

8 Day Skye Harris & Lewis Walking Tour

Explore a selection of the far flung Isles off the west coast of Scotland known as the Hebrides. We enjoy walks in the Highlands, the Inner Hebridean Isle of Skye, the Outer Hebridean Isles of Harris and Lewis and the Cairngorm mountains. The guide will take you on easy to medium walks whilst relaying local history and legends of the areas. We will also meet some great local characters along the way. We ensure that you enjoy comfortable rooms and good food along the way. From eating seafood with a local fisherman to seeing Harris tweed being hand-woven, we take you places that no other tour companies get to. With a maximum of 16 clients you are ensured a relaxed and friendly atmosphere on your holiday.

Sun - Depart Edinburgh for the dramatic Highlands and Islands. Walk in Balquhitter to the Clan MacLaren rallying point. 1 hour. 2.5km/1.5 miles. Ascent 125m. We wind our way through the Highlands to the dramatic west coast. Late afternoon we arrive at the peaceful fishing village of Stromeferry on the banks of Loch Carron, our home for the next three nights. You may choose to enjoy a great circuit walk with fabulous views over Loch Carron and the mountains beyond before or after dinner. 2km/1.25 miles, 1 hour.

Monday - Take in the stunning landscape of Loch Sheil and romantic Eilean Donan Castle on the way to Glenelg village, one of the most remote spots in Britain accessible by road. Enjoy a very varied circuit walk taking in wild moorland, forest tracks and a beautiful walk along the shores of Loch Duich. 13km/8 miles. 4.5 - 6.5 hours. Ascent 430m. After lunch in the village pub visit the fascinating iron age brochs (early castles) of Glen Beag. Cross to the Isle of Skye on the last of the traditional Scottish hand operated turntable ferries. Explore the village of Kyleakin and the ruined Castle Moil. 1 - 1.5 hours. 3.5km/2 miles. Ascent 40m.

Tuesday - Take the easy-going circuit from Achmore village that leads down to the beautiful shores of Loch Carron. The outward leg crosses wet pastures below the steep crags of Creag Mhaol to reach the hamlet of Portchullin with its fine views across the water before returning to Achmore along a beech-lined lane. Buy cheese, oatcakes and ice cream for lunch from the dairy. 8km/5 miles, 2 - 3 hours, ascent 210m. Enjoy a seal and dolphin spotting cruise with a local crab and prawn (langoustines) fisherman and taste fresh local seafood.

Wednesday - A morning on the magical Isle of Skye. First stop is Portree, the capital of the Isle of Skye,

translating as 'port of the king' in the local language of Gaelic. Walk down to the harbour famous for its colourful houses and craft shops. Enjoy a short walk along the Trotternish Ridge with extraordinary views of the Quirang and the Old man of Storr. (3km/1.75 miles, 1 - 2 hours, ascent 230m.) Take the 1400 boat from Uig to Tarbert on the Isle of Harris. Enjoy a short walk over a pass to the quiet and attractive harbour village of Renigdale on NE Harris. 280, 3 miles, 1-2 hours. Overnight in Stornoway for the next 3 nights.

Thursday - Walk in Hushinish along glorious sands and wild flower Machair on North Harris. 3-4 hours walking. 5 miles / 8km. In the afternoon explore the wonderful beaches and enjoy a short walk to St Clement's church on South Harris.

Friday - Visit Dun Carloway Broch, ancient Callanish Standing Stone circle and enjoy an exhilarating circular walk at the Butt of Lewis along dramatic cliffs, sea views, a restored ancient chapel and delightful sandy bays. 6.5 miles / 10.5 km.

Saturday - Take the early morning ferry from Lewis to the mainland port of Ullapool. Try to spot salmon leaping in Rogie Falls. Head for Cairngorm mountain to bag a Munro, a mountain over 3000ft. You may choose to return by funicular railway. 3 / 4 hours, ascent 775m. Overnight in the Cairngorm mountains.

Sunday - Return to Edinburgh at lunchtime for afternoon Flights.