.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331582 for details & reservations

Getting there: Meet our guide at Inverness Railway Station at 10:30am on Day 1 and return there by 4.00pm on the last day. Inverness is well-connected by rail or air to Edinburgh, Glasgow and London.



Accommodation and Meals: This is a two-centre based tour. On three nights we stay in southern Skye in a 3-star, privately owned hotel with spectacular views over the Sound of Sleat to the Knoydart Hills. In northern Skye, we stay in an owner-managed 3-star hotel with fantastic views across Uig Bay. Each of the accommodations offer double and twin rooms, most with en-suite facilities.

Local produce will be served up in hearty and imaginative meals. Seafood is a speciality, with beef, lamb and venison also popular. Special dietary requirements can be catered for (please notify us when booking). Most breakfasts and all lunches are included. Dinner is included on 2 nights and at your own arrangements on 4 evenings. There are many pubs and restaurants where we stay, offering a wide choice of local dishes.

Single Supplement: There is no single person supplement charged to solo travellers however you will share a room with another person of the same sex. If you require a single room please request this at the time of booking and we will check availability for you.



Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Journey to the Isle of Skye

walking @ 2 miles (4km)

After meeting in Inverness, we travel west via Loch Ness and the spectacular mountains of Kintail before arriving on Skye via the Skye Bridge. We have time for a short hike around Portree Bay and to explore this quirky little town before heading to our accommodation to settle in and enjoy our welcome dinner. (L,D)

Day 2: Hiking the Trotternish Peninsula

walking @ 5 miles (8km)

After breakfast we are transferred by vehicle up a steep road to The Quiraing, where we hike through the stark and unusual rock formations and landscapes, all the time admiring sweeping views across the Sound of Raasay to Torridon and Wester Ross. Afterwards, we can explore the very north of the Trotternish Peninsula, or perhaps visit Kilt Rock and the charming village of Staffin on this relaxing day. (B,L)

Day 3: Waternish Point

walking @ 8 miles (13km)

We transfer west, then hike to a quiet corner of the island that deserves more attention! Starting from a ruined church we hike to a remote headland, passing the ancient ruins of one of the best preserved brochs on Skye. There are expansive sea views from the headland. We return along the same route. (B,L)

Day 4: Exploring Raasay

walking @ up to 6 miles (10km)

From Sconser we board the small ferry to the Isle of Raasay for the day's walks. Raasay is an oft-overlooked gem, and much quieter than Skye. There are a couple of excellent hikes to choose from, starting from the ferry harbour, walking up to 6 miles (10km). Raasay has a fascinating history all of its own to discover before we head back to Skye. (B,L)

Day 5: Wild Loch Coruisk and the Cuillin Mountains

walking @ 4 miles (7km)

The wild and jagged peaks of the Black Cuillin are accessible only through challenging scrambles, so instead we admire their beauty from below. We take a boat trip to the remote southern edge of the Cuillins, a real highlight of a visit to Skye. After being dropped off in this lonely and wild spot, we circle Loch Coruisk, perhaps Scotland's most dramatically located loch, with sharp summits rising straight from the shoreline. (B,L)

Day 6: The Clearance Villages

walking @ 8 miles (13km)

While the landscapes of the Highlands have always been wild, many remote glens and bays had small populations until fairly recent times. On this coastal circuit we pass through the sites of two villages which were abandoned during the Clearances. The peaceful landscape of today contrasts with the harsh emotions and the rough violence at the time of the evictions. The Highland Clearances in the 18th and 19th Centuries were a dark time in Scotland's history, hastening the demise of many a small community and erasing much Gaelic culture. The Clearances caused a diaspora of Scottish Highlanders, with many settling in the Scottish Lowlands and as far afield as Nova Scotia, New Zealand, and of course Australia. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Glenelg and return to Inverness

walking @ 2 miles (3km)

We farewell the Isle of Skye today and depart the island using the unique community-owned 'turntable' ferry. Arriving in Glenelg, a remote village on the mainland, we hike down to the coast, admiring views of Skye, to the site of the house where Gavin Maxwell lived when he wrote 'Ring of Bright Water'. We visit the well-preserved brochs (Iron Age forts) in Glenelg before making our way back to Inverness via Mam Ratagan, a narrow winding road through a mountain pass, offering spectacular views at every turn. We arrive Inverness in the early evening. Ask us about extra nights of accommodation in Inverness at extra cost. (B,L)

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of tour guide with regard to weather conditions and other factors, and may operate in reverse.



Other walking holidays from Outdoor Travel – guided in small groups or self-guided inn-to-inn with luggage transfers and meals are available in many areas of the UK and Europe including the spectacular **Coast to Coast** trail or the **Cotswolds Way** or the **Cornish Coastal Track** in England, the **Brecon Beacons** or **Snowdonia** in Wales and the **West Highland Way** in Scotland or **Connemarra** or **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland.

In Europe you will find **Outdoor Travel** has many classic walks including the **Tour du Mont Blanc** in the Swiss and French Alps, along the **Danube** or in **Bavaria**, the pilgrims **Way of St James** or **Camino de Santiago** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or **Via Francigena** the pilgrims 'road to Rome' in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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