

SCOTLAND –THE ISLE OF SKYE & HEBRIDES ISLANDS

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walks based on Skye, Raasay, South Uist, Vatersay & Barra



Journey from the stark magnificence of the Cuillin Mountains of Skye, to Raasay, South Uist and Vatersay and Barra's beautiful cockle-shell beaches. Each day's walk will take you to a world far removed from the hustle and bustle; to a peaceful haven with stunning, wild Scottish seascapes and scenery. On Skye wander amidst the eerie pinnacles of the Quiraing, and along the shores of Loch Coruisk with stunning views of the Cuillin mountains. Soak up scenes from *Whisky Galore* on Barra's and Vatersay's white sandy beaches.

Our journey begins on the Isle of Skye – home to some of the finest walking and most impressive mountain scenery in the British Isles. Between the two extremes of coast and the Cuillin mountain range are scenes of unspoilt natural splendour, rare wildlife, ancient forests and historical monuments. Across Little Minch from Skye, the linked islands of North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and Eriskay are broken by a lochan-studded landscape. Beyond the Sound of Barra we explore our final two – the islands of Barra and Vatersay, so small and compact that the sea is rarely out of sight.

Holiday highlights:

- Visit the Isles of Skye, Raasay, North Uist, South Uist, Eriskay, Barra and Vatersay
- Wander amidst the eerie pinnacles of the Quiraing
- Enjoy stunning views of the Cuillin mountains
- Step back in time to see the simple uncluttered life of the Hebridean Isles

Departs: 4th, 25th May; 15th June; 21st September 2020

Cost from: \$3,060 per person twin share Single room supplement on request, limited availability.

Includes: 7 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 Skye and from Barra at the start and end of your tour, drinks, personal expenses.

Accommodation: Our accommodation is at comfortable hotels and guesthouses on or near the route. Each has been selected for their character, quality and their warm welcome and friendly service.

Sligachan Hotel is nestled amongst the red and black Cuillins, with Loch Sligachan to its front, the Sligachan Hotel has served mountaineers, walkers and lovers of the wild Highland scenery since 1830. Rooms include tea and coffee making facilities, TV and hairdryer. WiFi is available. **The Borrodale Hotel** is a small hotel set in the peaceful crofting community of Daliburgh. Less than a mile beyond the hotel, the Atlantic Ocean laps lengths of white sand strewn beaches. Rooms are en-suite with TV, telephone and hairdryer. **The Castlebay Hotel** is a small hotel situated in the heart of island life, the centre of the village of Castlebay – Barra's "capital". The hotel overlooks the sheltered harbour and its castle. All rooms are en-suite with telephone and TV.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival on the Isle of Skye

Your leader will welcome you at the hotel before dinner and give you a full briefing for the holiday.

Day 2: Dun Caan, Isle of Raasay

walking @ 9 miles (15km), ascent 1,700 ft (525m)

We take a short ferry crossing to the Isle of Raasay where we follow a sometimes boggy path up to the distinctive summit of Dun Caan, at 443m (1450 ft) the highest point on Raasay. From here 360° panoramas give us views to the Cuillin and to the Applecross and Torridon hills on the mainland.

Day 3: Skye - Loch Coruisk to Sligachan

walking @ 8 miles (12km), ascent 1,350 ft (410m)

We join a short cruise from Elgol to Loch Coruisk where we are almost certain to see seals. Leaving the boat we cross the river on stepping stones and ascend to the saddle below Sgurr Hain for fantastic views across to the Cuillins. From here we descend Glen Sligachan for a well-deserved wee dram. If the boat from Elgol can't operate due to inclement weather we will take an alternative walk.

Day 4: Skye - The Quiraing

walking @ 3 miles (5km), ascent 1,250 ft (380m)

Our final walk on Skye is amidst the eerie pinnacles of the Quiraing. This supernatural landscape is often used in films, and we make the classic circuit through the geological giants of "The Needle", "The Table" and "The Prison". In the afternoon we travel by ferry to North Uist.

Day 5: South Uist - Daliburgh to Polachar

walking @ 8 miles (13km), negligible ascent

We walk from the hotel out to the beach, and then follow the coast southwards, sometimes by the beach, sometimes on the machair, the fertile grassland so distinctive of these islands. Our walk ends at the Polachar Inn where we can enjoy a dram and savour the scent of a peat fire. The name '*Pollochar*' comes from the Gaelic '*Poll a Charra*', meaning inlet (Poll) and large stone (Charra), hence inlet of the stone. This refers to the standing stone across from the inn which is thought to date back to around 2000 BC.

Day 6: Vatersay

walking @ 5 miles (7km), ascent 460ft (140m)

Island hopping to Eriskay and to Barra, recently voted 'Britain's most beautiful isle'. From here we visit Vatersay, the southernmost of the inhabited Western Isles, with a fascinating history.

Day 7: Barra - Eoligarry – Heaval

**walking @ 8 miles (13km) ascent 750 feet (230m)
+ optional 3 miles (5km), ascent 900 feet (275m)**

We start our walk from Barra's tiny airport and explore the north of the island, taking in cockle shell beaches, fine views, and the medieval church of Cille Bharra. In the afternoon there is an option to climb Heaval, at 383m the highest point on Barra.

Day 8: Departure day from Barra

Tour ends after breakfast. Perhaps fly from Barra airport, with its unique beach runway, or take the ferry to Oban.





Outdoor Travel offers guided or self-guided walking across the United Kingdom, Ireland and in Europe including the **West Highland Way** in Scotland, Wainwright's challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the **Cotswolds**, the spectacular coast of **Cornwall**, the **Yorkshire Dales** or **Snowdonia** in Wales or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland.

Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL for more details and reservations:

- Call Outdoor Travel Toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia