

# Best of the Isle of Skye

**Trip style:** Guided trails

**Destination:** 📍 Scottish Islands

**Trip code:** XAA06-LDW11

**Grades:** 1, 4

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌿 122kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Discover the Isle of Skye's most famous walks and some that we've crafted especially for you. And when you're not busy exploring this scenery-packed Scottish island, cosy up in the home-from-home comfort of our carefully selected partner hotel, ready to round off your adventures with a wee dram or two.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Enjoy the stylish comforts of the Hame Hotel
- Tick-off classic walks and lesser-known routes
- Look out for red deer, whales, sea otters, dolphins, and more
- Explore the iconic landscapes around the Old Man of Storr
- Take in dramatic coastal views from Neist Point
- Discover the mighty sea stacks known as Macleod's Maidens

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This Best of Isle of Skye holiday is graded 3. This involves walks/ hikes on a mix of good paths, rough mountain paths and short turf, sometimes boggy, sometimes steep. There are some significant ascents. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete the walks and little provision can be made for anyone who opts out. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascent as listed, bearing in mind that it may be on rough ground. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

### Your fitness

Having a solid base of fitness before your holiday will ensure you've the best chance of completing the holiday and enjoying it to boot. Here's a few simple tips to help you get fit and ready for your challenge:

- Get out walking - whether the weather, get out there, and start building your fitness months before your holiday
- Build your distance gradually and get a number of 6-8hr hill days in
- Ideally, try and do two consecutive days training if possible
- Take the stairs every time
- Train on different terrain
- Train with your day pack and your walking boots too, to ensure they're well worn in before your holiday

- Other sports help improve your walking fitness too. The best ones are jogging, cycling, swimming, which will build your stamina, and yoga which will help strengthen your core and improve balance
- Time training will help ensure you enjoy your holiday to the max.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival

Once you've checked out your Scandi-inspired room – and taken in the views over the loch – join us in the hotel lounge at 6:30pm to find out the plan of action before dinner.

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### Day 2: Macleod's Maidens

Distance: 10.5 miles (17km) Ascent: 1,900ft (580m) We start with a good leg stretcher of a walk this morning to get you into the swing of things. Our journey along the coast takes us past Loch Bharcasaig with mesmerising views over the Cuillins and out to Idrigill Point where you'll spot the mighty sea stacks known as Macleod's Maidens. Steeped in mystery and legends, these impressive – and somewhat surreal-looking – sea stacks are said to commemorate the wife and two daughters of a Macleod chieftain. The largest stack is the mother, the two smaller stacks the daughters.

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### Day 3: The Red Cuillin

Distance: 9 miles (14km) Ascent: 2,450ft (750m) It may not be particularly high at 736m, but Marsco makes up for it with one of the best viewpoints over the Red Hills. We'll set off on our steady ascent, taking rough and sometimes boggy paths, to reach the top from where you'll stare out over the blue sea and jagged peaks of Skye. The summit ridge itself is a narrow but not difficult path with a fine view of the Black Cuillin too.

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### Day 4: The Black Cuillin

Distance: 5.5 miles Ascent: 2,080ft (640m) You'll journey to the Black Cuillin today to explore Coire Lagan, one of the most impressive corries in the Cuillin. Admire the tiny loch ringed by gigantic rocky peaks after some easy scrambling to reach the top.

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### Day 5: Trotternish

Distance: 10 miles (16km) Ascent: 3,150ft (950m) The Old Man of Storr is world-famous and one of the most iconic landscapes on Skye. And while the Old Man gets all the crowds, only a number of visitors continue to the dramatic ridge above. You'll walk among these inspiring landscapes and head north up the spine of the Trotternish ridge, with 360-degree panoramas, to descend Glenhinnisdal on the west side of the island. If the weather isn't ideal, you'll walk from near the Old Man of Storr along the coast back to Portree instead.

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### Day 6: Neist Point

Distance: 10 miles (16km) Ascent: 2,300ft (700m) The dramatic northwest coast will be under the spotlight on this enriching walk, which sees you visiting coastal cliffs and theatrical coastal routes. You'll make your way to Neist Point for views back towards Macleod's Maidens, the Cuillins, and out towards the Outer Hebrides. Just don't forget your binoculars, there's plenty of wildlife to spot.

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**Day 7:** Departure

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Hame Hotel

Hame Hotel offers us the perfect base for our walking holidays – a stunning coastal location overlooking the loch, with panoramas of the Black Cuillins and MacLods Tables in the background. Our remote hideaway is a world away from the crowds and hubbub of Portree, and offers us 10 modern scandi-style rooms, all spacious, comfortable en-suites, and plenty of communal space where we can kick back and relax after our walks. Delicious home-cooked food too – the perfect haven for our groups to really escape from it all and immerse themselves in the very best of the Isle of Skye. Each room is equipped with a tea and coffee station, complimentary locally-made tablet (a delicious crunchy fudge-like Scottish delicacy), TV, Wi-Fi and toiletries from Highland Soaps. Due to the remote location of the hotel, it is essential that you advise us at the time of booking, if you have any dietary requirements, and we can check in advance that these can be catered for. The hotel offers evening meals for our groups only, so plans its menu using the requirements we give them in advance. If we haven't been advised at the point of booking, they may not be able to adjust the menu. This hotel is dog-friendly so you may meet four legged friends in some of the communal areas.