

WALKING THE ISLE OF SKYE

PRIVATE GROUP ADVENTURE

Explore rugged landscapes, abandoned villages and Fairy Pools on a wild adventure in the Inner Hebrides

Off the west coast of mainland Scotland, the Isle of Skye offers wild walking trails across wind-whipped landscapes and through time-stood-still fishing villages. It's the star attraction in the Inner Hebrides and for good reason with wonderfully rugged scenery providing a sensational setting for an adventure on foot. For this hiking trip, we are based in the hill-cradled fishing town of Portree, heading out each day to explore a different part of the island led by our expert local guide.

This tour is specifically designed as a private departure only and can be operated on a date of your choice.



Highlights

- Visit the magical Fairy Pools, where hardy souls swim in the frigid waters
- Stay in the pretty fishing village of Portree
- Discover the dramatic Quiraing landslip on foot
- Tour a Scotch whisky distillery with a tasting on the Isle of Raasay

WALKING THE ISLE OF SKYE

TRIP CODE: **TEC**

PROGRAMME



Walking & Trekking

ACTIVITY LEVEL



Moderate

COMFORT LEVEL



Classic

Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive in Inverness

Your private group meets in Inverness, the UK's northernmost city and gateway to the Highlands. After checking into the hotel, explore the riverside, 19th-century cathedral or indoor Victorian Market. That evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with your guide and group—no introductions needed, just good food and trip talk.

Accommodation: Ardross & Glencairn Guesthouse (or similar)

Meals included: Dinner

DAY 2

Ferry to Skye & Fairy Pools Walk

Head west through Glen Shiel to the port of Mallaig. After a 45-minute ferry to Armadale on Skye, visit the Fairy Pools—vivid blue cascades and plunge pools at the foot of the Cuillin Mountains. Brave a wild swim or enjoy the scenery before continuing to Portree for the night.

Accommodation: The Rosedale Hotel (or similar)

Distance covered: 2mi (4km)

Ascent: 525ft (160m); Descent: 525ft (160m)

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 3

Hike the Quiraing, Explore Fairy Glen

Set out for Trotternish and hike the Quiraing—Skye's most iconic landslip, where spires like the Needle and formations like the Prison loom over rugged paths. Afterward, wander the Fairy Glen's grassy spirals and rock towers before returning to Portree. Your guide adjusts pace to match your group's rhythm.

Accommodation: Ardross & Glencairn Guesthouse (or similar)

Distance covered: 6mi (9km)

Ascent: 2,297ft (700m); Descent: 2,297ft (700m)

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 4

Isle of Raasay & Distillery Visit

Ferry to the Isle of Raasay and set off on a wildlife-rich hike—keep an eye out for red deer, sea eagles, seals and dolphins. In the afternoon, tour the award-winning Raasay Distillery and sample their island-inspired whisky. Ferry back and return to Portree via the scenic eastern coastline.

Accommodation: The Rosedale Hotel (or similar)

Distance covered: 2mi (4km)

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch



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DAY 5

Walk to Suisnish & Boreraig Villages

Head south for a circular walk through Suisnish and Boreraig—two poignant reminders of the Highland Clearances. Once-thriving crofting villages were emptied in the 19th century to make way for sheep. Today, stone ruins stand silent above the sea, surrounded by wildflowers and long views over Loch Eishort.

Accommodation: The Rosedale Hotel (or similar)

Distance covered: 11mi (17km)

Ascent: 1,394ft (425m); Descent: 1,394ft (425m)

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch



DAY 6

Kilt Rock & Rubha Hunish Walk

This morning, visit Kilt Rock, basalt cliffs that resemble pleated tartan, before heading to Duntulm for a circular walk to Rubha Hunish—Skye's northernmost point. Seals, seabirds and even orcas are possible sightings here. Return via a local café for coffee and cake, with free time in Portree this afternoon.

Accommodation: The Rosedale Hotel (or similar)

Distance covered: 4mi (7km)

Ascent: 656ft (200m); Descent: 656ft (200m)

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 7

Eilean Donan Castle & Return to Inverness

After breakfast, leave Skye behind and journey east. Stop at Eilean Donan Castle—Scotland's most photographed fortress, set where three lochs meet. Explore the ramparts, grab a group shot, then continue through Glen Shiel to Inverness. The trip ends at the station, but the stories (and that Highland air) stay with you.

Meals included: Breakfast

KEY INFORMATION

- Accommodation: 6 Classic nights (hotels)
- Travel by private air-conditioned minibus/van
- Countries visited: United Kingdom

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All breakfasts, three picnic lunches and two dinners
- All accommodation
- Tour leader throughout
- All transport and listed activities

Accommodation

**Rosedale Hotel, Skye,
& Ardross Glencairn Guesthouse, Inverness**

The Rosedale Hotel, set in three former fisherman houses on Portree's harbour, offers a charming base on Skye. Fishing boats pass by the door, and the town's cafes and restaurants are nearby. The 17-room hotel features a cozy sea-view restaurant with seasonal, local dishes, and simple, comfortable rooms with complimentary toiletries and tea/coffee facilities.

