

# Sailing and Walking in the Inner Hebrides



## Highlights

Discover the magical islands of the Inner Hebrides, Mull, Jura and Staffa aboard a 65-foot ketch-rigged yacht, then head ashore to explore these wild climes on foot! This seven-day sailing and walking holiday is an ideal introduction to the rugged romance of the Inner Hebrides.

When the mile-thick ice sheets finally retreated from the north of Britain at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, they left in their wake a topography gnarled, fissured and pockmarked by violent glaciation. The result is some of the wildest country in Europe; mountain massifs, rift valleys, riven volcanoes and crinkle-cut islands are just some of the extraordinary features of the Scottish landscape. Unsurprising, then, that the country has become something of a mecca for adventure travel enthusiasts, with every imaginable pursuit on offer. So whether you surf or ski, sail or kayak, hike or bike, Scotland is bound to have something special for you. (There's also 12,000 years of history, some of Europe's finest architecture and the prized national drink (no, not Irn-Bru!), in case you're interested!)

This seven-day sailing and walking tour around the islands of the Inner Hebrides is a wonderful way to explore this fantastic region. With the choice of countless islands to hop between there are an almost infinite number of possible itineraries. Potential highlights include the very wild isle of Jura with its raised beaches and fearsome Corryvreckan Whirlpool, the wildlife haven of Mull with its whales, eagles and spectacular coastal scenery and the tiny, uninhabited Garvellachs with their scattering of ancient religious buildings. Nature-lovers should be sure to check out the Treshnish Isles, home to an abundance of marine life and some of the largest bird colonies in Britain, and also the plentiful puffins of Staffa. There's also much of cultural significance, most notably the tranquil Iona, from which Saint Columba set about converting the pagan Scots to Christianity!

## Is it for me?

This is a really special tour through some of the wildest land- and seascapes in Britain. It can be undertaken by pretty much anyone as you don't need to have any sailing experience, though a decent level of fitness is desirable in order to get the most out of the walking. Bear in mind also that, as on any boating holiday, you'll be living in close quarters with the other guests, with shared meals and excursions, so this probably wouldn't suit a honeymooning couple or those who cherish privacy. This said, past passengers often comment on the good banter and sense of camaraderie onboard. And with the small group size (nine plus guide) and highly flexible itinerary (dependent on weather) you can be assured of having any personal interests attended to.


## Accommodation

Your base for this tour is the 65-foot ketch-rigged Corryvreckan, a 40-tonne, steel-hulled yacht-cum-hotel! The Corryvreckan has five twin-berth cabins (with bunk-style beds) and three toilet/shower rooms, as well as a large saloon and reading area, a wheelhouse and a sizeable deck, meaning there's plenty of room to stretch your legs. There's also central heating and a generator so you can recharge cameras, phones and so on. The food on this tour is an undeniable highlight. An expert chef is onboard and on hand to cook up some hearty meals using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients such as seafood and venison. Then after dinner there's the option to enjoy a coffee or a wee dram up on deck – the perfect end to a day's exploration!

Prices from

**1,095** GBP (7 days) per person

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## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Arriving in Oban early afternoon, you'll gather at the North Pier and your guide will take you across to the marina on the Isle of Kerrera - a 10 minute crossing on a launch (no charge). Stepping off the launch and onto the yacht, you will be allocated cabins and meet the crew. Over a hot drink, the skipper gives a safety briefing and discusses the afternoon ahead. Then you cast off and head into open water, often heading to Loch Spelve on Mull or Loch Aline on Ardnamurchan.

**Day 2 to Day 6:** Many options are possible. However, some highlights of sailing and walking in the Inner Hebrides include:

**Jura** – one of the wildest islands in Scotland, with great walking on its raised beaches and the fearsome Corryvreckan Whirlpool at its northern tip.

**The Isle of Mull** – the largest of the Inner Hebrides, famed for its eagles, whales, wonderful coastal scenery and the colourful port of Tobermory.

**Iona** – this small island is located off the western tip of Mull and is a very special place to visit with its famous abbey and historical significance.

**Ulva** – the Island of Wolves! No wolves remain now but it is a charming little island with lovely walks along the coastline.

**Staffa** – most famous for the stunning Fingal's Cave, Staffa is also home to thousands of puffins which make the island their home in early summer.

**The Treshnish Isles** – a superb destination for wildlife lovers, these islands boast abundant bird and marine life, with some of the largest seabird colonies in Scotland.

**The Garvellachs** - this tiny, uninhabited island group is home to ancient religious buildings and has amazing vistas from its highest point - a pleasant 173m above the yacht!

**The Small Isles** – these wonderful islands are located north of Mull and provide great sailing and walking.

**Day 7:** After anchoring nearby the night before, you sail back to Kerrera, arriving there in time to catch the noon transfer back to Oban. A train leaves Oban for Glasgow and Edinburgh at around 1.30pm.

## Details

### Getting there

**Air:** Glasgow or Oban Airport; **Train:** Direct to Glasgow and Edinburgh; **Road:** A85

### Price includes

Accommodation, all meals, guide, chef, all transport. Transport to/from Oban and insurance not included.

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed