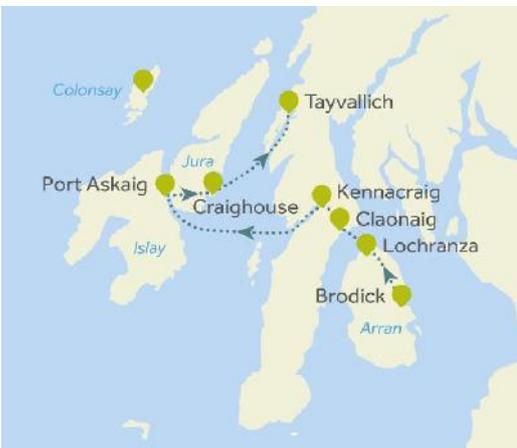


SCOTLAND –THE ISLES OF ARRAN, ISLAY & JURA

10-day / 9-night GUIDED long distance, challenging walking



The Isles of Arran, Islay and Jura provide a wonderful contrast with each other, yet each offers delightful walking amongst beautiful island scenery. Arran's pink granite peaks and lush woodland are a perfect foil for the wilderness of Jura's West Coast; while Islay's rugged cliffs and extensive sandy beaches are different again. Although famous for their distilleries, these islands also provide a wonderful range of contrasting walks, and you'll love the friendly, relaxed hospitality of the islanders. Several walks are accessed by chartered boat, adding an extra dimension to the holiday.

The trail involves walks / hikes over long distances in remote countryside and rough terrain. Underfoot conditions can be rough, boggy and pathless in places. Sustained ascents and descents require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday.

All local walks transport is included in the holiday price, and may include boat charters, local buses and coach hire. Many of the most isolated, most stunning areas of these islands are only accessible by boat and on Islay and Jura charter a small open inshore passenger ferry to take us to and from the walking routes.

Departs: 4th May; 31st August 2020

Cost from: \$3960 per person twin share Single room supplement on request - limited availability.

Includes: 9-nights' ensuite accommodation; full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner daily); experienced walks leader; transport and luggage transfers on walking days (including ferry journeys between the islands).

Not included: Transport to Glasgow, drinks, personal expenses.

Accommodation: At comfortable hotels spending 3 nights in each starting on Arran, then moving onto Islay and Jura. Hotels are selected for their character, quality and their warm welcome and friendly service.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day

We travel by train from Glasgow to Ardrossan and then by ferry to Brodick. The hotel minibus will transfer you to the nearby Auchrannie Hotel.

Day 2: Goatfell

walking @ 7 miles (10km), ascent 2,800ft (840m)

We take taxis as far as Corrieburn Bridge, just south of Corrie village, and walk west following Corrie Burn up into the high corrie above which rises the Goatfell range. We continue ascending to North Goatfell. A lovely ridge walk follows round the Pinnacles to the top of Goatfell (2866 feet). On a clear day, our efforts are rewarded by magnificent views of the Arran Mountains, and the Scottish mainland hills. We take the main track down to Cladach and walk along the beach back to our hotel.

Day 3: Holy Island & Lamlash hills

Holy Island walking @ 4 miles (7km), ascent 1,050ft (320m)

Giants' Graves walking @ 3 miles (5km) ascent 850ft (255m)

Our walks today provide quite a contrast. We visit Holy Island, a Buddhist retreat, with its fantastic views back to the main island. We'll walk to the summit of Mullach Mor at just over 300 metres and return along the coast. If time allows, the second walk of the day takes in the Giants' Graves (which are actually Neolithic burial cairns - fragments of pottery and arrowheads have been found here) and the fabulous Glenashdale waterfalls, now best seen from the purpose-built, dramatic viewing platform. The descent passes an Iron Age Fort, so there's plenty of historical interest to go alongside the views and the delightful woodlands. The order of the walks will depend on ferry and tide times.

Day 4: To Islay

walking @ 5 miles (8km), ascent 620ft (190m)

Today we travel across to Islay, but not before enjoying a final morning walk from Brodick up the Glen Rosa Valley surrounded by impressive mountains and a chance of seeing a golden eagle before ending at the Saw Mill with the option for refreshments and to visit the local brewery.

We meet the minibus which drops us to our ferry and we cross to Claonaig on the Kintyre Peninsula. A short road journey leads to the opposite coast and the ferry terminal at Kennacraig, from where we leave for Port Askaig on Islay. Once here, you can settle into your hotel and enjoy a look around the tiny harbour.

Day 5: The Mull of Oa, Islay

walking @ 7 miles (11.5km), ascent 1,750ft (535m)

Today's walk takes in some of the spectacular coastline of the RSPB Mull of Oa Nature Reserve on the southern end of the island. What you can see here (in addition to the fantastic scenery) depends on the time of year. The bird life is worthy of special mention, with a huge variety of nesting seabirds often visible along with possible sightings of choughs and maybe a golden eagle. There are wild goat herds on the cliffs.

Day 6: Rhuvaal, Islay

walking @ 13 miles (21km), ascent 1,640ft (500m)

Weather and sea conditions permitting, we'll be using a charter boat to take us out to the slipway at Rhuvaal Lighthouse from where we'll walk on deer tracks and descend to the beach of Bagh an Da Dhoruis before walking above and below coastal cliffs to the sands of Gruinart Bay. Not many people have the opportunity to walk this wonderful section of coastline without it becoming a much bigger undertaking – the use of the charter boat makes it possible.

Day 7: To Jura

walking @ 8 miles (13km), ascent 860ft (170m)

Weather and sea conditions permitting, a charter boat will take your luggage to the Jura Hotel, before continuing with the group out to the east coast of Jura and dropping us at Lowlandman's Bay. We visit the crofting township of Ardfernal before returning to Craighouse - taking in views of the Paps of Jura on our way. This is a great area for seeing hen harriers and red deer, and you might see adders along with a range of coastal wildlife.

Day 8: Free day on Jura

This is built in as a free day to allow for a change in the schedule should it be required. You may wish to go on a local walk or relax around the harbour area and visit the distillery.

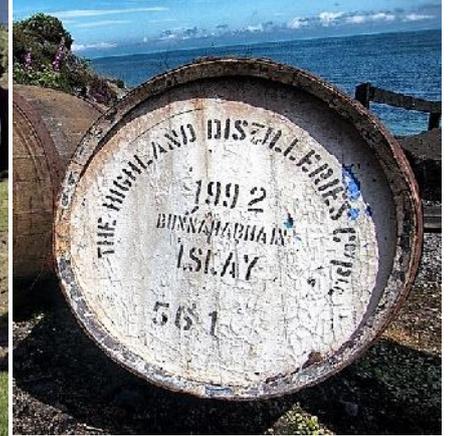
Day 9: Corryvreckan, Jura

walking @ 9 miles (14km), ascent 1,200ft (373m)

The final day's walking and another one on which we hope to use the chartered boat – this time to bring us back at the end of the walk, though tide, weather etc could make it a drop-off rather than a pick-up. The northern tip of Jura overlooks the Gulf of Corryvreckan – famous for its whirlpools. Our route follows “the Long Road”, passing Barnhill, where George Orwell wrote 1984, out to the Gulf and explores some of this amazing, remote coastline before our charter boat takes us back to Craighouse Bay near the hotel, passing the Corryvreckan whirlpools if conditions and tide permit.

Day 10: Departure day

We take the charter boat across the Sound of Jura into Loch Sween, and Tayvallich, with its tiny, sheltered bay. From here we travel by coach back to Glasgow Central Station.



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