In Inverness, we stay at the **Ardross Glencairn Guesthouse**, close to the River Ness and only a few minutes' walk to the city centre.



Essential Info

IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?

This trip has been graded Activity Level 3 (Moderate). For more information on our trip gradings please visit the [Activity Level Guidelines page](#). If you have any queries about the difficulty of the trip please do not hesitate to contact us.

- **Walking days:** Five
- **Maximum height gained:** 2,297ft (700m)
- **Maximum walking distance:** 11 mi (17km)

The Isle of Skye is known for its beautiful rugged landscape. The paths used can be narrow at times with a lot of steep steps, and rocky, loose stone sections. So it is important to be confident with your footing. A good level of fitness is required and it is important to pack for the potential for unpredictable Scottish weather.

TRANSPORT

We use a minibus for all transfers to the areas where we are walking.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Start point: Ardross & Glencairn Guesthouse, 19 Ardross St, Inverness, IV3 5NS

Phone: (+44) 1463 232965

Recommended arrival time: Meet 6pm at start hotel

GETTING TO THE START POINT

There are trains from London Kings Cross railway station to Inverness railway station approximately every hour. It's a 20-minute walk or just over a five-minute drive to our start hotel. There are also flights from London Gatwick (LGW) to Inverness Airport

(INV). A taxi from the airport to the start hotel takes just over 20 minutes.

RETURN JOURNEY

The tour ends at Inverness railway station, from where you can catch trains to London Kings Cross approximately every hour. As it is quite a long journey, you may like to take the sleeper train. You can also get flights to London Gatwick from Inverness Airport.

WEATHER & SEASONALITY

Rain can fall at any time of year; however, the temperatures typically rise from around 12C (54F) in April to the high 20Cs (around 80F-85F) or above in September. Like most of the UK in recent years, there have been some hotter days in the middle of summer.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment

- Walking boots with good grip and ankle support
- Small backpack (for water bottle, camera etc)
- Large water container or Thermos flask (1-2 litre), as some days it is not possible to fill up on the trek
- Hat and gloves
- A warm two-season jacket or sweater/fleece
- Waterproof/windproof jacket (preferably Gore Tex) and waterproof trousers
- We also advise using dry flow wicking clothing rather than cotton as it dries much quicker and is more comfortable when trekking

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles

FOOD & DRINK

- Ardross & Glencairn provide a hot and cold buffet-style breakfast, guests can help themselves to a continental selection and a full cooked breakfast. The Rosedale Hotel provides a continental breakfast with a changing selection of fruit, cereals, pastries, cheese, cold meats etc.
- The picnic lunches consist of a sandwich, a piece of cake and fruit.
- Dinners are two course from a small menu choice.

Practical Info

VISA - UNITED KINGDOM

Travellers from the US and EU normally do not need a visa to enter the United Kingdom. Please note, visa requirements often change and it is your responsibility to obtain any required visas for this trip. Therefore, we recommend that you check with the nearest embassy or consulate of your chosen destination(s), including any countries you may be transiting or transferring through.

Some local governments provide guidance on what visas their citizens need. To help, we've gathered a selection of useful links below.

Australia: www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/europe/united-kingdom

Canada: www.travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-kingdom

USA: www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/UnitedKingdom.html

SCOTLAND

UK passport holders do not need visas for this trip. Other nationalities should check with the relevant embassies.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

United Kingdom

There are no required vaccinations. However, you may

want to consider vaccinations for polio, tetanus and rabies (bat lyssavirus). Please confirm with your doctor or travel clinic.

Scotland

No vaccinations are obligatory.

Ticks are known to be present in this region and can carry lyme disease, tick-borne encephalitis and other diseases. Please take care to protect yourself.

LOCAL TIME

United Kingdom's time zone:
Europe/London (UTC +01:00)

ELECTRICITY

United Kingdom's electricity: Plug type G (three rectangular pins) – 230V, 50Hz

MONEY

United Kingdom's currency: Pound sterling (GBP)

Extra Expenses & Spending Money:

A typical lunch costs £15, dinner £25, a pint of beer £5, and a glass of wine £4-£7

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Water safety

This trip includes time by a lake, river or sea, where there may be opportunities to swim. You should always seek local advice before deciding whether to swim. Open-water or wild swim spots should be treated with extreme caution. Information on how to keep yourself safe while swimming is shown here.

Seatbelts

All vehicles used by us should be equipped with working seatbelts, except where approved by us based on the vehicle type or journey. Wherever seatbelts are available, we require our customers to use them for their own safety, even where it may not be a legal requirement.

Private Group Adventures

This tour is specially designed as a private departure and can be operated on a date of your choice. Please contact our sales team for prices and more information:

EMAIL: PRIVATEDEPARTURES@EXODUS.CO.UK | OR CALL: 0203 733 6775